Chapter 9

Alternative Approaches to Africa’s Development: Zimbabwe’s Land Reform Interrogated Through Gender Lenses

Tom Tom
Zimbabwe Open University, Zimbabwe

ABSTRACT

Gender is a crosscutting theme in development, hence its topical character in national, regional, and international contexts. Globally, calls, frameworks, and platforms for gender equity and parity are increasing heralding a shift in governance and development theory and practice. Within the ambit of understanding gender in an African context, the chapter considers land reform as an alternative development strategy and interrogates gender issues emanating prior to, during and in the aftermath of the fast-tracked land reform programme. Redistributive land reform, complemented by focused support to the land beneficiaries, is an alternative development and empowerment approach for both men and women, and mostly for the majority of women who have been largely marginalised from mainstream development.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-2815-0.ch009

Copyright © 2020, IGI Global. Copying or distributing in print or electronic forms without written permission of IGI Global is prohibited.
INTRODUCTION

Development is a topical goal and state to be achieved. National, regional and international frameworks are directly or indirectly crystallised around achieving development and good governance. The quest for development is a permanent feature of all countries. Over the years, Zimbabwe and other countries approached development from various standpoints. Currently, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN) are the global guiding development framework for the 2015 to 2030 period.

Gender equity and parity as crosscutting themes are a central concern in development. In Zimbabwe, the government addresses gender issues in various spheres through diverse legislative provisions including the revised National Gender Policy of 2017. This policy emphasises achieving a gender-just society in which men and women enjoy equity, contribute to and benefit from development as equal partners. Gender is an indelible mark in the mandates of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN). SADC introduced the revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development in 2016, AU developed a gender strategy for the 2018 to 2027 period, and the UN, an institution at the apex of global development and governance, developed various gender frameworks and strategies including the Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018-2021). This is a mere selection of policies, framework and strategies pertaining to gender.

Among other motivations, Zimbabwe implemented land reforms to enhance socioeconomic wellbeing of the majority of the black population that had been marginalised from land tenure due to British colonialism. Essentially, reforming land tenure is an approach to development. When gender inequities and inequalities are addressed through reforming land tenure, land reform becomes a crucial approach to empowerment. A large corpus of literature exists on Zimbabwe’s fast-tracked land reform, formally known as the Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP). Within that, several scholars specifically focused on gender aspects (Chiweshe and Mutopo, 2015; Mutopo, 2011; Gaidzanwa, 2011; Chingarande, 2006, 2008; Ndoro, 2006). However, nuanced interrogation of the redistributive land reform as a development and empowerment ‘instrument’ from a gender perspective is largely low. There are lacunae pertaining to meanings and facets of gender in Zimbabwe and the wider African context, and how these relate to land reform; who got land in the redistributive land use and production opportunities, constraints and prospects; division of labour; social reproduction; social protection; social cohesion and so forth.
Let's Get Real: Moving Beyond a Color-Blind Approach When Teaching Multicultural Counseling to White Students
Maia Niguel Hoskin and Michele D. Smith (2020). *Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* (pp. 122-139).
www.igi-global.com/chapter/lets-get-real/239412?camid=4v1a