



Land Tenure Security and Women's Livelihoods in Kenya's Rift Valley: A Qualitative Analysis

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Abstract

Land tenure security in Kenya's Rift Valley is a critical issue affecting women's livelihoods. Women often face challenges in accessing and managing land due to legal uncertainties and customary practices. Qualitative research methods were employed, including in-depth interviews with local community leaders and women farmers, as well as document reviews of relevant legal frameworks. Women reported significant challenges related to land inheritance, leading to a decline in agricultural productivity. For instance, one-third of respondents experienced issues securing their family's ancestral lands due to unclear legal boundaries. The findings underscore the need for comprehensive reform in land tenure laws to enhance women's security and economic stability. Policy makers should prioritise drafting clear and accessible land rights legislation that addresses gender-specific challenges. Additionally, enforcement mechanisms must be strengthened to ensure compliance.

Keywords: *Kenya, Rift Valley, Land Rights, Customary Law, Legal Pluralism, Gender Equity, Participatory Research*

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