



Gender and Power Dynamics in Cape Verdean Political Transitions

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Abstract

Gender has emerged as a critical factor in political transitions across Africa, influencing power dynamics and governance outcomes. Cape Verde, with its unique history of independence from Portugal and subsequent democratic development, provides an interesting case study for examining gender's role in political change. A mixed-method approach was employed, including quantitative surveys with a representative sample of Cape Verdeans

($N = 500$) supplemented by qualitative interviews with key stakeholders & various sectors (political, civil society, etc.)

. Data were analysed using statistical software to identify patterns and themes in gender representation and influence. The survey revealed that women hold approximately 25% of elected positions at national level, significantly lower than their proportion in the workforce. Themes emerged around the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles across all sectors, particularly in traditionally male-dominated fields such as defence and security. Despite efforts towards gender equality, persistent barriers exist that limit women's participation and influence within Cape Verdean politics. The findings suggest a need for targeted interventions to address these disparities and promote more inclusive governance structures. Policy recommendations include increasing quotas for women in political leadership positions, enhancing training programmes for female candidates, and implementing gender-sensitive policies across all government sectors. Cape Verde, Political Transitions, Gender Dynamics, Power Distribution, Inclusion

Keywords: Cape Verde, Gender Politics, Power Dynamics, African Studies, Feminist Theory, Quantitative Research, Qualitative Analysis

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