



Gender and Power Dynamics in South African Political Transitions: A Survey Research

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Abstract

South Africa has experienced significant political transitions since its transition from apartheid in the late 1980s to a multi-party democracy system. These changes have influenced gender dynamics within political structures, with varying degrees of empowerment and marginalization. The study employs a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews. Data was collected from a stratified random sample of 100 legislators and 50 high-ranking government officials across both the National Assembly and Cabinet in . Gender disparities were observed, with women underrepresented at all levels of political institutions, particularly in leadership roles. Women reported facing more obstacles to advancement compared to their male counterparts. The findings underscore the need for targeted policies aimed at promoting gender equality and empowering female politicians within South African political structures. Recommendation include increasing quotas for women's representation in legislative bodies, enhancing mentorship programmes for female politicians, and implementing anti-discrimination measures to ensure fair treatment of all genders in political appointments. South Africa, Gender Dynamics, Political Transitions, Legislative Bodies, Power Distribution

Keywords: *African geography, Gender studies, Power analysis, Political sociology, Democratization, Quantitative methods, Qualitative research*

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