

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

Thera Mjaaland¹

¹ Mekelle University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for giving me the possibility to review this article with its promising aim to answer the question: What are the government responses and efforts to solve the issues of gender disparity in Ethiopia and Kenya?

However, this article does not live up to its intention. The reasons for this are in my opinion:

The authors do not use updated sources neither when it comes to national policies and laws nor statistics. This means that the changes which have taken place over the last 20 years are not being incorporated in the argument.

There is no discussion of what is meant by substantive representation of women and if it is meant generally or primarily in decision-making positions (parliament, etc). There is a separate paragraph on girls/women education, but not a similar section on women's political participation. It is first mentioned in the conclusion, which is a bit late.

It would also have been useful if the authors had discussed what they mean by gender equality versus gender parity and the difference between the two in terms of substantive representation.

The authors' intent to emphasize the *women's empowerment experience* of Ethiopia and Kenya by emphasizing national policy on gender empowerment, is not substantiated by any empirical data from women's point of view.

The article should also be copy-edited before publishing. There are for example some issues when it comes to tense.

Hence, this article is not ready for publishing yet. Major revisions are required in relation to what the main argument is and the structure of the article related to this argument.

Here are also some suggestions for further reading:

Madsen, Diana Højlund (2020) *Gendered institutions and women's political representation in Africa* London; Uppsala: Zed Books; Nordiska Afrikainstitutet. Link to download of book: <http://nai.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1508223&dswid=-9494>

Mjaaland, Thera (2021) *Revolutionary struggles and girls' education. At the frontiers of gender norms in North-Ethiopia* Lexington Books.

Aili Mari Tripp, Ragnhild Muriaas and Vibeke Wang might also be authors whose articles could be useful to consult.

