

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER AND AFRICAN STUDIES
B.A. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
NGE 207: GENDER, POWER AND DECISION-MAKING
COURSE OUTLINE
INSTRUCTOR: DR. D. OMI

Class Meetings and Readings

1. Conceptualizing the terms

- Gender, Power and Decision-making
- Gender relations as power relations
- Gender relations and the social inequalities

2. Equal participation of men and women in decision-making processes

- What are the social facilitators and barriers?
- Participation in household decision-making
- Political participation and leadership
- Towards gender equality in decision-making

3. Male-dominated decision-making structures in private and public domains

- Patriarchy, male-dominance and differential power access
- Family structures and anti-egalitarianism in decision-making
- Obstacles to women's participation in parliaments

4. Gender-power imbalance and decision-making

- Power imbalance and RH decision-making
- Power imbalance and economic-political rights abuse
- The role of international and national legal-regimes in eradicating gender inequalities in decision making

5. Women, decision-making and Gender equality

- How women negotiate and influence decision-making
- Negotiating gendered institutions
- Gains in women-decision making power

6. Gender politics in resource allocation

- Gender, resource allocation and productivity
- Gender roles, and intra-household labor allocation
- Gender-bias in household resource allocation

7. Gender in transition: towards equality in decision-making

- Sex role attitudes and cultural change
- Asset ownership and egalitarian decision-making in dual headed households

Term papers: Due on the 26th Day of February, 2016

Option A: Feminization of poverty is to blame for women's continued marginalization in decision-making institutions. Expound.

Option B: Equal access of men and women to power, decision-making and leadership at all levels is a necessary prerequisite for proper functioning of democracy. Elaborate.

References

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- Beaman, L., Duflo, E., Pande, Y. and Topalova, P. (2006) ‘Women Politicians, Gender Bias and Policy-Making in Rural India’. Background Paper for the State of the World’s Children 2007. New York: UNICEF.
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