

Men and women's participation in resolution of land based conflicts in Mt. Elgon Region, Kenya

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Gender empowerment for men's and women's participation in the resolution of land based conflicts in Mt Elgon region, Kenya

Men's and women's participation in resolution of land based conflicts

1. When conflicts occur, many women who own land jointly with their husbands lose any proof of joint ownership. So, in the post-conflict period, they will have lost the land access and user rights they previously had (Makumi, 2001)
2. despite the increasing involvement of women in resolution of land based conflicts, their participation remains skewed to male advantage. (This Thesis)
3. Study established that except in instances where a woman was in a position of power, such as being a chief or an assistant chief, their level of participation was passive/neutral. (This Thesis)
4.long-standing tradition and culture among the community in the region which has been accumulated over years, contribute to gender perceptions regarding the roles that men and women play in resolution of land conflicts.
5. Clan system remains strongly reluctant to the notion of land title deeds bearing women's names – a sign of ownership – and women themselves do not oppose their partners to bear ownership on their behalf. (This Thesis)
6. The existence of laws, on their own, cannot guarantee women accessing land; instead, awareness is paramount as well as the acceptance of these laws so that they are naturally invoked in the place of traditional and cultural norms that govern land ownership and use. (Nighisty ,2009)
7. The adoption of gender equality laws and policies is a crucial step at the socio-political level, but this is not enough since these laws and policies are not fully implemented. (This Thesis)
8.Women tend to “busy themselves” by self-imposed duties like tea serving rather than taking part in the meeting proceedings. From a gender empowerment and gender equality perspective, this may not sound progressive, but one could argue that women have managed to “get their foot in the door”. Further steps in sensitizing them and advising them as to how to actively take part without necessarily going against social structures, are needed. (This Thesis)
9. ADR processes are widely and undeniably considered as a tool to boost the formal system of justice as many people prefer them to the formal justice system. (This Thesis)
10. Kenya still lags in terms of gender equality despite the progress made. Whereas there could be success in adoption of policies and laws, the bigger challenge lies in successful implementation, which could be enabled through political good will of the leaders and community at large. (This Thesis)

Benson Mutuku

Maastricht, Friday, 15th of November 2024