

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The primary topic of this article – empowerment of women – is a perennially important and compelling topic. It's vital for researchers to provide examples of systems and structures that succeed (or lay the foundations for future success) so that global equity may be actualized in the broadest sense, and to critically examine these same systems and structures in terms of implementation and the myriad sociocultural factors that may prevent the success of highlighted efforts. The over-arching message of this article is strong, and the authors choose to focus on specific programs and related documentation as they make their argument.

It is difficult to read the article and not be distracted by the writing itself, in terms of grammar (e.g., noun-verb agreement, singular vs. plural usage) and organization within the distinctive sections. As a monolingual native English speaker, I recognize the benefits and practice that I have had with respect to communicating in English academic writing, and so my comments are made with the utmost respect for others who may speak multiple languages and be more or less practiced in English scholarly writing. I therefore highly recommend that the authors enlist the support of an editor who can provide suggestions in a general, logistical and grammatical sense. For example, the title could be re-written as "Women's Empowerment: Policy Evidence from Ethiopia and Kenya." Also, the order in which the countries are presented in the title can be the order in which examples are presented throughout the entire article, for consistency and clarity. The abstract notes that "The article has reviewed and presented..." and yet it is the authors who have done this work. These are a few examples of simple corrections that would improve the flow of the writing so that the argument is more effective.

Another stylistic suggestion is to add some transitional sentences from section to section. There are a few sections that are extremely brief, and while "empty" prose isn't desirable, there can be some additional material included that can bridge sections and ideas from one to the next.

The authors note that they are utilizing qualitative analysis, and descriptive accounts of data, and yet some of the data is indeed quantitative in nature. It's important to note the numerical data as well as the people whose lived experiences comprise the data. I recommend including specific quotes and examples from some of the documentation as well, even if translation is required. The specific language would be so illustrative, and much stronger evidence than the authors' retelling of the contents of the different legislation or programs' intentions, for example.

On a philosophical note, the use of the term "developing countries" is controversial. If the authors choose to use the term, it would be helpful to include brief discussion of their rationale for using this term. There are other ways to note, specifically, the countries and their geographical location and/or economic status according to global entities. All such

choices reflect a belief system or stance, and whether or not the authors agree with the designations is an important part of this story – as important as their motivation for telling the story in the first place.

The final paragraph of section 6 gets to the heart of the issue in a strong, clear way. This, to me, is the source of the energy that can become contagious in terms of sparking interest and activism/advocacy. A government's “desire” to produce meaningful, lasting change is different from a nation's ability to implement and sustain change when forces have been pulling in an opposite direction for thousands of years across continents and cultural groups. I invite the authors to include additional evidence – the voices of citizens that represent their intrinsic desire to contribute to change – as another layer of qualitative data.

Best of luck to the authors as they continue to research, write, and inspire others!