



# Women: Gatekeepers of the Society

**G**rowing up in my home was interesting. My parents raised us (an older sister, younger brother and myself) with firm hands, but my mom in particular handled us with an iron fist. Where my dad excused and pardoned many things, my mom scolded, and sometimes, spanked us

silly and set us right. She went all out in ensuring that we succeeded in everything we did. Iya Banke (Banke's mom), as we now call her, set goals – not just for herself, but also for us, and if we were not up to par with her expectations, there were dire consequences. Eventually, my sister and I coined a name for her - Iron Lady- because she ruled the household, and

woe betide you if you went against her laid down rules. She could tell from the first meeting, which friend would be instrumental or detrimental to us. Iya Banke left nothing to chance - She was thorough. She oversaw the goings-on in the home. She even stepped in and comfortably played the Dad when he was away. Her sternness notwithstanding,

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you were left in no doubt that she loved her family and would do anything to protect us. In essence, she was the gatekeeper of our home, and whether she knew it or not, she set the tone for me as to how a woman should build her home – with purpose and wisdom.

Being a gatekeeper is no small job because such a person is partly responsible for the failure or success of the organization, or structure he guards.