



WIC NEWS

The monthly Bulletin of the
Women's Information Centre

WOMEN'S INFORMATION
CENTRE

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FROM WIC'S MANAGEMENT



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"Institutional Strengthening
of the Ministry of Commu-
nity Development, Gender
and Children"

ISSUES**PROPER UPBRINGING TO THE FAMILY IS
IMPORTANT.**

The Vice President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has said that proper upbringing in family is very important to the community and also to the stable nation for the development.

Hon Shein revealed this during the climax of International Family day at Lake Tanganyika stadium in Kigoma region, and added that lack of upbringing to the youth and children would adopt outdated foreign values.

He said that by children following the foreign traditional values the community will be destroyed by values, so the problems caused by the family is causing children to be affected in their background, and the children will grow without knowing the importance of their family.

He further pointed out that lack of good environment caused by misunderstanding in the family, is causing children to move from one place to another and causing them to become the street children, and involving themselves in child labour instead of going to school in order to get education which will help them in their future.

The Vice President stressed that our children are affected by not having their rights of living, developed, protected and to participate without being segregated, in the issues of their social development as children and human beings.

In her welcoming remarks, the Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children Hon Dr Asha- Rose Migiro said that since independence Tanzanian government formulate government policies which will create an enabling environment for its citizens to achieve socio-economic development

She said that the aim of commemorating ten years of International family day is to strengthen the family as the source of development. Other important things is to bring gender equality and equity, to respect human rights of the family and to plan about the chronic diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS which mostly affects community at high level.

The Tenth Anniversary is an auspicious moment for celebration as well as dedication, for serious reflection as well as novel creativity, for building capacity as well as giving expression to an integrated perspective on the family. Finally, it is a call to the global community to further a culture of partnership and patterns of cooperation that have proved important since 1994".

The International Day of Families provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families as well as to promote appropriate action. The day becomes a powerful mobilizing factor on behalf of families in all countries, which avail themselves of this opportunity and demonstrate support of family issues appropriate to each." This year's theme is family is the core of development."

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AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN TANZANIA POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

ISSUES

Tanzania is among the six countries that have constitutionalised affirmative action in Eastern and Southern Africa. Apart from constitutional guarantee of affirmative action, various legislations and policies contain affirmative action provisions. Among such laws are, The constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, Local Government (Urban Authorities) Act, and Local Government (district authorities) Act, both of 1982, Employment ordinance cap 366, The Education Act of 1979, The law of marriage Act, 1971, the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act, 1998 and the Land Acts of 1999. The policy on Women and Gender Development acknowledges existence of affirmative action provisions in the constitution as well as in local government.

The policy however notes that the 20% and 33% of special seat in parliaments as well as in local government is still small and it provides for four strategies of ensuring participation of women in development. In 1984 the United Republic of Tanzania constitution, incorporated bill of rights. Article 13 of the constitution recognizes equality of all human beings. It also provides for protection and guarantee equality of all before the law without any discrimination.

These articles are the one which promulgate the rule of law principle which calls for every person to be treated alike by the law itself and that the law should not be made to benefit a particular section of the society nor to disadvantage another. In its 13th amendment, the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania in year 2000 adopted a new sentence under articles 13(5) on the meaning of discrimination. The word "**Gender**" was added, to mean that a person should not be discriminated on the basis of his or her sex.

In Articles 66 to 83 of the constitution provide for categories, qualifications and tenure of office for members of parliament, the electoral commission and its responsibility. Under article 66 (b) special seats of women are provided. The number has been raised since they year 2000 from not less than 15%, to not less than 20% and not more than 30%.

Two qualifications have been provided by the constitution under article 67 (1) for one to be a member of parliament, firstly a person has to be a citizen of the United Republic of Tanzania, who has attained the age of 21 years, and that he/she can read and write in Kiswahili and English, and secondly that he/she is a member of a candidate proposed by political party.

In the local government Acts, of 1982, the constitution also provides for the establishment of local Government Authorities in the United Republic of Tanzania. City Municipal and Town Councils are established under the local Government (Urban Authorities) Act, 182 while district and village council are established under the local government (District Authorities) Act, 1982.

The 1992 amendments of these acts opened up for parties to participate in the election of councilors. The lowest level of people's participation is at the village level. Through a membership of a party one can contest for the seat of councilors at ward level, or representation at village council. At ward and village level, 1/3 of the seat is reserved for women. Women have to be members of the political parties to be able to contest for special seats.

In the law marriage Act of 1971 states that, the Act combines and harmonizes all forms of marriages in Tanzania i.e. customary and religious marriages in terms of marriage, divorce and division of matrimonial assets upon divorce. The Act to a greater extent through harmonizing these procedures has done away with customary and religious procedures, which were biased and discriminative to women. Section 60 of this law recognizes women's interest in property acquired during the pendency of marriage. In terms of employment, the Employment Ordinance, which was amended in 1975, did provide for maternity leave all women regardless of their marital status, married or unmarried, section 25 provides for full payment to female employee on maternity leave, provided that the leave is taken at the interval of three years.

Education remains the best preparation for leadership. We cannot address gender imbalances in politics, or the civil service or private business without first dealing with the question of education for women. Affirmative actions in the past enabled the Tanzanian government to narrow the gap between boys and girls in primary and secondary schools. Enrollment of primary education in Tanzania is compulsory, and non-compliance attracts punishment under the 1978 education Act. However girls have lower enrolment level in secondary- public schools and the gender disparity increases at the high school and university level. The number of girls enrolment at the University of Dar es salaam increased in 1970s and early 80s due to affirmative action policy.

Ctn/..**ISSUES**

For example of one such policy was the "Musoma Resolution of 1974" whereby girls were allowed to go straight to University and institution of higher learning after their national service, while boys were required to work for a period of two years after finishing their national service before they could join the higher learning institutions.

In 1998 a law known as the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act, 1998 was enacted with the aim of amending several written laws, and making special provisions in those laws with regard to sexual and other offences for purposes of safeguarding the personal integrity, dignity and security and security of women and children. In this law among other things introduced new offences under the penal code, cap 16 of the laws.

New offences including sexual harassment, female genital mutilation to girls under 18 years and statutory rape has been introduced or re- defined. Compensation to the victim in cases of sexual offence has been introduced. Minimum sentences in most of the offences e.g. rape, attempted rape, trafficking of persons etc, have been introduced or increased. In 1999 two laws were enacted to provide for management, and administration of land, dispute settlement and related matters. These are village Land Act No. 5 of 1999 and Land Act. No. 4 of 1999. Both laws under section 3(2) provide for equal treatment of women and men acquiring, holding, using and dealing with land as one of the fundamental principles of the land policy.

The Acts also provides for involvement of women as appointed and elected members of bodies dealing with land management, administration and dispute settlement. The village land Act, No. 5 provides for equal presentation of women and men in land dispute settlement machinery at village level. Despite the progress made in ensuring participation of women in public, through affirmative action, there still exist some bottlenecks, which prevents them in participating effectively. Among there are, the legal framework and the organizational structure of political parties.

Apart from the constitution guaranteed special seats for parliamentarians, councilors and village council, the constitution is silent on other political posts. For example, Article 66 (1) gives power to the president to appoint ten members of parliament who do not need to belong to any political party. They are appointed because of their expertise and social representation. The constitution however is silent on the number of percentage of women who the president must appoint. Apart from the constitution being silent, no legislation or government policy, which provides for mandatory affirmative action in appointments.

During the election campaign, a woman candidate is expected to be `awash with cash` to be able to compete equally with men or other candidates who have got money. The law authorizes candidates/political parties/agents to do door to door canvassing. The candidate is allowed to visit house to house at his/her own convenience. The current amendments have added a new section in the election laws whereby the candidate is also allowed to entertain his/her voters with food i.e. hospitality are unavoidable. In the year 2000 elections some candidates were alleged of corrupt practices in the election campaigns under the pretext of "hospitality". Women are known to be poorer than men. Having such a law that allows door to door canvassing and hospitality, or entertainment affords opportunity for those candidates with money to take the advantage.

Deposit of fees for filing election petitions is another barrier for women to attempt to campaign for political post. Such fees do not only discourage women but also income earners, from participating in election. Under such circumstances women have to consider between depositing the amount required and engage in election campaign, or providing food and other necessities to their families.

The country has made some strides towards gender equity since independence. The constitution has set a structure for participation of women through affirmative action. The local government has followed suit, and ensured affirmative action to the lowest level i.e. at the village. Various legislations and policies have provided for affirmative action and it is most likely that those to come will follow suit. The task remains to political parties also to ensure affirmative action is embodied and or strengthened in their constitutions, to give opportunity to women to participate fully in decision-making

Critical review of policies and legislation is vital purposes of mainstreaming gender. Moreover compliance of government with constitutional provision on affirmative action is necessary. The current number of women members of parliament is around 21%, this number is still small compared to targeted number of 30% by the year 2005. But President Benjamin Mkapa recently when addressing members of the parliament in Dodoma disclosed that he intends to increase the number of women parliamentarians to 30 percent before he leaves the office next year.

DEPUTY MINISTER ATTENDS GLOBAL SUMMIT ON WOMEN IN SEOUL.

THE MINISTRY

The Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children, Ms Shamim Parker Khan was in Seoul, South Korea to attend an annual Global Women Summit. Hon Khan joined other 54 ministers and deputy ministers responsible for women affairs around the world to the summit under the theme "Promoting Women's Economic Development through Sustainable Development". The deputy minister Hon Khan got an opportunity to exchange experiences on best practices in the co-operation between the public and private sector in enhancing women's economic development.

During the summit, Hon Khan explained efforts by the Tanzanians government in promoting women's economic development through technology and said that Tanzania like many other developing countries in the world is determined to formulate government policies which will create an enabling environment for its citizens to achieve socio-economic development.

Hon Khan further pointed out that among existing policies which are linked to women's economic development include Women and Gender Development Policy of year 2000, the sustainable Industrial Development Policy of 1996, the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) of 2003, the Agriculture and Livestock Policy of 1997, all such policies in one way or the other do mention the government's strategies to support women's efforts in implementing economic activities.

Hon Khan mentioned such strategies as training of women in order to develop their skills and acquire the necessary knowledge required to implement their economic activities, establishment of credit schemes public and private for women such as Women's Development Fund (WDF), FINCA, and PRIDE TANZANIA and encourage women to establish Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS). It is envisaged that the prosperity of various SACCOS will ultimately lead to the establishment of a Women's Bank.

Other strategies Hon Khan mentioned are to encourage women to promote their business through participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and advertisement through the mass media. Others are creating awareness of the importance of good health and minimize the spread of deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria as well as the decrease of mortality rates of children and women.

She said that the government is encouraging women where practicable to use ICTs so as to acquire more knowledge, information and technological changes occurring globally. Currently, computers and their related parts and components are imported free of tax in order to encourage more citizens to buy and use computers.

Other experiences mentioned by Hon Khan is establishment and improve gender focal points in all sectors in the country to facilitate acquisition and adaptation of technologies through joint ventures as well as enhance networking between research and development institutions and small medium enterprises.

Meanwhile the President of Pan African Parliament, Ms Gertrude Mongella has been awarded "The Global Women Summit. The award received by Ms Mongella was in recognition of her contribution to enhance women's status in Africa.

***"Tanzanians
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Ctn/

THE MINISTRY

Ms Mongela said that she highly appreciated the honour but insisted that the award was for all Tanzanians and she was just the facilitator. She said the importance of the award does not lie on the value of the trophy itself but rather on the recorded achievement to promote the status of women in the continent. The Global Summit of Women, known also as the "Davos Forum for Women", was held in Seoul, Korea for three days to discuss the ways of enhancing women economic role under the theme "Leadership, Technology and Growth".

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Tanzanian delegation was represented in the meeting by the Minister of State, President's Office, Public Service Management, Dr Mary Nagu, Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children, Ms Shamim Khan, and a member of Parliament Women Special seats (CCM) Ms Salome Mbatia.

The meeting drew participants represented governments, Non-Governmental Organizations, and a business community from 84 countries. For the first time in the history of the ten years old Global Summits, women delegates from Iraq and Afghanistan were also present.

The objective of the summit was to share experiences on how governments have faired in improving women's economic development through Information Technology. The event has been running for 11 consecutive years since Beijing International Women conference. The award was given out for the first time to a female leader Ms Gertrude Mongella from Tanzania.

HUNTING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

THE MINISTRY

A scholarship is a monetary award based on academic merit or excellence in an area to which the award pertains. It is a form of financial assistance which does not require repayment or employment.

How to Start...

Where should I look?

Do some online research. Take advantage of free online scholarship searches, such as www.fastweb.com. Also check out the home pages for the colleges you want to attend; they may have information on scholarships.

Search your community. Ask the organizations in your local area if they offer college scholarships. Visit different embassies like SIDA SAREC, CARNEG, NORAD, DANIDA etc; big private companies and government aid.

Talk to your career master/mistress. They should have access to your academic record. Ask them about private and corporate sponsorships for which you may qualify.

What can I do to prepare?

Make a list. Focus on deadlines. List the scholarships with the earliest deadlines and give them first priority.

Financial information. Search on different sources on financial information like newsletters, magazines, internet and private sponsors. Do not hesitate to try to ask for financial aid wherever you see there is an opportunity. Explain yourself, about the course duration and the cost.

How should I prepare the essay?

Make an outline. Depending on the essay questions, pick one main theme and select three ideas that support your theme. Make sure your essay meets the length requirement.

Show, don't tell. Use specifics instead of generalities. It will make your essay more memorable.

Check spelling and grammar. Many selection committees will automatically reject applications with misspelled words and grammatical errors. Have somebody to read for you.



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