

CONTRIBUTION OF LIBRARIES TO GENDER EQUALITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: EXPERIENCES FROM NIGERIA, GHANA, KENYA AND SOUTH AFRICA.



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UP AND CARNEGIE CORPORATION
OF NEWYORK CAPSTONE
CONFERENCE ; KIEVITS KROON,
25TH-29TH MARCH, 2019.

INTRODUCTION

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- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an offshoot of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in September 2000 summit of world leaders.
- Among its objectives is to enhance the use of enabling technology particularly ICT to promote women empowerment; its target is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030.
- To enhance their political, economic development and an aim for global development in the wake of changing environmental, social, and economic conditions.
- UNDP (2017) states that the goals are aligned towards ensuring that poverty, hunger and all other kinds of inequalities are eradicated globally.
- On 25th September 2015, United Nation (UN) Member States took on the 2030 Agenda for SDGs known as the Global Goals. They launched the SDG which defined the “road map for sustainable global development” for the next fifteen years. It represents an intergovernmental set of aspiration Goals with 169 targets.
- Even though the MDGs/ SDGs achieved a lot of successes, major challenges that constrained its fulfilment in many countries was gender inequality and women empowerment and Cultural Heritage.

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29th March, 2019



SDG 5 & 11.4: GENDER EQUALITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

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- Gender equality (GE) is a global agenda engrained in the UN, SDGs. It has to do with the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female. GE is a situation where women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and potentials and are able to contribute equally to national, political, economic, social and cultural development and benefit equally from the results.
- GE is achieved when women and men enjoy the same rights, responsibility and opportunities across all sectors of society, including economic participation and decision-making, and when the different behaviors, aspirations and needs of women and men are equally valued and favored. – (Gender equality in Ireland, n.d)
- Culture is a way of life through which a person or group expresses their humanity and the meanings that they give to their existence and to their development.
- Heritage is a legacy from the past generations that is cherished in the present for its recognized aesthetic, spiritual, and social values within society- UNESCO (2014).

GENDER EQUALITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE...

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- Heritage consist of historic monuments, cultural properties, artefacts, landscapes, natural environments as well as tangible or living heritage.
- The CH of a society can be transmitted from generation to generation through information.
- Target 11.4 focus on strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. Its objective is to provide initiatives to protect and safeguard the cultural heritage in the country.
- Cultural Heritage (CH) and Gender Equality enjoys a mutually reinforcing and dynamic relationship with huge potential for supporting and achieving development goals.
- CH should emphasize on gender mainstreaming to eradicate discrimination against women, because women have a huge role to play in protecting our cultural heritage.
- *However, "most binding international law / bodies regarding cultural heritage are silent on gender equality".*
- Giving females equal right can be crucial in broadening the definition and scope of cultural heritage for the benefit of the society .

JUSTIFICATION OF THE RESEARCH

- **Discrimination against women and gender inequalities exist in African countries (United Nations Development Programmes, 2017; Timothy, 2014; Ekpe et al, 2014; Anyaoku, 2016) among others. Gender is ignored in heritage matters (UNESCO, 2014).**
- **Promotion of women to attain equality in Africa in many area has been slow due to concerns such as religion, culture, attitude etc. toward women in their participation in community or national issues.**
- **These authors have addressed discrimination from different perspectives like law, politics, culture, religion among others but they did not address the issue from lack of information angle as a major cause for discrimination.**
- **This research, thus, will explore the issue of information gap as a cause for gender inequalities and the role of libraries as information providers.**

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY/METHODOLOGY

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The main objectives of the research are to :

- ▶ Explore gender equalities and cultural heritage in Africa.
- ▶ Examine the experiences from libraries in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa.
- ▶ Identify the role of libraries in achieving Sustainable Development Goals 5 and Target 11.4 in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa.
- ▶ Establish strategies for the achievement of gender equality and to document feasible solutions by libraries in attainment of gender equality and cultural heritage.

The study employed qualitative research design and adopted a Case study methodology; data was collected using desk review, focus group discussions and interviews.

ROLE OF LIBRARIES...

- Research has shown that there are gender inequalities in Africa caused by inadequate information.
- Libraries have an important role to play in empowering women by providing and preserving information related to economic, social, political, environmental and educational aspects.
- Provision and access to information are vital factors for empowerment, innovation, growth and individual advancement.
- Information is prominent for attaining Development and it remains a panacea for attainment of gender equality...

KASHIM IBRAHIM LIBRARY AND THE ATTAINMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SAMARU ENVIRON OF KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA.

BY

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UP & CARNEGIE OF NEWYORK CAPSTONE CONFERENCE FROM 25TH-29TH MARCH,2019;KIEV/ITS
KROON, PRETORIA.

Introduction

- The growing imbalance between male and female in the contemporary society has serve as a wake-up-call to many countries, organizations and institutions.
- Achieving gender equality is a necessity for the attainment of the sustainable development in Nigeria because this is essential to a vision of inclusive sustainable growth.
- Nigeria like any other countries in the world are responding to the clarion calls made variously by the UN to rid societies of all forms of discriminations especially gender based discriminations and women empowerment.
- In line with this, University libraries have also expand their roles in the provision of access to knowledge, technology, education, health-care services and information as one feature that will promote an enabling environment for women to grow and contribute their quota.
- Since information is foundation for innovation, growth and individual advancement specifically within a community and also acknowledge to be prominent for sustainable national development; a catalyst to knowledge acquisition and dynamic instrument of change.
- Therefore, the role of library in attaining gender equality and empowering women for Sustainable Development in Nigeria is paramount.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The Study was guided by the following objectives:

- To examine the contributions of Kashim Ibrahim library in the provision of access to information for achieving gender equality and women empowerment toward the attainment of SDGs in Samaru Community, Kaduna state, Nigeria.
- To identify the roles of KIL in providing for women, access to information towards the achievement of SDG5 in Samaru community and Nigeria at Large.
- To proffer actions towards the actualization of SDGs by KIL.
- To identify the challenges facing libraries in facilitating access to information on SDGs and proffer solutions.

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Background to the Study

- **Kashim Ibrahim Library (KIL) in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, was in existence by the inauguration of the university on 4th October 1962 built to be the epitome of excellence in university education in Nigeria.**
- **It has a chain of libraries that are tributaries to the main library which are called satellite libraries.**
- **Objectives includes providing relevant information resources to meet the mission and vision of its parent institution for the purpose of serving the parent community.**
- **Access to timely and relevant information for all are better positioned to eradicate poverty and inequality, provide quality education, and support women's health and innovation.**
- **The library is the only place in many communities where people can have access to information that will help improve them and gain insights into environmental issues.**
- **Their role as facilitator in the provision and access to information for women for their empowerment were recognized since they have been instrumental to community and National development.**

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

- Promotion of women empowerment in Nigeria is low (Oyelude and Bamigbola, 2012; Timothy, 2014).
- High rate of illiteracy among others have become a topical subject.
- High level of information needs (There exist an Information Gap among Gender).
- There are prevailing concerns such as religious and cultural bias against women participation in some national issues. Hence, information remains the only crucial commodity to eradicate all forms of inequalities in our society.
- KIL with their CPD Alumni Staff have expanded their role and taken a step further to contribute to the attainment of SDG5 by designing programs, initiatives and carrying out trainings to meet the need of women within Samaru community. Therefore, the contributions of Kashim Ibrahim library in the provision of access to information for achieving gender equality and women empowerment toward the attainment of SDGs in Samaru Community, Kaduna state, Nigeria is recognized.

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Role of KIL in Providing Access to Information for Achieving SDG 5.

- Information literacy training.
- Support functional literacy programs and provide information services to women from all walks of life.
- Promote Technical and Vocational Knowledge.
- Promotion of activities through outreach programs: Seminars; workshops etc.


Expected Actions by KIL to Provide Access to Information for Achieving SDG5.

- Provide an avenue to proffer solutions to gender divide and designing programs to foster female' ICT's skills.
- Create awareness on the nature of SDG and need to work together with the host institution towards the realization.
- Encourage use of library and online resources through the information skills training.

Challenges : Inadequate Funding; Lack of access to facilities, internet, computers, etc.

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CONTRIBUTIONS AND CONCLUSION

- The unique role of libraries as important development partners, both in delivering services and programs that meet the information needs of people in a changing and increasingly complex society was prioritized.
 - Collaboration with other stakeholders to achieve community outreach.
 - Among these are programs designed to provide information literacy skills to women especially widows and business women and giving hands-on practical training to them.
 - The use of social media to create groups and form connections were women are being inform about new government initiatives like Social Investment Scheme; Conditional Grants Transfer Scheme for Farmers and Small Scale Marketers etc.
 - This platform in turn serves as Online Marketing Space for women where they advertised their local products.
 - All these activities has increases their economic and social well-being and has promote gender equality and empower women in the area despite inadequate funding and other numerous challenges to promote other activities.
 - The study concludes that achieving SDGs require the input of all institutions concerned AND Provision of adequate resources.
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**THE ROLE OF THE SAM JONAH LIBRARY IN HELPING
GHANA TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOAL 5.**

MARIYAMA ABDULAI KUMAH

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

GHANA

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the study were:

- To assess the journey of MDGs and SDGs
- Identify the role of Sam Jonah Library in achieving SDG five (5)
- To ascertain strategies to promote this goal
- Make recommendations and way forward.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF GOAL 5

- Women have a critical and vital role to play in the attainment of SDGs. This is because equality and empowerment of women are parts or the solution and objective of achieving the SDGs.
- In the past years, empowerment, inequality and discrimination among women were a major setback in the development of every nation, especially Sub-Sahara Africa countries.

THE ROLE OF THE SAM JONAH LIBRARY IN ACHIEVING SDG FIVE (5)

KEY COLLABORATORS

In a way of accomplishing the goal 5 of the SDGs, the Sam Jonah Library decided to collaborate with other stakeholder and organizations such as Ghana Library Authority and Ghana Library Association in conjunction with

- Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
- Centre for Gender Research, Advocacy and Documentation (CEGRAD) UCC
- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Women's Initiative for Self- Empowerment (WISE)

STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE THIS GOAL

- “#SDGs 5: Equality and Empowerment for girls and women in Ghana” were used as a slogan in our campaign to achieve our aim.
- A fun club group was created which included the library staff, lecturers, and faculty members of the university, chiefs, stakeholders and the entire community.
- An outreach programme was used which included drama, speeches by stakeholders in educating the local community on equality and empowerment of female.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Introduction of strategies that can help transform attitudes of Ghanaians.
2. Formation of clubs and associations in schools for females.
3. Education of researchers by libraries on issues relating to gender.
4. An increase in the number of females in leadership positions.

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



TOWARDS ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERING WOMEN WITH INFORMATION: AN INVESTIGATION OF FEASIBLE SOLUTIONS BY LIBRARIES IN KENYA

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Capstone Conference at Kevills Kroon Pretoria, 28th-29th
March 2019

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND
PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM
METHODOLOGY
LITERATURE REVIEW
ANU CONTRIBUTION TO GENDER EQUALITY
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS
RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

7/31/2019

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- Kenya has a population of nearly 50 million with women being at 50.1 %. Major disparities between male and female genders. Gaps are in education, health, politics, participation in the labor market among others.
- Kenya ranks at 76 of 144 countries with significant inequalities between males and females. USAID (2018) .
- Gender based violence is pervasive. Kenya Demographic Health Survey (2014) pointed almost half (45 percent) of women aged 15-49 having experienced either physical or sexual violence at some point in their life. 349,400 cases of teenage pregnancies between 15-19 years in 2016-2017. (UNPF,2018) Corroborated by authors e.g. Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement (2007), USAID (2017), Bwisa (2015), self observation and media reports in Kenya.
- Wake up call to end gender inequalities in Kenya. Jewitt & Ryley, (2014) Information and education is key to change. Libraries have a big role to play

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GOVERNMENT AND NGO AGAINST GENDER INEQUALITIES

- “I’m convinced that our nations and the world stand to gain tremendously if we continue to embrace that progress for women is progress for us all.
- **Affirmative action- 2/3rds gender rule.** Provided for in The Kenya Constitution 2010, Article 27 (8). Powerful framework for addressing gender equality.
- Article 81 states that the same rule should be applicable in elective public bodies. Kenyan public institutions, particularly the National Assembly, gender balance is skewed against women.
- The Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) intends to train 8,000 women in entrepreneurship and lend money to 97,000 women countrywide.
- Uwezo fund
- Free secondary education (2002) and 100% transition policy in education (improved access, retention and completion of secondary school education by all learners)
- “Big Four” agenda to guide development in the country in the period 2018-2022: affordable and decent housing, affordable healthcare, food and nutritional security, and employment creation through manufacturing.(KIPPRA)
- UN trains on gender equality guided by key international normative instruments, in particular the:
 - [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW)
 - [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#)

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PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

- **PURPOSE:** Establish and document feasible solutions librarians can provide to challenges faced by women in society in achieving gender equality.
- **OBJECTIVES:**
 - a) Establish the information needs of women at Ole Kasasi
 - b) Engage partners in educating the women
 - c) Find out what inequalities are experienced by women
 - d) Identify sustainable development practices by libraries that empower women.

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND METHODOLOGY USED

- Though government has measures on achieving gender equality, there is evidence of gender inequalities in Kenya. Ellis, A., & Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement (2007) (Omwaha, 2015; Bwisa, 2015 & Mohamedbhai, 2008), World Bank (2007); Ndirangu, L.M, Onkware, K., & Chitere, P. (2017). There's mismatch between policy and practice.

According to preliminary findings and literature review, the major problem is lack of Information by women.

- This is an ongoing evaluative research of an information dissemination programme that ANU library launched to bridge the existing information gaps revealed by preliminary findings. An action research approach and case study was adopted focusing on women at Ole Kasasi in North Kajiado County in Kenya. Qualitative research design was used where data was collected using focus group discussions and interviews.

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GENDER INEQUALITIES IN KENYA- LITERATURE REVIEW

- Women experience economic, cultural, education and political inequalities
- World Bank (2007) indicated that women in Kenya are faced with legal, regulatory and administrative barriers in starting businesses in comparison to their male counterparts
- USAID (2017) indicated that traditional practices in Kenya inhibit women from contributing to development in the communities owing to ideologies regarding their roles in relation to the male gender.
- Reiterated by a study in Kajiado by Ndirangu, L.M, Onkware, K., & Chitere, P. (2017). Patriarchal society and community perceives females as mothers and play a subordinate role to their men who they feel should hold leadership positions.

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GENDER INEQUALITIES IN KENYA....CONT

- Facts indicate that since 1963 to date, men have been majority in parliament, with only very slight growth. 4.1% female representation in Parliament in 1997, 8.1% in 2002 and 9.8% in 2007. Even after 2010, only 16 of the 290 women were elected as members of parliament.
- Recently the gender equity bill was shelved for the fourth time due to lack of quorum. The National assembly failed to marshall the required quorum. Constitution provides that at least 233 of the 349 MPs, two-thirds of the members, must be in the House before the Speaker puts the question on the motion.
- Gender bill 'not more than two-thirds of the members of elective public bodies shall be of the same gender'.

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ANU LIBRARY INITIATIVES IN GENDER EQUALITY

- Libraries in their role as information providers facilitate in dissemination of information.
- In June 2018, ANU started a collaborative program between the library and identified partners who are involved in developmental issues. Focus is to disseminate information to women. Area is Ole Kasasi in North Kajiado county of Kenya.
- Partners: local Banks, NGOs, Government departments/offices including Women Representative, Chiefs office, Member of Parliament office and selected departments of ANU.



Magdaline Wanjiru Mungai

7/31/2019

ANU LIBRARY INITIATIVES IN GENDER EQUALITY



Magdaline Wanjiru Mungai

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ANU LIBRARY INITIATIVES IN GENDER EQUALITY



Magdaline Wanjiru Mungai



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RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

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- Preliminary findings established that women need information on health, where to get scholarships and grants, where to seek justice in cases of domestic violence, finance, teenage pregnancies, use of technology, education, environment and entrepreneurial skills. These findings corroborate what literature review has already pointed out.

Women leaders and some partners reported encouraging results of the programme including

- Business start-ups, more women opening up bank accounts (both collateral and individual accounts), more abuse cases being reported to the chief's office unlike before, women initiating training among their groups to empower them financially and more than 100 sign ups for NHIF.
- This is an affirmation on the power that information can provide.

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RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Women suggested the following with regard to empowerment:

- Provide continuous awareness forums as they are very educative
- Urge partners to provide free training through libraries help
- Libraries to provide a place for women to meet and discuss issues
- Loan defaulters and need advice
- Libraries to educate their children more especially on teenage pregnancies
- Stiff government demands for women to access funds should be abolished

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA LIBRARY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO GENDER EQUALITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.



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**UP CAPSTONE CARNEGIE ALUMNI
CONFERENCE FROM 24TH-30TH
MARCH, 2019.**

INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to Special Collections

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

- **Women represent majority of the South African population Stats SA report (2018).**
- **Little information is written about women in the history books.**
- **History of women's political organization, women's struggle for liberation, oppression, community rights and importantly for gender equality was ignored in history texts (South African history online).**
- **Gender equality and women empowerment are on top of the UNSDG's, but culture and the social norms arising from it play a huge role in how people perceive the role woman play in the society Kostova (2010:1).**
- **Women largely remain unrecognised and perceived as of less value in heritage.**

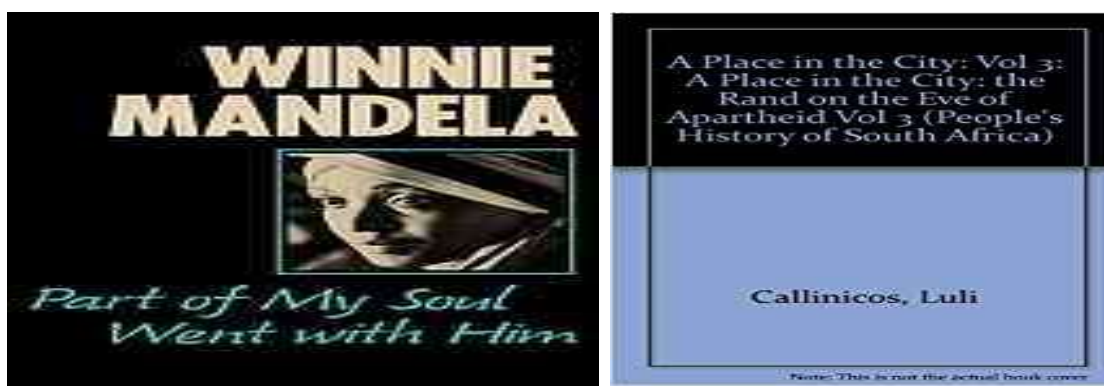
OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

- **The Objectives of this research were to:**
- **a) To explore how UP library services preserve cultural heritage and address gender equality.**
- **b)To investigate the policies in place at UP that supports gender equality.**
- **c) How SA as a country support and promotes the gender equality.**
- **c)To examine legislation in support of gender empowerment in SA.**

UPLS IN GENDER AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

- ▶ The University of Pretoria Library Special Collections Unit plays a stewardship role in the collection, preservation and marketing of DLS's rare/ or valuable information resources.
- ▶ Special collections is a library and archive of materials in any format, it could be manuscripts, photographs, archives, rare materials that are characterised as of great value due to their uniqueness, physical format or scarcity Dooley et.al (2010).
- ▶ Works of eminent persons is being expanded to include that of women, the collection preserved since the 1920's.
- ▶ This special heritage collection also focus on gender so as to create gender equality across all groups.
- ▶ Collection development policy are in place, resource by and about women are added to the collection.
- ▶ The UPLS organise events that empower women.

BOOKS AT THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



THE WITCHES OF GAMBAGA

Celebrating South Africa's National Women's Day 2018: Documentary screening of 'The Witches of Gambaga'

Posted on August 13, 2018

On Tuesday 7 August 2018, in commemoration of South Africa's National Women's Day and as part of the Centre for Human Rights (the Centre's) **year-long campaign on the rights of older women in Africa**, the Women's Rights unit in collaboration with the Department of Library Services, University of Pretoria organised the screening of the award winning documentary **'The Witches of Gambaga'** by Yaba Badoe.



Celebrating South Africa's National Women's Day 2018: Documentary screening of 'The Witches of Gambaga'

YABA BADOE

Women

- “[what] If witchcraft traditions are so deeply entrenched, that to be born a woman is to be born under a shadow of suspicion?”

Men

- This is contrasted with men, who can also be witches but for them, the practice is used in a positive way such as to protect his house or family.

UP AND GENDER EQUALITY

- ▶ UP was among the four Universities in the country to be led by a woman in SA history from 2009-2018.
- ▶ Human Resource Policies are in place to hire females over males in executive posts.
- ▶ Code of conduct and Policy on sexual harassment.
- ▶ The university partner with communities on programmes that uplift and empower women and girls.
- ▶ Lourel-UNESCO Women in Science fund, is a bursary that encourages young girls to pursue career in the science and engineering field.
- ▶ The Centre for Sexuality, AIDS & Gender caters for students on matters concerning abuse, rape, birth control and with issues surrounding HIV/AIDS.
- ▶ A new course on Gender empowerment

SOUTH AFRICA AND GENDER EQUALITY

- ▶ The National Women's day.
- ▶ The 16 days of Activism for No violence against Women and Children.
- ▶ Take a girl child to work day initiative.
- ▶ Major roads in the country are named after great women who impacted history Francis Baard Street, she motivated women's resistance against gender inequality in the 1930s.
- ▶ Modern hospitals are named after female activists e.g. Charlotte Maxeke who led the Bantu Women's League in the 1920's.
- ▶ Law of succession, daughters too inherit their father's estates.
- ▶ Both male and female siblings are now entitled to education and not only male children.
- ▶ SA ranked 10th in the world with women representation in parliament.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Equal employment opportunities and equal salaries are granted for all.
- ▶ Education is accessible to both men and women.
- ▶ Women are granted equal right in politics as their male counterparts.
- ▶ All women obtain an equal right to vote and be elected in all State entities.
- ▶ Amongst 41 departments, we have Department of Women, The mandate to champion the advancement of women's socio-economic empowerment and promoting gender equality.
- ▶ First woman deputy-president was elected in 2005
- ▶ Gender sensitive laws and policies were crafted.
- ▶ The Employment Equity Act, No 55 to redress past imbalances.

CONCLUSION

- ▶ The Affirmative Action Act considers all women and disabled persons for jobs.
- ▶ Section 9 of the Constitution, equality courts established; promoting equality and unfair discrimination.

Patriarchy, man still perceived as superior.

- ▶ Though gender equality and women empowerment are on top of the UNSDG's, culture and social norms arising from it play a major role in how people perceive the role woman play in the society.
- ▶ Libraries are playing a major role in ensuring of cultural preservation

ON A FINAL NOTE: We need a genuine progress and not grand promises to achieve gender equality. This is because it is a global priority to attain Sustainable development goals.

