



# Gender Equity in Solar Lighting Projects: Perspectives of Tanzanian Women Workers

Safira Mwakalila<sup>1,2</sup>, Kambuga Namugaiua<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Morogoro

<sup>2</sup> Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Arusha

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**Correspondence:** [smwakalila@gmail.com](mailto:smwakalila@gmail.com)

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## Author notes

*Safira Mwakalila is affiliated with Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Morogoro and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

*Kambuga Namugaiua is affiliated with Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Arusha and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Solar lighting projects in Tanzania have aimed to improve access to electricity, particularly for rural communities. However, disparities often exist, with gender being a significant factor. Qualitative data were collected through semi-structured interviews from 20 participants across various regions of Tanzania. The analysis focused on themes related to safety practices, community engagement, and professional development opportunities provided by the projects. Women reported a significant improvement in their personal lighting conditions due to project installations, with over 75% indicating that it has positively affected their daily routines and health outcomes. However, concerns about job security and leadership roles remained prevalent among participants. The findings highlight the need for projects to address both immediate needs (improved lighting) and long-term support structures (job stability and leadership opportunities) for women workers in solar installations. Project organizers are advised to prioritise gender-sensitive training programmes, inclusive leadership models, and transparent communication channels that involve local women's groups in decision-making processes.

**Keywords:** *African geography, gender studies, qualitative methodology, rural development, empowerment analysis, participatory action research, ethnography*

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