**NAME:ARUBALUEZE GOODNESS EBELE**

**DEPARTMENT:MBBS**

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**TOPIC: ETHNIC STEROTYPES IN NIGERIA**

**ETHNIC STEROTYPES IN NIGERIA.  
INTROCUTION** A stereotype is a thought that can be adopted about specific types of individuals or certain ways of doing things. These thoughts or beliefs may or may not accurately reflect reality. The term stereotype derives from the Greek words stereos “firm, solid” and typos, “impression,” hence “solid impression”.  
. An ethnic stereotype, national stereotype, or national character is a system of beliefs about typical characteristics of members of a given ethnic group or nationality, their status, society and cultural norms. Ethnic stereotypes are commonly portrayed in ethnic jokes, most of which usually considered to be offensive in various degrees. In Nigeria, ethnic stereotypes are characteristic part of our existence. It’s also a sensitive subject that one is often dissuaded from discussing. Ironically, many of us hold true to these stereotypes about other ethnic groups outside of ours than we chose to admit for obvious reasons.

To some of us, Yorubas are the polygamous people who go about breeding babies than they can fend for. To some who’ve never been up North, everyone from Northern Nigeria is Hausa; dagger-wielding poor group of people. For the Igbos, money, money, money, at the expense of anything or anyone! For Bini people, it’s sorcery or witchcraft while for the calabar people, prostution.

Through a combination of our diversity and miseducation, these stereotypes are likely to stay with us. Yet, with constant interactions and reading, we can dispel of these blanket labels and learn to handle them gracefully. Experiences around our individual humanity overshadow these stereotypes, thus making for interesting ways of dealing with them. One such way is how standup comedians handle stereotypes about Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa and Bini people that gets everyone cracking up. The underlying point is there’s a positive way to accept and deal with stereotypes if we can’t wish them away.

Another factor that helps in handling the issue is literature. Books like Chinua Achebe’s [There was a country](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13588385-there-was-a-country) and Chimamanda’s [Purple Hibiscus](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/126381.Purple_Hibiscus) tells more about the Igbo tribe

This provides people with a basis for understanding why different ethnic groups possess unique attributes that have directly or indirectly contributed to widely held stereotypes. So if ethnic stereotyping cannot be stopped this ideas above can be used to overshadow it so we can relate well with other ethnic groups apart from ours.