



Gender and Power Dynamics in African Political Transitions: A Qualitative Exploration in Tanzania,

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Abstract

Recent political transitions in Africa have highlighted gender dynamics within governance structures, yet empirical research on these interactions is limited. Qualitative interviews were conducted with a diverse sample of political actors including elected officials, civil society leaders, and traditional authority figures. Data analysis involved thematic coding for themes related to gender power relations. Interviews revealed that women often face significant barriers in accessing leadership roles, yet their participation can catalyze broader societal reforms when integrated into decision-making processes. The qualitative data suggest a nuanced understanding of how gender intersects with political structures and outcomes, contributing to a more informed discourse on African governance transitions. Policy recommendations include fostering inclusive leadership programmes that support women's participation in political arenas to enhance accountability and representation.

Keywords: *Africanization, Feminism, Gendered Power, Intersectionality, Political Culture, Qualitative Methodology, Social Constructionism*

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