



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 2024	PAPER: 1 OF 1
DURATION: 3 HOURS	MARKS: 80
SECOND OPPORTUNITY/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAM PAPER	
EXAMINER(S)	DR. W. NJUGUNA
MODERATOR:	DR. M. MHENE

INSTRUCTIONS
ANSWER <u>THREE</u> QUESTIONS ONLY. QUESTION <u>ONE (1)</u> IS COMPULSORY
1. Write clearly and neatly
2. Read all questions carefully
3. Number the answers clearly

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

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

QUESTION 1

Women's Rights in Namibia

[30 marks]

Read the story below entitled, *The Progress of Women's Rights in Namibia*. 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 not more than 300-word summary of the story, 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/discussed in class and what you know is listed in the *National Gender Policy (2010-2020)*, forthcoming elections etc, discuss how this story affects Namibia's profile both locally and internationally and how the country can address the shortcomings. [20 marks]

The Progress Of Women's Rights In Namibia



The Southern African country of Namibia is taking significant steps to ensure gender equality. The Namibian constitution has focused heavily on reparations for women's rights, specifically recognizing the discrimination females have faced. Namibia currently has in place more than 90% of the legal framework to promote gender equality. These efforts at advancing women's rights in Namibia have paid off: Namibia ranked eighth out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2022 in terms of gender equality, with a score of 80.7, standing as one of just two African countries placing in the top 10.

A Closer Look at the Global Gender Gap Report 2022

Though Namibia's 2022 ranking is noteworthy, the country has actually dropped rankings, moving from sixth place in 2021 to eighth place in 2022. In the area of Economic Participation and Opportunity, Namibia has slightly regressed, moving from 19th place to 20th place. In Education Attainment, Namibia has notably progressed from 34th place to 30th. The country ranks the same as last year in terms of Political Empowerment (19th) but excels in Health and Survival, ranking first in both 2021 and 2022.

The World Bank's Women, Business and Law index, which measures how laws impact female economic participation and progress, has scored Namibia a high 86.3 out of 100 in 2021, which is higher than the average score in sub-Saharan Africa.

The above report says, "When it comes to laws affecting women's decisions to work, laws affecting women's pay, constraints related to marriage, gender differences in property and inheritance and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, Namibia gets a perfect score." In terms of improvements, the report says, "When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's work after having children and constraints on women's starting and running a business, Namibia could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women."

Education and Other Indicators

According to the Global Gender Gap Report, in terms of educational attainment, Namibia ranks first in terms of enrolment in primary education and tertiary education, but there are no gender parity outcomes listed for secondary education. However, data from the World Bank indicates that the gross secondary school enrolment rate for girls in Namibia improved since 1990 and stood at 70% in 2007. For males, this rate was lower, standing at 61% in 2007.

The report also notes that Namibia has never had a female head of state and females hold just 14% of seats in the upper house of parliament. According to data from U.N. Women, the number of employed women in Namibia living under the international poverty line exceeds that of men (10.7% versus 7.7%). Additionally, in the adult population, females account for more than 70% of those experiencing severe food insecurity.

Sister Namibia

Sister Namibia is a local organization working toward upholding women's rights and empowering females in Namibia by "amplifying women's voices." The organization was founded in 1989 in Windhoek, Namibia, and has raised awareness on matters impacting women and other marginalized groups through its publications.

Sister Namibia's focal areas are law and justice, gender-based violence and harassment, health and wellness, education and employment, among others. Sister Namibia also involves itself in and publicizes key events aimed at upholding human rights. Through its work, Sister Namibia hopes to spur change.

The organization's publications provide pertinent information about the updates of women while building a community for women to share their stories and art. Sister Namibia has supported women's rights in Namibia for more than 30 years and provides important resources and services Namibian women can utilize for assistance in several areas, such as mental health.

Looking Ahead

Namibia's implementation of its first national action plan on women, peace and security, which is to run from 2019 to 2024, stands as one of the frameworks ensuring advancements in women's rights. Doreen Sioka, Namibia's minister of gender equality, says Namibia aims to reach gender parity in the country's 2024 elections.

Namibia has seen much progress in the area of women's rights. And with continued efforts and commitments, women's rights in the country can strengthen even further.

– Kathryn Kendrick <https://borgenproject.org/womens-rights-in-namibia/>

SECTION B

CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS ONLY FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 2

Gendered Media

[25 marks]

"Social networks can be—and too often are—used for *cyberbullying*, which includes text messages, comments, rumours, embarrassing pictures, videos, and fake profiles that are meant to hurt another person and are circulated through email or social media. Social networking sites such as Facebook have not done much to develop anti-bullying policies; in fact, they encourage subscribers to give up privacy (Bazelon, 2013). According to a recent report, 25% of young women report being stalked or harassed online, and even more, 43% report being cyberbullied (Women's Media Center, 2015). For LGBTQ teens the percentage is even higher: 53% (Burney, 2012)..” (In *Gendered Lives*, 2019, p.239)

Based on your knowledge of gendered media, use of social media etc,

- a) Provide an extensive analysis of the above statement, providing at least four local examples of well-known cyberbullying cases in Namibia (some of which we discussed in class) and how they can be addressed, resolved as well as avoided. **[10 marks]**
- b) Think of the ways that you personally use social media – be it *WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Telegram, Tinder* etc. Explain with at least three examples, how you would use social media to shape positive use of it. **[15 marks]**

QUESTION 3

Feminism, Patriarchy and Three Waves of Feminism

[25 marks]

In view of what you learnt in class on Feminism, Patriarchy and Three Waves of Feminism, do the following:

- a) Discuss the concepts of feminism and patriarchy. **[15 marks]**

- b) There are three waves of feminism. Highlight the major injustices that the third wave sought to address. [10 marks]

QUESTION 4

Gender in a Transitional Era

[25 marks]

“You probably don’t subscribe to your grandparents’ ideals of manhood and womanhood. You may believe that people of all sexes and genders should be able to pursue careers and that both should be involved in homemaking and family life. You are probably not surprised when a woman knows how to change a tire or when a man cooks a good meal. Yet, if you’re like most of your peers, there are also a number of gender issues about which you feel conflicted.” (In *Gendered Lives*, 2019, p.17)

Based on your knowledge of gender in the course, do the following:

- a. With examples, provide an extensive analysis of the above statement. [10 marks]
- b. Think of at least five ways that you were (or still are) personally conflicted about gender issues. Explain what the conflicting issues are and how you have (or will) deal with them going forward [15 marks].

END OF EXAM – BEST OF LUCK