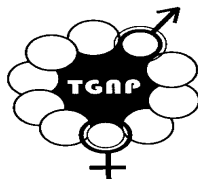


**TANZANIA GENDER NETWORKING PROGRAMME
(TGNP)**



REPORT ON

**AFRICAN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT INDEX (AGDI)-THE TANZANIA
REPORT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Mary Rusimbi
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I Introduction

The Tanzanian Gender Development Index (TGDI) report is part of the African Gender Development Index (AGDI), consisting of two parts: the African Women's Progress Scoreboard (AWPS) and the Gender Status Index (GSI). The African Women's Progress Scoreboard (AWPS) is a measure of government-policy performance regarding women's advancement and empowerment, and deals with qualitative data. It captures those elements of women's situation and gender relations that are within the mandate of the Tanzanian government to address. It is based on salient points of the various conventions, charters and other international and regional instruments.

The Gender Status Index (GSI) on the other hand, is a measure of relative gender equality that captures those issues related to women's empowerment that can be measured quantitatively. The gender Status Index is based on three blocks: (i) Social Power, (ii) Economic Power and (iii) Political Power. Each block is based on readily available indicators or easy to calculate on an annual basis or at least on a five- year basis.

This report presents the AWPS and the GIS for Tanzania Mainland and Tanzania (Zanzibar). The first part of the report is an introduction, which includes an overview of the socio economic and demographic factors within which the index is being developed as well as the methodological approach used. The rest part of the report presents the AWPS and GIS for Tanzania (Mainland) followed by the AWPS and GIS for Tanzania (Zanzibar).

II The African Women's Progress Scoreboard AWPS

The greatest challenge which the researchers had to grapple with was the way the government packages and stored information. Lack of gender disaggregated information complicated the research process and accounts for some of the gaps in the GSI as well as zero grade in some few areas of the AWPS. Developing gender disaggregated database was underscored during the process.

The discrepancy between policy commitments and practices is glaring. While government has had no problem in signing the international instruments as demonstrated by high scores in this variable, but the real problem observed was in the translation of these commitments into plans with sufficient human and financial resources allocation. The low scores in these variables explains this discrepancy. In addition, government commitment to the advancement of women cannot be realized without data generated through research process. Furthermore, successful implementation of plans requires putting in place a monitoring and evaluation framework with realistic indicators. However, our empirical analysis in this area shows that research and monitoring were among the weakest aspects for Tanzania.

Although both the mainland and the Zanzibar governments have attempted to create a legal and policy environment that promotes gender equality, there remain legal relics, which are discriminative against women. In the context of Zanzibar; the Spinsters, Widows and Female Divorcee Protection Act (SWFPA) of 1985 embodies clauses infringing on the basic rights of women (Section 3 (1) of the SWFPA) while in the mainland, customary laws in matters of marital rights and inheritance, bear discriminatory elements. Through there are some ongoing efforts towards reviewing of laws (e.g spinster) this questions the commitment of the states in promoting gender equality.

III The Gender Status Index GSI

, In the period under consideration, for Tanzania Mainland the overall Social Power “Capability” Block index shows an increase of (10%) in relative equality between women and men between the 1995 and 2000 period. The improvement has been due to improvement in relative gender equality in education and relative equality convergence between women and men in new HIV infections.

The overall equality in economic power “Opportunities” between women and men has decreased by (10%) between 1995 and 2000. This is mainly because income and time use or employment, as well as wages, income and employment inequality between women and men remained the same between while equality in access to resources deteriorated by (50%)

The overall equality in political power ‘Agency’ between women and men has increased by (10%) between 1995 and 2000. The indices in this block shows improvement by (20%) in relative equality between women and men in the public sector component and a (10%) improvement in relative equality between women in the civil society component. However, despite these slight improvements, the inequality gap between women and men in Tanzania is still wide.

The overall Gender Status Index i.e. the relative equality measure between women and men in Tanzania mainland, which is a combination of social, economic and political power, shows a very small improvement of about (3%) between 1995 and 2000. The overall equality between women and men in the country is significantly reduced by the high level of inequality between women and men in the political power block whose indices were (0.1) and (0.2) in 1995 and 2000 respectively

The difficulty availability of consistent data for the period 1990 to 2000 in Zanzibar made it difficult to compute the GSI consistently. However the indices computed for 1992 shows Zanzibar to perform relatively well in the Social Power “Capability” Block where the relative indices of women to men is 1.8. Relatively low performance is observed in the Economic power ‘Opportunities’ (0.5) and in the Political power ‘Agency’ (0.3). The overall GSI index for Zanzibar for 1992 was (0.9).

IV Gaps and Challenges

In the light of the above summary, The Tanzanian Gender Development Index (TGDI) raises a number of challenges, which have to be addressed as the government works towards translate international commitments into operational plans. The first challenge is

how to simplify the index and use it as a framework to measure progress. This can be done through reducing number of variables for measurement. Developing gender disaggregated data through research is yet another challenge. Popularizing this instrument in order to enable a wider public to use it in holding government accountable is recommended.

The greatest challenge which the researchers had to grapple with was the way the government packages and stored information. Lack of gender-disaggregated information complicated the research process and accounts for some of the gaps in the GSI as well as zero grade in some few areas of the AWPS. Developing gender-disaggregated database in the country is a crucial challenge if the African Gender Development Index for Tanzania is to be improved in the future.