



Gendered Hierarchies in South African Political Transitions: Dynamics and Impacts

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Abstract

South Africa has experienced significant political changes following its transition from apartheid in , with gender dynamics playing a crucial role in these transitions. The research employs a qualitative methodological approach, drawing from secondary data such as government reports, academic journals, and media analyses. A thematic analysis will be used to interpret findings. Findings indicate that women's participation in leadership roles has increased significantly since , yet their influence on policy decisions remains underrepresented compared to male counterparts. This disparity is particularly evident in sectors such as education and healthcare. The analysis reveals complex gender dynamics within South African political systems, highlighting both opportunities for advancement and persistent challenges related to gender equity. Recommendations include the need for more inclusive policies that promote women's participation and leadership roles across various sectors of government. Additionally, fostering public awareness about gender equality in politics is crucial for achieving true representation.

Keywords: *African geography, Gender studies, Power dynamics, Post-apartheid society, Qualitative methodology, Intersectionality, Political sociology*

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