



Gender Dimensions in Legal Practices Across Sub-Saharan Africa: A Madagascan Perspective

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Abstract

This study examines gender dimensions in legal practices across Sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on Madagascar as a case study. A mixed-methods approach is employed combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis to gather insights from both expert sources and community members across various regions in Madagascar. Data collection involves focus groups, in-depth interviews, and a survey among legal practitioners and affected individuals. Findings indicate that gender disparities are prevalent in inheritance laws, where women often face significant restrictions on accessing property rights compared to men. In some regions, there is also evidence of underreporting sexual violence cases due to cultural taboos and fear of retaliation. The study concludes by highlighting the need for legal reforms aimed at increasing gender parity in Madagascar's legal system, particularly within inheritance laws and addressing barriers to reporting sexual violence. It underscores the importance of community engagement and education in fostering a more inclusive legal environment. Recommendations include advocating for legislative changes that promote women's rights in property ownership, enhancing training programmes for legal professionals on gender-sensitive practices, and promoting public awareness campaigns about the importance of reporting all forms of violence against women.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, African, Law, Culture, Gender, Diversity, Comparative*

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