**Journal of African Development**

**Special Issue**

**Concept note**

**Proposed Theme:** Women in African Economies: Documenting African Women Realities

**Brief about the special issue**

**Background**

In February 2022, the School of Women and Gender Studies hosted a Pan African International Conference on Gender Studies in Africa (ICGSA) to celebrate 30 years of gender studies teaching, researching and advocacy in Africa. The main aim of the conference was to take stock of where we are as a continent in relation to the teaching, research and practice of gender studies. Organising the conference was informed by the growth of the discipline from a tool of development practice to a fully-fledged field of academic inquiry and research. The conference attracted international expertise from academia, science granting councils, government, industry as well as civil society to deliberate on the question of Gender Studies in the academy and in national development practice. The conference addressed various themes among which was “Women in African Economies”. This theme attracted a number of presentations that form the proposed special issue around how women are making a difference in the African economy as entrepreneurs, traders, agriculturalists among others.

**The special issue**

We are proposing a special issue addressing the theme: **“Women in African Economies: Documenting African Women Realities”** with the broad focus on the contribution of women to the economy of Africa. The proposed issue will bring together a collection of papers presented at the Gender Studies conference - ICGSA. The purpose of the issue is to explore the how women are making a difference in the economies across the African continent. African women constitute a powerful economic force that is essential for addressing the development challenges experienced in Africa. The comprise the majority of workers in the informal economy, and about a third of women participate in the formal economy. However, their contribution remains invisible in most of the economic analyses. Drawing on the presentations made at the recent ICGSA, the special issue will provide an opportunity to share knowledge about the role of women in African economies. The publication seeks to explore critical issues relating to women’s participation in the formal and informal economy – focusing on labor migration, sustainable agricultural development (livestock and crop farming), food security, digital finances and use of ICTs to access markets, access to micro-credit and women’s collectives/savings groups, access to decent work, micro and medium-term enterprises, the care economy amplifying the issue of unpaid care work among others.

The proposed special issue is informed by two motivations: i) to address the representation of African women and to move beyond stereotypes. This specifically points to the need to go beyond women as eternal victims, taking the orientation of African women as social agents in the African economy. Whereas it is an undeniable fact that women have been historically disadvantaged, relative to men, looking at them as eternal victims creates a discourse of lamentations which has tended to dominate the knowledge created about the African woman. The discourse of lamentations is without doubt informed by the undeniable fact that Africa is a continent in crisis. Widespread poverty, war and displacement, global marginalization all make Africa a continent struggling with the problem of development. This problem of development then translates into developmentalism especially in gender studies. This special issue is part of the overall effort to build resources for bottom-up agency (women and/ or men) in economic development field, ii) to move beyond generalizations to bring out concrete realities related to women’s contribution to the economy, their struggles and resilience. We acknowledge that whereas women contributions to economic development is in a continuous flux, scholarship in the field has not kept with the pace. In Uganda, especially, scholarship in gender studies has tended to lag behind the changes thereby limiting sensibilities as well as innovations in gender development practice. We aim to have a strong feminist focus and bring out new insights both at the practical and theoretical levels.

The special issue is intended to add to the much needed locally generated knowledge on gender Studies. The locally generated knowledge has additional value of motivating students to appreciate the core values of the discipline. The special issue will be significant contributions to the teaching and learning resources of the School of Women and Gender Studies and other gender studies units on the African continent.

**Revised timeline**

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| Date  | Activity |
| November 2022 | Send out call for submission of Full papers with Author guidelines  |
| 15th December 2022 | Deadline for submission of full papers; receive manuscripts |
| January/February 2023 | Review of Manuscripts |
| 30th February 2023  | Authors notified about review decisions |
| 30th March 2023  | Authors respond to comments and submit final articles for publishing |
| April/May 2023 | editing, proofing, design and copywriting |
| End of May 2023 | Launch of the special issue |

**Proposed Guest Editors:**

1. Prof. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo, Makerere University - grace.bantebya@gmail.com
2. Dr. Henry Manyire, Makerere University - hmanyire@gmail.com
3. Dr. Abena Oduro, University of Ghana - abena.oduro@gmail.com
4. Dr. Leith Dunn, University of Botswana - leithdunn@gmail.com

**Guest Editors Bios**

**Grace Banetebya Kyomuhendo is** a Professor of Women and Gender Studies in the School of Women and Gender Studies Makerere University. She is a distinguished Social Anthropologist and an experienced trainer/lecturer, researcher and advocate for gender equality, women’s empowerment and social transformation. Grace has done extensive research and published widely in the fields of social and gender norms, maternal health, gender poverty and social transformation, transforming the lives of young women and girls and the care economy. She has edited a number of books and is on editorial board of the Agenda journal – South African based journal on empowering Women for Gender Equality.

**Dr. Henry Manyire** is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Women and Gender Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Makerere University. He holds a PhD in Gender Studies from Makerere University, Uganda. He has teaching and research interests in gender, gender mainstreaming, agriculture, feminist economics and development economics. He has facilitated training in gender analysis and gender mainstreaming for several government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, District Local Governments and Civil Society Organizations in Uganda and Kenya, and the Ugandan and Pan African Parliaments. Dr Manyire has also worked with international organisations namely GIZ, UKAid, Sida, APPEAR, FARA, FAO, UNWomen and ASARECA on gender analysis and mainstreaming. He has published widely in the field of gender and economic development.

Dr. Abena D. Oduro is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, University of Ghana. She holds an MLitt. in Economics from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK. Her main areas of research are poverty and inequality analysis, gender and assets, unpaid care work, international trade policy and WTO issues. She is the Outgoing President and Conference Chair of the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE). She is a member of the African Centre for Excellence in Inequality Research (ACEIR). She teaches basic and advanced International Economics. She is currently researching on Unpaid Care Work, Inequality Analysis

Dr. Leith Dunn is an Honorary Research Fellow and former Senior Lecturer/Head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica; and an Affiliate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Botswana. Leith holds a PhD in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK). Her teaching, research, and publications are in gender, labour and trade; gender mainstreaming in social, economic political and environmental development policies and programmes; women’s economic empowerment; sustainable development; sexual & reproductive health and rights and human trafficking. Leith has published widely in the field of gender and development and was co-Guest Editor for the JAD’s special issue on ‘Health, Human Capital and Gender Issues in Africa’.

**ABSTRACTS**

**Beninese Female Labour Migrants and Their Impact on Sustainable Agricultural Development and Food Security in Ogun State, Nigeria 1960-2000**

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Migration of people from one locality to another is part of human inherent nature; as a result, examining contemporary migration of people both internal and international is a whole complex issue. The decision of people to migrate either locally or internationally is influenced by some complex set of factors. Studies have revealed that migration is not limited by gender. In time past women migration was usually determine by the male gender (the husband), or family reunification; however, in recent time many women are migrating alone today and leaving their families behind and many reasons can account for this. This paper examines the contributions of Beninese female labour migrants toward sustainability of agricultural development and food security in Ogun state, Nigeria 1960-2000. It examines the intricate linkages between gender, migration and agriculture development. The paper employs oral interview and literature search in the conduct of the research. The finding reveals that the Beninese female labour migrants have contributed immensely to the sustainability of agriculture and food security in Ogun State Nigeria through their labour and entrepreneurial skills. The paper suggested that government need to provide an enabling environment for them to further contribute to the development of their various host communities.

'**Victims of their bodies: Capitalism and exploitation of women's labour on floricultural farms in Uganda'**.

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This paper examines the intricacies in the employment of women on floricultural farms in Uganda. Globally, floricultural farms predominantly employ women. However, women workers on the flower farms appear to be ‘victims of their bodies’ in that the socio-cultural construction of their bodies as feminine informs the tasks they are allocated, their working conditions and remuneration. The key arguments advanced based on findings from JP Cuttings reveal that capitalism exploits women’s labour by riding on the back of social and cultural construction of their bodies: flexible, delicate, meticulous and neat. These qualities are required to handle flowers that are delicate in nature and this makes women fit for labour intensive but less-rewarding ‘feminine’ tasks. While some departments at JP Cuttings, such as harvesters, where the embedded tasks were categorised as ‘light’ and required eye for detail appeared to be reserved for women, other departments, for example, maintenance, construction and repair was dominated by men because the underlying roles and responsibilities seem to rhyme with the masculine cultural description. There was no single woman in the maintenance, construction and repair department. Similarly, no single man was involved in harvesting of flowers. Although socio-cultural dynamics lie on the periphery of capitalism, they are either directly or indirectly intertwined in the wider capitalistic economy. Overall, women flower farm workers were assigned work not based on their individual abilities, but on the dictates of society and culture particularly the ways in which the ‘feminine’ bodies are constructed.

**Keywords:** Women, Labour, Flower, Capitalism, Uganda, Social, Victims, Culture

**The Role of Women in Economic Development. The Case of Mbare, ZIMBABWE**

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Development is pivotal to human survival, satisfaction, and sustenance in all societies. Globally, various stakeholders, including women, are involved in development. Guided by the Moser Gender Analysis Framework, women have triple roles: production, reproduction, and involvement in community work that are development-oriented. African economies are mostly supported by subsistence farming whereby women play a crucial role in productivity. While the historic patriarchal background is heavily challenged, the role of women in development in modern Zimbabwe remains unexplored. While it has been widely acknowledged that women perform triple roles yet some of their productive roles are often unrecognized and not paid like their male counterparts is the reality in Africa this has not been met with radical policy reformations that the challenge demands. With the utility of a qualitative approach through a case study research design, the study had 14 women in informal trading participants through snowball sampling technique who voluntarily participated in the study. The findings revealed that women play multiple roles which contribute directly and indirectly to development. Recommendations were also put forward to appreciate, encourage and apprehend the diverse roles played by women in development.

Keywords: women; development; empowerment; informal economy; opportunities; women’s roles

**Where Banks are not a Possibility: Exploring How Women Saving Groups Contribute to Building Community Resilience amidst Corona Lockdown**

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and

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This study is premised upon the principle that access to finance as critical in supporting the livelihood strategies of vulnerable households in crisis times. Communities in Uganda are characterized by self-selected members who form groups of between 15 and 30 people to save and borrow from the funds they generate.  The paper draws on a study that aimed at how women’s realized economic empowerment is enabling them to address their daily families’ needs amidst shortages created by the lockdown to gainfully benefit communities and the country at large.  This focus on the transformational potential of women saving groups is indeed a unique innovation as it captures the voices of the ultra-poor amidst communities and how they cope with adversity. The study population consisted of women and men from areas that had suffered the double or triple jeopardy; where the Corona virus pandemic had coincided with other disasters such as floods (Kasese, and Butaleja), locusts and forced displacement (Mbale) and mass joblessness (Kampala).  It intentionally targets saving groups of young single mothers and widows, women with disabilities and women with HIV/AIDs.

Key words: women economic empowerment, women saving groups, unbanked populations, community resilience, covid-19, Corona virus, Lockdown, Uganda

**International Textile Trade and West African Women Traders: Historicizing Iya Alaso in Nigeria and Nana Benz in Togo**

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Since the pre-colonial times, textile trade was a virile occupation in West Africa, mostly among women. Accounts of explorers attest to the fact that women largely constituted the trade and commodity networks. In other words, women were active in the trade history and transnational connections within West Africa. This paper attempts to analyze the features of two categories of West African women textile traders; the Iya Alaso in Nigeria and the Nana Benz in Togo. Recently, the women textile traders in both countries encounter the constant turbulence of trade and industrialization especially in the era of globalization. Yet, generational changes in the entrepreneurship of the women traders matter in the responses to the turbulence. In other words, the level of education of daughters handling trade in contemporary times is significant in the responses to continental and regional trade policies. Therefore, this work unravels the implication of AFcFTA to women textile traders in Nigeria and Togo. To an extent, this work considers the dynamics and paradigmatic shifts AFcFTA connote in the historical process of women textile traders in the two categories. The work adopts the historical method with the use of primary and secondary sources.

**Women and Livestock breeding in Donga Mantung Division, Cameroon from Colonial to Post Colonial: Pathway to Sustainable Development**

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For over the years, women have vested more interest in agriculture as a whole and Livestock breeding in particular. This economic activity (agriculture and livestock) besides farming is considered as the back bone in sustaining the lives of the people involved in it as well as having the ability to empower women and their immediate families. However, these diverse perspectives have an imprint in portraying gender specific groups such as the Fulani as well as the indigenous Wimbum women in enhancing socioeconomic changes in the Donga Mantung division in Cameroon. It is against this backdrop that the paper attempts to critically examine the roles and contributions of women in livestock breeding during the colonial and post- colonial periods. The paper brings to fore gendered analysis of self-employment within the study locale and the mutations orchestrated by women involved in this activity. Garnered from primary and secondary sources, as well as quantitative and qualitative data, the paper concludes that there is absolute need for the government of Cameroon in collaboration with stakeholders both at the national and international level, to put in more efforts geared towards empowering women in this sector, in order to ensure a good path to Sustainable development.

**Keywords**: *Livestock breeding, stakeholders, Fulani and the indigenous wimbum women, Sustainable development, Donga Mantung, Cameroon*.

**Women in micro and small enterprises: An appraisal of the profile and experiences of women entrepreneurs in North-western Cameroon**

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Women’s entrepreneurship, predominantly common in the micro and small-scale enterprise sector has emerged as an important debate due to its significant role as a major employment outlet for a majority of women, both in rural and urban areas. The linkage between entrepreneurship and women’s economic participation and household survival is unquestionably accepted given its role as a job engine for a majority of women in most developing economies like Cameroon. Drawing on empirical data generated through a quantitative and qualitative study of female entrepreneurs in North Western Cameroon. The paper mainly uses a survey, interviews and focus group discussions. The study shows that women carry out diverse income earning activities aimed primarily at providing for basic consumption needs of household members. The findings also reveal that even though entrepreneurs have similar motives and business objectives, they are not a homogenous group. Their profiles differ, so do their business operations, activities, level of personal and general enhancement. In spite of these differences, there are some generalities about female entrepreneurship in the micro and small-scale enterprise sector in Cameroon; a majority of their operations are typically small scale and survivalist in nature.

**Key words:** *MSEs, entrepreneurship, survivalist*

**Gender and Decent Work Issues in Collective Bargaining in Nigeria**

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In low-income countries, Nigeria inclusive, majority of women are locked into relatively low-productivity work. Persistent inequality between women and men constrains a society’s productivity and ultimately slows its rate of economic growth. Although this problem has been generally recognized, evidence on the need for corrective action is more compelling today than ever. This paper examines the issues of gender and decent work issues particularly within the context of collective bargaining. This paper therefore aims to stimulate creative solutions to the problem of gender inequality and decent work issues by highlighting discrimination in the field of work and the significance of decent work in light of the fact that gender inequalities within the workforce affect market outcomes and feed back into decision making. This process is re-enforced by inequalities in access to assets and services beyond the household. Improving the relative status of female workers and increasing their access to assets and services will increase the returns to investment in human resources and improve the prospects for sustainable economic growth. This is achievable and realizable through collective bargaining.

**Keywords:** *Gender, inequality, workplace, decent work, collective bargaining.*

**Micro-credit Programmes as an economic empowerment strategy for women poor resourced settings: Exploring women’s struggles and resilience**

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Microfinance especially microcredit has increasingly become a popular strategy for reducing poverty in many developing nations. Micro credit finance is designed to target poor people solely to increase access to credit to enhance their economic situation. The design, structure and approach of delivering credit to the people from low resource background/settings rarely take into consideration the gender relations that impact on men and women’s ability to access the credit products. The paper posits that gender relations being part of the broad social relations, greatly impacts on women’s ability to access micro credit finance to improve their livelihoods. Drawing from a quantitative and qualitative study that sought to investigate dignity in anti - poverty programmes, the paper will articulate the extent to which group guaranteed microcredit schemes are gender responsive to women’s struggles and resilience of poverty in microcredit programmes. It interrogates the implications of gender sensitivity in microfinance procedures and processes and women’s resilience to shame/indignity which is integral in the delivery of the group guaranteed schemes. The paper demonstrates that gender blind product design and service delivery have significant implications for women’s access to microcredit finance and economic transformation.

**Widows and Property Inheritance: Towards Economic stability in Kenya**

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Widows in Africa experience discrimination in property inheritance throughout their lives, including before, during, and after marriage, but especially at the death of a spouse. Several innocent widows in the 21st century have fallen victims within the circles of their matrimonial home in several occurrences. The paper is drawn from a study that adopted a cross-section research design. A sample size of 120 women were selected using a systematic random sampling method. The paper addresses the question: what are the challenges facing widows on property inheritance in Kenya-Africa? And how can widows' property inheritance enhance the economic stability of our nation, Kenya? The situation is becoming wanting as many women in Africa and, more specifically, in Kenya have expressed fear and revenge, resulting in their male partners' killings, which has affected the country's economic status. This challenge has left many women and specifically the female gender, at the crossroad. Therefore, it is against this backdrop that the study will seek to interrogate the intervention role the church can play in mitigating the challenges affecting the Christian women and how this can enhance the nation's economic stability. The study will use a case study of Meru County.

**Keywords**: *Windows, Property, inheritance, gender, economic stability*

**The place of women in African economies: It is time for a rethink**

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An iterative and non-systematic review of literature and commentary on the broader subject of women empowerment and economic development suggests that in comparison to men, women lack more significant economic opportunities, which contributes to a decline in their local economy and that of their respective nations in Africa. In this article, it will be argued that increased investment in women and their nations’ economic growth is highly interconnected as such investment brings forth a vast and positive impact on the economy. While making this argument, this article will seek to pose questions and spark conversations by calling attention to emerging issues that limit women’s contributions to economies. The paper will use both the societal and institutional lenses to look at a set of measures that have been designed, deliberately, to support women’s limited access to economic opportunities. It is anticipated that discriminatory social norms and practices, and inadequate legislation and policy frameworks, will emerge as the main frontiers that limit women’s economic empowerment. Based on this tentative conclusion, it will be proposed that there is need for delegitimizing norms and ideas that perpetuate disempowerment of women and that such can be achieved, in part, through sufficient legislation and policy interventions that are highly context-specific.

**Keywords:** *Empowerment, disempowerment, economy*

**Women and agrarian development: A step to achieving food security and economic development in Africa**

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Women have been recognized to play a role in different countries in Africa to a significant extent, they have been recognized as farmers in their own right, but despite these women have been faced with challenges in the agricultural sector. This paper aims to examine the roles of women in agriculture, show how women are farmers, cultivators, traders etc., in their own rights. How women have contributed to agricultural development, economic development and food security in Africa. It will go further to discuss the inequalities women have faced in their pursuit and contribution to development and the possible panacea to the challenge that women face. This study adopts the use of the historical approach in gathering and interpreting data.Keywords: agriculture, food security, inequality, women, agriculture, economic development.

**Pushing Beyond Patriarchal Boundaries: Women’s Contribution to the Economic Growth and Development of Zimbabwe**

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Women have been marginalised in the economic development of African countries from time immemorial yet they represent half the population of Africa and considered internationally as one of the main pillars of economic development. Though scholarship on gender studies has made strides in highlighting the plight and roles played by Zimbabwean women in various sectors, not much attention has been paid at making women in business visible, neither has the role they have played so far in the growth and development of the Zimbabwean economy been adequately acknowledged. This paper, therefore, seeks to investigate the contribution of women in Zimbabwe to its economic growth and development. It focuses on how women are making a difference to the economy of Zimbabwe through activities in the formal and informal sectors, despite the challenges they encounter. The research is largely qualitative. Hence, data for the paper will be gathered through structured and semi-structured interviews with women in business, as well as through informal discussions and observation. The data will be analysed through descriptive data analysis. The paper utilises the theoretical framework of empowerment and visibility to inform the gender power dynamics at play in Zimbabwe’s economic turf.

**Women in African economies; how women are making a difference**

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Economies based mainly on agriculture, such as Mozambique, women represent more than 90% of labor in the fields, according to WFP data (2015), where in addition to practicing agriculture, they play an indispensable role in ensuring food security and nutrition, among other responsibilities that society has naturally entrusted to them. Despite the multiplicity of barriers imposed over the centuries to reduce the space for women, their appearance has been notorious and encouraged, an appearance often induced by the dynamics of global technologic development and the constant consolidation of the market system. Thus, we intend to deepen the debate on the participation of women in African economies, taking into account the increasing entry of women in the different economies. The reflection on the existing opportunities for the economic empowerment of women in African countries and the economic approaches, and implementation models adopted to promote the participation of women in these economies will be analyzed. Will also be examined the barriers that still hinder the greater participation of women in African economies and explore how to reduce.**Keywords: Woman, economies, barriers, opportunities, business, African continent.**

**Digital Finance and Intra-Household Decision-Making: Evidence From Mobile Money Use In Kenya**

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Increasing access to mobile money services and expanding its usage are prominent in the (digital) financial inclusion agenda in developing countries. Improving women’s participation in household decision-making, by enabling greater control over their finances, is one of the expected outcomes from mobile money expansion. Combining data from the 2016 Kenya Financial. Inclusion Insights survey and 2015 FinAccess geospatial mapping, we measure the effects of mobile money usage on intra-household decision-making using instrumental variable regression. We find that mobile money increases control over their personal finances for both men and women, but the women gain more than the men. However, this change does not necessarily translate into changes in other household level decision-making. We also present suggestive evidence of privacy being the key mechanism underlying the effects on women’s control over their personal finances.

*Key words:* Mobile money, intra-household decision-making, gender, information privacy.

**Role of Farmers Household Conditions on Household Food Society In West Pokot County Kenya**

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Despite their importance in global and regional food production, smallholder farmers’ especially in agro-pastoral regions have received minimal recognition in policy, strategic frameworks and interventions. The aim of this study was to investigate the role of smallholder farmers’ household labour conditions on household food security in West Pokot County. This study adopted an explanatory research design and employed mixed methods approach. The researcher drew philosophical inspiration from pragmatic worldview that is problem centred and more focused on real world issues. The target population comprised of 78,946 smallholder households in the study area with a sample size of 297 respondents. Instruments for data collection were; questionnaires, interview schedules and observation. Data was analysed both descriptively and inferentially. Qualitative content was achieved through content analysis. The study found out that more males participated in farming practices such as tilling, weeding, top dressing, harvesting and livestock keeping while women participated more in planting and post-harvest management. The study recommended that there is need female members in the study area to participate more in farming activities with an aim of increasing food security.

**I am shocked. You mean I am productive for only 8 hours? Counting losses for disproportionate distribution of unpaid care work Uganda**

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This paper interrogates women’s contribution to the economy through unpaid care work in Uganda. The volume of unpaid care work by women and men was assessed using a 24 hour recall of their activities in a typical day in the districts of Kabale, Kaabong and Kampala districts. Findings depict a heavy burden of unpaid care work on women at an average of 32 hours for women and 6.8 hours for men in a week. Across all districts there was a similar trend of the burden care on women with Kaabong at 32 hours for women and 11 hours for men; Kabale with 32 hours for women and 1.8 hours for men; and Kampala, 31 hours for women and 7.6 hours for men. We argue that the disproportionate division of unpaid care among men and women has implications for women’s engagement in paid labour and paid service opportunities and the subsequent family and community well-being. The paper uses the Rapid Care Analysis (RCA) methodology structured around the Triple Role framework, that proposes recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care work to enable women engage in productive activity.

**Key words: gender, rapid care analysis, unpaid care work**

**Decent Work and Informal Employment: The Case of Bulawayo Metropolitan Province (Central Business District) Zimbabwe**

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Zimbabwe, similar to other developing countries experiences a high level of informal employment. Despite the fact that various studies have shown the importance of the informal economy in the Global South; particularly for women, it has remained a largely forgotten sector in economic policy making in most countries. The paper investigates the experiences of informal workers perspectives surrounding the concept of decent work in the Zimbabwean context drawing on a case study of Bulawayo metropolitan province. Targeting informal workers who trade within the central business district, the study aimed to measure the decent work deficit scores between two economic sectors (food and clothing traders). The analysis is based on a mixed methods study which was carried out through the use of a semi-structured survey. The study revealed that decent work for the sampled informal workers meant work related improvements, insurances and risk management, right of expression and business advancement skills. The paper offers a new policy angle which shows that to promote decent work the concept of heterogeneity must be adopted because inequalities persist within the informal economy.

**Women’s Economic Engagement in the Cattle Corridor Districts of Uganda**

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**Abstract**

The Uganda cattle corridor is mostly associated with livestock and livestock related livelihoods that individuals and households pursue for subsistence and income earning. Yet livestock-based economies within the cattle corridor are largely dominated by men and boys and involve significant mobility that many women and girls cannot afford due to cultural restrictions and their inordinate unpaid care work responsibilities within households. Some districts in the cattle corridor sub region of Karamoja in North Eastern Uganda are rife with insecurity, that affects pursuit of livelihoods. Extreme weather events that are more severe within the drought prone cattle corridor further impact income earning opportunities. Amidst all these structural challenges, little is known about the economic activities women in the cattle corridor do engage in, and their efficacy. This paper seeks to document the economic activities women pursue within the cattle corridor. The paper further demonstrates the opportunities and constraints the cattle corridor physical, cultural, social, economic and (in)security environments pose to women and girls to earn income. The paper further investigates how the harsh environments could have impacted traditional gender relations as individuals and households struggle to earn income to meet their needs. Implications for promoting gender equality within the cattle corridor are also discussed.

**Effects of COVID-19 Lock down on Small and Micro Entrepreneurs in Kampala: Gender, Experiences and Coping Strategies**

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**Abstract**

Globally, small and micro entrepreneurs are an economic and social asset yet they remain vulnerable to risk. Evidence points to variations in experiences including impact from risks between male and female entrepreneurs. This paper examined male and female entrepreneurs’ experiences, challenges and coping strategies to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic effects on their enterprises. Research was conducted in Kampala district and targeted enterprise owners following the Covid-19 lock down. A cross sectional study design was applied and a sample of 150 entrepreneurs randomly selected for the survey, generating a response rate of 80%- (65 women and 55 men). Data were collected from 9th to 19th August 2020 and thematically analyzed.

Results revealed that more women (55.3%) than men (33%) had spent a shorter duration in business. Most entrepreneurs were 17 and 25 years’ (i.e. 38% men and 48% women). Boutique and food were the common enterprises engaged in by women, while, electronics and ICT, were male dominated. Containment measures aggravated the pandemic impact on business. All entrepreneurs experienced stress caused by interlinkages in the entrepreneurial eco system. Twenty-five percent of female and 13% male entrepreneurs lost their businesses. Coping strategies included use of ICT to access old and new customers, online marketing, mobile money transactions as well as adjustments in business planning and practices. This paper reechoes entrepreneurship experiences and practices as gendered. Women upheld motherhood and spent earnings and savings to meet basic family needs while men were stressed by their curtailed freedom of movement and inability to provide for the family needs.

**Keywords**: *Uganda, Entrepreneurs Experiences, Gender differences, Gender Structure*

**Trading in feminism and neoliberalism: Women entrepreneurs and their organizations in Uganda**

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Women entrepreneurs have featured heavily in the international development discourse of the last 20 years. As women, their participation in the economy is understood to be an important step towards gender equality. As entrepreneurs, their work is thought to produce economic growth and reduce poverty. Because of the dual space that women entrepreneurs inhabit, large multinational institutions such as the World Bank as well as small community-based organizations have created programming to advocate for and support them. Drawing as it does from both the feminist movement and the neoliberal world order, the global development community’s emphasis on women’s entrepreneurship raises many questions about the ways these two epistemologies interact in practice. My research explores organizations which promote entrepreneurship in Uganda, and how these organizations engage both feminist and neoliberal ideas in their intentions, practices, and consequences. I interviewed organizational representatives, did participant observation, and reviewed documents to understand the intentions and practices of entrepreneurship-promoting organizations. I also interviewed women entrepreneurs to learn about how these ideologies impact their practice as business owners. The paper shows how feminism - and Ugandan feminism in particular - influences women entrepreneurs' personal and professional development and the decisions they make as business leaders.

**Gender Roles in the Emerging Entomic Meat Value Chain in Central Uganda**

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Gender roles are critical in the development and prioritization of emerging entomic meat value chains for food, feed, livelihood and public health safety. Few studies have documented the roles of women and men in the entomic meat value chain. We conducted a study to assess the gender roles in the entomic meat value chain in six districts in Central Uganda. A cross-sectional survey of 120 entomic meat consuming households was conducted, together with 12 gender-segmented focus group discussions (FGDs) and 20 key informant interviews (KIIs). Our findings indicate that the most consumed insects in the six study districts are grass hoppers, white ants and crickets in that order. Whereas men, women and boy and girl children harvest insects domestically, commercial harvesting is dominated by men due to women’s triple roles and restrictive gender norms. Women are largely responsible for the storage and processing of entomic meat in households. Men control and benefit more from the sales or marketing of insects especially grasshoppers. Our study demonstrates that women play crucial and yet unrecognized roles in the entomic value chain, especially harvesting, preparation, storage and processing of insects at household level.

**Gender gaps in household food security: Evidence from maize farm households in southern Ethiopia**

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Using primary data collected from 560 farm households in Dawuro zone, southern Ethiopia, this study analyzes the gender gaps in food security among male, female, and joint decision-making farm households. It examines the factors inducing gender gaps among the households of those three categories. The results show that female decision-making households have a lower probability of ensuring food-security and a higher probability of being transitionally and chronically food-insecure. Joint decision-making households showed a higher probability of falling into the chronically food-insecure category. The decomposition results show significant gender gaps between male and female decision-making households in terms of food-secure, transitory food-insecure, and chronically food-insecure categories. Overall, both the endowment and return effects account for the gaps; however, the magnitude of the effect from the return is higher than from the endowment on significant gaps in the food-secure, transitory, and chronically food-insecure categories. Hence, there is a need for policies that not only ensure equal levels of productive resources but also help households build their capacity in order to improve both transitory and chronically food insecure situations.