**ENGL 1102- 01**

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT UNIT 4**

**University of The People**

For this unit’s Written Assignment, you will utilize the UoPeople library to find 2-3 sources for your own research paper. You will then create a 2-3 paragraph Literature Review based upon your own analysis and synthesis of those sources. You grade will primarily focus on the use of your own ideas to group together your sources for your own research paper. Your ability to create and give credit via APA In-Text Citations and a Reference page is also a focus

**The Landscape of Gender Discrimination in Africa** **in the modern age.**

Gender discrimination continues to be a menace in our society today, especially in third-world countries like Uganda where I come from but why is this still the case even after all the strategies that have apparently been put in place to rectify the same? With this paper I aim to tackle the causes of gender discrimination from an African point of view and its implication on both men and women in our society, why it still lingers on up to date, and what can be implemented to correct it.

Thesis Statement:

This research paper seeks to unravel the multifaceted dimensions of gender discrimination, examining its underlying factors, and its wide-ranging impacts on individuals and society, and proposing effective measures to address and overcome this persistent social problem in Africa.

Gender discrimination is deeply ingrained in societies in Africa by mostly our customary or traditional norms, the social beliefs of both men and women, and also the roles that are assigned and trained to the boy child and the gild child from birth. In her paper “Gender equality-the Role of men” Wainaina mentions that “Men have a vital role in the empowerment of women in all fields of human endeavor which will lead to greater productivity, prosperity and increased human value in a more democratic society” (Wainaina, 1997) This stems from the fact that men gain the most from gender inequality. They get to attain education from the best schools in most cases up to a college degree while their female counterparts mostly receive only a basic education. But even when the girl child gets a chance of an education, the best jobs will be earmarked for the boys (in some cases with even lower grades) because of the perception that men are more intelligent than women and therefore better at managing roles in workplaces. Wainana shares her narrative on how gender discrimination continues to hamper growth in our African societies due to little productivity in the economy where all adults are not given equal opportunity to work and participate in its growth therefore this transformation should begin by changing the mind-sets of men in our societies. (Wainaina, 1997)

Our societies in Africa teach us that the boy will grow up to be the breadwinners, to provide support for the family while the girls will grow up to bear children and take care of the family. But is this actually the case? We see a lot of women-headed families today of single mothers and widows or even those where men are present but don’t contribute anything at home. “The social construction of particular roles for men and women will permit discriminatory biases that subordinate women to men or place women in inferior positions” (Lichuma, 2017) These gender roles shape our childhood and the activities done by both. Boys will play mind and strength games like wrestling while girls are encouraged to play with dolls and mock cooking games. Any reversal in roles for these games one is marked as an outcast. Winfred Lichuma in her astounding paper about Gender equality and secularism in Africa quotes that “GENDER EQUALITY IS A HUMAN right. It refers to equal rights and access to responsibilities and opportunities by men and women, boys and girls, and among all people. It does not mean sameness. Instead, it demands that opportunities and services are available for all” (Lichuma, 2017) She stresses that many beliefs and traditional practices in Africa continue to rob the gild child and women in general of their basic rights which puts them at a disadvantage in society, these practices include early child marriages, female genital mutilation, gender-based violence and sexual abuses, denial of the right to education and so many others. (Lichuma, 2017)

In conclusion, Gender equality is very important in our society if we are to see a significant change in our political system, economic landscape, and social welfare. If we all have the same rights and obligations, then we can all contribute to our development. The teen black magazine reported that “Gender equality is essential for economic prosperity. The higher the number of employed hands in an economy, the higher the overall productivity of that economy.” (The Importance of Gender Equality, 2022) We all have a role to play, men should support women to become important and much more needed drivers of change by filling the gender gap in our society. The question on my mind right now is why most women continue to prefer life behind the scenes as homemakers or housewives even after some effort has been done to lift them up the social ladder in society to take positions of leadership and business.

References:

Lichuma, W. (2017, Winter). No Rights Without Remedies: GENDER EQUALITY AND SECULARISM IN AFRICA. Conscience, 38(4), 20+. <https://cd20stysx-mp03-y-https-link-gale-com.proxy.lirn.net/apps/doc/A528197042/PPGB?u=lirn17237&sid=bookmark-PPGB&xid=fc513ad8>

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