GENDER IMBALANCE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES IN TANZANIA: THE CASE OF DODOMA MUNICIPALITY

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ABSTRACT

This aim of this paper is to identify and assess the underlying factors sustaining the prevalence of gender imbalance in the leadership of Local government authorities (LGA) in Tanzania. A sample size of 100 respondents, were selected using the stratified random method. Data were collected through questionnaire survey, interviews and secondary data were obtained through document reviews. The quantitative data were analyzed using Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS) and the qualitative data from focus group discussion and interviews were analyzed by content analysis technique. The study found the patriarchal system of African cultural altitude significantly contributes to the negative attitude towards women in socio-economic development activities and in decision making resulting in the prevalence of the problem. The study concludes that, gender imbalance in the selection process of governance cannot be eradicated without the combined efforts of the media, social institutions, business groups, trade unions, civic associations and voluntary groups and Non-Governmental organization (NGOs) and, in order to ensure gender balance in Tanzania, strong measures and viable initiatives should be relentlessly implemented over a long period of time.

*Keywords*: Gender, Politics, Local Government, Patriarchal System, Tanzania