

Uberu- I already informed you listeners that what we are going to do today is of immense benefit to all of us and am sure you have sat by your Radio sets to reap the benefits that will come out of this program today.

The program is a collaboration between Ghana and America. There are two institutions in America called Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges who have collaborated and traveled to Ghana here and have partnered with a School in Dalun here called Titagya Schools. This school is an early childhood development school. The partners do come here to learn about our culture as we also learn about theirs. For some years now, the partnership has expanded and its now called Bico-Dalun Reason Together Program.

This 'Reason Together Program' will focus in today's Radio program, the difference between a man and a woman. So as you listen to the program, just get your phones ready because in a short while we will activate the phone lines for you to call in and contribute to the program. Are there differences between a man and a woman? What a man can do a woman can equally do it. So get ready with your phones and let us hear what you have to say when the phone lines are activated.

However, am so fortunate today to host some distinguished personalities in the studios to share with us their thoughts on today's topic. Ms Isabella is from America and she will introduce herself as well as Ms Akua who is a Ghanaian and who will also introduce herself before we start the talk. So keep listening.

Uberu translates Akua's speech.

Ok. I think we have all heard what Ms Akua said. But before that Isabella introduced herself and said her name is Isabella and she is from a school in America called Bryn Mawr College. Its a female school in America. She said they traveled to Ghana to learn and share ideas about the two cultures. And what they are going to talk about today is the difference between a man and woman. They will want to see how it is like in Ghana.

Ms Akua also spoke and said her name is Akua and she is attending University for Development Studies here in Ghana. She said that our culture and tradition disallows women from doing a lot of things as compared to their male counterparts and it is worrying. The laws of Ghana does not allow a woman to wed a man or woman marrying her fellow woman. A man should not also marry a fellow man. Because of that a lot of people are shying away from doing it but there is nothing wrong in gay marriage. This will rather make life more enjoyable if culture and tradition accepts it.

Ok. listen as we go back to Isabella to hear what she has.

Ms Isabella said, women are supposed to share more ideas as this will help make life a lot easier for them and also prevent them from been discriminated against. Whatever a man can do a woman can also do it. So to her there is no difference between and man and a woman.

So we go back to Ms Akua.

Ms Akua said, in Ghana our culture and tradition distinguishes between male and female. Especially in our rural areas where a lot of women work only to take care of the family. A man is supposed to be the breadwinner which in the end separates what men and women are supposed to be doing. This should not have been so because what a man or woman can do, the other can equally do it.

Back to Isabella

Ok. Isabella said there are no differences between male and female. God created all of us that way. So she is sure that what a man can do a woman can as well do it. So we should stop thinking about any

difference that exist between the two.

Back to Akua.

Ok. Akua has said a lot by making it short. She said, there is one worrying thing in Ghana especially in our Dagomba tradition. That when a man dies and leaves behind his family it is the children who inherit his property. But if a man dies and leaves behind a widow who does not have children with the late the husband then the widow will inherit nothing. The man's property will be shared among his siblings while the widow gets nothing. This is a worrying thing which should not have a place in our society. It should rather be that once two people get married whether they have children or not the woman should be entitled to some property of her late husband. When two people get married they always wish to have children together someday.

Back to Isabella

Ok. what Isabella has added is that, in America the Government has empowered women to have equal opportunities as their male counterparts because we are the same. There are no differences between male and female. Women are in higher position in America like men. So whatever a man can do in America a woman can also do it. So in America there is no such difference between a man and woman. Whatever a man is supposed to do or can do in America a woman can equally do it.

Uberu;

Ok. am reminding you again that in a short while the phone lines will be activated for you call in and contribute to the topic-the difference between a man and a woman. Have you observed any difference or not? You can let us know when you call in to the program.

So lets go back to Ms Akua and listen to what she has to add before activating the phone lines.

You are still tuned to Simli Radion transmitting on 95.30 Mgrts.

Ok. Akua..

Akua said if you observe the situation in Ghana a lot of women suffer hardships which should not have been so. Women suffer a lot but do not enjoy as result. In Ghana women always support their husbands in most things but our culture and tradition puts a lot of barriers in between. So if we could correct that aspect of it then it could make life a lot easier for all of us.

Uberu.. so keep listening as we get ready to activate the phone the lines for you contribute to the program. Ms Akua also said women suffer a lot of domestic violence because they are not so strong to defend themselves when it comes to violence. So men are supposed to protect them and make life worth living for all of us. Education is what can help make an individual's life better so if try to educate ourselves and also learn vocations that alone can help our women or all of us to live better lives.

So will go back and listen to Isabella before opening the phone lines as our time is fast running. So keep listening.

Ok. she said, sometime ago America or white people used to come and oppress Africans but things have changed. So she wants to send out the message that men and women are all the same. But before Africans can live well we need to respect all the sexes and realize that what a man can do a woman can equally do it. If we put this into perspective there will always be cordial relationship between men and women.

If you take a look at America, there are black people there who also get married to them (white people) and produce children just to make both of them happy. So there is no difference black and white and by

extension a man and a woman. So if we see life in that regard then we will all live a happy life.

Uberu- I think we are going to bring you her last comments before activating the phone lines. So keep listening as we bring you her speech.

She wants to thank all for doing the listening and I want to say again that we are just about activating the phone lines for you to call in but before that lets go back to Akua and listen to he final words before opening the phone lines.

Ok. it is getting more exciting. Ms Akua in her final submission said, women are supposed to be in high positions because they are very knowledgeable. If women come together it is always something more beneficial than their male counterparts. If you look at the parliament in Ghana not many women are represented in there and so it does not help the course of women. If we observe the few women in Ghana's parliament we can clearly see that their voices carries much wait when they speak. So it is very important to give women the opportunity to add value to our society. So at this moment we will activate the phone lines for listeners to call in from wherever your listening.

They are so much interested in women callers into this program. The question is how do you see yourself as a woman? How is life in general for you? Do you think there are differences are or not? Also as a man what do you think you can change towards your wife? Do you have ideas that can bring about some changes involving us and our wives? You can call in on 0543115919. that is our phone so you can start calling now to contribute to the program. 0543115919.

**(caller 1)**

I think we have our first caller on line...

Hello.....please your name and where you are you calling us from.

Caller... my name is Baaamunu from Digu

Uberu...Ok we are listening my mother.

Caller... the difference that exist between the men and we women is that we as women are suffering a lot. The white people love one other so so because of that they do not discriminate against women but in our case it is different.

Uberu...Ok good, good, good, it is great to hear from you.

You can also call in on 0543115919 so that we hear your side of the story. Do you think men and women must be equal or do you think there should be differences between them? What can a man do that a woman cannot do? 0543115919.

**(Caller 2)**

Hello...

caller.....hello...

Uberu...Ok your name and where you are calling from.

Caller.....My name is Nokohanaa from sugashee

Uberu...Ok we are listening.

Caller.. there are differences between men and women but not in everything. There are certain things that you will want to do and cannot include women in its execution. So we are not all the same. There are some things you tell a woman and she will get confused and cannot live a normal life in society. So there are some that we do not need to involve women but it is not discrimination per say. Somethings are meant for women and there are others a man must take. This means that we have to involve the women in some decisions but all.

Uberu.....Ok. Good, good, we are so grateful.

you can also call in on 0543115919. what difference do you think exists between a man and woman?  
Uberu.. hello.....hello.....hello.. I think the network is bad but you can still call in 0543115919.

**(caller 3)**

Uberu..Hello....

Caller....hello...

Uberu..Ok. Your name and where you are calling from.

Caller...My name is Suale from Tolon-Yogu

Uberu...Ok. We are listening please raise up your voice a little for us.

(Translator; the caller tries to make a point but one can barely hear a thing due to the poor nature of the call).

Uberu.. you can also call in on 0543115919 so that we can hear what you have to add.

**(caller 4)**

Hello....

Caller...hello...

Uberu...Please your name and where you are calling from.

Caller... (mentions his name but its not clear)

Uberu.....Ok. We are listening.

Caller...even though some people are with different opinions but I can hardly see anything that prevent the existence of the differences between men and women. We are just being human by saying that what a man can do a woman can equally do it. There will always be that differences but we sometimes just pretend to say it does not exist in order to cover up certain things.

Uberu...Ok. We are grateful.

You can also call in on 0543115919.

**(caller 5)**

Uberu..Hello..

Caller..hello..

Uberu..your name and where you are calling us from and please lower the volume on your Radio Set.

Caller..My name is Ibrahim

Uberu...Ibrahim from which community

Caller...From Maasu

Uberu...Ok. We are listening.

Caller... If your wife runs back to her family because of a misunderstanding with you her husband, you will have to follow the matter with patience until it is resolved so that she can come back to your house. So we need to treat the women with patience so that we all can live well.

Uberu..ok. Well said, we are grateful.

0543115919. we want the ladies to also call in so that we can listen to what they have.

**(caller 6)**

Uberu...hello

caller... hello...

Uberu..Please your name and where you are calling from.

Caller...i am Daniel from Tibung

Uberu...Ok. We are listening.

Caller... the reason why men and women cannot be same is because a woman cannot bury a corpse. It is only men who do that. So we cannot be the same.

Uberu..Ok. The phone line is not very clear but we are grateful to you.

0543115919. please call in for us to hear from you.

**(caller 7)**

Uberu...hello..

caller...hello...

Uberu...your name and where you are calling from.

Caller... I am Mahamadu from Dimabi

Uberu...Mahamadu from Dimabi we are listening.

Caller... those who are saying we should treat our women folk with patience are absolutely right. Every man is supposed to understand what his wife likes and does not like. Every marriage is supposed to be guided by some rules so that when you all follow them then you will live a happy life. This is what I have to say.

Uberu....Ok. I am so grateful.

0543115919.

**(caller 8)**

Uberu...hello... hello...

Caller....hello.... [line drops]

Uberu...oh.oh.oh

Now we seriously need women callers to contribute to the program.

**(caller 9)**

Uberu....hello..

Caller....hello...

Uberu...Please your name and where you are calling from.

Caller.. Afa Mahamadu

Uberu..Ok.we are listening

Caller.. the way God created us alone means that men and women cannot be the same. The question is how come it is men who are marrying women and not the vice-versa? When a woman attempts to marry a man in our society it called an abomination. So we cannot be the same with the women.

Uberu...Ok. Am very grateful.

Now we want the ladies to also call in and contribute to the program. So the should please allow the women to call in to the program so that we can hear what they have to add.

**(Caller 10)**

Hello...

Caller...hello...

Uberu...your name and where you are calling from.

Caller...this is your mother Adamu from Savelugu

Uberu...Very good we are listening

Caller... Firstly, I want you to greet the students in your studio for me. They are doing a good job. What

I want to add is that we the women are really suffering. I can also say we those residing in the so called urban centers are even better off compared to our fellow women living in the rural areas. They undergo so much hardship. In this era, I can even say that women takes care of kids than men and again we the women labor more than the men. Sometime ago women used to carry firewood to faraway places on their heads to sell just to pay their kids school fees. But now by the grace of God things are getting better. Also thanks to micro-finance companies who are helping women with some capital. The case of we women is sympathetic. So our husbands need to empathize with us and support us in whatever we want to do. I will like to thank the students again for their effort and tell them we are so happy about this program. God will bless and bless their studies. Assalamu Alaikum.

Uberu...ok. Wa Alaikum Salaam. Very good mother Adamu we are so grateful.

Yes we still need to hear more from female callers. So please try and call in to the program.

**(caller 11)**

Caller....Hello.. Good afternoon.

Uberu...Good afternoon. Please my grandfather your name and where you are calling from. We are in need of women callers but no problem lets go.

Caller...i joined the program rather late so could you please educate me on the topic.

Uberu..yes today's program is about what you think is the difference between a man and a woman. Authorities wants us to see no distinction between the sexes because whatever a man can do a woman can equally do it. Does our culture and tradition agree with this assertion? If doesn't then what is your position on that? If you observe you will see that our women are going through a lot of hardship and something needs to be done about it so that we all can live better lives.

Caller..ok. What I want to say about that is-we the men are more stronger physically than the women. It is not everything that we do that they can also do. I will agree with the school of thought that we should support the women in all spheres of life but will disagree with those who are saying that whatever a man can do, a woman can as well do it. This what I have to say.

Uberu..Ok. Very well. We greet you.

**(caller 12)**

Uberu..hello..

Caller...hello..

Uberu....your name and where you are calling from

Caller.. this is Jegbonaa from Mankragu

Uberu...ok. We are listening.

Caller...the way God created man and woman is enough to prove that we cannot all be the same. How would it look like if women were to be the ones marrying men and bringing them to their houses? It would certainly look odd. So this means that we the men must be responsible for the women and not the opposite. But all these does not also mean that men must maltreat women and subject them to hardship. We need to support them so that we all live better lives.

Uberu...Ok. I thank you so much.

0543115919.

**(caller 13)**

Uberu...hello

Caller..hello

Uberu..your name and where you are calling from

Caller.. Afa Abdulai from Gburumani Dabogni

Uberu..Afa Abdulai, Ggurumani Dabogni we are listening

Caller.. the little I have to add is that there are some differences between men and women in the sense that a woman has some unique features different from a man. This implies that there are certain things a woman can do that a man cannot do and the vice-versa. That is what I have to say.

Uberu... Ok. I thank you.

Eehhh 0543115919 for us to hear what you have to add.

**(caller 14)**

Uberu...hello.. hello...hello..

Caller...hello..

Uberu..ok. Your name and where you are calling us from.

Caller... am calling from Dasuyili

Uberu..What is your name?

Caller.. my name is Sanatu from dasuyili and I want to contribute to that topic.

Uberu..ok. Sanatu we are listening.

Caller...the men must not forget that whoever they are today they were born by women. We the women are doing a lot. You the men are not so supportive of what women are doing. A woman can work her heart out while a man will sit idle and only watch. Women take care kids, cook, fetch firewood and a whole but still gets no support from the husband.

Uberu...very good, thanks.

You can also call in on 0543115919.

**(caller 15)**

Uberu..hello..

Caller..hello..

Uberu...your name and where you are calling us from.

Caller...my name is Oldman from Fazihini

Uberu...Ok. Oldman we are listening.

Caller... I want to suggest that next time you announce a separate phone line for the ladies to call in otherwise the men will always hijack the lines as is been today.

Uberu...Ok. I agree.

Caller.. I only want to say God will bless women and bless this program.

Uberu..Ami,Ami,Ami

Alright! Just like by elder brother suggested we thought about it at the beginning of the program to provide a separate phone line for our female listeners but it looks our time is far spent now. But based on his suggestion and our earlier thought, we will nonetheless announce a separate line for our female callers. So the women can call in on 0242156244 so that we can hear what they have for us.

**(caller 16)**

Uberu...hello...

Caller...hello...

Uberu....oh. It is a man caller. Please we need only female callers on that line. So kindly drop it so that I can pick female callers.

**(caller 17)**

Uberu..hello..

Caller..hello...

Uberu...Your name and where you are calling from.

Caller...My name is Wasila

Uberu..Ok we are listening.

Caller....[[[[caller's line is so bad that nothing can be heard]]]].

0543115919 and 0242156244 for only female callers.

**(caller 18)**

Caller...Hello..

Uberu...Your name and where you are calling from. Please lower the volume on your Radio set for us.

What did you say your name is?

Caller...My name is Sharatu.

Uberu..Sharatu from Kumbungu we are listening.

Caller....We are so grateful for your program. The difference I see between us and the men is that they always marry us and bring us to their homes. We know that the men are superior over we women But just like other callers have said, the men need to empathize with we the women and support us in life. So that life will be easy for us. We and the men cannot be the same. Therefore we are thankful for this program.

Uberu...Ok. We are also thankful to you.

0242156244. so that we hear what you have to add.

**(caller 19)**

Uberu..hello..hello...hello..

Caller..hello..

Uberu...Please your name and where you are calling us from.

Caller...My name is fati

Uberu...Auntie fati. Ok. We are listening.

Caller....In everything, the men come first before women. So we cannot be equal. That is what I have to add.

Uberu..Ok. We are grateful.

0242156244, 0242156244.



**(caller 20)**

Hello.....

Caller....Hello..

Uberu...Please you name and where you are calling us from.

Caller...this is....[[[[line drops]]]]

Uberu... that was a man caller. Please we need only female callers on that particular line.

0242156244, 0242156244.

**(caler 21)**

Uberu...hello...hello...hello....hello... [[line drops]] ok. The phone lines are bad and our time is almost up but lets see if can pick a few more female callers before we draw the curtain on this program.

**(caller 22)**

Uberu...Hello..

Caller...hello..

Uberu...Please your name and where you are calling us from.

Caller...my name is...[phone line isn't clear] I just came back from the farm and joined the program. So what is the topic?

Uberu...Oohhh the difference between a man and a woman. Do you think there are differences or not?

Caller....Certainly there are. A man and a woman cannot be the same. I just joined the program and wish to thank you for that. (rest of the conversation is private and not related to the topic.)

Uberu...Ok. I am grateful.

Right about now we cannot pick any more calls and I will wish to thank all sundry but before that we will hear.....ok. Lets see if this is a female caller. Hello... [line drops]. I dont think that was a female caller.

Now we will listen to Ms Aku's final words.

She is grateful to all listeners and contributors to the program, me Uberu, her colleague Isabella in America. We heard a voice recording of her on air. She is also thankful to the leader Professor Alice and to all those to did the listening.

Before we wrap up I need to remind all listeners and the general public that this program is a collaboration between two schools in America called Haverford and Bryn mawr colleges and Ghana. They have captioned the partnership BiCo Dalun Lagim Tehi Tuma. They come together to share ideas and learn from each others culture. So this program is dedicated to that partnership.

My name is Alhassan Uberu. God bless you and guide you.

Keep listening.

Transcriber's notes;

Out of the 22 callers into the program there were 6 female callers. They include caller 1, 10, 14,17,18 and 22. however, caller 17s line dropped.

The rest of the callers were male callers. Also, caller 3s line was not clear whereas calls 8, 16,20 and 21 all dropped before they could make their points.

I have also noted that the translations on the students' speeches into Dagbani fell short of so much. In the case of Akua it was somehow better but that of Isabella's was so much excised and mis-translated. A case in point is where Isabella said "although women have been able to enter the workforce and work alongside men, there is still wage gap in the United States as full time working women on average only make 77% of what men make.....black women make even less and Hispanic women make even lesser than that".

### **It was translated as**

"Ok. she said, sometime ago America or white people used to come and oppress Africans but things have changed. So she wants to send out the message that men and women are all the same. But before Africans can live well we need to respect all the sexes and realize that what a man can do a woman can equally do it. If we put this into perspective there will always be cordial relationship between men and women.

If you take a look at America, there are black people there who also get married to them (white people) and produce children just to make both of them happy. So there is no difference black and white and by extension a man and a woman. So if we see life in that regard then we will all live a happy life."

Going forward, the topic was understood by most listeners as unique features in men and women.

The topic could have been explained further to let listeners understand that it is not just about physical features in both sexes or who gets pregnant and who doesn't but what each person is capable of doing when given equal opportunities. The host could liken that to a situation where a parent has a son and daughter as his children does he or she think if both kids are given equal opportunities to study whether one of them will do better because of their gender. Example is in our locality where the girl child has so much to do in terms of household chores whereas her male counterpart has the freedom to learn, play about and do other things he likes. This could trigger more brainstorming by listeners than just presenting it as 'what a man can do a woman equally do it'.

Better still, the students' submissions if rightly translated could solve the problem of misunderstanding the topic. Example is where Isabella said there is still wage gap in the United States as full time working women on average only make 77% of what men make. A question could be posed as to what people think about that differences.

In almost all cases, the host did not probe his callers or asked follow-up questions to get more on their submissions. Instead he just accepted their submissions whether they made sense or not or whether it was relevant to the topic being discussed or not.

But he did well by constantly urging female callers to contribute to the program and later announcing a separate phone line for that purpose after it was suggested by a male caller.

All in all, I think it was lively program that got listeners interested in it and reminded them of things they are doing in their locality that might not be right or discriminating against especially women.

Some of the men callers conceded that women are at disadvantage and so need to be supported by men or their husbands whereas the women callers also thought they are undergoing hardship and definitely need support and opportunities in life.

Finally, I will recommend similar programs or perhaps a repeat of this program in the future but with better translation and anchoring is this will help in educating especially the local people on the importance of the subject.

Safianu.