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Gender Equality in Rwanda



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Gender equality in post genocide context of Rwanda

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List of abbreviations and Acronyms:

CSO:	Civil Society Organization
EDPRS:	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GACACA:	The word <i>Gacaca</i> refers to the small clearing where a community in Rwanda would traditionally meet to discuss issues of concern
GDP:	Gross Domestic Products
GMO:	Gender Monitoring Office
HIMO:	High Intensive Labour Program
HIV/AIDS:	H uman immunodeficiency virus / acquired immune deficiency syndrome
MDG:	Millennium Development Goals
MoGFP	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion – Rwanda
NGP:	National Gender Policy
NWC:	National Women’s Council
RPF:	Rwandan Patriotic Front

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Box 2:	Gender and Gender equality
Box 3:	The Pillars and cross-cutting areas of Rwanda Vision 2020

Executive Summary:

Rwanda, as one of the poorest country in Sub-Saharan Africa has experienced brutal genocide during 1994. The genocide had left terrific negative impact on relations of men and women within one tribe, and with other tribe. At the same time it had plunged 80% of the population mainly women under poverty line. This scenario left women in general and poor in particular in an awkward social status where they had to be the heads of their households, play the role where men supposed to play before genocide, face several unforeseen challenges, and earn to fulfill their family needs.

The situation created as consequent to genocide pushed government of Rwanda to make irony steps in promotion of gender equality and women empowerment. Government recognized women as key players in the reconstruction and development of the country and at the same time peace building and reconciliation. The commitment of women resulted to introduction of several policies, laws and programs and approaches to maximize the participation of women and advancing their economic status and well-being. These include, Vision 2020 (1998-99), National Constitution (2003) and New Civil Code, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2008-2012), National Gender Policy, Gender Monitoring Office, National Women Council, and The Forum of Rwandan Women Parliamentarians.

Successful implementation of the above policies, procedures and programs left tremendous impact on the rural and urban women's lives. As evidence: a) Poverty among women reduced from 66.3% up to 60.2%, b) GDP growth observed between 7%-8%, d) Women secured 56.25% of the parliament and 30% of the seats in senate, e) Primary enrollment increased up to 97% and secondary enrollment to 28% during 2012, f) Maternal mortality rate decreased to 134 cases in 2012 and 90.6% of the total population accessed national health program, g) consequently life expectancy nearly doubled 28 years to 56 year in 2013.

Despite above achievements, some key challenges are still hindering the process of gender mainstreaming and gender equality. For example, poor understanding of gender equality concept, low literacy rate among women, limited capacities, and skills of women in agriculture, limited and skills in gender analysis, in adequate source such as health facilities, social norms, cultural and economic factors are of those important factors. However, in addition to the above factors, lack of gender statistics (particularly updated versions) in employment, wages, land ownership, access to financial access to financial and non-financial service delivery and other areas is a key problem that constraints further gender responsive planning, budgeting for specific interventions and monitoring progress. At the same time is the key constraint for the person aims to write specific report on status of gender equality in Rwanda.

Finally, the report offers key recommendations like comprehensive study of women's quality of life, and inclusion of gender equity along with gender equality for future improvement

1. Introduction:

Rwanda as patriarchal society experienced unequal power relations between men and women before the genocide 1994. But the scenario completely changed consequent to the genocide where thousands of women left as heads of their households. There was a tremendous social shift as an opportunity and at the same time a challenge for women to adjust themselves in the society where severe poverty, additional burden of their husbands work load, nourishment of their children, violence, illiteracy, lack of technical capacities for women were inherited from customary Rwandan society.

However, reconstruction and development of the country required strong commitment of the authorities towards gender equality and women empowerment as they were making 70% of the total population of the country. The report presents examination of policies, laws, programs and approaches undertaken to achieve gender equality in post conflict context of Rwandan society. Moreover, the report assesses the impact and as well the challenges ahead of gender equality in the society.

The report provides a brief overview of gender, gender equality, importance of gender equality in a country, causes of gender equality that caused Rwanda to take important steps like development and introduction of policies, laws, institutions and legal framework for gender equality as cross cutting theme

Furthermore, the report discusses gender equality affected economic empowerment, governance, health, education, justice, key lesson learned, challenges ahead of gender equality and recommendations for future improvement



Background:

Rwandan society had long been characterized by a patriarchal social structure that underlined the unequal power relations between men and women, boys and girls. Historically, the role of women in Rwandan society was mainly played at home and girls schooling opportunities limited in the kitchen. (*Benjamas. B, (n.d)*) The scenario dramatically changed as consequences of 1994 genocide. Between, 800,000 to 1,000,000 people (mainly men) were killed. More than 250,000 women were raped of which 66% have tested positive for HIV/AIDS. (*Jeanne. I, (n.d)*)

In addition, incidences of other infectious diseases remained not only impacted women's mental health but also their physical well-being. (*Jeanne. I, (n.d)*) The genocide devastated the Rwandan economy as well as its population. GDP was halved in a single year, 80% of the population mainly women was plunged into poverty, vast tract of land and livestock were destroyed. The nation was plundered of a generation of skilled and experienced teachers, doctors, engineers, public servants and private entrepreneurs. (*Anon, 1998-99*)

Consequent to dramatic demographic changes of about (70% women (*Jennie E. B, 2008*) 30% men) women were left in disadvantageous positions in all arenas - like they were deprived of family, education, law, politics, and commerce - brought up from pre-genocide context. Meanwhile the genocide forced them to think of themselves differently. (*Powley, 2006*) as absence of husbands for rural women increased the load of labor resulted in a heavier workload and lower yields.

However, the situation decreased their social status where no one had the time to listen about or assist with widows' problems. The lack of income from their husbands' labour in the cash economy left the widows and prisoners' families impoverished. At the meantime it was bittersweet for middle and elite class and even poor women because they found freedom to pursue their career and at the same time fulfill economic needs of their families.

In such circumstances, The contribution of women in peace building and reconciliation efforts was very essential and could become most effective by increasing their participation in decision making organizations and in the implementation of policies at institutional and community levels. (*Jeanne.I, (n.d)*) In newly explained theory of economists, strong relationship can be found between gender equality and development particularly economic development (*Anne M, 2007*) which is vital for an agrarian country with more than 60% of population under poverty line. (*Jeanne.I, (n.d)*) Thus, the newly formed transitional government of Rwanda made significant steps to bridge the gender gap which itself was greatly showing the government's commitment to gender equity, the promotion of

Box 1:

Genocide: Hutu (85% of total population), Tutsi (14% of the total population) and Btwa (1% of total population) were the three tribes living Rwanda a sub-shahran country. In early 1990s, extremists within political figures blamed Tutsi are putting social, economical and political pressure on their tribe. They were also accused of supporting Tutsi rebel the current ruling political party the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). Through this kind of propaganda Habyarimana the president of the time with his team increased division between Hutu and Tutsi towards end of 1992. This gape increased and resulted in a very harsh conflict of genocide when the time president's plan was shot down on 6th April 1994. Hutu extremists launched their plans to destroy the entire Tutsi civilian population

Source: Rwanda genocide at Educate yourself and other to instigate change in the world

equal opportunities and measures to address the post-genocide consequences. ([Jeanne.I, \(n.d\)](#))

1. Importance of gender equality

Thinking of development requires understanding the broader gendered relation in a society. Development literature and its prominent authors recently has considered better understanding and consideration of social infrastructure, values, trust, religion and other aspects of culture as prerequisite to the overall growth and GDP per capita. Amartya Sen (1999) argues that individuals' wealth related freedom in a country would be associated to growth and restrictions of this freedom would qualify as disincentives to it. Conceptualizing the above theory in post-conflict Rwandan society, guides us to go through gendered relations in order to better understand the needs of gender equality and equity for the reconstruction and development of Rwanda.

Social infrastructure: Rwandan society has long been a patriarchal social structure that underlined unequal power relations between men and women. Role of women was mainly played at home and girls schooling opportunities was kitchen. Meanwhile as consequences to genocide social network was quite tattered and unstable, social trust among the individuals and tribes had been dissolved. Many women had come to feel isolated, alone and abandoned. Thousands of them found themselves heads of households (34% households) with customary background where women would rely on men for access to the means of livelihood. Women had been excluded from education, decision making process, employment particularly the paid ones and leadership positions. ([Anne .M, 2007](#)), women were not inheriting land and property from their parents or husbands.

Poverty and economic growth: Genocide had devastated Rwandan economy as well as its population. GDP was halved in a single year. 80% of population was plunged into poverty of which majority was women, vast tract of land livestock were totally destroyed, poorly developed productive infrastructure was thoroughly destroyed. ([Anon, 1998-99](#)) Extreme poverty had made the situation difficult for women to take care of their children and other relatives who had survived. The national was plundered of a generation of skilled and experienced teachers, doctors, engineers, public servants and private entrepreneurs (Catharine et.al, 2000)

In general, genocide had reinforced the subordination of women. ([Catharine. N et. al, 2000](#)) The role, status and behavior of half of the total population the women was almost ignored in the society that could play a vital role in development of Rwanda being more than half of the population. Inequality of ruling over the country that itself was restriction to economic growth and development. Thus, the situation made government of Rwanda to strictly think of gender mainstreaming through the following steps.

Box 2: Gender: Basically gender refers to the social roles of men and women and boys and girls as well as relationship between and among them in a particular society at a specific time and place. It is a key determining factor of who does what, who has what, who decides and who has the power?. ([Roger LeMoyne, 2005](#))

Gender Equality: The concept of gender equality in social sciences' literatures defined as reflection of attitudes, beliefs, behaviors and policies that equally value and provide opportunities for both genders. ([Anne M. et. Al, ..](#))

Box 3:**Vision 2020 Pillars and cross cutting areas:**

Pillars: 1) Good governance and a capable state, 2) Human resource development and a knowledge based economy, 3) A private sector-led economy, 4) Infrastructure development, 5) Productive and Market Oriented Agriculture, 6) Regional and International Economic Integrations

Cross-cutting areas: 1) Gender Equality, 2) Protection of environment and sustainable natural resources, 3) Science and technology, including ICT (Anon, 1998-99)

2. Steps towards gender equality

4.1: Vision 2020 and inclusion of gender as crosscut theme

Vision 2020 is the reflection of Rwandans' commitment to construct a united, democratic and inclusive Rwanda developed during national consultative process took place in village Urugwiro in 1998-99. They aim to left up their country up to a middle income nation in which citizens are healthier, educated, and generally more prosperous. The vision introduced six interlinked pillars and its crosscutting areas with gender equality on the top. The vision bounded Rwandan authorities to continuously update and adapt laws on gender. It also ties their commitment with support to education for all, eliminate all forms of discrimination, and fight against poverty and practice positive discrimination policy in favour of women. (Anon, 1998-99)

4.2: Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS)

Vision 2020 followed by development of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) as strategy to translate the vision into action. (Anon, 2010) The strategy aimed to reduce the incidence of poverty from 57% to 46% by 2012. Similarly, reduce the ratio of the population living in extreme poverty from 37% to 24%. Likewise, decline the poverty among female headed households from 60% to 48%. (Yeshiareg D, 2008) EDPRS mainstreamed gender in all development sectors and highlighted very well. EDPRS placed to serve as strategy of achieving equity of voice, participation, and accessibility to services in every sector. (Anon, 2010)



4.3: Policy, institutional and legal frameworks

4.3.1: Gender Policy Framework

4.3.1.1: National Gender Policy

The policy developed to serve the government and its partners as a framework for guiding the mainstreaming of gender into the national development process and outcomes. The main objective of the policy was to integrate gender into critical areas such as poverty, health, agriculture and food security, education and professional training, governance, human rights and gender based violence, peace building and reconciliation, environment protection and information, communication and technology. To achieve the objective, policy focused introducing two main approaches: a) the gender mainstreaming approach as process for integration of gender and b) the assenting action approach to correct gender inequities in the society. (*Yeshiareg D, 2008*)

4.3.2: Institutional Framework for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

4.3.2.1: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion

In addition to the leading role in facilitating the implementation of the National Gender Policy and action plan, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion had to ensure effective gender mainstreaming and full participation of women in all activities related to the socio-economic development of the country. Furthermore, the Ministry tried to act as the lead gender advocate on gender issues at different level, disseminated the National Gender Policy at national, regional and international level, and mobilized resource for the implementation of gender interventions. (*Anon, 2010*)

4.3.2.2: The Gender Monitoring Office

With the view to strengthen gender monitoring the Gender Monitoring Office, established as an independent organization in 2007. The office has undertaken the role to effectively monitoring progress towards gender equality. Moreover, the office was responsible to: a) develop understandable performance indicators and monitoring and evaluation system in line with priority areas to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of progress; b) conduct periodic gender impact studies and propose strategies to relevant institutions to enhance the promotion of gender equality; c) Advice different institutions to respect the principles of gender equality at all level and be accountable. (*Anon, 2010*), (*Yeshiareg. D, 2008*)

4.3.2.3: The National Women's Council

The National Women's Council promoted by the government as a platform to advocate for the integration of women's development and non-development concerns into the national policies, the country's legal framework and local development initiatives. Though, the council was provided overall support including capacity building and other technical support by Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion but generally they lack necessary technical expertise particularly in gender

analysis of sectors, gender budgeting, planning and monitoring gender responsive development planning framework. (*Yeshiareg .D, 2008*)

4.3.2.4: The Civil Society Organization

4.3.2.4.1: The Forum for Rwandan Women Parliamentarians

Women represented a small proportion (23%) in traditional parliament that was put in place immediately after 1994 genocide. The forum introducing new spirit of cooperation guided by higher principles of common good and served as an example of unity in action. Through this forum women played a role model in leadership positions as they work together irrespective of their diverse background. (*John MUTAMBA 2005*) Currently, 64% (*Roopa Gogineni, 2013*), 56% (*Roxane Wilber, 2011*) seats in Rwandan parliament occupied by women.

4.3.3: The Legal Framework

4.3.3.1: The Rwanda National Constitution 2003

The Rwanda National Constitution 2003 ensures equal rights between men and women in the country. Women are granted at least 30% seats in decision making organs by article 9 of the constitution. In addition, it provides 24 out of 80 seats in Chamber of Legislatures. Likewise, article 82 of the constitution has specified 30% of the seats in Senate for women. It only allows civil monogamous marriages and stipulates the rights and duties of both parents for the care and nourishment of their children. (*Yeshiareg. D, 2008*)

4.3.3.2: The New Civil Code

In view of post conflict consequences, Rwandan Civil Code provides women with full legal rights to open bank accounts, appear in court in relation to their matrimonial property, witness a legal act, and use their own name in any administrative act in which they are involved. But despite this revision still gaps observed in overall Rwandan legal framework. (*John M, 2005*)

3. Impact of gender equality measures

5.1: Economic empowerment

With reference to National Gender Policy, Rwandan government initiated number of programs like High Intensive Labour Program (HIMO), Women Guarantee Fund, Creation of women's Bank, One Cow per poor household, Basket weaving, creation of potatoes farming cooperatives, creation of fishing cooperatives, Beekeeping for men and women and many more aimed at reduction of poverty. Successful implementation of these programs resulted to:

- ❖ Reduction of economic dependence of women to men and increased participation of women in control over family resources and women's involvement in traditionally male reserved roles and activities among others. (*Anon, 2010*)

- ❖ Decrease of poverty among women from 66.3% in 2001 to 60.2% in 2006 for households headed by women and from 67.7% in 2002 to 59.9% in 2006 for households headed by widows. (Anon, 2006)
- ❖ Women's access to small credits allowed a enormous majority of women to work with micro-financing institutions and allowed access to and control over economic resources.
- ❖ Shift towards social transformation: Not only reduced poverty among poor women but also promoted gender equality at households and community level. Like, cow belonged to men and fishing, carpentry and, beekeeping were masculine professions and basket weaving to women in traditional Rwandan society but now, women can own cow, do fishing, and work as carpenter and at the same time men weave baskets to generate income. In fact these kinds of activities not only have addressed poverty issues but also addressed gender equalities in the society. (Anon, 2010)
- ❖ Rwanda has made significant progress in restoring the economy to the average annual GDP growth rate of 7% - 8% since 2003. Anupriya G, (2014)
- ❖ Women have offered their immense contribution in agriculture value chain by providing human resource in various agriculture related activities. Additionally, they have produced and sold vegetables from home gardens or forest products and used the income mainly on meeting family food, health and education needs. However, this contribution is rarely acknowledged both at household and national statistics. The same situation is true in Afghanistan as well

5.2: Good Governance

Consequent to the series of efforts undertaken by the government of Rwanda, the participation of women dramatically has increased particularly in governance sector. Women representation in Rwandan parliament and senate 56.25% and 30% is the highest in the world which ranked Rwanda as the first country with highest rate of women's participation in the legislature. Inclusion of gender equality in governance has left tremendous positive and as well as negative consequences.

First, collective cultural imagination has been as result of presence of women in legislative and judicial departments of government. Secondly, enclosure of women has changed the citizens' opinion of women in governance roles and has opened the door for greater individual freedom for women in other aspects of life. Thirdly, inclusion of women in government structure is actually increase in numbers of women with leadership and government experience. Finally, in the long term, greater women representation paves the way for meaningful participation of women in more democratic political system. Meanwhile, the study shows that a) women participation in governance in the region particularly in Rwanda has resulted in a loss of human capital form vibrant civil society organizations. b) Women in legislative role may be used by political leaders and parties to legitimize their agenda as public opinion indicated that many of the women in

government collect their salaries and enjoy the other benefits of their position rather than doing anything. (*Jennie E. Burnet, 2008*)

5.3: Social Welfare – Education, and Health

Education:

Rwanda has made substantial progress towards gender empowerment in education sector. The government enacted number of policies to work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal of ‘universal primary education’ and ‘gender equality and women’s empowerment’ by promoting gender equality at all level. With effective implementation of education policies, Rwanda has made significant improvements in primary and secondary education level. It has won the Commonwealth Education Good Practice Awards 2012 in recognition of the progress made in increasing access to nine years basic education and an acknowledgement of the innovative and successful approaches taken to ensure that all children can access to complete quality basic education across the country. Therefore, sustained progress shown in primary and secondary education with:

- ❖ The primary net enrollment increased to 97% in 2012. Likewise, the gender parity at this level has achieved, with girl’s net enrollment of 98% which is showing slightly higher percentage than boys of 95%. The overall school completion rate has shoot up to 73% in 20012 with girls completion rate of 78% in the same year. The figure clearly reflects on Rwandan’s success at increasing access and retention of children at primary level.
- ❖ The secondary net enrollment rate of students has successfully increased from 26% with 27% for girls in 2011 to 28% with 30% for girls in 2012. As result girls now make up 52% of students in secondary education which is a very good improvement in comparison to immediate post genocide condition of Rwanda.
- ❖ The focus on gender equality in education through girl’s education campaigns, resulted to gender sensitive environment at schools that was critically leading to late arrivals, absenteeism and drop out of girls from schools (*Pirozzi, 2011*)



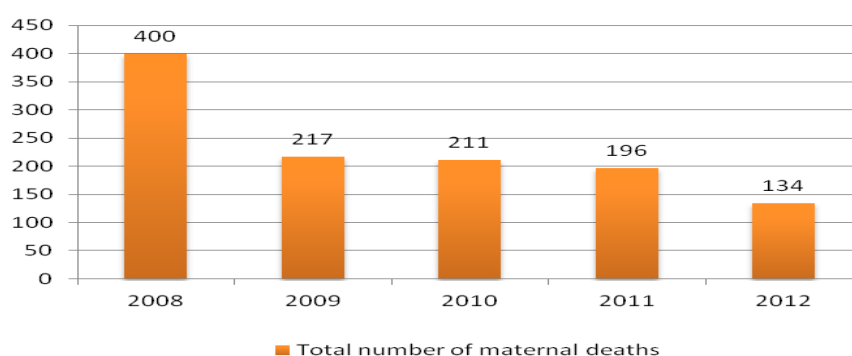
Health:

The survivors of genocide who were mainly women facing serious health threats including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and waterborne illnesses. To address health issues, government of Rwanda introduced series of health measures in light to gender mainstreaming in the country. Successful implementation of the programs and policies have resulted to outstanding achievements in health care and health outcomes that have set the country apart and made it a model for other poor African countries.

- ❖ Life expectancy in Rwanda has nearly doubled, from 28 years to 56. (Shahnoon Firth, 2013)
- ❖ 90.6% of the population is enrolled in Rwanda's national health program. Due to greater access to health services there has been a decline in death from diseases like malaria, which saw an 85.3% drop between 2005 and 2012. (Anupriya G, 2014)
 - ❖ Maternal Mortality rate has reasonable decline since 2003.

Table 2: Maternal Mortality Rate
Rwanda

Reduction in Maternal Mortality Rate

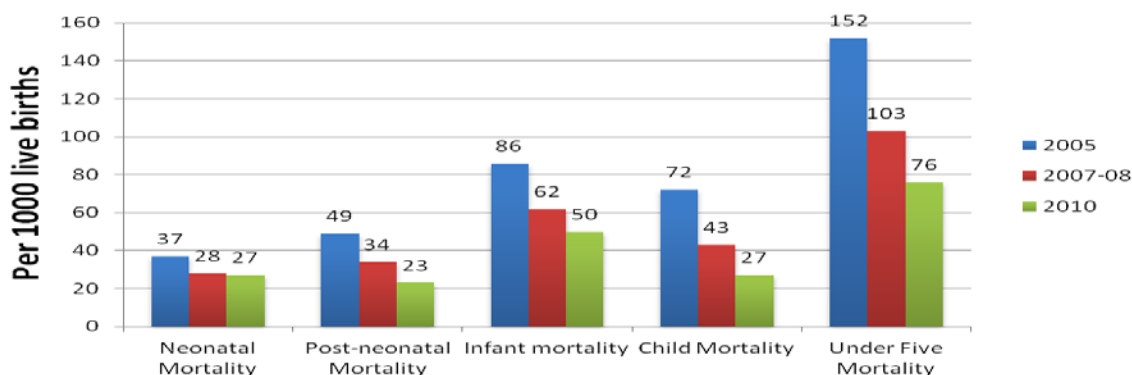


Source: 2011-2012 report from Ministry of Health – Rwanda

- ❖ Childhood mortality has decreased at different age group of children in Rwanda

Table 2: Childhood Mortality Rate in
Rwanda

Childhood Mortality Rates



5.4: Justice:

Rwanda has made substance progress in the area of social justice as well. To prevent gender related social problems and human rights abuses, new laws developed and series of programs established. As result:

- ❖ Inheritance of property from their parents is possible for women now. Under the regulations of common property women has the same decision power with their husband on the family properties
- ❖ Husbands cannot sell a single piece of land without consent of their wives
- ❖ Thousands of women under expose of rape have been saved with support from Gender-based violence desks established in National Police and Army to address gender-based violence faced by citizens.
- ❖ GACACA courts are now open for women in the area of justice, which was traditionally reserved to men. It has changed the mindset of women to think of them capable to address issues of justice among other things which has promoted gender equality. (*Anon, 2010*)
- ❖ The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda declared rape as a means of perpetrating genocide – that automatically protects women. – (*Anupria G, April, 2014*),

4. Key findings and their implication on development of Afghanistan

The above impacts of gender equality make us to draw lessons from the experiences in Rwanda: Understanding female to male ratio of education is a measure of gender equality that has impact on economic growth and development but at the same time it is difficult to sort out that gender equality is the cause or consequent of growth.

Level of education, experience and expertise are directly related with economic growth at household and community level. Increase in ratio of gendered education in primary, secondary and higher studied would provide educated human resource pool in any poor country like Afghanistan

Provision of gender sensitive school environment will increase number of female students including their daily attendance and affect quality of their learning. Thus is a good approach toward girls' education introduced by Rwanda that can be replicated in tradition part of Afghan society as well.

Increasing women participation in public life and governance has led to greater gender equality, a better and peaceful society

Gender equality provides greater opportunities for men and women in the society in term of social-economical and political aspects that will result into better status of well-being and prosperity at individual and household level. This contribution may result to greater life expectancy in comparison to those of having less access to these opportunities

Development of policy, laws and framework do not only lead to greater gender equality meanwhile it requires strong political will and social and cultural ground. The example of Rwanda can be replicated in other poor countries like Afghanistan where majority of the citizens are ready for change

To what extend economic growth contribute to gender equality in a society is a question to be well studied. Either country with highest rate of economic growth has the highest ratio of gender equality or not? If not, what other factors contributed to gender equality in that country

The government of Rwanda has dressed in democratic clothing by promoting its policies as the best method to ensure security and good governance through inclusion of gender equality factors but at the same time it has suppressed independent civil society organizations, and destroyed any potential for opposition political parties. (*Jennie E. Burnet, 2008*)

Gender equality was more focused among the tribe as driver for peace and reconciliation but at the same time they have forgotten gender equity to left up the invisible Btwa men and women as they are considered ignorant and uncivilized. Social and economic (Education, Healthcare, and land rights) integration of Twa is extremely limited that indicates gender inequity of minorities in Rwanda. (*Marianne Kuiper Milks, 2012*)

5. Issues and challenges toward achieving gender equality

Rwanda has made significant improvement in gender equality across the country but still after almost two decades, some key constraints still hindering the mainstreaming process that asks for serious attention and commitment of the government for the future. The report tries to highlight few important of them below:

- Poor understanding of the gender equality concept including gender sensitivity and resistance in behavior change – mostly among parents and teachers
- Low literacy rate among poor women with limited capacities, skills, agriculture assets and technologies to transform the products into a market oriented agriculture for income generation and food security
- Limited understanding and skills in gender analysis among public and private sectors and civil society for effective gender mainstreaming
- Inadequate resources such as health facilities and medical staff
- Social norms, cultural and economical factors limiting women from their participation in education
- Insufficient gender disaggregated data which leads to advocacy for gender equality. I faced this issue too to write the current report

Recommendations:

- ❖ Conduct a comprehensive study at national level to well determine women's social and economic status, particularly land ownership, employment, wages, access to agriculture, entrepreneurship, access to financial and non-financial services, access to health, education specifically secondary and higher education and future challenges for growth
- ❖ Develop multi-sectoral strategic plan with clear targets to improve women's capacities and skills particularly in agriculture
- ❖ Consider the concept of gender equity for the marginalized and poor women more specifically for the Btwa tribe's men and women
- ❖ Launch some specific gender equality and equity campaigns in order to convince mass community concept towards gender equality and equity
- ❖ Strengthen the capacity of line ministries, and private partners staff for better understanding of gender analysis and gender progress monitoring for the effective gender mainstreaming
- ❖ Think of meaningful inclusion of women in governance rather

6. Conclusion

Rwandan government has made significant achievements in gender equality since brutal genocide 1994. Achieving the equality across the country had required several irony steps and strong political will.

Considering the fact and figures on reasons of gender inequality around the country the government introduced Vision 2020, National Constitution 2003 and in light of them a series of laws and policies with emphasis on gender equality and gender mainstreaming as cross cutting theme across all sectors.

The successful implementation of the policies and procedures to ensure gender equality resulted to noteworthy consequences to the economic growth, education, health, governance and justice sectors. But meanwhile, there are still several important challenges ahead gender equality which requires serious attention of Rwandan government

The report concludes that there is need to rethink the way that gender is currently framed across sectors because the sense of gender equality among men, women, girls and boys and different tribes living in the country does not benefit marginalized and minorities such as Btwa tribe. There is need for gender equity in the country to lift them as well however many best practices as lesson learned such provision of school gender sensitive environment can be replicated in countries like Afghanistan

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