



# Gender dynamics:Development and peace studies perspectives

Maxwell Constantine Chando Musingafi, Emmanuel Dumbu, Owence Chabaya

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The major aims of this book are to: • Provide an introduction to the study of gender in social sciences for students with little or no previous social science education. The text is designed to serve both as a comprehensive introduction to the field and as a starting point for further and more advanced study. • Enable readers to translate gender and development theory and concepts into practice. • Stimulate debate by encouraging readers to adopt a challenging, questioning perspective on gender research and ideas. This book is intended for classroom and workshop use in the fields of development management, public governance, and gender and development. Study questions, activities, and case studies are included. The book is designed for both undergraduate and seasoned professional or postgraduate studies. It can be used in both formal and nonformal educational settings. This text is thus written from a multidisciplinary social science perspective While there may be other forms of socio-economic disparity in society (like race in Rhodesia and apartheid South Africa), gender inequality is more pervasive than other forms of inequality. Thus, understanding the causes and consequences of gender inequality should be of concern to all societies in the world, rich as well as poor. Gender inequality is pervasive across different groups within societies. Within a society, the forms taken by gender inequality may vary across different strata, though its effects are more pronounced among the poor. Consequently, gender inequality intersects with economic deprivation to produce more intensified forms of poverty for women than men. Gender inequality structures the relations of production and reproduction in different societies. Men play a critical role in earning household livelihoods in much of the world but generally play a negligible role in the unpaid work of reproduction in the domestic arena. Women, on the other hand, play a critical role in the unpaid work of caring for the family. As such women and men experience poverty differently and unequally and become poor through different, though related, processes. Poverty and gender inequalities, therefore, have to be tackled at the societal level as well as through explicit interventions tailored to addressing specific forms of disadvantage. Culture is often used to justify inequality or to act as a constraint to equality. But, culture is a living thing created by people and therefore, changed by people. Throughout the centuries, it has always adapted to changes in human beliefs and ways of being. Therefore, as women and men push for more opportunities and choices for themselves, their children and their elders, their culture will adapt accordingly. While it is important to view the complementary and interdependent nature of gender roles, it is also important to challenge those stereotypes and attitudes that keep people in low status and prevent them from reaching their full potential. In other words, women and men have to build respect for each other's roles and goals in life, share resources and decision-making, and demonstrate mutual support for gender equality to become a reality.



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