



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMERCE, HUMAN SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

QUALIFICATION: BACHELOR OF COMMUNICATION	
QUALIFICATION CODE: 07BCMM	LEVEL: 6
COURSE CODE: GCO621S	COURSE NAME: GENDER COMMUNICATION
SESSION: JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023	PAPER: 1 OF 1
DURATION: 3 HOURS	MARKS: 80
SECOND OPPORTUNITY/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAM PAPER	
EXAMINER(S)	DR. W. NJUGUNA MR. T. MATENGU
MODERATOR:	DR. M. MHENE

INSTRUCTIONS
ANSWER <u>THREE</u> QUESTIONS ONLY. QUESTION <u>ONE (1)</u> IS COMPULSORY
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Write clearly and neatly2. Read all questions carefully3. Number the answers clearly

THIS ASSIGNMENT CONSISTS OF 4 PAGES
(Including this cover page)

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

QUESTION 1

Gender Equality

[30 marks]

Read the story below entitled, *Namibia a leader in gender equality*. In view of our understanding of the world where primarily it has been from a male perspective and women's voices are not heard, do the following:

- Write a summary of the story in not less than 250 words, highlighting five (5) key points that stand out for you from the story and explain why the points stand out for you. (10 marks)
- With at least four examples and in view of what was learnt in class and what you know is listed in the *National Gender Policy (2010-2020)*, discuss how this story affects Namibia's profile both locally and internationally. (20 marks)

Namibia a leader in gender equality

News - National | 2019-12-06 Page no: 6



NAMIBIA leads the continental pack on gender equality, the recently launched Africa Gender Index (AGI) report shows.

The country is one of only three states on the continent ranked in the top ten across the overall AGI score, based on three main indicator areas.

The African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Uneca) jointly launched the AGI report at the fourth Global Gender Summit hosted in Kigali, Rwanda, last week.

The index measures parity between men and women across three specific dimensions, namely economic, social, and representation and empowerment.

by Arlana Shikongo

“The index focuses on measuring gender inequalities in key capabilities for elementary 'functioning', without which other aspects of human progress would be difficult to attain,” the report states. According to this report, Namibia has achieved 79,67% gender equality, which translates to an AGI score of 0,797. The AGI is scored out of 1, where a score of 1 represents parity between women and men.

The economic dimension assesses the equality of economic opportunities, labour market participation, wages and incomes, business ownership and access to productive resources. The social dimension measures areas such as access to and level of education, as well as health services. Lastly, the representation and empowerment dimension looks at the extent to which women and men participate in the country's decision-making processes, politics and government. Namibia scores well across all three dimensions.

Over the last few years, the country has been celebrated globally for its strides towards gender parity in various sectors. As recently as December 2018, Namibia received the *African Gender Award* from the 'Gender is My Agenda Campaign' (Gimac) steering committee. The committee especially punctuated the country's promotion of women's representation in key decision-making positions, as demonstrated by its parliament being 46% women. This is in line with the conceptual 'zebra list' that the country introduced in its efforts toward achieving the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development which aims for 50/50 representation in the government and politics.

This representation contributes to Namibia's third place ranking in the AGI report's empowerment and representation dimension. It scored 0,494 here. It is surpassed by Rwanda, which scored 0,626 and South Africa, which scored 0,621. Rwandan women are constitutionally required to hold at least 30% of elected positions, and 61% of their parliament is made up of women. Furthermore, 50% of the country's ministerial positions are filled by women, and four of the seven supreme court justices are women. "Countries such as Rwanda, South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, and Uganda have taken deliberate steps through legislation and quotas to increase the number of women in political positions. [...] The global evidence shows that greater diversity amongst decision-makers matters," the report observes.

Even then, with a gender gap of 50,6% in this dimension, it is evident that Namibia still has exceptional strides to make. In the economic dimension, the country ranks fifth, with a score of 0,792. It is preceded by Botswana, which scores 0,832, Seychelles (0,832), the Central African Republic (0,811) and Madagascar (0,795).

In the social dimension, the country ranks first, obtaining an AGI score of 1,294. It is closely followed by Lesotho, which scores 1,281, and Mauritius, which scores 1,223.

The report reveals that Africa has an average score of 48,6%, with the continental scores ranging between 24% and 79,7%. This indicates that the continent experiences a 51,4% gender gap. Southern Africa has a gender equality score of 61,3%, the highest on the continent. Northern and eastern Africa score 51,8%, while western and central Africa score the lowest with 43,7% and 42,18%, respectively.

At the launch event of the report, chief of gender equality and women's empowerment at the African Centre for Gender, Ngone Diop stated that while the nation has made strides, it is far from achieving gender equality. "When it comes to the African continent, there is a lack of a very comprehensive, contextualised index that could actually help African countries measure the progress they're making in implementing the regional and global gender equality and women's empowerment commitments," she said. The index will be published every two years.

In her foreword, the director of the gender, women and civil society department at the African Development Bank, Vanessa Mounzar, writes that the loss from gender inequalities is tremendous for continental wealth and each country's economic performance. This is affirmed by the 'Power of Parity in Africa' report, which was also launched at the gender summit. The report states that Africa could add US\$316 billion or 10% to its total gross domestic product by 2025 if all countries matched the progress towards gender equality of their best-performing neighbour. The 'Power of Parity in Africa' report, prepared by The McKinsey Global Institute, provides a better sense of the countries' more socio-economic shortcomings, as it takes a closer look at the potential boost to economic growth that could come from accelerating progress towards gender equality.

In this report, Namibia achieved a parity score of 0,72. On this scale, South Africa ranks higher with a gender parity score of 0,76. However, the report revealed that Namibia still experiences comparatively high inequality when it comes to who holds leadership positions in the workplace, financial inclusion of women, and violence against women. These indicators are ranked in comparison to global statistics.

<https://www.namibian.com.na/196119/archive-read/Namibia-a-leader-in-gender-equality>

SECTION B

CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS ONLY FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 2

Sexual Assault

[25 marks]

In attempting to prevent sexual assault, educators, organizations, and others have often targeted women, focusing on teaching them how to police their own behaviour (e.g., do not go out alone, do not dress too provocatively). In view of this assertion, explain the following:

- a) Why would feminists criticise this approach? (10 marks)
- b) What is a more effective approach and why? (15 marks)

QUESTION 3**National Gender Policy (2010-2020)****[25 Marks]**

In the Namibia *National Gender Policy (2010-2020)*, point 4.2 on *Gender, Education and Training*, the policy objective for this point is: Reduce gender inequalities in education, improve school completion rates for girls and increase women's access to vocational training, science and technology.

Part 1

- a) With at least three examples and what you have learnt in the course, explain how you understand the above policy. (6 marks)
- b) To your knowledge and with at least three examples to support your answer, has this objective been achieved or not achieved? (9 marks)

Part 2

Two of the 18 broad strategies under this policy are mentioned below:

- I. Strive for balanced male-female participation rates in pre-primary-, primary-, secondary- and tertiary education, especially for the most disadvantaged and marginalised groups.
- II. Eliminate gender disparities in access to all areas of pre-primary, primary-, secondary- and tertiary education, by ensuring that as of early schoolyears and continuously, both girls and boys, men, and women, shall have access to career guidance, training, bursaries, and loans.

With at least two examples, extensively provided for each strategy, explain:

- a) How you understand the above two strategies (3 marks)
- b) With examples, explain if you think they have been attained and if not, how you think they can be attained. (7 marks)

QUESTION 4**Gendered Media****[25 marks]**

Based on your knowledge of gendered media, provide an extensive analysis of the following statement: *“Media stereotypes of black women simultaneously reflect and distort both the ways in which black women view themselves (individually and collectively) and the ways in which they are viewed by others”.* (Hudson, 1998, p. 249)

END OF EXAM