



Gender Justice and Empowerment in Rural Kenya: Legal Pathways for Women

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Abstract

Recent studies indicate a gender gap in legal rights and access to justice for women in rural Kenya, highlighting the need for comprehensive legal interventions. The research employs a qualitative approach, analysing legislative documents, court decisions, and interviews with legal practitioners and community leaders from rural Kenya. Data triangulation techniques are used to validate findings across multiple sources. A significant proportion (25%) of legal cases in rural courts involve gender-based discrimination against women, indicating the need for more robust legal protections and awareness campaigns. While existing laws provide a framework for addressing gender justice issues, there is a notable lack of enforcement mechanisms and community engagement. This has led to persistent barriers for women seeking redress through the legal system. The paper recommends strengthening judicial training programmes, increasing public awareness campaigns on gender-specific legal rights, and integrating gender-sensitive provisions into existing legislation.

Keywords: Kenya, Gender Justice, Empowerment, Legal Pluralism, Customary Law, Participatory Research, Intersectionality

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