



Gender and Power Dynamics in Namibian Political Transitions: An Ethnographic Exploration

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Abstract

Namibia has experienced several political transitions since its independence in 1975, characterized by a shift from apartheid-era governance to more inclusive democratic practices. These transitions have been marked by significant changes in gender representation and power distribution within the political arena. The research employs qualitative methods including participant observation, semi-structured interviews with key informants such as politicians, civil society leaders, and activists, and focus groups with community members. Data collection was conducted over a period of one year in urban and rural settings across Namibia. Findings indicate that while women's participation in governance has increased, they continue to face structural barriers that limit their influence on key policy decisions. For instance, in the last national election, only 25% of elected positions were held by women, highlighting persistent gender disparities. The study underscores the need for continued advocacy and institutional reforms aimed at enhancing female political participation and ensuring equitable representation across all levels of governance. Recommendations include strengthening anti-discrimination laws, providing training programmes for aspiring female leaders, and promoting media literacy to foster public understanding of gender equality issues in politics.

Keywords: *Africanization, Gender Roles, Intersectionality, Political Culture, Power Structures, Social Change, Subaltern Studies*

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