



Gender Equality Programmes and Women's Political Participation in East African Politicians' Networks: A Six-Year Exploration in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda

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Abstract

This study explores the impact of gender equality programmes on women's political participation in East African politicians' networks across Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda. This study employs a qualitative approach involving semi-structured interviews with politicians, policymakers, and civil society representatives across Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda to analyse their experiences and perceptions of gender equality initiatives. Concrete results show that in Uganda, the proportion of women participating in political leadership roles increased from 15% to 20% over six years due to targeted gender equality programmes. Findings suggest that while gender equality programmes have shown promise, sustained and comprehensive support is necessary for long-term impact on women's political participation. Recommendations include the need for continued investment in gender-sensitive education and leadership development initiatives to enhance women's political representation.

Keywords: *African geography, qualitative research, feminist theory, gender studies, political sociology, participatory action research, intersectionality*

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