



Gender Dynamics in Sub-Saharan African Law: An Action Research in Kenya 2005

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Abstract

Sub-Saharan Africa faces significant gender inequalities in legal systems, particularly in Kenya where traditional practices often influence judicial outcomes. An action research approach was employed to gather data from participants including judges, lawyers, and community members. Focus groups were conducted to understand perceptions and experiences related to gender in legal contexts. Participants reported that patriarchal attitudes significantly influence verdicts, with women often receiving harsher penalties for similar offenses compared to men. Traditional gender roles are deeply embedded within Kenyan law, affecting both procedural fairness and substantive outcomes in favour of male defendants. Legal education programmes should incorporate cultural sensitivity training to reduce biases. Policymakers must also address structural inequalities that perpetuate gender disparities in the justice system.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, African, Law, Dynamics, Gender, Qualitative, Contextual*

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