

# Review of: "Women Empowerment: Policy Evidences from Ethiopia and Kenya"

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Dear authors,

Thank you for allowing me to read your manuscript. Women's empowerment -SDG5- is one of the most pressing topics in development studies, and all research efforts devoted to accomplishing it should be more than welcomed.

Now, I would like to make some suggestions to improve your manuscript for a potential publication in a classic peer-reviewed journal.

1. Women's empowerment is one of the most relevant topics in gender development studies currently. Therefore, an overwhelming amount of literature exists to conceptualize, measure and analyze empowerment. I strongly suggest going into contact with that literature to strengthen the analysis of the Kenyan and Ethiopian policies oriented to promote empowerment. The works of Naila Kabeer in South Asia and the paper "Assessing women empowerment in Africa: a critical review of the challenges of the gender empowerment measure of the UNDP" by Stephen Baffour Adjei may be good starting points.
2. A further literature review may allow you to analyze the governmental efforts to promote women's empowerment more deeply. However, I also think it is essential to clarify the distinction between gender equity (equality) and empowerment. For example, in Kabeer's theoretical framework, gender equity is the condition that makes possible women's empowerment.
3. Finally, I also recommend supporting your statements with current data. The UNDP has a tracker of the SDG accomplishment level that can be useful. Besides, since empowerment has to do with access and control to resources, and in our emerging countries, there are a lot of people living in rural areas, it could be interesting to check the national policies regarding the land property. I am not aware if she has developed some research in Africa, but the work of Carmen Diana Deere can enlighten you regarding this topic.

Please, consider these suggestions made by someone passionate about the subject but still learning. Good luck! :)