



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

The Assessment on the Impact of Gender Equality and Social Economic Development of Family household in Rwanda. A case of Gasabo District

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award Master of Arts in Development studies, School of social, politics and administrative sciences, faculty of Arts, Media and Social Sciences.

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Declaration

I, **Molly KAYITESI**, hereby declare that this work entitled “*Gender equality and household social-economic development: A case of Gasabo District in Rwanda*” is my own work and it has not been submitted anywhere for the award of any degree.

Date.....

Signature.....

Ms. Molly KAYITESI

Certification

I certify that Ms. Molly KAYITESI has successfully done and completed her research project in the School of Social, Political and Administrative Sciences in the Masters of Arts in Development Studies.

Signature.....

Supervisor: Dr. Innocent NDAHIRIWE

Date...../...../ 2017

Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to:

- My parents;
- My children;
- My family members and relatives;
- My school;
- My friends and colleagues

For your contribution.

Acknowledgments

Glory to God the Almighty for seeing me through this academic journey, for his Love and support without him I would not have managed. Many people helped me to refine this book I would like to express my thanks to my supervisor Dr. Innocent NDAHIRIWE who worked very hard to get this book into hands despite his busy schedules.

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Stay blessed!

Molly KAYITESI

Table of contents

Declaration	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgments	iv
Table of contents	v
List of Tables	x
List of figures	xi
List of abbreviations and acronyms	xii
Abstract	xiv
CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Introduction.....	1
1.2. Background of the Study	1
1.3. Problem Statement.....	2
1.4. Research Objectives.....	2
1.4.1.General Objective.....	2
1.4.2.Specific Objectives.....	2
1.5. Research questions:.....	2
1.6. The significance of the study	3
1.7. Delimitation	5
1.8. Limitations	5
1.9. Structure of the study	6

Chapter Summary	7
CHAPTER TWO: THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK	8
2.1. Introduction	8
2.2. Definition of key concepts	8
2.2.1. Gender	8
2.2.2. Sex and gender	9
2.2.3. Equality	9
2.2.4. Gender equality	10
2.2.5. Gender Equity	11
2.2.6. The Costs and Consequences of Gender Inequality	11
2.2.7. Gender and Development (GAD)	11
2.2.8. Family	12
2.2.9. Household	13
2.2.10. The role of a household towards Social and economic development	14
2.2.11. Gender equality and household socio-economic development	15
2.2.12. Development	15
2.2.13. Specific Development Indicators	17
2.2.14. Social development	17
2.2.15. Economic development	19
2.3. Theoretical orientation	20
2.4. Conceptual framework	23
2.5. The contextualization of gender equality in Rwanda	26

2.5.1. Introduction	26
2.5.2. Key Achievements in Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Rwanda....	27
2.5.2.1 .Poverty Reduction	27
2.5.2. 2.Access to Education.....	27
2.5. 2.3. Access to Health	27
2.5.2.4. Fighting Violence against Women	28
2.5.2.5. Women in the Economy	28
2.5. 2.6. Decision Making.....	28
2.5.2.7. Gender Institutional Mechanisms	29
Chapter summary	30
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	32
3. Introduction	32
3.1. Research design.....	32
3.2. The population of the study.....	32
3.3. Targeted population.....	33
3.4. Sample size.....	34
3.5. Sampling approach.....	35
3.6. Data Collection.....	36
3.6.1. Data collection methods	36
3.6.2. Research instruments	36
3.7. Data analysis	38
3.8. Ethical Consideration	38

Chapter summary	39
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	40
4.1. Introduction	40
4.2. Demographic characteristics of respondents.....	40
4.3. Indicators of gender equality at household level.....	45
4.3.1. Responsibilities allocated to a man and a woman in household.....	48
4.3.2. Appreciation of gender equality responsiveness at household level	50
4.3.3. A stake of women on expenditure decision at household level.....	52
4.3.4. Appreciation of masculinity at household level	53
4.3.5. Depreciation of masculinity at household level	53
4.3.6. Appreciation of femininity at household level	54
4.3.7. Depreciation of femininity at household level	54
4.3.8. Laws that favour gender equality at household level	55
4.4. Gender equality factors that help improve household social development	57
4.4.1. The outcome of gender equality factors on household social development.....	58
4.5. Gender equality factors that help improve household economic development.....	59
4.5.1. The outcome of gender equality factors on economic development of household	61
4.6. Challenges that influence household social-economic development	62
4.7. Homegrown solutions to overcome challenges	64
Chapter summary	67
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	69

5.1. Introduction	69
5.2. Summary of major findings	69
5.3. Conclusion.....	73
5.4. Recommendations	74
5.4.1. Recommendation to the heads households	74
5.4.2. Recommendations to the gender equality stakeholders.....	74
5.5. Perspectives for further research.....	75
Chapter summary	75
Reference	76
Appendices	82

List of Tables

Table 1: The general population of the research.....	33
Table 2: The targeted population of the research.....	34
Table 3: The sample size of the targeted population	35
Table 4: Demographic characteristics of respondents	41
Table 5: Benchmarks of gender equality at household level	46
Table 6: Distribution of responsibilities of a man at household level	48
Table 7: Extent to which women have a stake on expenditure decision	52
Table 8: Gender equality factors that help improve household social development	57
Table 9: The outcome of gender equality factors on household social development.....	59
Table 10: Gender equality factors that help improve household economic development.....	60
Table 11: The outcome of gender equality on economic development of household	61
Table 12: Challenges that influence household social-economic development	63
Table 13: Home grown solutions towards social-economic development of household.....	65

List of figures

Figure 1: Level of appreciation..... 51

Figure 2: Laws that favour gender equality 55

List of abbreviations and acronyms

COOPEDU:	Cooperative Duterimbere
EAC:	East African Community
EDPRS:	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GAD:	Gender and Development
GBV:	Gender Based Violence
GDI:	Gender Development Index
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
GE:	Gender Equality
GMO:	Gender Monitoring Office
GoR:	Government of Rwanda
HDI:	Human Development Index
HPI:	Human Poverty Index
IMF:	International Monetary Fund
LODA:	Local Administrative Entities Development Agencies
MDG:	Millennium Development Goals
MIGEPROF:	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
N.d:	No Date
NISR:	National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda
NWC:	National Women's Council
PQLI:	Physical Quality of Life Index
PRSP:	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers or Strategies

PSF: Private Sector Federation

RWAMREC: Rwanda Men's Resource Center

SACCO: Saving and Credit Cooperative

SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences

UN: United Nations

UNDP : United Nations Development Program

UNICEF: United Nations Children Fund

WHO: World Health Organisation

Abstract

The study conducted with the topic “*Gender equality and household social economic development, a case study of Gasabo District*” intended to assess the impact of gender equality on improving household social-economic development in Gasabo District of Kigali City in Rwanda.

The involvement of both genders in the development process, is supposed to lead to the improvement of household welfare and ultimately enhance the development of the entire country. This study addresses the following questions: What are the gender equality factors that enhance household social-economic development in Rwanda? What are the challenges which affect gender equality and consequently impinge on household social-economic development in Rwanda? Theoretically, the study refers to the literature from feminism and social-economic development with emphasis on Rwanda.

In terms of methodology, this study has an exploratory study design, which recognized that different answers can be given from the same set of questions. Using convenience sampling method, a sample size of 166 respondents was used composed of heads of households in Gasabo District. With the use of self administered questionnaire, interviews and focus groups discussions the researcher was able to investigate the existence of gender equality at the household level.

The findings for this study, indicate that both male and female have the same contribution to the household development; they have the same access to land succession; the same access to decision making; the same access and control over resources; the same rights, duties and responsibilities; have mutual respect for each other and the same access to health facilities, as well as the same chance to inheritance. From these findings, both genders have the same rights to eliminate violence.

As a result, a big number of respondents has proved that nowadays women have a say on expenditure decisions in the family. Findings also show that both male and female solve conflicts together; plan for desirable households’ codes of conducts; agree on behaviors and understand each other; social adjustment and accountability which improve

social development. Due to gender equality both male and female have the right to run income generating activities; the right to use income and capital; the right to participate in trade decision making at the family level; access to resources, and have the right to share capital and mutual support to run business.

These factors have contribute to social economic development of the family household since they improve social interaction; conflict management and promote better cohabitation; promote education of children; improve self esteem.

Gender equality factors enhance human capital and foster higher labour productivity. Enhanced gender equality attracts investment in physical capital; undertake higher-value economic activity; provide infrastructure and household assets; promote microeconomic stability; openness to trade and investment and increase competitive markets.

Findings indicate that gender equality policy is a durable remedy for the social economic development of families in Rwanda. However the findings have also indicated the following challenges that obstruct successful social economic development of the family household: cultural barriers as a major challenges to successful implementation of gender equality at the household level; the lack of reproductive health control; patriarchy and discrimination; poverty and lack of economic empowerment; gender equality misinterpretation; gender based violence; acculturation via media outlets; the lack of social cohesion due to work life imbalance, reducing quality and productivity of work; negative attitudes of some males is another challenge that threatens gender equality and affects development at the household level.

The contribution of this dissertation centres on the household social-economic development; hence making its contribution through investigating the dynamics at the household level, where families are directly involved in contributing to their socio-economic development. It also makes its contribution to the literature on household level highlighting the factors and challenges facing gender equality in Rwanda.

Keywords: Gender, equality, social, economic, development, Gasabo

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

This chapter highlights the background of the study, problem statement, research purpose, research objectives (general and specific objectives) research questions, significance of the study, scope of the study and research structure.

1.2. Background of the Study

Gender equality in the recent years, is being perceived to be a very important tool for achieving sustainable development in Rwanda and the world over. After the 1994 Rwandan genocide, the Government of Rwanda has demonstrated its commitment to work towards the reduction of gender –based inequalities in all areas (EAC, 2009). Therefore, Rwanda introduced gender equality programs in its development priorities with respect to household quota “at least 30% of women” in parliamentary seat in leadership positions; this has resulted in having the highest percentage of female parliamentarians in the world (Cole, 2011; Kingstone, 2008).

The economy has grown by 7.10% in a decade, welfare has also improved, life expectancy has increased, infant mortality is dropping rapidly and all these are attributed to the contributions of both Men and women according to the National Institute of Statistics (NISR, 2015).

Actually Rwanda has been emphasizing on gender equality through empowering women in all fields; in the Judiciary, half of the country’s 14 Supreme Court justices are women. Boys and girls now attend compulsory primary and secondary school in equal numbers (NISR, 2012).

New, far-reaching laws enable women to own and inherit property and to pass citizenship to their children. Women are now permitted to use the household assets as collateral for loans, and government-backed funds aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship offer help for women without familial resources, established business women are leading members of Rwanda’s private-sector.

Gender Equality policies seems to have contributed to development of the country. The study therefore intends to assess the impact Gender Equality has made on the individual household development in Rwanda with the case study of Gasabo District.

1.3. Problem Statement

The study intends to explore the connection of the development displayed by the country at the national level with that at the household level. Gender equality in this perspective is a mirror from which we will determine the perfection of Rwanda's development in the case of Gasabo district. Increased participation of women and men in social-economic development is assumed necessary for the improved social-economic and welfare conditions of households and the entire country (Bayisenge, 2008; Powley, 2006).

There are also arguments that some of the gender equality policies, which include women emancipation commonly known as women empowerment, has negatively affected families especially relationships and family wealth among others. The assumption is that empowering women has positive effects on household especially in building relationships, and household wealth. Therefore, the researcher will also see to what extent can the arguments be ranked, and again the research will determine the impact of empowering women and consequently enforcing gender equality policies at the household level, in relation to social-economic development in Rwanda.

1.4. Research Objectives

The study that was carried out in Gasabo District aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1.4.1. General Objective

The research aimed at assessing the impact of gender equality on improving household social-economic development of Rwanda in the case study of Gasabo District.

1.4.2. Specific Objectives

The research explored through the following specific objectives:

- To investigate on gender equality factors that enhance the social-economic development of household in Rwanda;
- To identify the challenges which affect gender equality and consequently influence social-economic development of household in Rwanda;

1.5. Research questions:

The research aimed at answering the following questions:

- What are the gender equality factors that facilitate the improvement of the social-economic development at the household level?
- What are the challenges that affect gender equality and influence social-economic development at household level?

1.6. The significance of the study

The study provides knowledge in four dimensions: In relation to the society; the development of the household should be the benchmark of the development of the whole country. The research therefore has a social interest in the first place; because it deals directly with social factors that affect gender equality and have impact on household social-economic development in Rwanda.

The study looks at the role played by gender equality in the distribution of decision making at the household level, thus contributing knowledge for the enhancement of the household. Secondly, since the research examines the challenges that affect gender equality, it also recommends possible solutions (home grown) that improve both genders equality and the social-economic development of the household and the country in general.

In relation to the scientific knowledge, this study contributes to the research as a gender equality and specifically gender equality at house-level. This is based on the presentation that gender equality at household level is important for gender equality at national level. In addition socio-economic development at the household level determines social-economic development at the national level. A lot of research has been made in terms of gender equality at national and international level. Therefore this research provides empirical data on gender equality at household. As the household socio-economic development is important for national socio –economic development.

In relation to the government, gender equality goal is a result of the worldwide women's movement, which was based on the consciousness of women's historical exclusion and discrimination in the development processes (Parpart et.al, 2000). Therefore mechanisms, strategies, recommendations and suggestions from respondents and informants will help the government of Rwanda to have a critical understanding of various ways to help and improve gender equality sensitiveness in order to enhance the social-economic development of household and welfare for both men and women as a

result of their contributions. In addition, the study seeks to document experiences of Rwandans on the implementation of gender equality policy, its contribution for the improvement of welfare, women and children, as well as the social-economic development of the whole country. The study will enable the Government to scrutinize its monitoring and evaluation reports.

To the Nongovernmental organizations, the research provides an expanded and comprehensive insight into gender equality factors that contribute to the improvement of household. Having the challenges that affect the success of gender equality implementation, the researcher is giving an opportunity to the national and international nongovernmental organizations to work on them.

In addition, although there is a lot of literature on gender equality and socio-economic development, it appears there is less data on the individual household level. Particularly, the role of women in development is generally acknowledged by leaders, and they believe that limiting women's participation in development practices inculcates household development.

Generally speaking, not sufficient information is available on the contribution of women to household. Social-economic theories such as those in public choice or welfare do not focus on individual characteristics; the individual actor in welfare social economics could equally be a citizen, a country/nation, a group of people etc. However, empirical work requires that gender equality should consider different contributions made by women or men. Otherwise we wouldn't be able to measure how effective gender equality policy has improved household.

The feminists believe that social-economic tradition challenges the invisibility of gender in social-economic studies and urge, if it could be considered in order to avoid further biased results (Ferber and Nelson, 2003). Emphasizing efficiency at the cost of equity, socialists and economists shy away from interpersonal utility comparisons. Yet, if the welfare of women is important, there is need to identify the separate constraints on women in order to assess whether empowering/supporting them, influence social-economic choices and household development.

Scientists and academicians need to be aware of cultural issues such as gender boundaries (on both sexes), and changes associated with them when analyzing the effect

of gender-related issues on household social-economic development. Blank and Reimers (2003) point out that the standard social-economic method of focusing on choices under given tastes and constraints tends to simply accept the status quo concerning cultural issues as permanent and unchanging.

This raises the researcher's concern given the large changes in gender roles for years; it also raises equal anxiety on the tastes and preferences for the Rwandan community. Challenges that affect gender in one way or the other, also affect the social-economic development of household.

Socialists and economists tend to be relatively uninformed on the results of other social sciences such as development studies; therefore this study takes this aspect into seriously consideration. The research will contribute in the rising awareness of the need to consider social norms and economic requirements which places considerable emphasis on cultural values and household social-economic development.

This research explains the factors that help to improve social-economic development at household level and associated challenges that affect social-economic development and discrepancy between men and women at household level. The explanations will increasingly require a better understanding of the gender roles, status and behavior of families.

1.7. Delimitation

The research conducted in Gasabo District, provides information and acknowledgments on the contribution of gender equality on improving the welfare of household, the research therefore pays attention on the implementation of gender equality and related policies. Household development is the determinant of Gross Domestic Product GDP/ Cap and of course the increase in the national income.

1.8. Limitations

Household social-economic development is assessed through various paradigms which include gender equality. Although there is a lot remaining to be done, this study generates important findings in the field of gender equality and household social-economic development in Rwanda.

The first limitation is the perception of gender equality among Rwandans; during data collection the researcher faced a situation where some women (wives) failed to respond to research questions under pretext that each and every thing related to the family is asked to men [husband] as the heads of household, with this limitation the researcher phrased the question in a different to get the answer but again not very accurate.

Another limitation is that, gender equality is a very sensitive issue these days and also due to culture Rwandans are not very open to give their opinions on gender topics, leave alone talking about their own families. Therefore the researcher approached respondents softly and explained to them the rationale behind the research to ease the tension and break the silence.

The researcher also was challenged by issues such as; reluctance of individuals in probing their own experiences and to release their back room information about their lives and their families' cohabitations. Hence this required ample time and patience which was affecting the deadlines of the work. In order to minimize the reluctance to offer information the researcher needed to introduce himself carefully and courteously to potential respondents.

The researcher faced a limitation of language this is because the Rwandan community uses Kinyarwanda as a means of communication, while the language of publication is English. As result the researcher translated the questionnaire and the guiding questions from English to Kinyarwanda again back into English to match the study. Translation inevitably alters the nuance of the meaning and leaves inferences. The researcher never-the-less asserts that all translated words included in this document are as close to their original meaning and intent as possible.

The researcher faced a challenge of homogeneity because the respondents were stratum and scattered which led the difficulties in getting respondents and collecting feedback.

1.9. Structure of the study

The study is organized in five chapters, chapter one is the introduction chapter showing the background and statement of the problem, objectives of the study and research questions, significance of the study, scope of the research, limitation of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter will give a detailed review of literature composed of topics related theories, related literature and research conceptual framework,

while chapter three specifically presents the research methodology, chapter four indicates data presentation, analysis and interpretation, and chapter five is the summary, general conclusion and recommendations for the effective and efficient implementation of gender equality in Rwanda.

Chapter Summary

Chapter one is intended to provide the background of the study, provide with the motivation and problem statement, research objectives and related questions, the significant of the research in various areas, delimitation of the research and the limitations, structure of the study and the contribution of the study to the scientific knowledge. In conclusion this chapter highlights the major parts of the study, and pays way for the other chapters to proceed.

CHAPTER TWO: THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Introduction

This is the chapter that provides a reflection on the literature from other research, and also gives a previous picture on the study as well as a conceptual framework which provides meanings and definitions of the key terms; theories that explain gender equality and its roles coinciding with social-economic development of household, we cannot talk about the household income and avoid taking about gender roles especially in this century where development requires multiple contributions of resources.

The literature will also include Gender and feminism, Gender and development among others, on the other hand the research analysed the contribution of gender distribution towards Social development, economic development and Community welfare among others.

2.2. Definition of key concepts

This sub-chapter depicts and explains different terminologies and concepts that enable the reader to understand meanings. It highlights useful key concepts used in the research.

2.2.1. Gender

Gender refers to the attitudes, feelings, and behaviors that a given culture associates with a person's biological sex (Gainor, 2000). Behavior that is compatible with cultural expectations is referred to as gender-normative; behaviors that are viewed as incompatible with these expectations constitute gender non-conformity. Gender identity refers to "one's sense of oneself as male, female or transgender" (American Psychological Association, 2006).

When one's gender identity and biological sex are not matching, the individual may identify as transsexual or as another transgender category (Gainor, 2000). Gender expression refers to the way in which a person acts to communicate gender within a given culture; for example, in terms of clothing, communication patterns and interests.

A person's gender expression may or may not be consistent with socially prescribed gender roles, and may or may not reflect his or her gender identity (Gainor, 2000).

2.2.2. Sex and gender

Gender is not something people are born with, and not something people have, but something people do, something people perform (West and Zimmerman 1987, Butler 1990). In other words, gendered performances are available to everyone, but with them come constraints on who can perform which persona with impunity. And this is where gender and sex come together, as society tries to match up ways of behaving with biologically based sex assignments.

On the other hand Sex is a biological categorization based primarily on reproductive potential, whereas gender is the social elaboration of biological sex (Butler, 1990). Gender refers to the collection of socially constructed roles and relationships, personality traits, attitudes, behaviors, values, relative power and influence that society ascribes to the two sexes on a differential basis. Whereas biological sex is determined by genetic and anatomical characteristics, gender is an acquired identity that is learned, changes over time, and varies widely within and across cultures.

According to Jordan-Young (2010) Gender refers to the economic, social and cultural attributes and opportunities associated with being male or female at a particular point in time. Gender is relational and refers not simply to women or men but to the relationship between them (Jordan-Young (2010)). Thus from the time Rwanda started implementing the millennium development goals in 2000, right away women obtained opportunities for empowerment and gender equality policies started to be implemented. This research therefore assessed gender distribution in terms of household responsibilities and its contribution to social-economic development of families in Rwanda.

2.2.3. Equality

Differences between men and women and the relations between them have been described in gender studies, which have revealed inequalities existing in all human societies between women and men, as well as the causes of these inequalities (Labani et al., 2009). From an equality feminist point of view, the key problem in the current world is that women are treated differently and worse than men, whereas they should be treated equally (Bell, 2010). Hence, equality becomes a credible goal and the concern with gender relations in development has strengthened the affirmation that equality in the status of men and women is fundamental to every society for realizing social economic development outcomes (Harcourt, 2011).

2.2.4. Gender equality

Gender defines and differentiates the roles, rights, responsibilities and obligations of women and men. The natural biological differences between females and males are interpreted by society to create a set of social expectations that define the behaviors that are appropriate for women and men and that determine women's and men's differential access to rights, resources, and power in society (DAC Expert Group on Women in Development, 1998). Although the specific nature and degree of these differences vary from one society to the next, they typically favor men, creating an imbalance in power and a gender inequality that exists in most societies worldwide (Weekes-Vagliani, 1994).

According to the UN (2002), "equality is the cornerstone of every democratic society that aspires to social justice and human rights." The term gender equality has been defined in multiple ways in the development literature and has been the subject of great debate in the U.N. It often means women having the same opportunities in life as men, for instance equality of access to education and employment, even though it does not necessarily lead to equality of outcomes. Several experts have proposed conceptual frameworks for understanding gender equality. The United Nations Human Development Report (1995) in UN (2000) refers to gender equality in terms of capabilities (education, health, and nutrition) and opportunities (economic and decision-making). Similarly, the World Bank defines gender equality in terms of equality under the law, equality of opportunity (including equality of rewards for work and equality in access to human capital and other productive resources that enable opportunity), and equality of voice (the ability to influence and contribute to the development process).

The UN (2002) has borrowed from both frameworks to propose three primary domains or components of equality between women and men: capabilities, access to resources and opportunities, and agency or the ability to influence and contribute to outcomes. These three domains of equality are inter-related. Progress in any one domain to the exclusion of the others is insufficient to meet the goal of gender equality.

Belief is on the increase that women throughout the world can play critical roles in economic growth and development, and their contributions have an impact on households, communities and national economies.

Despite significant improvements that have been made by women's status, especially in health and education gender inequalities still exist because of discrimination

in household and societal institutions, and social, cultural, and religious norms that perpetuate stereotypes, practices and beliefs that are harmful to women (UN, 2002)

2.2.5. Gender Equity

Gender Equity is the process of being fair to men and women. To ensure fairness, measures must often be put in place to compensate for the historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field. Equity is a means. Equality is the result (Chen, *et al.*, 2005).

2.2.6. The Costs and Consequences of Gender Inequality

An analysis conducted by the World Bank (2001) established that women bear the largest and most direct cost of gender inequality and lack of empowerment. These costs are individual, societal, and inter-generational. For example, women's economic dependency on men reduces their ability to leverage safer sex options to protect themselves against unwanted pregnancies and HIV infection (WHO, 2002a). And violence against women which is a gross infringement of women's rights has severe health and economic consequences for women (Panda 2002).

Several studies have established the benefits of reducing gender inequality. Research on gender inequality in the labor market shows that eliminating gender discrimination in occupation and pay could increase not only women's income, but also national income (Panda 2002). Therefore this research seeks to understand the contribution of gender equality policies on improving social and economic development of households and national income of Rwanda. It should be noted that the government of Rwanda struggles to eliminate gender inequality in various domains.

2.2.7. Gender and Development (GAD)

The GAD approach focuses on intervening to address unequal gender relations which prevent inequitable development and which often lock women out of full participation. GAD seeks to have both women and men participate, make decisions and share benefits. This approach often aims at meeting practical needs as well as promoting strategic interests. A successful GAD approach requires sustained long-term commitment (Beneria, 2003).

2.2.8. Family

The family is the smallest unit of a society and, therefore, critical to its development and maintenance. There are four major issues in the development of a family: mate selection, spousal relationships, parenting, and change.

Despite the historic centrality of the nuclear family unit (mother, father, first-born), there are several definitions of family. According to the Population Reference Bureau (2000:78), "Family can be a group of people held together by birth, marriage, or adoption or by common residence or close emotional attachment. Families may include persons who claim descent from common ancestors in a lineage, a tribe or a clan". Although marriage often signifies the creation of a family, unofficial joining together endorsed neither by church nor state, are quite commonplace.

According to Patterson (2002), families serve several important functions for society. Some of these functions are: household formation and membership, economic support, nurturance and socialization, and protection of vulnerable members. However, Shaffer (2000) argued that the three basic goals that families have for their children are: survival, economic self sufficiency and self actualization. These three goals are symbolic of various cultures. This shows that although there are several differences in the types of families in the world, they have certain things in common. It is the job of educators to examine the characteristics of families in order to foster most advantageous development in the children they serve (Christian, 2006).

The family system is a basic unit of society that has evolved along with changes in the needs and demands of the individuals and society (Kozłowska & Hanney, 2002). As the smallest social unit of society, the family has been instrumental to the development of cultures and Nations.

Patterson (2002) stated that with all of this change within individuals, the chronic reconstituting of and changes within the family, and the changes in society, family stability can be undermined. In order to be more resilient, families need to achieve balance. They can do this by achieving steadiness and mastery of these four protective mechanisms: family cohesiveness, family flexibility, family communication, and family meanings. Cohesiveness refers to the degree to which the family is emotionally connected and depends on each other.

Flexibility refers to the degree to which the family can vary from their patterns when an event occurs. Family communication describes the amount and ways that a family talks openly and expresses feelings to each other. The concept of family meanings refers to the ability of a family to identify their identity and worldview when discovering solutions or manage challenges in their lives. Finally, it is very important that professionals take note that balancing these concepts is extremely important, when families want to be adaptive and adjust to change.

2.2.9. Household

A country's operational definition of the household concept is shaped by its national culture. Each definition embodies a particular structure, and different definitions lead in turn to different structures with different compositions of the group definable as a household and thus to different household sizes (Hoffmeyer, et al., 2008).

According to the Rwanda Demographic Health Survey definition (2012) a household is defined as a person or group of persons, related or unrelated who live together and share a common source of food.

A “household” includes all of the people who occupy a housing unit. One person in each household is designated as the “householder.” In most cases, this is the person, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned, being bought, or rented. If there is no such person in the household, any household member 15 years old and over can be designated as the householder (McCord, 2008).

The term household covers a wide range of residential forms, groupings of people and functions, making a universal definition of ‘household’ impossible. A common definition is a group of people who pool resources or ‘eat from the same pot’ (Robertson, 1984). The term ‘household’ can also be applied simply to co-residence, a task-oriented unit or the site of shared activities.

Definitions of household have conventionally emphasized co-residence, sharing the same meals - “cooking from one pot” - and undertaking joint or coordinated decision-making; and rural households have been regarded as the centre of rural social systems. Recent concepts of the household broaden the definition to allow for overlapping social groupings, including family or other members who may be physically dispersed but socially interdependent (Ellis, 2000).

According to the research, a household has been considered as a group of individuals living together sharing all conditions of life in the area of research. Due to Rwanda historical background a household may be composed of individuals who share the same descendants but who can even live together with other family members. Therefore, the status of household was valued depending upon the cohabitation in one house sharing the same social-economic development and livelihood.

2.2.10. The role of a household towards Social and economic development

A large and established body of research evidence has shown the significance of household as a major institution for carrying out essential production, consumption, reproduction, and accumulation functions that are associated with the social and economic development of individuals and societies. The key pathways to these functions and, in turn, to social and economic development include household capital.

The concept of household capital borrows from the literature on social capital where the latter refers to resources embedded within a person's social network that influence decisions and outcomes by shaping a personal identity while delineating opportunities and obstacles within a person's social world (Belcher et al, 2011). Social capital has also been described as those social relationships that allow individuals access to resources possessed by their associates, and to the amount and quality of those resources upon which people depend for social, economic and emotional support (Belsey, 2005). To this end household capital provides enabling resources and strengthens the capacity of individual household members to function and attain their current and future goals and objectives.

Through this research household social-economic development has been classified either according to the income shares from different sources, or according to the main income activity as it was stated by household in the findings depending on the role played by gender equality to household social-economic development in Rwanda. The research therefore assessed the contribution of gender equality on household social-economic development in Rwanda with the case of Gasabo district. Household assets available represent the basic platform upon which household social-economic development may be built.

These household social-economic development platforms combine both the tangible productive assets associated with economic analyses (e.g. land, labour, capital,

and stocks) and the intangible assets more familiar to sociological and anthropological enquiry (e.g. social capital, health and educational status). Thus the research investigated the amount of platforms owned by families in Gasabo District and evaluated the role gender equality plays on improving social-economic development of household.

2.2.11. Gender equality and household socio-economic development

According to Anand and Sen (2000) linking gender equality to household is important for several reasons. First, it is a moral and ethical imperative: achieving gender equality and realizing the human rights, dignity and capabilities of diverse groups of women is a central requirement of a just and sustainable world. Second, it is critical to redress the disproportionate impact of economic, social and environmental shocks and stresses on women and girls, which undermine the enjoyment of their human rights and their vital roles in sustaining their families and communities. Third and most significantly is; to build up women's agency and capabilities to create better synergies between gender equality and household social-economic outcomes (Anand and Sen, 2000).

World Bank (2014) states that the centrality of gender equality, women's empowerment and the realization of women's rights in achieving household development has been increasingly recognized in recent decades. This recognition is evident in a number of international norms and agreements, including principle 20 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted in 1992, in its statement regarding the full participation of women being essential to achieving household development.

In the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by Member States in 1995, governments were called upon to integrate gender concerns and perspectives into policies and programs for households' social economic development (World Bank, 2014). Thus this research aims at assessing the role both men and women of Gasabo district have played in order to improve social-economic development of households and the challenges to successful implementation of gender equality policy.

2.2.12. Development

According to Thomas (2004) 'Development' is a concept which is contested both theoretically and politically, and is inherently both complex and ambiguous. Recently it has taken on the limited meaning of the practice of development agencies, especially in aiming at reducing poverty and improving the Millennium Development Goals. (Thomas,

2004) states that the vision of the liberation of people and peoples, which animated development practice in the 1950s and 1960s has thus been replaced by a vision of the liberalization of economies.

The goal of structural transformation has been replaced with the goal of spatial integration. The dynamics of long-term transformations of economies and societies has slipped from view and attention was placed on short-term growth and re-establishing financial balances. The shift to a historical performance assessment can be interpreted as a form of the post-modernization of development policy analysis. (Gore, 2000) Post-modern approaches as socially constructed and embedded within certain economic episteme which value some assets over others.

✓ **Development as a long-term process of structural societal transformation**

The first conceptualization is that ‘development’ is a process of structural societal change. Thomas (2004) refers to this meaning of development as ‘a process of historical change’. This view, of ‘structural transformation’ and ‘long-term transformations of economies and societies’, as Gore noted, is one that predominated in the 1950s and 1960s in particular. Today, one might argue that this definition of development is emphasized by the academic or research part of the development community but that there is less emphasis on this perspective in the practitioner part of the community development.

✓ **Development as a short- to medium-term outcome of desirable targets**

A second perspective on ‘development’ can be seen in the light of some of the criticisms which have been outlined above. Thomas (2004) characterizes this second approach as ‘a vision or measure of progressive change’ and Gore (2000) relates it to ‘performance assessment’. This view is narrower in definition and is technocratic or instrumental – indeed, some might argue that it is too technocratic.

✓ **Development as a dominant discourse of Western modernity**

A third conceptualization of development takes a radically different approach so that direct comparison with the other two outlined in this chapter is difficult. For this reason we intend to give it more attention than the previous approaches. The first two of our characterizations of development are based, respectively, on visions of change and on outcomes.

The third definition is based on the view that development has consisted of ‘bad’ change and ‘bad’ outcomes through the imposition of Western ethnocentric notions of development upon the Third World (UNDP 2006).

2.2.13. Specific Development Indicators

According to the UNDP (2006) The UNDP Human Development Report was established in 1990 thanks to the influential work of Amartya Sen, Mahbub ul Huq, Richard Jolly, Frances Stewart and Meghnad Desai at the UNDP. It provided a new framework known as ‘Human Development’ or the ‘Capabilities Approach’ and a related set of composite indicators led by the UNDP’s Human Development Indices. For Sen (2000) the focus is on the capabilities approach which consists of the means, opportunities or substantive freedoms which permit the achievement of a set of ‘functioning’ – things which human beings value in terms of ‘being’ and ‘doing’. This, according to Sen (2000) is the essence of Human Development.

However, because ‘capabilities’ are difficult to measure, many of the components of the Human Development Indices are actually based on ‘functioning’. The UNDP indices are amongst the most commonly cited development indicators, and the most widely used are the Human Development Index (HDI), the Gender Development Index (GDI) and the Human Poverty Index (HPI). Thus due to the fact that Rwanda is amongst countries that are on the good track of development the researcher needed to assess the contribution of gender equality on promoting not only human development index but also gender development index and national development in general (UNDP 2006).

2.2.14. Social development

According to Midgley (1995) the term ‘social development’ is comprised of two words – social and development – both of which inform the way it has been defined. Both should be examined in more depth. Today, the term social is used by sociologists and other social scientists to refer to human interactions and the complex phenomena that arise from these interactions, such as a large number of groups and associations including the household, neighborhood associations, formal organisations, communities and even societies. The second word, development, has a dynamic connotation and refers to a process of change, growth, progress or evolution.

Although originally used to connote a process of societal change, the term ‘development’ has been primarily linked to economic modernisation in the developing countries after the Second World War, where it was originally defined as involving growth and industrialisation. This definition has now been broadened to connote a multifaceted process that comprises social, cultural, gender, and political, environmental as well as economic dimensions. It was first employed by sociologists in the late nineteenth century to refer to the processes by which societies evolve from a traditional or ‘primitive’ state to a modern, advanced level of ‘civilisation’ (Midgley, 1995).

In the view of the fact that Rwanda historically also marginalized women in terms of rights to contribute to development, considering that nowadays Rwanda is implementing several to enhance development both men and women are playing their roles towards different achievements. It is in this regard therefore, that the researcher developed interest to assess the contribution of gender equality on improving social development in various dimensions.

✓ **The relationship between social development and basic needs**

According to Pawar and Cox (2010) if people think about human development in terms of a series of concentric circles, each corresponding to a sphere within which individuals attain their personal wellbeing, then people are better able to understand how social development relates to this broader development process, according to the various means through which individuals become empowered. The first circle then concerns the accumulation of sufficient material resources to alleviate physical hardship, meet basic needs, and address the burden of poverty. Economic development, or a sustained increase in average incomes, is critical in this process.

Early efforts to measure development progress, including GNI per capita, GDP at purchasing power parity, data on income distribution, poverty, and basic needs, were largely targeted at this level. A second circle surrounds the mechanism via which individuals gain control of their lives, through accumulation of nonmaterial assets, including physical health, education, and skills. UNDP (2007) adds that measures such as the Physical Quality of Life Index (PQLI) and of course the Human Development Index (HDI) are largely targeted at this level. Finally, there is a third circle concerning how

individuals become empowered through their norms, networks, and civic commitments that enable collective action, inclusion, and social accountability.

Specific examples include norms of non-discrimination based on caste, ethnicity, or gender; absence of the frictions between social and ethnic groups that generate conflict, criminal violence, and insecurity; collective norms of trust and cooperation that ensure efficient provision of public goods; and the informal civic institutions that ensure accountability in local government.

Based on the fact that the government of Rwanda has eliminated gender disparity among the community through enforcing gender related policies it's high time to assess the role played by this policy on improving social development of families particularly the economic part of since when we talk about development what comes first is the status of the economy. In this case study of Gasabo District, with reference to (Woolcock and Narayan 2000) who state that social development must refer to collective held norms, expectations, and informal institutions, therefore this study will include norms in Gasabo that are shared among a defined group of individuals who interact routinely in the course of their daily lives.

2.2.15. Economic development

According to Neamtan, and Downing (2005) no single definition incorporates all of the different strands of economic development. Typically economic development can be described in terms of objectives. These are most commonly described as the creation of jobs and wealth, and the improvement of quality of life. Economic development can also be described as a process that influences growth and restructuring of an economy to enhance the economic well being of a community. In the broadest sense, economic development encompasses three major areas: Policies that government undertakes to meet broad economic objectives;

- Inflation control, high employment opportunities, and sustainable growth. Policies and programs to provide services such as building highways, managing parks, among others;
- Providing medical access to the disadvantaged. Policies and programs explicitly directed at improving the business climate through specific efforts, business finance, marketing, neighborhood development, business retention and expansion, technology transfer, real estate development and others.

The main goal of economic development is improving the economic well being of a community through efforts that entail job creation, job retention, tax base enhancements and quality of life. As there is no single definition for economic development, there is no single strategy, policy, or program for achieving successful economic development.

According to Amin, Cameron, and Hudson (2002) Based on the above principles, the economic structure and system that is developed in the longer term should be based on further commitments to: Link economic development with the wider national development agenda. Economic development must be in tune with political, cultural and social life and strive to eliminate structural poverty as well as the culture of poverty that affects large segments of the population. Based on the fact Rwanda has longtime implemented gender equality related policies the research needed to assess the economic development based on the principles of sustainable development with emphasis on the efficient and sustainable use of equality distribution of responsibilities among women and men heading families in the case study of Gasabo District?

2.3. Theoretical orientation

It is very important to create a deep and complete understanding of key concepts, to provide a review of theories related to the research and to go through existing literature on the topic under the study. Thus this sub chapter presents the theoretical approaches and models related to gender equality, feminism and social-economic development. Therefore the research has sociological perspectives on gender roles at household level based on the ideas of (Pamela, Claire and Melissa, 2005).

❖ Feminist sociological theory

Pamela Abbott, Claire Wallace and Melissa Tyler, (2005) in the book *An Introduction to Sociology Feminist Perspectives* third edition state that A feminist sociology is one that is not just or necessarily about women but one that challenges and confronts the male supremacy that institutionalizes women's inequality. The defining characteristic of feminism is the view that women's relative subordination must be questioned and challenged, this involves:

- Feminist research (that attempts to document and describe the main social differences and inequalities between men and women);

- Feminist theory (that attempts to explain and account for these differences and inequalities);
- Feminist politics (that attempts to challenge and resist inequalities between men and women).

Throughout their book, Pamela Abbott, Claire Wallace and Melissa Tyler are concerned with each of these aspects of feminism but in the Feminist sociological theory chapter particularly, the focus is on feminist theory. Feminism proceeds from the view that women are oppressed and that for many women this oppression is primary, whereas for others it is part of a multiplicity of oppression. Women's freedom of action and expression is limited by the relative power of men – because men, in the main, tend to possess more economic, cultural and social resources than women. This is not to ignore the fact that there are differences between women and between men, and indeed that these differences themselves involve subordination and exploitation. Nor is it to suggest that differences are additive; Feminist sociological theory recognizes, for example, that race and gender articulate to produce a unique subjectivity for black women rather than simply 'layers' of oppression.

Nonetheless Pamela Abbott, Claire Wallace and Melissa Tyler point out that the traditional emphasis in sociology on the state, economy and other public institutions as the main sources of oppression tend to ignore power inequalities in 'private' institutions such as household and in personal relationships in both the public and the private sphere. Feminists have argued that 'the personal is political' – that is, that it is active agents who 'do the oppressing' and that it is necessary to give credence to women's concrete experiences of oppression – ones occurring in personal, everyday encounters – as well as those at the collective and institutional level. Feminist sociologists, then, are concerned to examine the relationship between individuals and the social structure, between women's everyday experiences and the structure of the society in which people live, between men's relative power in interpersonal relationships and the ways in which that power is institutionalised in a range of societies. Feminist sociologists are also concerned to understand the ways in which relationships between men and women, and between men and between women, are changing, and to reflect on the causes and consequences of some of these changes.

Socialist feminists believe that there is a direct link between class structure and the oppression of women. Western and other society rewards working men (office work) because they produce tangible, tradable goods. On the other hand, women's work in the domestic sphere is not valued by western society because women do not produce a tangible, tradable good. This gives men power and control over women. Socialist feminists reject the idea that biology predetermines one's gender. Social roles are not inherent and women's status must change in both the public and private spheres.

Thus the Feminist sociological theory on gender roles in terms of women and household pattern pushed the researcher to assess how the Rwandan community values the role of women towards household social-economic development.

Socialist feminists like to challenge the ideologies of capitalism and patriarchy. Much like the views of radical feminists, socialist feminists believe that although women are divided by class, race, ethnicity and religion, they all experience the same oppression simply for being a woman. Socialist feminists believe that the way to end this oppression is to put an end to class and gender. Women must work side by side men in the political sphere.

In order to get anything accomplished, women must work with men, as opposed to ostracizing them. There must be a coalition between the two and they must see each other as equals in all spheres of life. In contrast to ideals of liberal feminism, which tend to focus on the individual woman, the socialist feminist theory focuses on the broader context of social relations in the community and includes aspects of race, ethnicity and other differences.

The researcher supposes that gender equality in politics and governance should have changed society's perceptions related to the capability of women. In many countries, traditions continue to emphasize women's primary roles as mothers and housewives and to restrict them to those roles. A traditional patriarchal value system favors sexually segregated roles, and militates against the advancement, progress and participation of women in any household development process. Hence, women who want to enter social and economic development and politics find that the political, public, cultural and social environment is often unfriendly or even hostile to them.

Fundamentally, the researcher supposes that Rwandan gender equality success should also be reflected through community perceptions on the ability of women in improving social and economic development of household livelihoods, politics and

leadership without being fixed to traditional ideology that limits women in community development roles. Through the study, the researcher will get information on community perceptions in identifying the positions occupied by women in the social-economic development of the household and decision making at the household level structure in Gasabo District.

Also gender equality should have increased men's awareness about sharing the domestic roles and considering women in household decisions. This assumption will help the researcher to get information on the current gender division of labor in the Rwandan household. Debatably, the persistent unequal division of labor and responsibilities within households is pointed out as the main challenge to women's participation in social-economic development of the community and the household as the basic fundamental pillar of sustainable development. This study explores the change related to sharing domestic roles in families as an evidence of change of gender relations. It further explores how women are given opportunities to influence social-economic development and household decisions.

Through gender analysis in Rwanda the researcher can identify the differences between women and men regarding their specific activities, conditions, needs, access and control over resources, and access to development benefits and decision-making at the household level.

Outcome

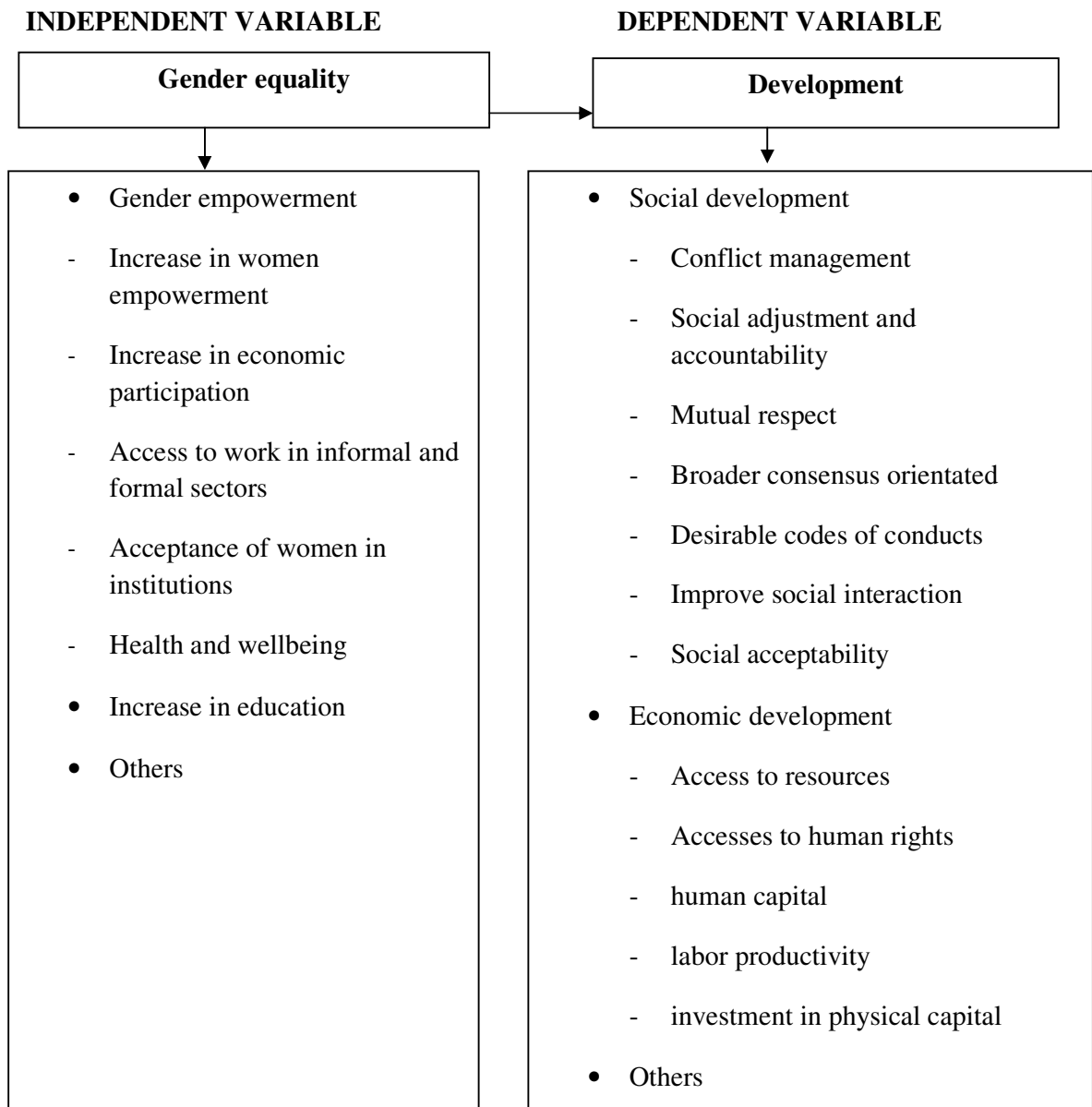
In the Rwandan context, gender analysis should help identify gender inequalities that need to be addressed to create a human rights friendly environment that is conducive for sustainable development. Recognizing that gender analysis is a tool to better understand the realities of the women and men, girls and boys whose lives are impacted by planned development. This study intends to assess how Rwandan women and men contribute to social-economic development of households with considerations of gender mainstreaming orientation of Rwanda and practices that traditionally prevented women to be involved in household social-economic development positions. Theoretically, the framework of this study is mainly based on the Social-economic relations approach.

2.4. Conceptual framework

There are many factors that contribute to household social-economic development in communities around the world.

Gender equality proves to be among the major factors that contribute to effective household social-economic development. The following figure provides research variables.

Table 1: Conceptual framework



Source: Researcher’s compilation (2015)

The research explored gender equality factor as an independent variable and social-economic development as a dependent variable. In fact the term development is a broad concept with uncountable factors and gender equality is among the factors that impact development in the community.

The literature in the figure above shows that the increase in women empowerment, increase in women economic participation, women's access to formal and informal works, acceptance of women in institutions and the promotion of health and their well being, play a significant impact on social adjustment and accountability. It promotes conflict management not only at the household level but also at the national level, and as a result leading to social development.

Empowering women also promotes mutual respect and encourage a broader consensus oriented, promote desired codes of conduct at the household level, improves social interaction at the household level and consequently promotes social acceptability among other factors. Also gender empowerment and women emancipation play an important role in promoting economic development. Increase in girls and women education facilitates them to be confident and be able to compete in the labour market, it helps them to access resources and run income generating activities leading to the increase in economic means. Women's increase in education, empowerment and participation allows them to understand human rights and human capital, which increases women labour productivity and investment in physical capital.

In addition, equal access for both men and women to basic transport and energy infrastructure can lead to increased economic activity while devote in health and nutrition reduces chronic hunger and malnourishment, giving increase in productivity and welfare at the household level. Enhanced education for both men and women helps to create awareness of birth control and equally allows people to concentrate on life. It is well known that promoting education for women in a given community determines improvement in children's education, health and nutrition outcomes.

Furthermore, improved economic independence for women is a determinant of increased ability to awareness to the challenges linked with traditional norms threatening gender equality at the household level. Gender equitable property and resource ownership enable women to manage them in a more sustainable manner and lead to higher investment in development cooperation.

As long as division of labour can facilitate social-economic development of families, this means that gender equality is the driver/ pilot for the development of the

household welfare. Thus the research analysed the contribution of gender equality and related policies on the social-economic development of household.

2.5. The contextualization of gender equality in Rwanda

2.5.1. Introduction

Social and cultural context of the Rwandan society is characterized by a patriarchal social structure that underlies the unequal social power relations between men and women, boys and girls. This has translated into men's dominance and women's subordination. Gender inequalities have not been seen as unjust, but as respected social normality (MIGEPROF, 2010).

In an economic context poverty is identified as one of the biggest issues faced by women and men in Rwanda. The 1994 war and genocide worsened an already precarious situation with women being the majority among the mostly affected. Women require economic freedom, obtained notably by promoting their rights in management and access to resources, employment, adequate working conditions and economic capacity building. According to the HDS (2005) Women's participation in economic activities has been measured, at national level, at 56.4% while men's participation is 43.6%² while in the political context progressive changes took place after multiparty system was legalised in 1991, which opened a window of opportunity for both men and women's involvement in decision making.

The political will of the Rwandan leaders after 1994 and the 4th World Conference on Women held in Beijing (China) in 1995 were the key factors that underpinned important changes in the Rwandan society. The following are two of the major changes that took place in the Country: first and foremost, physical and social reconstruction of the country, which involved women and men. Secondly, the Beijing recommendations were another opportunity for Rwandan men and women to increase their participation in decision making positions, mostly in the higher ranking positions (MIGEPROF, 2010).

2.5.2. Key Achievements in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Rwanda

In the area of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Rwanda has tremendous achievements which constitute best practices in this regard, some of which are the following:

2.5.2.1 .Poverty Reduction

The Government of Rwanda made a strong commitment to integrate gender into policy and strategic planning instruments. In the Vision 2020, the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), gender is highlighted as cross cutting issue in all sectors. In addition to that, a Gender Responsive Budgeting Project was initiated by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in Partnership with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion to ensure budget allocation as government intervention to curb gender sensitiveness (MIGEPROF, 2010).

2.5.2. 2.Access to Education

Nine year- basic education is under implementation and will facilitate full access to education for both girls and boys. - Girls' education Policy and its strategic plan was put in place by the Ministry of Education to ensure access, maintain performance of girls and women at all levels. Emphasis is being put on girls' education in science and technology. In this regard, some affirmative actions were established including the FAWE Girls' schools, Awards for girls, etc... - In support to science and technology, the one laptop per child was introduced and is under implementation, boys and girls are using computer and internet to improve their learning and research skills through internet and other program designed in the laptop (MIGEPROF, 2010).

2.5. 2.3. Access to Health

Presence of Health Advisors all over the Country who mobilize and monitor the implementation of health programs in communities; - National Health insurance scheme was introduced and the population encouraged to join them; - The Reproductive Health Policy is developed - Demographic and Health Survey and Gender Profile produced at regular basis (MIGEPROF, 2010).

2.5.2.4. Fighting Violence against Women

For eradicating Gender Based Violence (GBV), the following are achievements registered: - Establishment of one stop centers for GBV survivors care in medical, psychosocial, legal support; - National strategic plan on UNSC Resolution 1325 has been elaborated; - Promulgation of law preventing and punishing Gender Based Violence; - Enacting gender sensitive laws and reviewing existing discriminatory laws ; - Establishment of anti - GBV and child protection committees from the grassroots level to the National level; - Gender Desk in Rwanda National Police, Rwanda Defense Force and in National Public Prosecution Authority; - Free hotline in Rwanda National Police, Rwanda Defense Force and the National Public Prosecution Authority; - A Men's association (RWAMREC) that strives to sensitize the population and eradicate gender based violence specifically violence against women (MIGEPROF, 2010).

2.5.2.5. Women in the Economy

Law N° 22/99 of 12/11/1999 related to matrimonial regimes, liberalities and successions, giving to women the same rights of succession as men; - Land Organic Law N°08/2005: Equal access to land for both men and women; - Labour law was gazetted in 2009; - Women employment Strategic plan; - Women's guarantee and funds; 12 - Establishment of Savings and Credit Cooperatives based in each sector called Umurenge SACCO; - UMWARIMU SACCO Program that help teachers of primary and secondary schools to access small loans; - People's Bank for Women's Promotion (Banque Populaire pour la Promotion Féminine) ; - Savings and Credit Cooperative « COOPEDU » initiated by Women's association "DUTERIMBERE"; - Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs in Private Sector Federation (PSF) (MIGEPROF, 2010).

2.5. 2.6. Decision Making

Rwanda is the first country in the world to have a majority of women in Parliament, Chamber of Deputies (56.25%). The Speaker of Parliament is a woman. - 35% of Member of Senate is women, - 38% of Ministers are women, - 40% of Minister of State is women - Within the Judiciary women represent 50%, the Chief Justice is a woman (MIGEPROF, 2010).

2.5.2.7. Gender Institutional Mechanisms

Rwanda has put in place institutions to ensure implementation of gender equality policies. Thus the following are institutions in charge of gender equality: Ministry in Charge of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), Gender Monitoring Office (GMO), National Women's Council (NWC), this was retrieved from (MIGEPROF, 2010).

Rwanda has put in place laws, regulations and programs in order to contribute to effective gender equality and related policies implementation.

✓ National Constitution

The Rwandan national constitution of June 2003 provides for higher levels of representation to previously marginalized groups such as women, youth and people living with disability. This constitutional framework provides quotas (at least 30%) for women in decision making which has resulted in an unprecedented number of women being elected or appointed to decision making positions at all levels. The constitution reinforces the principles of gender equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and provides a very strong platform for gender mainstreaming in all sectors (MIGEPROF, 2005).

✓ Vision 2020

As Rwanda's development road map, it situates human development as one of the main pillars of the nation's development. The national gender policy is in line with Vision 2020 in terms of creating an environment conducive to the promotion of social security, democratic principles of governance, and an all-inclusive social and economic system that involves effective participation of all social groups within the population. In addition, through Rwanda's development vision, the National Gender policy is a tool that helps to facilitate into account equality of opportunities between women and men, boys and girls in every sector (MIGEPROF, 2005).

✓ Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS)

The national gender policy is in line with the overall goal of the Economic Development Poverty Reduction Strategy of achieving equity of voice, participation, and accessibility to services in every sector. The above key developmental program has a great potential to impact on women and men differently, and gender dimension has great potential for

impacting the outcomes of the programs since they address issues that affect gender relations in Rwandan society (MIGEPROF, 2005).

✓ **The National Decentralisation Policy**

The National Decentralization policy underlines the commitment of the Rwandan government to empower its people to determine their destiny. The implementation of decentralized structures down to the lowest level of cell is a strategic approach for ensuring that national gender policy is effectively addressed. It is only through this grass roots implementation of the national gender policy as requested by the community that it is possible to foster better appreciation of gender equality as a critical component in national development (MIGEPROF, 2005).

✓ **Long-Term Investment Framework**

The broad objective of this framework is to guide government in its investment program by ensuring the best use of resources to achieve the country's development goals. This framework recognises the gender issue as a cross-cutting dimension to be mainstreamed into all investment programs for a successful implementation of these programs (MIGEPROF, 2005).

✓ **Government programs**

The national gender policy serves as a tool to facilitate the implementation of various short term government programs in a gender sensitive manner. These programs include functional literacy, HIMO and VUP, to name but a few (MIGEPROF, 2005).

✓ **International Development Goals**

The National Gender Policy is also in harmony with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The third Goal of MDGs is to achieve gender equality and to empower women. This goal constitutes a cross-cutting principle, thus enabling other goals to be achieved. Among the actions to be undertaken, is the establishment of a working group on gender in charge of ensuring that specific problems faced by poor women are addressed within the NEPAD poverty reduction strategies (MIGEPROF, 2005).

Chapter summary

Chapter two is intended to review the literature on the topic under the study and covered: conceptual framework which provides meanings and definitions of the key terms; theory

that explains gender equality, social, economic and development in order to understand the contribution of gender equality paradigms towards household social economic development.

It presents theoretical approaches and models related to the research and go through existing literature on the topic under the study. The chapter therefore gives the background of the research, and provides theories from which the study inherits knowledge to use in the diagnosis of the study a case of Gasabo district.

The chapter also highlights the achievements of Rwanda in relation to gender equality. The contextualization of gender equality in Rwanda dealt with gender and poverty, gender and access to education, health, gender and its role in fighting against violence perpetrated to women commonly misinterpreted as gender based violence, also tackled the issues of women in economy, decision making, gender institutions mechanisms and general orientation.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3. Introduction

This chapter provides a brief overview of the research process to contextualize the practical research of the study. It also explains the procedures utilized in the administration of the instruments. It concerns with the presentation of approaches and methodology which served as guidelines in order to help the researcher collect, analyse and interpret data. This chapter takes care of the research design, target population, sample size and sampling techniques, research instruments, data collection, processing and data analysis.

3.1. Research design

In order to address a subject about gender equality and household socio-economic development in Rwanda, the researcher has adopted an exploratory research design. This research is an attempt to lay the groundwork that leads to future studies, or to determine if what is being observed might be explained by a currently existing theory.

Qualitative research approach was used to collect data from the field. Documents were referred to exploit related literature written by different authors with diverse ideas on gender equality and development.

During data collection, the researcher used a questionnaire instrument in conjunction with interview and focus groups in order to obtain an idea on the contribution of gender equality on household income generation and prove in-depth emotions behind and assess the triangulation of data collection instruments. Therefore the researcher contacted respondents at their respective homes and area. That is to say, the researcher contacted heads of families drawn from Gasabo District to access information and experiences of the role played by gender in improving community welfare.

3.2. The population of the study

The population of the study is found in Gasabo District located in Kigali City the capital city of Rwanda. Therefore the researcher contacted heads of households in these areas to exploit experiences of all selected population on the contribution of gender equality practices that lead to improving social-economic development and welfare of households in particular and the Rwandan community in general.

Table1: The general population of the research

No	Sectors	Total population		
		Males	Females	Total
1	Bumbogo	17,926	17,965	35,891
2	Gatsata	19,346	17,551	36,897
3	Gikomero	7,958	8,608	16,566
4	Gisozi	23,136	20,939	44,075
5	Jabana	16,422	16,970	33,392
6	Jali	11,998	12,987	24,985
7	Kacyiru	19,844	17,054	36,898
8	Kimihurura	11,184	9,520	20,704
9	Kimironko	33,398	25,914	59,312
10	Kinyinya	29,740	27,445	57,185
11	Ndera	20,954	20,831	41,785
12	Nduba	12,265	13,381	25,646
13	Remera	23,351	20,073	43,424
15	Rusororo	18,291	17,924	36,215
16	Rutunga	8,529	9,403	17,932
Total		274,342	256,565	530,907

NISR (2012)

3.3. Targeted population

The above statistics are referred to since they are the recent; the targeted population is composed of heads of households and local leaders in Gasabo District. The Districts were considered randomly for research since they all lie in the capital city where cultures have influenced the Rwanda tradition and given birth to several gender equality paradigms. In this his case we considered the influence of foreigners and city behaviors. Respondents from Kimihurura, Kimironko, Nduba and Rusororo sectors were contacted.

Table2: The targeted population of the research

No	Sectors	Total population		
		Males	Females	Total
1	Kimihurura	11,184	9,520	20,704
2	Kimironko	33,398	25,914	59,312
3	Nduba	12,265	13,381	25,646
4	Rusororo	18,291	17,924	36,215
Total		75,138	66,739	141,877

Research compilation (2015).

The targeted population is the heads of households in the above selected sectors of Gasabo District.

3.4. Sample size

In order to select the sample of the population the researcher applied convenient sampling technique. With the help of the grass root leaders (executives and chef de zone), the researcher simply used participants who were available and willing to participate. Therefore the sample size of the targeted population was selected randomly from the heads of households of Kimihurura, Kimironko, Nduba, and Rusororo sectors of Gasabo District.

Kimironko and Kimihurura are sectors inhabited with people classified in the working class. Nduba and Rusororo are places occupied by middle income earners. Therefore these two categories were very important for this research.

The researcher determined the sample size of the study randomly considering a number of 200 respondents 50 from each sector, and the population would change depending on whether new information would be still coming or not, the selected respondents also depended on the time frame the researcher had adopted. The researcher went to the four sectors of Gasabo District and knocked the doors and gates in order to find respondents and interviewed them at their homes and around their areas.

As mentioned in the paragraph above, with the help of the local leaders the researcher conveniently contacted 166 respondents composed of the population from selected sectors of Gasabo District and investigated the contribution of gender equality on

improving households' social-economic development. The researcher has been limited to 166 respondents after realizing that there was no more new information coming.

Table3: The sample size of the targeted population

No	Sectors	Total sample
1	Kimihurura	24
2	Kimironko	69
3	Nduba	31
4	Rusororo	42
Total		166

Researcher compilation (2015).

The above table indicates the selected sample of respondents from each area; that is to say Kimihurura, Kimironko Nduba and Rusororo sectors.

3.5. Sampling approach

Since the population of the research was selected from busy locations, it was difficult to find specific respondents. The researcher therefore used convenient sampling technique to find them. In this case focus group technique was also use in order to target mass population as well as get hold of local leaders. It should be noted that the researcher contacted participants in community assemblies at the local levels, such as Parents' evening Work (Umugoroba w'ababyeyi), and Community work (Umuganda) to mention but a few.

❖ **Convenient sampling**

In this case heads of households in the selected sectors of Gasabo District were investigated; all the targeted population of the research in the case study was represented in the sampling frame. The researcher went from house to house and asked the availability of heads of households and their consent to participate in the research.

It should be mentioned that the respondents in this study are homogeneous but scattered; the researcher questioned respondents based on their availability and willingness to respond to research questions.

The reliability of respondents and informants depended up how best they understood the topic in order to reveal useful information.

3.6. Data Collection

Data were collected through the following methods and techniques:

3.6.1. Data collection methods

The information from the primary data was obtained using a semi-structured interview; focus groups were used to target respondents, a questionnaire was used to be able to collect data involving some numbers, also secondary data was applied.

➤ Primary Sources

Primary data for the study was collected by the researcher from the field where by information respondents provided the data.

➤ Secondary Sources

Secondary data was obtained through sources such as: reviews, encyclopedias, books, reports, newspapers and electronic resources from different websites, blogs and social media. The researcher reviewed literature sources on feminism, gender equality and development in general. Other information was obtained from books, government reports, among others. This data complemented primary data sources in obtaining a deeper insight on the contribution of gender equality on the contribution to social economic development of the households and community in general.

3.6.2. Research instruments

Data was collected with the use of questionnaire, interview and focus group instruments. In addition data processing was done in accordance with general and specific objectives through editing of questionnaire responses and coding and finally was ended with modeling responses. The researcher processed data before proper analysis was done so as to become more meaningful for presentation, interpretation and discussion.

➤ Questionnaire

The questionnaire was administered to the selected sectors of Gasabo District through heads of households. It consisted of open-ended, closed-questions and Likert scale questions.

In close-ended questions, the respondents were limited to specific answers to choose from the list while in open-ended questions, respondents were requested to give responses without any limitations on the role played by gender equality policies on improving their lives. Likert scale helped respondents provide views on the extent to which they evaluate the contribution of gender equality and related policies on improving their everyday lives. The questionnaire responses were supported by observation in order to assess the triangulation of responses from respondents. It should be noted that respondents who were not able to read and write were helped to fill the questionnaire [self administered questionnaire process]. The self administered questionnaire was used in order to get the people's perceptions on the contribution of gender equality on improving social economic development of households in Rwanda.

➤ **Semi structured interview**

During data collection; the researcher used semi structured interview. The researcher elaborated a list of themes and areas to be covered with standardized questions on the contribution of gender equality and social economic indicators and thereafter the researcher was able to omit or add to some of these questions and or areas depending on the situation and the flow of conversation from the respondents and informants of the research.

Questions varied from close ended questions to open ended questions and Likert scale among other forms to obtain relevant and rich information on the contribution of gender equality on improving community welfare in Gasabo District. To ensure internal validity and reliability the researcher carefully designed the interview questionnaire guide keeping in mind the use of appropriate words, order and flow of questions logical to the respondents for them to provide accurate information on the contribution of gender equality on social economic development of households.

During the research interview sessions the researcher applied investigative skills while questioning the respondents. It involved focusing on the way respondents and informants behave during the interview; for example their reaction on a point, gestures, expressions, and emphasis. During data collection therefore, the researcher used direct observation as a tool of getting precise data and analysed emotional behaviours with regards to articulated questions.

➤ **Focus group discussion**

Focus group is a form of qualitative research in which a group of people are asked about their perceptions, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes towards a subject of study. Therefore, during data collection heads of households were asked questions in an interactive group setting where participants were free to talk with group members. So the researcher asked some people to give their own opinion in a discussion which is moderated to the extent that she gained the contribution of gender equality to social economic development of households in Rwanda with the case of Gasabo district.

3.7. Data analysis

Content analysis was largely used to analyze qualitative data. During analysis, themes on gender issues were determined and these related to the variables being investigated and qualitative data was mostly used to discuss the research findings on the contribution of gender equality policies with regards to the social-economic development of households in Gasabo District.

3.8. Ethical Consideration

The research envisioned working with heads of households in order to find out the contribution of gender equality on households' social and economic development. Therefore the researcher once at the field informed respondents and informants about the research that she was going to carry out and gave more explanations about the objectives of the research, methodology and techniques that the researcher has planned to use and its importance to Rwandan society in order to achieve the goals of the study.

The research informants were given extensive explanations on the role of the research to the researcher, to the society and the Rwandan government. Respondents were explained and enlightened on their full rights to withdraw from participation in the study and their rights to stop their role in the research once they decide to do so. The researcher tried her best to guarantee the respondents and informants anonymity in the study willingly. No names were used men were referred to as males while women were referred to as females other identifications like age, gender, location and employment status among others were recorded down in numbers.

Chapter summary

Chapter four is intended to review the methodology which served to carry out the research under study.

Therefore this chapter dealt with the research design, general population of the study, targeted population and its characteristics, sample size and sample approach, data collection methods and techniques, research instruments and data analysis process, data editing and finally dealt with ethical consideration. It is difficult to get final results without a clear and precise research methodology. The chapter therefore is absolutely important because it is the pilot of the entire research since it provided the tools the researcher used to collect data among other things.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1. Introduction

The research carried out with the topic “Gender equality and household social economic development in Gasabo District” presents the overview impact of gender equality on improving household Social-economic development in Rwanda. Specifically the findings focus on the role played by gender equality on development at the household level, challenges and home grown solutions to overcome them, it also looks at the welfare regarded as the core basis of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and national development.

4.2. Demographic characteristics of respondents

Data was generated from 166 heads of household in Gasabo District composed of both men and women at proportionate number. Data was collected with the use of a questionnaire and focus group discussion among others. Qualitative data was presented, analyzed and interpreted to answer the research questions and respond to research objectives presented in chapter one [General introduction]. Therefore this subchapter demographic characteristic of respondents, presents the gender distribution, age group of respondents, education level, profession of respondents, demographic characteristics of household and the household categorisation.

Table 4: Demographic characteristics of respondents

Variable		Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	86	51.8
	Female	80	48.2
Age	Under 21 years	2	1.2
	Between 22 and 35 years	71	42.8
	Between 36 and 55 years	74	44.6
	Beyond 55	19	11.4
Education level	None	13	7.8
	Primary level	24	14.5
	Secondary level	56	33.7
	Diploma level	9	5.4
	TVET level	38	22.9
	Bachelor's level	9	5.4
	Training	22	13.3
	Master's level	1	0.6
Occupation of respondents	Farmer and breeder	51	30.7
	Public institution servant	36	21.7
	Private institution servant	13	7.8
	Unemployed	9	5.4
	Self employed	57	34.3
	Size of households	Under 3 members	21
	Between 4 and 6 members	121	72.9
	Beyond 7 members	24	14.5
Ubudehe classification	The first category	4	2.4
	The second category	31	18.7
	The third category	100	60.2
	The fourth category	31	18.7

Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

Depicted from the table even though the researcher has contacted a number of 51.8% of women against their counterpart male 48.2%; the researcher intended to quest a proportionate number of 50%. Results show the extent to which most of female were met at home while they have stated that their husbands could not be available to respond to the research questions because they were busy at work.

The findings also show that in all households contacted according to (Mathews and Ross, 2010) arguments, both males' and the females' perspectives were taken into consideration in the research under study.

In the context of the impact of gender equality on improving the households social-economic development, it is very relevant to consider male's and female's perspectives in all planned actions, as experiences of males are different from those of females depending on their culture and backgrounds.

The age group of respondents played an important role in social-economic analysis of phenomenon because it helped the researcher assess the validity, accuracy and reliability of data.

Although the researcher did not get ways to know if the married women under 21 years old were accepted since Rwandan civil code does not legally allow marriage under 21, findings show that among 166 heads of households contacted only 1.2% of heads of households were under admitted age of marriage a testimony which show the extent to which Rwanda has put forward laws against early marriage to avoid problems associated with them. Early marriage leads to the effects of girl's loss of mobility and her confinement to the home and household roles (UNICEF, 2001).

Portrayed in the table above findings in relation to the age of respondents, a high number of respondents lays between 36 and 55, that is 44.6%; 42.8% of respondents is between 22 and 35%; while 11.4% of respondents were more than 55 years. The research could not find many respondents aged and beyond 55 that could provide different experience, because they lived in a traditional society where gender policies were not strong enough.

The level of education of respondents determines all actions and arguments in the data; education in every sense is one of the fundamental factors of development. No country can achieve sustainable economic development without substantial investment in human capital; education enriches people's understanding in the world. It improves the quality of their lives and leads to broad social benefits of individuals and society. Education raises people's productivity and creativity and enhances entrepreneurship. In addition, it plays a very crucial role in securing social economic progress and improving income distribution. Thus the level of education decides the reliability of the information acquired from the informants.

Demonstrated in the above table, a percentage of 7.8 respondents have never attended school; 14.5% have primary level; while a big number of 33.7% has achieved high school education.

Furthermore 5.4% has achieved a diploma level; and an important number of 22.9% of respondents has achieved Technical and Vocational education Training level. A number of 13.3% has stated that they were only trained in technical, mechanical and masonry trainings without attending the bench of the school while only 1 respondents, that is 0.6% has attended the Master's level of education. Therefore, not only the diversity of views influenced by the level of education were very useful in criticizing the impact of gender equality on social-economic development of households in Gasabo District, but also helped to notice how education is a relevant factor to accelerate changes of mentality for both men and women. It should be noted that with education people are able to earn a living and be able to manage their household.

With regards to occupation of respondents; the profession of community members helps to manage social and economic change and challenges that appear in their everyday lives. Be it voluntary or involuntary, unemployment is generally agreed to be a symptom of macro and micro economic illness and foster poverty at the national and household level. Therefore regarding the unemployment and the profession of heads of household in Gasabo District; a number of 5.4% of respondents are unemployed; 30.7% of respondents are farmers, a category which is occupied by more than 70% of the population of Rwanda according to (NISR, 2015). It should be mentioned that 21.7% are public servants working in various governmental institutions and local administration levels; a 7.8% are private servants while 34.3% run their own businesses.

Based on the fact that all unemployed heads of households contacted were women; women's labor force participation rates lag men's participation rates in virtually many countries including Rwanda. The determinants of female labor force participation and earnings are complex; women's decisions to engage in paid or unpaid work are influenced by a host of factors, ranging from prevailing wage rates, levels of occupational segregation and male-female wage/earnings differentials in informal working environment, individual human capital characteristics, and in the case of self employment, unavailability of land, credit and productive entrepreneurship. The case deceived the researcher on their contribution to social-economic development and the way gender equality may promote self respect and accountability. The lack of women's

participation in commercial crop production and agricultural area are often not a preference, but the result of limited access to inputs and markets (FAO, 2009).

Furthermore, demographic characteristics of household members determine on one hand the level of manpower and necessity of each member to work in order to get a better household living. On the other hand, the demographic characteristics of household members may present a threat which may necessitate the effort to manage and solve them. In order to understand the household roles both husband and wife [Man and woman] should be active to develop social and economic paradigms of households.

Demonstrated from the table above, findings show that 12.7% of households were composed of a number under 3 members; a number of 72.9% composed of a number between 4 and 6 members while another important number of households was composed of more than 7 members. The demographic characteristic of households breaches the ability to meet the capacity to have sufficient life and thus may put families into extreme poverty and starvation among other consequences. Therefore the more the household is big, the more it requires both women and men to work to be able to meet their household's needs.

In the same array of thoughts the researcher wished to know the Ubudehe categorisation of respondents. The word Ubudehe refers to the long-standing Rwandan practice and culture of collective action and mutual support to solve problems within a community. Today, the concept has been translated into a home grown development programme whereby citizens are placed into different categories. The community members come out with four socio-economic categories in which every Rwandan household is classified in relation to its living conditions (LODA, 2015). Ubudehe categorisation is used as an indicator to assess the structure and levels of poverty through a categorization and social mapping system in Rwanda.

Therefore the findings show that 2.4% of households contacted in Gasabo District were in the first category of abject misery. This category according to (LODA, 2015) is composed of members whose households do not own a house and can hardly afford basic needs. The second category of household was occupied by a number of 18.7% of contacted households. This category consists of the households who are independent, can afford rent, but rarely get full time jobs.

The third category was occupied by a number of 60.2% of households. This category consists of households who have a job and are farmers who go beyond

subsistence farming and also produce some crops for the market. The latter also includes those with small and medium enterprises who can provide employment for people.

And finally a number of 18.7% of respondents are placed in the fourth category. This category is consisted of households who own large-scale business, individuals working with international organisations and industries as well as public servants. The Ubudehe categories of households contacted proved the extent to which a big number of, 60.2% of households are placed in the third category with a proportion number in the second and the fourth categories of 18.7% households. Thus gender equality plays an important role towards social-economic development of households and basically living conditions.

4.3. Indicators of gender equality at household level

In order to assess the impact of gender equality on social-economic development of households in Rwanda; the researcher wished to know if there are some indicators that show the existence of gender equality at household level. The research findings showed in the table 5 presents some broad principles that can be considered in making decisions. The findings also highlight existing indicators linked to the social-economic development context.

Table 5: Benchmark of gender equality at household level

Indicators of gender equality	Frequency	Percent
Have the same contribution to household development	136	81.9
Have the same access to land succession	126	75.9
Have the same access to decision making	164	98.8
Have the same access and control over resources	123	74.1
Have the same rights, duties and responsibilities	116	69.9
Have mutual respect	123	74.1
Have the same access to health facilities	124	74.7
Have the same chance to inheritance succession	123	74.1
Have the same responsibility to education of children	110	66.3
Have the same stake on sexual health, reproductive and rights	109	65.7
Eliminate violence of both men and women	99	59.6

Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

Despite the role gender equality plays in the process of development and growth, diverse literature is reviewed from micro and macro economics, developing and developed countries perspective without basing on a constant point, since household level is the first level of national development; the research intended to identify the degree of development at the household and the national levels.

Therefore portrayed from the table above respondents have provided indicators that show the presence of gender equality at the household level. Hence a number of 81.9% has shown that since both a man and a woman contribute to household development, it is an indicator of the existence of gender equality at household level. 75.9% indicates that a man and a woman have the same stake on access to land and succession which also indicates the existence of gender equality. This is simply because in the past women were not allowed to own land and property under pretext that once they get married they have shares from the husbands.

The table also shows 98.8% men and women have the same access to decision making in terms of economic development, project proposals, decisions to run businesses, to participate in leadership another indicator of gender equality presence in household. From the table 74.1% has the same control over resources, household properties among

others. A number of 69.9% of respondents has affirmed that gender equality is defined by the fact that both men and women have the same rights, duties and responsibilities in terms of social-economic development of households. One respondent has stated:

For long time males have been dominating women in household, community, public institutions among others, a key strategy for gender equality lies in women's empowerment, rights, duties and responsibilities at household and national levels. Nowadays women have been empowered to run businesses along side their husbands; they have the rights to labor and responsible for their household welfare (A female respondent in semi-structured interview, 2016).

The testimony shows that gender equality at the household level has taken an important step since men and women have the rights to run income generating activities towards economic development of the household. Gender quality is also indicated at household level, at 74.1% where respondents confirm that both men and women respect each other. They said that both women and men respect the interests of each other. Also a number of 74.7% of respondents has stated that both men and women have the same access to health facilities; while a number of 74.1% has stated that women and men, girls and boys have the same chance and rights to inheritance succession. Thus the women and girls who do not have the rights to inheritance and succession had little bargaining power, for wealth and property within household. Since the ability to make economic choices requires often earnings and resource ownership. Going forward in time towards the present, the feminists of this time have forcefully pursued employment for women, rights to inheritance and wealth succession.

The table shows that 66.3% girls and boys rights to education set by the girl's education policy implemented in 2008 (Rwanda Ministry of education, 2015), since then, girls have become good performers even in applied sciences long ago reserved for boys.

Again, 65.7% respondents have stated that both men and women have the same stake on sexual health, reproduction and rights even though one respondent has commented that it is hard to verify. Sexual health, reproduction and rights are central to increasing women opportunities not only for responsible decision making on reproductive health matters but also for finishing their education and breaking out poverty.

Finally 59.9% of respondents have stated that due to gender equality policy, gender based violence has reduced at household level even if there are some men who still view women as materials to manipulate them.

Considering other comments, respondents have stated that despite the adjustment the changes poses challenges national wide as the old hierarchical gender valuations still appear in many different disguises.

Hence the research provides with appreciation of gender equality at household level as presented in the chart below.

4.3.1. Responsibilities allocated to a man and a woman in household

The relative bargaining power of a man and woman within a household plays an important role in determining their social-economic outcomes. Although Men’s and women’s definition of what it means to be a good husband reaffirmed many stereotypes about masculinity. Across diverse contexts, what defines a good husband, over and above all, is the ability to provide. The table below provides views of respondents on attribution of responsibilities allocated to men at household level.

Table 6: Distribution of responsibilities of a man at household level

Responsibilities of a man at household level		
	Frequency	Percent
Head of household	124	74.7
Ensure security of household	113	68.1
Plan for project	145	87.3
Ensure good health of household	110	66.3
Ensure education of children	140	84.3
Ensure household livelihood	120	72.3
Ensure respect of government programs	92	55.4

Responsibilities of a woman at household level

Ensure household cleanness	88	53.0
Know necessities in household	89	53.6
Take care of children	89	53.6
Take care of the husband	91	54.8
Work together with husband to develop household	98	59.0
Take care of visitors and neighbors	102	61.4

Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

As demonstrated in the tables above on one hand respondents have provided the distribution of responsibilities allocated to men at household level. 74.7% of respondents stated that men are responsible for their households and considered as heads of household; a 68.1% has stated that men are responsible for the security of household; and 87.3% has stated that men at household level men are in charge of planning projects that help increase household livelihood. A number of 66.3% has stated that men are in charge of health for the household; 84.3% stated that they are in charge of livelihood improvement; and finally 55.4% has stated that men are in charge of ensuring that government programs are respected and practiced effectively. Though the respondents maintained the definition of a good husband as the one capable to provide needs to his household, this also means that a good man, daddy or husband should be a good income earner, that is to say his main responsibility is to bring money and livelihood home.

Results therefore indicate no change in gender roles since nothing new has been reported from the male's responsibilities these are the same responsibilities the great grand fathers have been in charge of.

Yet, traditionally, social attitudes towards women have given primacy to their domestic roles as mothers and homemakers. Since the traditional norms in relation to women's role in the economic sphere may reinforce the discrimination from the level of household; the table below provides the distribution of responsibilities of women at household level in order to assess its impact on social-economic development of the household.

On the other hand, illustrated in the table above a number of 53.0% of respondents has stated that women are in charge of household cleanness; a 53.6% stated that women

are responsible of repertory of necessities, as needed for the sustainability of the household livelihood; the same number of 53.3% has stated that women are the primary caretakers of children; their education, health, behaviour and discipline among others. The same number also 53.6% of respondents has stated that women are in charge of caring for the husband.

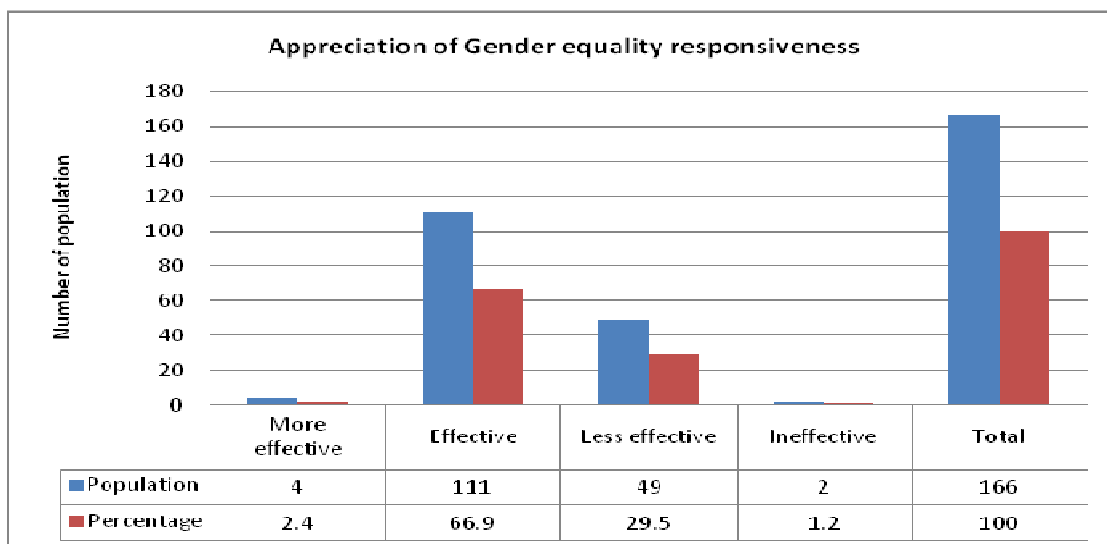
Respondents expressed “Being a good wife definitely involved respecting husbands, being faithful, supportive, respectful, and submissive.” It should be noted that 59.0% has stated that women are advisors of their husbands with regards to project planning and management. Finally 61.4% has stated that women are in charge of building household relationship through caring for visitors and neighbors. One respondent has stated:

A woman is a creature which plays an important role at the household level as a Rwandan saying says [Umugore ni gahuzamiryango] she is the one to strengthen and tie family relationships with friends, neighbors and relatives, without a woman the community cannot be sustainable the reason why in Rwandan sayings we say: a household which has a good wife has also wealth, (A man respondent in semi-structured interview, 2016).

Therefore gender equality has not yet encouraged change in gender roles since women are still wedged in household activities. However development programs have been acknowledged for the changing of the men’s mindset, they have encouraged sharing domestic responsibilities, but the principle of equality still need efforts in awareness. Special focus should be put on the youth to promote a sustainable gender equal country. It should be stressed that the increase in economic responsibilities for women should match with the support from in terms of domestic work after which we may then talk of gender equality.

4.3.2. Appreciation of gender equality responsiveness at household level

In order to value that something is helpful to a certain level; it is crucial to assess it according to the value beneficiaries’ accorded to it. The chart below provides views of respondents on the extent to which gender equality impacts social-economic development of household.



Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

Figure1: Level of appreciation

Gender responsiveness for both men and women in lives of people involves creating a favorable environment that reflects an understanding of the realities of both men and women’s lives. Gender responsiveness therefore involves creating an environment where by households’ selection and program development, content, and material responds to the issues of both men and women. Depicted from the figure above; 2.4% of respondents have stated that gender equality at household level is very effective and 66.9% of respondents appreciated the change related to gender equality at the household level stating that gender equality has enabled women to work for household benefits; one respondent argued:

Gender equality brought respect at home because long ago a girl did not have the same chances to education compared to her brother and had no rights for inheritance. Gender equality has raised the value of women and girls; it helped promote education for both girls and boy it also raised confidence among women and enabled them to integrate in leadership (A male respondent in a semi-structured interview, 2016)

However 29.5% have stated that they do not see any change and 1.2% stated that gender equality is ineffective. They emphasized that due to the policy in Rwanda some women have raised their shoulders over men and women also believe that men have

developed violence as a defense mechanism since they believe the government has supported their wives made them big headed. One respondent has testified:

Our wives no longer listen to us, we cannot stop them from going anywhere or doing something even those without any job they excuse themselves that they are looking for opportunities outside the house hold. Imagine so if they take our duties what shall we do and who shall we become, this why divorces are common nowadays there can never be two men in the same house, (A man respondent in semi-structured interview, 2016).

4.3.3. A stake of women on expenditure decision at household level

Until relatively recently women have been given less decision making power and fewer legal rights than men in all social arenas including expenditure decision making at household level.

The experience of these values and norms reflect change of gender relations in the Rwandan household where traditionally a real man was marked by authoritative behavior and violence [in terms of who has to do and decide what]; while a woman had no say on whatever is decided in household development. In line with these norms, the table below presents respondents views on the extent to which the women have a stake on household expenditure decision making.

Table 7: Extent to which women have a stake on expenditure decision

Women' stake on expenditure decision	Frequency	Percent
Very Great extent	18	10.8
Great extent	78	47.0
Small extent	54	32.5
Very small extent	16	9.6
Total	166	100.0

Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

In many parts of the world and Africa in particular, women have few resources, rights and actually small opportunity to improve their lives. They are restricted in terms of ownership of property, monetary return for their work, financial opportunities, and opportunities to influence decision-making at the level of household and society.

However as demonstrated in the table above 47.0% of respondents have stated that women the stake on expenditure decision making at household level is to a great extent while 10.8% testified that it is at the on very great extent level. 32.5% of respondents have stated that women have a say on expenditure decision on a small extent while 9.6% have stated that it is on a very small extent.

Surprisingly a great number of more than 50% in urban area stated that women have a stake on expenditure while a big number of more than 40% in rural areas maintained included many respondents who stated that women in rural areas do not have any guarantee on household expenditure decision. To sum up, a man remains the head and the holder of all related household development in all domains even though gender equality is being enforced in Rwandan. The culture and beliefs have initially set a man to hold leadership at household level.

4.3.4. Appreciation of masculinity at household level

With the aim of knowing to what extent gender equality is perceived at household level and the level of appreciation of masculinity, the researcher asked respondents how they appreciate men at the household level. The respondents have stated that men have high self-confident acquired biologically; they are believed to careful decisions; they resolve problems effectively and efficiently; they ensure proper security; they take risks in terms of social-economic development of the household; they are committed to achieve household change and have sufficient time for their responsibilities, they are also quick and fast at work. Respondents have also stated that men have confidentiality at household development level and physically fit in development paradigms. In addition they said that men are intellectually strong passionate and they think before making decision. The results show the extent to which masculinity pin the hearts of the community with regards to gender equality and gender roles at household level.

4.3.5. Depreciation of masculinity at household level

On the other hand respondents have provided with views on the extent to which they judge masculinity and gender equality in terms of effective and successful social-economic development of families. Hence respondents have stated that men are authoritative in the household; they are accused to have sex out of marriage [Guca inyuma abo bashakanye].

Also men are accused of the abuse of power and gender based violence (GBV) of all forms, they give value to their ideas and interests, they possess inflexibility and overconfidence and coin to drugs abuse among others. One respondent said:

Men are very difficult to understand once they are concentrated into something they seem to be very committed but once they get disturbed a little bit they get out of control. So I wonder why the community thinks that men are stronger than women. Yes women may look weak as it's believed but strong in their very own way that is amazing. I think gender equality should be associated with attitude of people, (A female respondent in semi-structured interview, 2016).

Therefore more work is required in order to further evaluate the costs of masculinity against gender equality principles in order to help sustain social-economic development of the household.

4.3.6. Appreciation of femininity at household level

Furthermore the research wished to know the level the community appreciates femininity at household level. Thus respondents have stated that women provide quality service, they are sensitive and good listeners to problems at the different level of lives, they are respectful and they always give priority to household interests. They take time to act, seek for advice to avoid making mistakes in that case they are believed to be good managers of households. Therefore respondents have provided with depreciation of feminism at household level. One respondent said:

For sure it is challenging to understand women but given a well behaved woman is good in everything. They are good planners; good at forecasting the future and what I like most with them they are really patient. For example when I was in prison for five years but she remained there waiting for me, men we cannot manage that, (A man respondent in semi-structured interview, 2016).

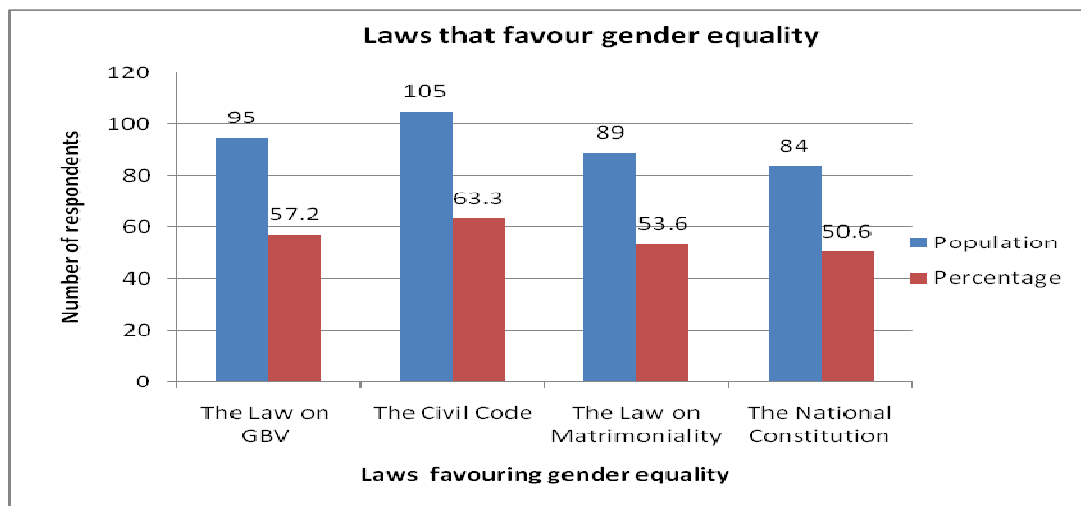
4.3.7. Depreciation of femininity at household level

On the other hand respondents have provided views to depreciate women behaviors at household level. They have stated that women have inferiority complex over men, sometimes do not have self-esteem and confidence, they do not take decision and manifest low achievements. They fear to take risks because they naturally rely on men's support and are not flexible in problem solving. All these assumptions and more depend

on the individual and their back grounds, given a set of beliefs may serve as a tool in society as an unconsciously applied filter of how behavior is perceived and how it is interpreted. Women therefore need to be empowered in order to help improve them from what the culture already shaped.

4.3.8. Laws that favour gender equality at household level

Rwanda, in terms of gender equality has continued to register progress. Women representation in decision making positions makes Rwanda the world leader in the proportion of women in Parliament. In addition, powerful policies and a legal framework for mainstreaming gender in socio-economic sectors at all levels are in place. Therefore the findings present the view of respondents on laws that favour gender equality at the household level and the impact they have made on the household social economic development.



Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

Figure2: Laws that favour gender equality

Laws play an important role on setting norms that guide the community. Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the key examples showing how women are victims of some socio-cultural practices. Four main forms of GBV include physical violence, sexual violence, economic violence and psychological violence. Demonstrated in the figure above a number of 57.2% of respondents has stated that among the laws that favour gender equality includes the law on prevention, protection and punishment of gender based violence.

The law was enforced in Rwanda and some institutions have taken measures to cope up with GBV including the Rwanda National Police and the Rwanda Defense Force that have established GBV desks. The two institutions have hotlines for GBV victims, which are No 112 and No3512 respectively. In the same line of thought a men's local organization called Rwanda Men's Resource Center (RWAMREC) is promoting positive masculinity and fighting GBV as part of its mission.

Not only GBV but also a number of 63.3% of respondents has stated that the civil code helps to guide Rwandan community against polygamy among other issues. To avoid this polygamy phenomenon that proves to have a negative impact on social lives of Rwandans especially women, the Government of Rwanda has adopted the strategy of legalizing marriages through mass weddings for those married couples that were not registered anywhere. The populations have massively responded to this process and so far thousands of couples have legalized their marriages with the assistance of the closest concerned authorities. As outcomes, this process has not only legal protection of the wife in terms of her rights but also it accords her rights to succession to the properties of her household among others.

The figure 2 shows respondents, 53.6% have applied the law on matrimonial regime, donations, succession and liberties due to the fact that at the household level, women have the rights to heritage succession a thing which did not exist years ago. Rwanda has specific institutions with a mandate to protect and promote Gender equality and equity; the establishment in 1999 of the law on matrimonial regimes, liberalities and successions which recognizes the right of a girl to inherit property belonging to her family (Article 50); the establishment of the organic law on the land regime in Rwanda, are aimed at ensuring land security for all land users without discrimination; the establishment of some structures to support women's economic empowerment as a means to reduce poverty and to involve women in the economy is a good practice for gender equality policy and eventually promoting the household social-economic development.

Finally 50.6% has stated that the constitution of Rwanda favor gender equality. The Government of Rwanda is found to be highly committed to the cause of gender equality and women's empowerment as demonstrated from its 2003 Constitution article 47, the approval of the National Gender Policy, the establishment of National Gender Machineries, and ratification of the CEDAW, following of the Beijing PFA, the Vision 2020 and the development of the EDPRS.

It demonstrates the Government’s commitment to combating all forms of gender inequalities in Rwanda and issues related to community development.

4.4. Gender equality factors that help improve household social development

Stylized facts indicate that women’s roles are, although restricted, in the midst of quite dramatic change around the world according to various literature reviews. Thus to assess the contribution of gender to household development the research tackles the social paradigm.

For this reason the table below provides with views of heads of households in Gasabo District on the role gender equality policy has played to improve social development of households.

Table 8: Gender equality factors that help improve household social development

Factors that improve household social development	Frequency	Percent
Solve conflict together	105	63.3
Serve the broader consensus orientated	100	60.2
Plan for desirable codes of conducts	103	62.0
Agreement on behaviors	81	48.8
Understanding each other (mutual respect)	106	63.9
Empathy	105	63.3
Social Adjustment and accountability	108	65.1

Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

With the objective of demonstrating gender equality factors that help improve social development of household in Rwanda; Illustrated in the table above a number of 63.3% has testified that they solve conflicts together, a gender equality factor that helps improve social development of household because long ago men used to take decisions without consulting their wives; a number of 60.2% has said that both men and women at household level serve the broader consensus oriented because husbands consult wives in almost all issues of household development and consider advices given; 60.2% has stated that the fact of solving internal and external conflicts together is gender equality factor that helps improve social development; 62.0% stated that both men and women plan for the desirable codes and conducts of household; 48.8% has stated that men and women agree on behaviors so they exert a form of social pressure and interact in certain way towards better social cohesion.

Also a number of 63.9% has stated that since both men and women understand each other on views and opinions on household development and promote mutual respect is a fact of gender equality and responsiveness; a number of 63.3% stated that empathy is also a gender equality factor that improves social development at household level. Due to being able to sense what each other is experiencing from their internal experience, being able to be open to partner's experience with compassion and tolerance, and the way they interact in an empathic manner deepens emotional intimacy at the household level.

Finally 65.1% has stated that social adjustment and accountability is another indicator showing gender equality at household level. The fact is that the probability of victimization has decreased accountability promoted social development; the impact involves increase in behavior of children, self-esteem and psychosocial and good mutual relationships.

4.4.1. The outcome of gender equality factors on household social development

With the need to assess the outcome of gender equality policy on social development of households in Rwanda, the research has evaluated the benefits achieved by the household as a result, social development, and the gender equality policy implementation in Rwanda. Therefore the table below presents the outcome of gender equality factors on social development of household.

Table 9: The outcome of gender equality factors on household social development

Outcome on household social development	Frequency	Percent
Improve social interaction	112	67.5
Conflict management	114	68.7
Better cohabitation	111	66.9
Promote education of children	121	72.9
Improve self esteem	97	58.4
Improve social acceptability	110	66.3

Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

Bearing in mind the benefits gender equality factors contributed to the social development of household; 67.5% has stated that gender equality factors have improved social interaction and set standards of social behavior accepted as constituent facts of social structure; 68.7% has stated that gender equality factors has infringed conflict management due to the fact that most of conflicts, were related to poor communication and social interaction as results of masculinity domination.

The table also shows 66.9% has said that gender equality has promoted better cohabitation between men and women at the household level, historically Rwandan culture ignored education for girls and women. In the table 72.9% has stated that gender equality has improved social change at household level due to the fact that girls and women have obtained access to education nowadays they are well informed and enlightened population with knowledge, skilled human resource through an effective and responsible education and training.

Furthermore, 58.4% of respondents have stated that gender equality policy has increased both women and men's self-esteem. Low self-esteem initially forced girls and women away from better academic performance and had limited opportunities for jobs after school. And finally 66.3% has stated that gender equality has improved social acceptability because various forms of discrimination that limited women and girls ability to develop capabilities have been removed.

4.5. Gender equality factors that help improve household economic development

Gender equality policy and household development assessment; the policy is assumed to have contributed to the economic development of households in Rwanda. Thus the table below provides with various paradigms showing whether households have managed to develop economically influenced by gender equality at the grass root level.

Table 10: Gender equality factors that help improve household economic development

Factors that improve household economic development	Frequency	Percent
The right to run an income generating activity	104	62.7
The right to use the income and capital	98	59.0
Participate in trade decision making at household level	126	75.9
Access to resources	78	47.0
The right to share capital	122	73.5
Mutual support to run business	105	63.3

Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

Portrayed in the table above, a number of 62.7% has stated that due to gender equality both women and men have gained rights to run income generating activities; a factor which greatly helped improve economic development of households, simply because women sometimes earn more than men due to the strong bargaining power they are believed to have. The respondents added that women are also lucky enough to secure high paying jobs.

From the table 59.0% has stated that women and men have the same rights to use household income and capital in order to start business after which they can get profit and improve the incomes of their households. Respondents testified that due to gender equality women can now ask loans from various credit scheme institutions and run income generating activities, while long ago they were not trusted to such investment.

Therefore, women increased quality of human capital inputs, which is reflected in the increased productivity of labor and other complementary inputs to the production process; growth impacts of education for girls increased efficiency in the allocation of different inputs they said.

Women these days we are very strong people I am afraid we will even be better than our husbands in the near future because we can afford doing anything as long as we have capital. We can open shops, or do modern farming in brief I thank the president of Rwanda for empowering women, (A woman respondent in semi-structured interview, 2016)

The table indicates 75.9% has stated that due to gender equality both men and women participate in trade decision making at household level and economically develop

household livelihood; a number of 47.0% stated that both men and women have access to resources as a result women's bargaining power which influence household decisions and resource allocations towards economic development of household. 73.5% stated that both men and women share the capital while a number of 63.3% stated that gender equality policy has promoted mutual support to run business actually men are proud to find they wives in business oriented areas than in household activities, they said they have peace in their homes and are economically developing.

4.5.1. The outcome of gender equality factors on economic development of household

The research has evaluated the benefits that households gained due to the economic development of households and the implementation of gender equality policy in Rwanda. Therefore the table below presents the outcome of gender equality factors on economic development of the household.

Table 11: The outcome of gender equality on economic development of household

The outcome to household economic development	Frequency	Percent
Gender equality enhances human capital	108	65.1
Gender equality fosters higher labor productivity	104	62.7
Enhanced gender equality attracts investment in physical capital	101	60.8
Undertake higher-value economic activity	111	66.9
The provision of infrastructure and household assets	115	69.3
Microeconomic stability	116	69.9
Openness to trade and investment	52	31.3
Competitive markets	110	66.3

Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

With the aim of knowing the contribution of gender equality factors on economic development of households; 65.1% has stated that both men and women are educated and run income generating activities hence gender equality has enhanced human capital at household level; a 62.7% of respondents has stated that due to gender equality policy, households have fostered higher labor productivity and human development outcomes have become important ramifications for aggregate economic performance at household level. From the table 62.7% has stated that gender equality has attracted investment in

physical since women have been receiving education, training and skills to boost economic growth that have increased the returns to physical investment, which raised investment and growth.

Furthermore 68.7% stated that gender equality factors have promoted health and education of children to enhance manpower of household. Investments to reduce gender gaps in human capital, particularly in education have enabled both men and women to be competitive on the labor market place; a number of 66.9% has stated that gender equality has economically developed household through undertaking higher value economic activity through ensuring equal access to economic resources, opportunities, and service at household and national level; a number of 69.9% said that gender equality has promoted micro economic stability because both men and women are running small and medium enterprises while women are good managers of income.

A number of 31.3% has stated that due to gender equality households have improved openness to trade and investment because both women and men are joining cooperatives, savings and credit institutions to get loans and start economic activities. In the table a number of 66.3% has stated that gender equality has improved household development through promoting a competitive market; women are given priority to investment as their counterpart men and the government has instituted financial institutions facilities. Therefore improving gender equality and increasing the entrepreneurial opportunities for women have made labor markets more competitive and increased the competitiveness of product on the markets.

4.6. Challenges that influence household social-economic development

Depicted from the above findings, it is obvious that gender equality has promoted changes in lives of households in Gasabo District. These challenges were identified in order to find solutions for them. The table below indicates the challenges that affect gender equality and hinder the success of the social-economic development of households in Rwanda.

Table 12: Challenges that influence household social-economic development

Challenges to household development	Frequency	Percent
Cultural barriers	114	68.7
Lack of reproductive health control	100	60.2
Patriarchy and discrimination	65	39.2
Lack of economic empowerment	104	62.7
Misunderstanding gender equality	95	57.2
Violence against male and female (GBV)	120	72.3
Acculturation via media outlets	46	27.7
Lack of social cohesion	107	64.5
Negative attitudes of some males	123	74.1

Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

Put in mind the aim of assessing the challenges that affect gender equality policy and hinder the progress of the social-economic development of household; 68.7% of respondents stated that cultural barriers are major challenges to successful implementation of gender equality policy at household level. The respondents believe cultural beliefs prevent the full involvement of women in the economic sphere. They added that there are some men who still view women as weak and uncompetitive people who need to stay at home and do domestic work.

In addition a number of 60.2% has argued that the lack of reproductive health control especially in rural areas is another barrier to social-economic development of household it is believed that as the woman continues to bear children the more it becomes necessary for to stay at home and take care of the children. 39.2% has stated that patriarchy and discrimination is another barrier to gender equality and stop the progress of social-economic development of household this is because some men do not allow advises of their wives and consider them ignorant.

Furthermore, a number of 62.7% has stated that poverty and lack of economic empowerment is a barrier to social-economic development and gender equality at household level; also a number of 57.2% of the respondents has stated that gender equality has been misinterpreted and misinterpreted as the one that allows women to dominate men, while men also have thought that it is a policy meant to make the submissive to their wives and this has lead to gender based violence.

Moreover, a number of 72.3% has stated that gender based violence is an important challenge to gender equality and social-economic development of the household. In fact some girls still face sex abuse and others are denied to frequent education while others are oriented in domestic works; 27.7% has stated that acculturation via media outlets has also become an important barrier to gender equality and social-economic development of households because some men and women tend to behave according to what they watch in films and media outlets which most of the time raise conflicts and mismanagement of resources in household.

Table shows a number of 64.5% of respondents has stated that the lack of social cohesion due to work-life-imbalance of women and men are a key component in the endeavor of reducing quality and productivity at work as a threat to gender equality and social-economic development of household; a number of 74.1% has stated that negative attitudes of some males is another challenge that gender equality faces which threatens social-economic development of households more still because there are some men who think that women are corrupted sexually by their employers and end up cheating on their husbands and could even abandon their homes for good, o the men prefer that they stay at home than going to work.

4.7. Homegrown solutions to overcome challenges

Home grown solutions are Rwandans' brain households' ideas to social-economic development of households through successfully implemented gender equality policy. They are suggestions and practices developed by Rwandan citizens based on local opportunities, cultural values, and historical background to fast track the social-economic development of households. They are locally created, appropriate to the local and household development context. The table below provides the views of heads of households in Gasabo District on how gender equality should therefore be understood by the community towards social-economic development of households in Rwanda.

Table 13: Home grown solutions towards social-economic development of household

Home grown solutions	Frequency	Percent
Decrease(revise) culture, norms and values that threaten gender equality	105	63.3
Raising gender equality awareness	97	58.4
Increase gender equality mobilization and sensitization	96	57.8
To enhance access to the market	108	65.1
To enhance empowerment facilities	106	63.9
Provide reproductive health information	123	74.1
Provide financial support to both male and female	91	54.8
Improve support oriented to agriculture transformation	107	64.5
Improve economic capacity building through training at the grassroots level	106	63.9
To ensure that gender dimension is systematically integrated	103	62.0
Supply-chain transformation	107	64.5
Provide training to both men and women	101	60.8

Source: Primary data, January, 2016.

With the goal of developing home grown solutions to challenges that affect successful gender equality implementation and improve household social-economic development of Rwanda; 63.3% has suggested that not only household but also the community should decrease(revise) its cultural norms and values that threaten gender equality. Even though changing culture is not as easy as amending laws because it requires a lot of sensitization and takes time respondents have proposed that reversing the current status is critical to improving the social-economic status of mainly men and women who still undergo gender based violence.

From the table a number of 58.4% has put forward raising gender equality awareness at household level in order to ensure that gender awareness is sufficiently elevated from childhood, beginning with schools and the community in general. in the same array of thoughts gender sensitiveness should insure that gender concept is part of adult education curriculum from primary level up to tertiary education level they suggested; catch up programs for both men and women who have not completed school

should be introduced, encourage vocational training skills in order to build sustainable employment capabilities at the level of household.

From this table 57.8% has suggested that all gender equality mobilisation and sensitization programs should be increased to training local leaders at the cell and village level in order to help solve gender related conflicts, explain policies during umuganda [Community work] and in other public meetings. A number of 62.0% has suggested that gender equality stakeholders should ensure that gender dimension is systematically integrated at household and community level in order to change community mindset and decrease gender stereotypes.

Since unemployment is another big factor that threatens gender equality at household level from the table 64.5% has advocate that stakeholders should join forces to reduce poverty and ensure food security in Rwanda through upgrading support oriented for agriculture transformation. They should encourage women and men to produce food for subsistence, store food surplus for the stability of household level; this will create, and sustain household livelihood and alleviate hunger and resources mismanagement. Farmers should have benefits from agriculture as this will reduce unemployment at the household level.

Furthermore, a number of 64.5% has suggested that stakeholders should increase the supply-chain transformation for local markets in order to help both men and women improve household economic conditions. Identifying how the macroeconomic benefits of gender equality could flow to the individual firms and their suppliers might stimulate private investment in it along the supply chains and especially on certain jobs and training opportunities for both men and women.

Another number of 60.8% of respondents has suggested that stakeholders should provide training to both men and women on income generating activities and cooperatives in order to ensure women and men have adequate market information to run small and medium businesses which helps improve better conditions of household; provide support in employment and training opportunities for both men and women in creating, maintaining and sustaining economic generating activities and cooperatives and reduce sex related corruption; to enhance women's and men's level of competitiveness with regard to value addition and standardization in order to run businesses and income generating activities.

A number of 63.9% of respondents has said that stakeholders should improve capacity building through training at the grass root levels in order to strengthen women's

and men's capacities to design and manage agricultural transformation activities for market oriented production [crop intensification] and strengthen agricultural cooperatives aimed at improving economic returns towards households livelihood and community welfare.

It would be better if the government help us to join cooperatives (Ibimina) due to the fact that if we find something there definitely we shall be busy and happy knowing that at the end of the month we will be able to take something at home and that way our families will not remain the same. This will even reduce the number of women involved in domestic work, (A female respondent in semi-structured interview, 2016)

A number of 74.1% has suggested that stakeholders should provide reproductive health information in order to ensure that women, men, boys and girls are provided with adequate information on reproductive (*ubuzima bwimyorokere*) health in order to reduce the effects of lack of information on household level. They should introduce the reproductive health services delivery system that is gender sensitive and easily accessible for both men and women due to the fact that the bigger household is the more women are engaged in household and forego economic activities.

An indicated in the table 63.9% suggested that stakeholders should ensure economic empowerment system encourage equal participation and benefit both men and women such as land rehabilitation schemes, economic empowerment schemes to help vulnerable men and women with knowledge and skills that will equip them with self-reliance since Rwanda is also striving for self dignity. This regards gender empowerment implies empowering both genders. Finally the table indicates 54.8% has suggested that stakeholders should provide financial support to both vulnerable and poor men and women and help them initiate income generating activities to overcome poverty.

Chapter summary

Chapter five is intended to present findings from the field. It highlights the demographic characteristics of respondents and informants, research findings on the impacts of gender equality on improving social economic development at household level in Rwanda with a case of Gasabo district. This equally important chapter contains the results to the questions found in chapter one. It therefore provides data in relation to the factors that facilitate gender equality contribute to the improvement of the social-economic

development at household level, and identifies the challenges that affect gender equality and influence social-economic development at household level.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction

This last chapter summarizes major findings from the research. It gives also the conclusion as well as recommendations for gender equality and household social-economic development of Rwanda with the case study of Gasabo District.

5.2. Summary of major findings

Gender equality is a core development objective in its own right. It is also a smart social economics. Well conducted gender equality can enhance productivity, improve development outcomes for generations to generations, and may as well improve community welfare and sustainable development of a country. The research carried out on gender equality and household Social-economic development in the case study of Gasabo District; had the general objective to: assess the impact of gender equality on improving social and economic development of households in Rwanda.

The study had several specific objectives: The first specific objective was: “To demonstrate gender equality factors that help improve social and economic development of household in Rwanda;” according to findings 63.3% respondents have testified that solving conflicts together is a gender equality factor that helps improve social development of household.

Furthermore, 60.2% has said that both men and women at household level serve the broader consensus oriented, also 60.2% has stated that the fact of solving internal and external conflicts together is a gender equality aspect that helps improve social development; again 62.0% stated that both men and women plan for the desirable codes and conducts of household; a number of 48.8% has stated that men and women agree on behaviors so they exert a form of social pressure and interact in certain way towards better social cohesion; 63.9% has stated that the fact that both men and women understand each other on views and opinions on household development and promote mutual respect is a fact of gender equality and responsiveness; 63.3% stated that empathy is also a gender equality factor that improve social development at household level; 65.1% has stated that social adjustment and accountability; is another indicator which shows gender equality at household level due to the fact that the probability of victimization has decreased and accountability has promoted social development.

On the other hand respondents provided with gender equality factors that help improve economic development of household which include, according to respondents, 59.0% has stated that women and men have the rights to use household income and capital in order to economically develop the household livelihood; 75.9% has stated that due to gender equality both men and women participate in trade decision making at household level and economically develop household livelihood; a number of 47.0% stated that both men and women have access to resources as a result women's bargaining power influence household decisions and resource allocations towards economic development of household; 73.5% stated that both men and women share capital while a number of 63.3% stated that gender equality policy promoted mutual support to run business.

Respondents have provided with outcome of the gender equality factors on improving social-economic development of household. Hence, 67.5% has stated that gender equality factors have improved social interaction and set standards of social behaviors accepted as constituent facts of social structure; 68.7% has stated that gender equality factors has infringed conflict management; 66.9% has said that gender equality has promoted better cohabitation between men and women at the household level; 72.9% has stated that gender equality has improved social change at household level due to the fact that girls and women have gotten access to education; 58.4% of respondents has stated that gender equality factor has increased both women and men self esteem; 66.3% has stated that gender equality has improved social acceptability because various forms of discrimination that limit women and girls ability to develop capabilities has been removed.

Also on the economic paradigm, 65.1% has stated that both men and women are educated and run income generating activities; 62.7% of respondents has stated that due to gender equality policy, households have fostered higher labor productivity; 62.7% has stated that gender equality has attracted investment in physical capital; 68.7% stated that gender equality factors have promoted health and education of children to enhance manpower; 66.9% has stated that gender equality fact has economically developed household through undertaking higher value economic activity; 69.9% has stated that gender equality has promoted micro economic stability; 31.3% has stated that due to gender equality households have improved openness to trade and investment; 66.3% has stated that gender equality fact has improved household development through promoting a competitive market.

The second objective was: “To provide with challenges that gender equality faces that can hump the social and economic development of household in Rwanda;”n hence results show, according to respondents, 68.7% of respondents stated that cultural barriers are major challenges to successful implementation of gender equality policy at household level; 60.2% has argued that the lack of reproductive health control more in rural areas is another barrier to social-economic development of household and the loosen of gender equality; 39.2% has stated that patriarchy and discrimination is another barrier to gender equality; 62.7% has stated that poverty and lack of economic empowerment is a barrier to social-economic development and gender equality at household level; 57.2% of respondents has stated that gender equality has been misinterpreted; 72.3% has stated that gender based violence is an important challenge to gender equality; 27.7% has stated that acculturation via media outlets has also become an important barrier to gender equality and social-economic development of households; 64.5% of respondents has stated that the lack of social cohesion due to work life imbalance of women and men are a key component in the endeavor of reducing quality and productivity at work; 74.1% has stated that negative attitudes of some males is another challenge that gender equality faces which threatens social-economic development of households.

Furthermore respondents have provided with home grown solutions to the above challenges: 63.3% has suggested that not only household but also the community should decrease culture, norms and values that threaten gender equality; 58.4% has put forward raising gender equality awareness at household level; 57.8% has suggested that gender equality mobilization and sensitization should be increased through training of local leaders at the cell and village level; 62.0% has suggested that gender equality stakeholders should ensure that gender dimension is systematically integrated at household and community level; 64.5% has advocate that stakeholders should reduce poverty and ensure food security among Rwandan community through improving support oriented to agricultural transformation.

They suggested that stakeholders should enhance women and men’s agriculture and commerce productivity for food security; 64.5% has suggested that stakeholders should increase supply chain transformation for local markets; in order to help both men and women improve household economic conditions especially identifying how the macroeconomic benefits of gender equality; 60.8% of respondents has suggested that stakeholders should provide training to both men and women on income generating

activities and cooperatives; 63.9% of respondents has said that stakeholders should improve capacity building through training at the grassroots level; 74.1% has suggested that stakeholders should provide reproductive health information; 63.9% suggested that stakeholders should ensure economic empowerment system; 54.8% has suggested that stakeholders should provide financial support to both vulnerable and poor men and women and help them initiate income generating activities to overcome poverty, starvation and poor household livelihood.

5.3. Conclusion

From the findings, gender equality has been evident at the household level and mutual understanding is improving; lack of discrimination in this sense is seen as equal status between genders. This therefore indicates the relative status of both women and men in relation to social-economic growth and development of household. However, there are still some cultural beliefs hindering the evolvement of gender equality and also affecting social economic development.

Although a number of women have trespassed household activities boundaries to social and economic activities, women's lives are more centered in the home, as reported in the distribution of responsibilities of male and female, a fact related to observed gender biases.

Important to note is that in some families' men still do not permit their wives to look for employment under the pretext that employed women cheat with their employers. Though this sometimes happens, it's not a genuine reason that should affect an entire household. Thanks to the Rwandan policies that have gone beyond such beliefs and provided employment for all gender.

The findings show considerable indicators that reveal the existence of gender equality at household level among the Rwandan community as proved by respondents in Gasabo District. These include access to land and inheritance succession for both male and female, they both have the same stake on the contribution to household development, same access to decision making and have the same access and control over resources, have the same rights, duties and responsibilities and the elimination of gender based violence among others.

These indicators have contributed to household social-economic development; both men and women have improved social interaction, solve conflict impartially and efficiently, promote education to children, improved self esteem and social acceptability; on economic side gender equality has helped both men and women access the rights to run income generating activities, rights to use income and capital, participate in trade decision making at the household level, access to resources and mutual support to run business, factors that were reserved to men only.

As an outcome towards household social-economic development, gender equality at household level has enhanced human capital, fostered higher labour productivity, attracted investment in physical capital, promoted health and education for children,

undertook higher value economic activity and promoted micro economic stability at household level among others.

Finally the findings prove that there is a good sustainable step taken forward to improve households' social-economic development in Rwanda. This step is attributed to gender equality. Thus the following are recommendations towards further successful contribution of gender equality for the sustainable household social-economic development of Rwanda.

5.4. Recommendations

The study set of concrete recommendations for the Rwandan community and the Government of Rwanda relating to gender equality and its contribution to improving social-economic development of household.

5.4.1. Recommendation to the heads households

In order to achieve sustainable household social economic development derived from gender equality, the community should:

- Ignore cultural values and norms that threaten gender equality at household and in institutions
- Promote access to reproductive health and culturally sensitive household planning;
- Maximize the economic impact of gender related investments;
- Target gender equality investments in order to leverage the greatest development benefits of household;
- Support social-economic development and implementation of integrated strategies to strengthen gender equality in both education and employment at household level;
- Invest in creating the right conditions for gender equality to lead to growth in the household.

5.4.2. Recommendations to the gender equality stakeholders

In order to achieve effective gender equality the government of Rwanda and gender equality stakeholders should:

- Encourage more efforts to promote gender responsive programs that consider home grown solutions at household level;

- Keep on strengthening both men and women's capacity at household level in various sectors for full participation in socio-economic development;
- Keep on networking especially at household level through empowering and training CNF at the local level;
- Keep on reinforcing peace, unity and reconciliation, household development and women empowerment as a key pillar to sustainable social-economic development;
- Keep on promoting gender equality at household level.

5.5. Perspectives for further research

The research has discussed the impact of gender equality on social-economic development at the level of the household; However a detailed research needs to be done on the conditions in the labor, land, credit and technology markets, there is also need for the documentation of the state of economic research on the barriers both men and women potentially face in these markets.

Chapter summary

Chapter six is intended to present the summary of major findings from the field. It highlights the major parts of the findings and provides with the conclusion as the part of the researcher's views on the study and orientates recommendations and suggestions to the gender equality stakeholders to successfully contribute to social economic development of the household in Rwanda. This chapter ramps up the entire study, giving the researchers concerns and opinions, as well as experience, and suggests further research.

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Appendices

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Kigali on 04.../03../2016

Ref. N°...16.11/07-01-02/2016



CITY OF KIGALI
GASABO DISTRICT
WEBSITE:www.gasabo.gov.rw
E-mail : gasabo_district@yahoo.com
PO Box : 7066 KIGALI

To: Mrs. Molly KAYITESI
C/O College of Arts and Social Sciences
Tel. 0788744242

RE: Your Request for the permission to conduct a research.

Dear Madam,

Reference is made to your letter dated February 20th 2016, requesting for the permission to conduct an academic research on: **"Gender and Family Development: Assessment of the impact of Gender equality on improving social economic development of families in Rwanda. A case study of Gasabo District"**;

I would like to inform you that the permission you asked for has been granted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ingabire Augustin', written over a blue rectangular stamp.

NTAGANZWA J.M. Vianney
Director of H.R & Administration

INGABIRE Augustin
Executive Secretary of Gasabo District



Cc:

-Director of Human Resources and Administration/ Gasabo District
-Director of Good Governance/ Gasabo District

KIGALI.

Questionnaire orientated to heads of households

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCES
MASTER'S OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

December, 2015

Dear respondents

I am a student from the School of Social, Political and Administrative Sciences in the Master's of Arts in Development Studies; I am carrying a research entitled:

**« GENDER EQUALITY AND HOUSEHOLD SOCIAL-ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT A case of Gasabo District»**

You are kindly requested to assist me generously in answering questions asked in deliberate manner. Questions are asked for research reasons nothing else is behind and I ensure that responses that you provide will always be kept confidential.

Thanks a lot for your contribution

Yours Faithfully,

Molly KAYITESI

INSTRUCTIONS

Please put a tick mark (✓) reflecting your response or opinion and suggestion.

Identification of Respondent

1. Sex of the respondent

a) Male

b) Female

2. Education level

a) None

b) Primary level

c) Secondary level

d) Diploma level

e) Bachelor's degree

f) Master's degree

g) TVET degree

h) Others

3. Age of the respondent

a) Under 21

b) 22-35

c) 36-55

d) Beyond 55

4. Profession

01: Farmer and breeder, **02:** Public servant, **03:** Private servant, **04:** unemployed, **05:** self employment, **06:** Others (specify.....)

5. Members of household?

Under 3 members

Between 4 and 6 members

Beyond 7 members

6. What is your Ubudehe classification?

01: Umutindinyakujya (Abject poverty), **02:** Umutindi (the very poor), **03:** Umukene (the poor), **04:** Umukenewifashije (the resourceful poor), **05:** Umukungu (the food rich), **06:** Umukire (the money rich)

7. Gender Equality Perception Related Questions

a) What are benchmarks that demonstrate gender equality at household level?

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.....
.....

b) To what extent do you appreciate gender equality responsiveness to the level of household

More effective

Effective

Less effective

Ineffective

Explain your answer

.....
.....
.....

8. Gender roles at household level

a) What is the distribution of responsibilities of a man at household level?

.....
.....

b) What is the distribution of responsibilities of a woman at household level?

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.....
.....

c) To what extent do women have a stake on expenditure decision making at household level?

Very Great extent

Great extent

Small extent

Very small extent

Explain your view

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.....
.....

d) What are strengths of a man at household level?

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.....
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e) What are weaknesses of a man at household level?

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f) What are strengths of a woman at household level?

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.....
.....

g) What are weaknesses of a woman at household level?

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.....

9. Laws that value gender equality at household level

a) What are laws that favour gender equality at household level?

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10. Gender equality and social development

a) What are gender equality factors that help improve household social development?

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b) What is the outcome of gender equality on household social development?

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11. Gender equality and household economic development

a) What are gender equality factors that help improve household economic development?

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- b) What is the outcome of gender equality on household economic development?

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12. Challenges gender equality faces that affect household social-economic development

- a) What are challenges that gender equality faces which affect household social-economic development?

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.....
.....

13. Suggestions towards household social-economic development through gender equality

- a) What can you suggest in order to help gender equality contribute to household social-economic development in general?

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.....
.....

Thank you for your contribution