

GENDER AWARENESS IN AFRICAN SOCIETY

A PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY

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INTRODUCTION

- **Brief overview of gender awareness in african society:**
 - Gender awareness involves understanding and recognizing the different roles, responsibilities, and needs of men and women in society.
 - It highlights the importance of equality and the need to address gender-based disparities
- **Importance of the issue:**
 - Gender inequality can hinder social and economic development.
 - Promoting gender awareness is crucial for achieving sustainable development and human rights



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- **Historical roles of men and women in african communities:**
 - Traditionally, men were often seen as the breadwinners and decision-makers, while women were primarily responsible for domestic duties and caregiving.
 - However, women also played significant roles in agriculture, trade, and local governance.



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MODERN SHIFTS IN GENDER ROLES

- **Changes in gender roles in contemporary african society.**
 - - Increased participation of women in the workforce and education.
 - - Men are increasingly involved in household duties and caregiving roles.
 - - Changing perceptions of masculinity and femininity.



EDUCATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

- **Importance of education in promoting gender equality:**
- Education empowers women and girls, leading to better economic opportunities and health outcomes.
- Gender-sensitive education policies can address disparities and promote inclusivity.



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

- **Increasing presence of women in leadership roles:**
 - Growing number of women in political positions, corporate leadership, and community governance.
 - Role models and mentors are paving the way for future generations of women leaders.



CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN

- **Challenges such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and lack of opportunities:**
 - High prevalence of domestic violence and sexual harassment.
 - Limited access to education, healthcare, and economic resources.
 - Societal norms and stereotypes that restrict women's potential.

Violence against women



Violence against women is a form of discrimination, directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately". This violence seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy their human rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

CEDAW Committee General Recommendation (No.19 para.6.)



Did you know?

Violence against women can be physical, sexual, psychological or economic, and can occur in the family, the community, and/or be perpetuated by the state.



About 1 in 3* Caribbean women are victims of intimate partner violence



Abusers are usually men and the victims are usually women and girls



Women are more likely to be harassed, assaulted and killed



Violence against women can happen regardless of socio-economic status, religion or ethnicity.

Major Challenges



Victims of gender-based violence often face obstacles to claim their rights and seek redress

Empowering Women



Systematic data collection and analysis on violence, that is broken down by age, sex and type of offence, remains insufficient in the Caribbean region.

Improving Data



Limited institutional, human and financial capacity and coordination among national mechanisms lead to inadequate responses to victims in need of protection.

Reinforcing national capacity

Recommendations

- ✓ Ratify and implement international and regional human rights standards in order to ensure that all women and girls in the Caribbean are able to exercise and enjoy the full spectrum of human rights
- ✓ Strengthen collaboration among stakeholders, including Government, Civil Society, Private Sector and the United Nations in the field of sexual and reproductive health
- ✓ Conduct systematic and regular data collection and analysis, disaggregated by gender, age, location, disability, ethnicity, types of offences against women and girls, in compliance with international standards on data protection and the right to privacy.
- ✓ Develop public-information campaigns and raise awareness with education and training programmes for national and local authorities, the police, judiciary, social services, the mass media, civil society organisations and women and girls themselves



* Source: WHO, Intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence. Global Health Observatory data repository, 2016.
Icon made by Freepik

How Common Is Workplace Discrimination?

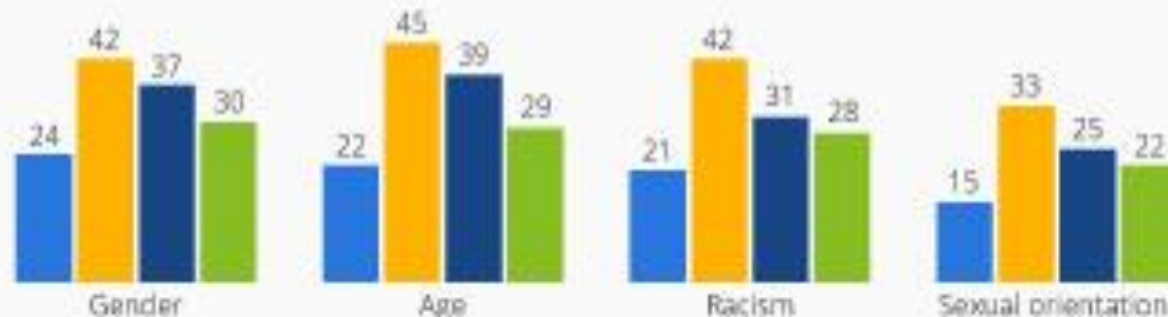
Discrimination experienced by respondents (personally or as a witness) in the workplace (%)

Germany USA UK France



Have already experienced workplace discrimination

Most common trigger



© StatistaCharts

n=645 employed respondents in Germany, 1,113 in the US, 725 in UK, 654 in France, 29-31 July 2018.

Source: Glassdoor

statista

EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

- **Programs and initiatives aimed at empowering women and promoting gender equality.**
- Community-based initiatives focusing on skills training, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship.
- National and international programs supporting women's rights and empowerment.



ROLE OF MEN IN PROMOTING GENDER AWARENESS

- **How men are contributing to gender awareness and equality:**
 - Male allies advocating for gender equality and challenging harmful stereotypes.
 - Programs encouraging men to take active roles in family and community life.



Photo Credit : RFLD and WHRD Initiative West and Central Africa Consultation in Porto Novo, Benin

CULTURAL PRACTICES AND GENDER

- **Impact of cultural practices on gender roles and equality.**
- Some traditional practices reinforce gender inequality, such as early marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Positive cultural practices that promote respect and equality between genders.



LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- **Laws and policies supporting gender equality in africa:**
 - Legal frameworks that protect women's rights and promote gender equality.
 - Implementation and enforcement challenges.



GENDER INEQUALITY IN FAMILY LAWS IN AFRICA: AN OVERVIEW OF KEY TRENDS IN SELECT COUNTRIES

Support for women in political leadership



75% of African respondents support the idea of women in political leadership.

1

2



Participation gap
Despite Africa's reputation as a continent with a high level of female representation in political leadership, the reality is that women are still underrepresented in political leadership.

Government performance in promoting gender equality
Government performance in promoting gender equality is generally low, with only 10% of respondents rating it as 'good'.

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Gender inequality in Africa
Gender inequality in Africa is a complex issue, with women facing discrimination in various areas, including education, employment, and political leadership.



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Gender-based violence
Gender-based violence is a major concern in Africa, with women facing physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

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SUCCESS STORIES

- **Success stories of individuals or communities promoting gender awareness:**
 - Inspiring stories of women and men who have made significant contributions to gender equality.
 - Community initiatives that have successfully addressed gender disparities.

"We need people who dream impossible things,
who maybe fail, sometimes succeed, but in any
case, who have that ambition."

– Emmanuel Macron



*Today marks not an end,
but a beginning filled with
learning and challenges.*

Hashtagle.com



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- **Future prospects for gender awareness and equality in african society:**
 - Ongoing efforts and future plans to further promote gender equality.
 - The role of youth and technology in driving change.



Inspiring Success Stories



CONCLUSION

- Recap of the importance of gender awareness and the progress made.
- Highlight the role of education, policy, and community efforts in promoting gender equality.