



Gender-Sensitive Land Rights Documentation in Rural Zanzibar: Policy Compliance and Socioeconomic Outcomes Assessment,

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Abstract

This study examines the implementation of a gender-sensitive land rights documentation programme in rural Zanzibar and evaluates its compliance with policy guidelines and socioeconomic outcomes. Fieldwork was conducted in Zanzibar, focusing on rural areas. Data were collected through interviews with participants, focus group discussions, and a review of official documents related to land documentation policies. The findings indicate that while approximately 75% of women who applied for formal land rights documentation received their certificates within the expected timeframe, there was limited evidence of actual changes in socio-economic status or security due to these certifications. Despite some compliance with policy requirements, the programme's impact on socioeconomic outcomes has been modest, suggesting that additional support and monitoring are needed to enhance its effectiveness. Recommendations include strengthening enforcement mechanisms for land documentation policies and providing more comprehensive socio-economic support to beneficiaries of formal land rights certificates.

Keywords: *African geography, rural sociology, gender studies, ethnography, participatory methods, land tenure systems, empowerment analysis*

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