THE INFLUENCE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ON GENDER EQUALITY IN ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY, KENYA

BY

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The twin challenges of building pathways to sustainable development and achieving gender equality have never been more pressing.

As the world moves towards the post-2015 development agenda, the current paper not only shows why each challenge is so important, but also why both challenges must be addressed together, in ways that fully realize the human rights of women and girls and help countries to make the transition to sustainable development.
The dominant patterns of world production, consumption and distribution are heading in deeply unsustainable directions.

Also, humanity has become a key driver of earth system processes and the over exploitation of natural resources, the loss of key habitats and biodiversity and the pollution of land, seas and the atmosphere are becoming increasingly evident.

These unsustainable patterns add to poverty and inequality today, especially for the third of the world's population directly dependent on natural...
The effects of unsustainable patterns of development intensify gender inequality because women and girls are often disproportionately affected by economic, social and environmental shocks and stresses (Neumayer and Plümper, 2007).

The causes and underlying drivers of unsustainability and of gender inequality are deeply interlocked.

Both are produced by development models that support particular types of under regulated market-led growth and the persistence of unequal power relations between women and men (Wichterich, 2012).

Therefore, this study sought to investigate the influence of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet County, Kenya.
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

- The world is currently in search of a framework of development that will ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all people in the present and future generations. **Gender equality, women empowerment and sustainable development goals are recognized as a cross-cutting issue in sustainable development.**

- Women play a vital role in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the need **for full participation of women at all levels of policy making and implementation** for biological diversity conservation has been stressed.

- Despite this, there is **gender disparity in policy formulation and development world-wide** (Akiyode 2010).

- Inspite of calls for women’s full and equal participation at all levels of society, **women continue to be marginalized**.

- **Mainstreaming gender** has been recognized as the primary methodology for integrating a gender approach into any development effort.

- A need for a renewed vision for sustainable development has also been recognized (Rio + 12). It is therefore against this backdrop that the researcher sought to investigate the influence of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on **gender equality and women empowerment** in Elgeyo Marakwet County, Kenya.
PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study was to investigate the influence of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet County, Kenya.
HYPOTHESES

The three hypotheses formulated to be tested in this study are restated below:

**Hypothesis one:** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have made significant impact on gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

**Hypothesis two:** Non-governmental organizations are more active than governmental organizations in the struggle for gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

**Hypothesis three:** Socio-cultural beliefs and ineffective government policies on women constrain achievement of SDGs gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet County.
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- This research adopted historical, descriptive and empirical survey Approaches research design. The population for this study taking cognizance of the subject matter covered all the women in Elgeyo Marakwet County. In other words, the population of the study will focus on some specific women groups/organizations both governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as educated and uneducated women. Our reason to limit the population to Elgeyo Marakwet County was due to the largeness of the population and to narrow down the research to a sizeable population the researcher selected 20 respondents from the Elgeyo Marakwet County Government (.i.e. from women holding political positions and those in other public service posts). In addition, another 20 respondents were selected from the two NGOs which mean that our sample size is 40.
The reliability of instrument was based on the Cronbach coefficient alpha to determine the internal consistency of the items. The proportion of true score variance was captured by the items by comparing the sum of item variances with the variance of the sum scale (Kothari, 2003). Therefore, coefficient Alpha was equal to zero. If all items are perfectly reliable and measure the same thing (true score), then coefficient Alpha is equal to 1. The sampling technique used was stratified random sampling the instruments used were the questionnaire administered to the women groups and oral interview. The data from the research instruments were coded and analyzed using simple percentage, tables, and chi-square methods for analysis of data.
THE STUDY FINDINGS

- **Hypothesis one:** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have made significant impact on gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

- Reject Ho if chi-square calculated is > (greater than) chi-square X2 critical value and do not reject Ho is otherwise. Therefore, since chi-square calculated value (3.98) is less than chi-square critical or tabulated value at 0.05 level of significance at 12 df, we therefore accept the hypothetical statement that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have made significant impact on gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Analytically, the Sustainable Development Goals have impact on gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet County through its programmes and awareness on gender equality and women empowerment in all nook and cranny of Elgeyo Marakwet County. Analytically, the impact of the SDGs should be assessed from the relative increase in number of women in the public positions.
THE STUDY FINDINGS - CONTINUATION

- **Hypothesis two**: Non-governmental organizations are more active than governmental organizations in the struggle for gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet.

- Reject Ho if chi-square calculated is > (greater than) chi-square X2 critical values and do not reject Ho if otherwise. Drawing inference from the data analysis, it is observed that the calculated value of (X2) chi-square which is 24.17 is greater than (X2) chi-square tabulated which is 21.026 from the table value. Analytically, from the decision rule which stated that we should reject Ho if chi-square calculated is greater than chi-square X2 critical value and do not reject Ho if otherwise, our research hypothesis which stated that NGOs are more active than governmental organizations in the struggle for gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet County is therefore rejected. Our rejection of the above hypothesis does not mean that there is correlation between our findings in the respondents’ data and the research hypothesis, but statistically, it can be argued that government organization are the state agencies that make policies and regulate every action in the state including the actions of NGOs bodies. Therefore, it can be argued that NGOs are directed by the government policies in any effort to actualize gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Sustainable
Hypothesis three: Socio-cultural beliefs and ineffective government policies on women constrain achievement of SDGs gender equality and women empowerment in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

Reject Ho if chi-square calculated is > (greater than) chi-square X2 critical value and do not reject Ho is otherwise. Since chi-square calculated value (3.98) is less than chi-square critical or tabulated value at 0.05 level of significance at 12 df, we therefore accept the hypothetical statement that socio-cultural beliefs and ineffective government policies constrain achievement of SDGs gender equality and women empowerment. Analytically, our findings and observations showed that there are socio-cultural beliefs or practices which have continued to slow down any effort targeted at achieving gender equality and women empowerment. In other words, it is also revealed that these socio-cultural beliefs have negative impact on the SDGs target on gender equality and women empowerment. The truth is that they affect the initiation and implementation of policies on gender equality and women empowerment in different communities, county and central governments.
CONCLUSIONS

- Based So far in this study, we have argued that SDGs have made concentrated in showcasing the imperative need for women empowerment and their involvement in political activities or governance of Elgeyo Marakwet County. Indeed, women empowerment especially their involvement and participation in democratic governance is a global imperative and Kenya cannot be an expectation. Yet, there are many fallacies and constraints hindering effective participation of women in the Kenyan politics. In other words, the societal beliefs and perception of women in Kenya have always slow down the desire to empower women and give them a sense of belonging in the governance of their Motherland. This study make bold to say that until women are effectively educated and empowered to participate, the so called democratic government might by monopolized by men, who are in the minority of Kenyan population.
CONCLUSIONS-CONTINUATION

There should also be increased investment in education through the provision of scholarships, in-service training programmes by government and other organizations. Scholarships and in service programme will lift the country to greater height especially in line with vision 2030. An equal educational opportunity for all is the hallmark of sustainable development. Government should stop paying lip service to equal educational opportunities for all its citizens if concrete action would not be taken. Gender equity in education is indispensable in the realization of SDG. Indeed sustainable development can be achieved, if all our energy is harnessed to guarantee equal right to all
RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the study findings and based on suggestions by various respondents, the following recommendations should be considered:

• Gender equality must be well integrated into sustainable development policies, strategies and action plans which relates to environmental management if Kenya is to realize sustainable environmental governance.

• The need to ensure the elimination of all the obnoxious cultural practices against women in Kenya should be advocated by the government, religious leaders, traditional rules and other relevant stakeholders of the Kenyan society. This will help.

• More legal provisions should be made by the government to ensure the protection of women against any socio-cultural violation. This will go a long way in serving as deterrent to any person or community that is anti-women empowerment.
RECOMMENDATIONS CONT’

- More legal provisions should be made by the government to ensure that education of all women in the country is guaranteed. Women education should be encouraged both the families and the government. This is because education of women will not only liberate them from ignorance but will give them golden opportunities to contribute their quota to the national development.

- Adequate women sanitization should be vigorously pursued through women to women campaign, the FIDA, YWCA, NCW and other relevant government organizations. In addition, there is need to give support to NGOs in their efforts to campaign for women empowerment and sanitize society on the dangers of under-empowerment of women.
RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT’

➢ To ensure adequate participation and representation of women in the government, more legal provisions should be made by the government to ensure the participation of women in politics. In concrete terms, at least 40 percent of all appointive key positions at all levels of government should be reserved for women. Similar provisions should be made for all elective positions.

➢ The government should examine the various regulations governing election expenses with a view to ensuring that it is affordable to both men and women. Where necessary, the government should give financial assistance to women aspirants in view of their poor economic base.

➢ The linkages between gender equality and sustainable development must be acknowledged and acted upon in order to create a society that maintains and regenerates the environment and provides for all Kenyans.
THANK YOU