
Gender Equity for Economic Development in Africa: The Case of Kenya's Blue Economy and Growth

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Abstract

The paper explains the role of the concept of gender equity in achieving economic development in Kenya. The Kenyan constitution recognizes the significant role of gender parity in development outcomes, but despite varied interventions, the goal of achieving gender equity has not succeeded. More so in the blue economy where the gender gap is wide. Women's contributions and participation in the blue economy sector are often devalued and underrepresented. Their vulnerabilities are exacerbated by societal biases and cultural practices that leave them open to exploitation and unfair competition in the diverse Blue economy. For this research was drawn from an extensive literature review of government and conference reports, journal articles and books and analysed using a content analysis approach. The findings reveal a need to evaluate Kenya's development trajectory to incorporate gender equity in economic development discourse more urgently in the blue economy. Increased participation of women in relevant blue economy sectors guarantees the sustainable use of blue resources and improved prospects for decent employment opportunities and poverty alleviation. The paper concludes that no genuine sustainable economic development can be attained without gender equity. It proposes deepening gender equity in utilising the blue economy resources and enlist more participatory national development initiatives that focus on increasing efficiency in conservation, management and exploitation of the blue wealth for equitable and sustainable economic development in Kenya.

Key Words: Gender equity, Blue economy, sustainable development, women economic empowerment, economic development, poverty

