

The Implications of Gender-Based Violence on Access to Land for Rural Women's Empowerment in Patrilineal Societies in Tanzania

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ABSTRACT

Gender-based violence has attracted global attention due to its effects on communities, as it promotes gender inequality and discrimination, especially in matters related to land ownership. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the systems underlying access to land and ownership of assets have continually been a topic of debate owing to the systematic exclusion of women, which culminates in GBV. Though different strategies, programmes and policies for eradicating gender-based violence are in place, women still suffer discrimination when it comes to accessing and owning land. Numerous studies have examined the gender gap in firm performance indicators that characterise sales and employment growth, but little is known about how gender-based violence affects women's access to and ownership of land in the patrilineal societies of sub-Saharan Africa. This chapter analyses the implications of gender-based violence on women's access to land in the patrilineal societies of rural Tanzania. The findings presented in this chapter are based on data that were gathered by using the desk review research method. The chapter establishes that women still face gross discrimination when it comes to issues pertaining to land rights despite the enabling policy environment that exists in the country. Various factors promote gender-based violence, which in turn limits women's access to land. These factors are grouped into physical, socio-cultural, and individual characteristics. The chapter offers new insights into the key factors for gender-based violence which limit women's access to assets. Then it illuminates policy options for the best practices in enhancing women's wellbeing and empowerment in Tanzania.

Keywords: Gender inequality; gender-based violence; land resource; patrilineal societies, women empowerment

1. Introduction

Promoting gender equality in access to land and ownership of assets is globally recognised as essential for sustainable development. In sub-Saharan Africa, the systems that define access to land and ownership of assets have continually been under debate because they warrant the exclusion of women (Muperere et al., 2021; Dlamini, 2021), hence being the basis of Gender-based violence (GBV) against women. GBV is the ferocity directed towards an individual on account of gender. It encompasses acts that impose physical, emotional, mental, or sexual suffering or harm, threats of such acts, coercion, and other liberty deprivations (Dlamini, 2021). It is a global concern since it has implications for people's economic, social, psychological, and political well-being (Davies & True, 2024; Iyanda et al., 2021). Violence is regarded as gendered because it is committed against others just because they are women. Gender-based violence is not acceptable since it is

a violation of human rights, which ruins the lives of women. It is a phenomenon that traverses cultures, nations, religions, and classes. Although violence against women is considered a crime against humanity in many nations, it has remained persistent (Davies & True, 2024; WHO, 2022; Iyanda et al., 2021).

GBV refers to any harmful act committed against an individual on the basis of gender differences. It includes acts of force (physical or verbal) directed at an individual to inflict bodily or mental harm on him/her and perpetuate subordination (Murhula et al., 2021). The term also refers to the scopes within which violence against women occurs (Nkya, 2020). According to literature, GBV takes different forms such as sexual assault, rape, forced marriage, physical assault, and denial of opportunities, resources, or services (economic) and emotional or psychological abuse as different forms of GBV (Ajibefun et al., 2021; Murhula et al., 2021). The meaning of GBV has recently been extended to include acts that result from unequal power relations between women and men, especially in matters that have to do with ownership of resources, including land. This chapter addresses the economic form of GBV, focusing on its impact on women's access to and control of land. In Africa, the mentioned form of GBV results from gender inequality between women and men in the ownership of resources, including land. In patrilineal societies of Africa, GBV has proved persistent, as family properties are primarily under men's control (Edwards-Jauch, 2022). In these societies, women are deprived of the right to inherit land and other properties as individuals, such that they can only inherit them through their spouses (Mhango and Matemba, 2024). The denial of women from inheriting or accessing land has many negative effects on societies, including a perpetual increase in gender inequality and masculinity (Dlamini, 2021). While they are denied the right to inherit land and other family properties, women contribute more to household food security than men do (Bapolisi et al., 2021), which means that they are the main breadwinners, especially in rural families (Hasan et al., 2021; Ibnouf & Ibnouf, 2020; Singh & Helms, 2020). Therefore, denying them the right to access and own land counts among the GBV issues that are detrimental to the well-being of the entire humanity.

In Tanzania, just like in most African societies, GBV is perpetrated under the patriarchal ideology, a social apparatus which puts women under men's subordination by giving men power and ownership of resources, including land, while keeping women powerless and without ownership rights (Maliganya & Kalinga, 2023). Tanzania is one of the least developed countries, where gender inequality in land access due to GBV is prevalent. The major causal factors include social and financial inequities and gender norms that give men privilege over women, making it imperative to reorganise the systems that define access to land if the nation is to combat discrimination (Popoola et al., 2023; Djurfeldt, 2020; Lusasi & Mwaseba,

2020). This is important because depriving women of such rights means keeping over half of the national population underprivileged and economically powerless.

Given the prevalence of GBV in the patrilineal societies of Africa, some efforts, including establishing policies and programmes within governments and Non-Governmental and Faith-Based Organisations, such as churches and mosques, have been implemented to combat it in many African countries (Magezi & Manzanga, 2020). Other efforts include the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995; the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development of 1997 (Ngaiza & Omari, 2022), and the 2003 Maputo Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. In Tanzania, the Customary Laws, Islamic laws, statutory laws, the 1997 Constitution, and the Declaration Order of 1963, all prohibit gender discrimination (Mhango & Matemba, 2024) have been applied to solve issues related to GBV. Nonetheless, using international laws on GBV issues, including the 2003 Maputo Protocol, has remained a daunting challenge. In view of the above, it is therefore increasingly becoming evident that unless they are customised to fit the different laws used to address GBV-related issues (Ngaiza & Omari, 2022), GBV will persist.

Despite the existence of sound legal frameworks for addressing GBV gender inequality in accessing and ownership of land, GBV still persists in many African societies. This is largely as a result of the ordinary utility of accepted laws among leaders, women, and men (Davies & True, 2024). Several studies have examined the gender gap in firm performance indicators that characterise sales and employment growth in Africa. However, little is known about how gender-based violence affects women's access to and ownership of land in the patrilineal societies of sub-Saharan Africa, especially in the context of Tanzania (Nguyen et al., 2023; Rude, 2022; Sun & Zou, 2021). According to Kongela (2020) inequality in land ownership between men and women is a worldwide challenge, including in Africa and Tanzania. Previous studies report mixed findings on gender inequality in land ownership in Tanzania (Lusasi & Mwaseba, 2020). Some report that women are more favoured than men in land issues (Mkoba & Krieken, 2020). Others (e.g. Muperere et al., 2021) report that women are unprivileged. Muperere et al. (2021) point out that "Women's entitlements in using and managing land and other resources can pave the way to their wellbeing and empowerment, especially in the least developed nations'. Nevertheless, little is known about how GBV affects women's access to resources such as land for women in rural areas in Tanzania. Although empowerment of women in patrilineal societies has been a topic of interest, very few studies on this issue have been conducted. In filling the identified gap, it is essential to probe more into the topic by analysing the implications of GBV on women's access to and ownership of land in the patrilineal

societies of Tanzania. Therefore, this chapter examines the policy environment for addressing GBV in land ownership and access, the implications of GBV on women's access to and ownership of land resources, and the factors behind GBV that limit women's access to land in Tanzania.

2. Theoretical Perspectives

This chapter presents an exploration of various theories which explain issues pertaining to land ownership among women. These theories are the Sustainable Livelihood Framework, the Feminist Gender Theories, Neoclassical Land Reform Theory, and social theories of family life cycle and family violence. These theories explain women's gender issues and livelihoods. The Sustainable Livelihood Framework is about the extent to which women have been economically empowered by promoting their access to resources and income status. In Tanzania, land use allocation has always tended to favour men over women, contributing to the increase in poverty among women who constitute the larger part of the population (Mutinta, 2022). Consequently, the need to promote women's access to land has become imperative in order to have a sustainable livelihood. According to Jain (2023), in developing nations where many families depend on agriculture, sustainable agriculture cannot be debated separately from sustainable livelihood.

The views of liberal and socialist feminist theorists such as Betty Friedan and Alison Jaggar have been equally adopted in this study. Their theories mainly focus on fighting inequalities in every aspect of life, such as racism from the global level down to the community and/or society level. The proponents believe that all these forms are closely connected to the global operating systems, economy, and governance (Brandão, 2023; Zewde, 2020). Thus, feminist gender theorists seek to understand the position of women in society to improve their social and economic status (Brandão, 2023).

According to the proponents of the theories, social oppression is socially constructed. These theories have important implications for this chapter as they postulate that women, as human beings, are equally entitled to access to and control of essential resources such as land, irrespective of their womanhood. As per the theories, gender inequalities in resource ownership in patrilineal societies result from traditions which pose structural barriers to women's economic empowerment (Zewde, 2020). In this context, the Liberal Feminist Theory addresses norms, customs, and rules that determine the unequal distribution of customary land to men and women and how they hinder women's economic empowerment.

The radical feminist theory explains men's domination over women as the oldest and worst kind of oppression. According to this theory, patriarchal domination is

the main cause of women's oppression in land ownership. This chapter uses the Radical Feminist Theory to analyse how patriarchal domination deprives women of their right to access, control, and own customary land within households of small-holder farmers. The chapter equally employs the Neoclassical Theory of Land Reform, which posits that, while land reform is economically employed to promote economic development (Maliganya & Kalinga, 2023), it falls short by neglecting other critical factors such as poverty, inequality, and unemployment in the pursuit of economic growth. Therefore, achieving optimal outcomes requires economic development strategies that help not only to create production opportunities but also to enhance human capacity for resource utilisation. This comprehensive approach can simultaneously reduce poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

This chapter draws on social theories related to family life cycle and violence, namely the control theory and the resource theory. The Control Theory posits that individuals who perpetrate violence within the family employ power dynamics to exert and maintain dominance over their victims, often by using force, threats, and violence (Bostock et al., 2023). On the other hand, the Resource Theory attributes GBV to the perpetrator's resource power by postulating that access to resources serves as the means to control the victim's behaviour (Mingude & Dejene, 2021). This power dynamic is reinforced by the victims' belief that they cannot independently fulfil their basic needs or those of their children, thus they have no option other than to remain in an abusive relationship (Wallace, 2023). Additionally, cultural perspectives and the perpetuation of violence across generations contribute to the understanding of why and how violence recurs over time (Mukulu et al., 2020). The theories applied in this chapter best help to address different issues, particularly the factors of inequality in access to, ownership, and control of customary land and its contribution to rural women's economic empowerment (Taylor & De Haan, 2023).

3. Strategies of Addressing GBV in Women's Access to Land

The data in Table 1 imply that gender parity in land ownership is yet to be achieved, as men still hold larger proportions of land compared to women. This discrepancy is an indication of ineffective application of land rights (Idris, 2023). As such, Magambo and Nyamwesa (2022) argue that the government does not have to keep on making more laws, policies, and regulations; rather, it has to focus on ensuring effective enforcement, implementation and monitoring of the existing ones. Along with this, there is a need to educate the community on women's property rights. Then, the government's policy objectives have to include gender mainstreaming and enhancing women's participation in development activities

and decision-making. Such objectives will act as game changers in the mission of addressing the concerns.

Table 1. Strategies to address GBV in women’s access to land

No.	Source	Strategies
1	SIDA (2015)	A shift of focus: Seeing women as survivors, actors, and agents of change through empowerment Women’s economic empowerment: Empower women as agents of change. Promote women’s economic empowerment. Secure women’s land and property rights.
2.	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (2012)	Policy Making and Legal Protection: Introduce and enforce GBV legislation. Promote gender equity among men and boys. Collaborate with faith-based and cultural authorities.
3	USAID (2020)	Train partners on handling GBV in land documentation. Include women in land documentation processes. Implement gender-responsive conflict resolution. Conduct community awareness programmes. Collaborate with traditional authorities for gender equality. Collect and analyse data on land and GBV links.
4	Global Protection Cluster (2019)	Involve women and vulnerable groups in HLP evaluations. Assess protection of HLP rights for women and vulnerable groups. Collaborate across sectors to address GBV threats.
5.	UN (2013)	Ensure women’s participation in decision-making. Address all forms of discrimination. Align laws and policies for gender equality. Secure women’s land rights constitutionally.

Source: Authors’ reviews, 2022

Putting this in the context of Tanzania, one can comprehend that having a female president for the first time in Tanzania’s history indicates that gender inclusiveness in political affairs has been made into practical terms. The country has specific policies and procedures developed as strategies to reduce poverty and address women’s issues. These include the Gender-Focused Trade Policy (2023), Small and Medium Enterprise Development Strategy (2023), Mingude & Dejene (2021), and Agricultural Development Strategy (2022). It is also vital to encourage specific community-based programmes as a way to fight poverty. Such programmes that are underway in Tanzania include the Health, Sanitation, and Water, Community Social Development Programme, the Social Action Trust Fund, and the Social

Action Fund. These programmes have sections that focus on vulnerable groups to improve their standards of living.

The strategies for addressing GBV take into account the importance of empowering women, particularly in patrilineal societies. Empowering women in land issues gives them the power to access, own and use land for individual, family, and national development purposes (Mubofu & Mambo, 2021). Literature has analysed them and discussed women's access to and ownership of land and other properties. The strategies discussed in the literature are presented in Table 1.

4. The Implications of GBV on Women in Accessing and Owning Land

GBV has numerous implications according to various studies conducted in other African communities. Some of them are presented in Table 2. The repercussions of GBV for legal aid and services imply that women are disadvantaged in necessities, including the right to own resources (Nkya, 2020). The implications are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2. The implications of GBV on women in accessing and owning land

No.	Author (s)	Findings on Implications of GBV
1.	Mingude & Dejene (2021)	Women are; Limited access to funds & credits Excluded from decision-making on land issues Faced with discrimination laws (inheritance) Limited in using communal land Excluded from the property right
2.	Miranda (2020)	Ownership of land by women leads to an increase in their empowerment and a decrease in instances of violence against them
3.	Malapita et al. (2020)	GBV is a result of men and women disempowered
4.	Maliganya & Kalinga (2023)	Women have no control over land as the primary resource in the rural areas
5.	Mwamasangula & Gibore (2024)	Lack of legal ownership of land; women are required to access land through their husbands
6.	Muperere et al. (2021)	Women are discriminated against in land ownership Gender inequality on land issues Lacking sufficient assets to fight for their right to land
7.	Albezreh et al. (2022)	Women encounter obstacles when trying to obtain land for farming due to conflict between them and men within families

Source: Authors' reviews, 2022

The table shows different implications of GBV on women's access to and control of land. Among the implications are inadequate participation of women in decision-making on land issues, limited use of communal land by women, discrimination in land ownership, gender inequality, and loss of control over the land. The implications of GBV are more observed among the unemployed women than among the employed ones (Miranda, 2020). This is because employed women are empowered economically, socially, and psychologically, thus capable of fighting for their right to access and own land.

Allowing women to own land has many benefits, including improvement of household economy and security, reduction of all kinds of violence, and removal of inheritance biases to enhance gender equality (Ali, 2023; Doney et al., 2022). Thus, land ownership can lead to economic empowerment of women. However, there are problems facing women who own land, including being threatened by husbands and husbands' families, being labelled selfish, and being isolated from the husband's family members (Antwi-Agyei et al., 2023). These problems lead to psychological torture and discouragement of women, hence the need for women to understand that they have equal rights to access and own land like men.

5. Factors Promoting Gender-Based Violence Against Women's Access to Land

The factors influencing GBV against women's access to land have been divided into physical, social, cultural, and individual, as shown in Table 3. The individual factors promoting GBV against women's access to land are also discussed.

6. Physical Factors Promoting Gender-Based Violence Against Women's Access to Land

As indicated in Table 3, the physical factors that influence GBV against women in access to land stem from poor enforcement of laws on gender equality in land issues, family and community structure, whereby males are seen as superior and landowners, especially in patrilineal societies, and lack of livelihood opportunities. According to Lusasi & Mwaseba (2020) women face symbolic violence due to the patriarchal system that portrays men as dominant and women as subordinate. Therefore, family and community structures are obstacles to attaining gender equality in land issues. Other studies reveal that there are sound policies and programmes for ending gender equality but they are poorly implemented (Filate, 2022). This leads to the continuing gender imbalance in patrilineal societies. It

is necessary to ensure that the community is empowered through education on equal power relations, which results in gender parity in access and ownership of resources like land. This would motivate women to work hard to ensure food security and enable them to use land as collateral to get loans for investment in other livelihood activities.

Property grabbing is another physical factor that influences GBV against women in patrilineal societies in Tanzania (Chianchiano, 2021). Due to this, some women die in the process of protecting their property, while others lose their homes and means of support. Moreover, the harassment and humiliation involved in property grabbing damage women's self-esteem, making it harder for them to stand up for their rights (Eniola & Aremo, 2023). In Africa (Tanzania included), unequal distribution and ownership of land between women and men are reported to have different effects. Most studies report that women are discriminated against in land ownership (Muperere et al., 2021; Lusasi & Mwaseba, 2020), but some researchers show that they (women) are not (Kongela, 2020).

7. Socio-cultural Factors Influencing Gender-based Violence Against Women in Access to Land

The socio-cultural factors influencing GBV against women's access to land are related to the way a certain community's culture can determine land ownership based on gender relationships. They are also related to religious laws and norms, and family breakdown. In the patrilineal societies in Tanzania, a married woman is usually viewed as a foreigner and an outsider with no right to own land in the clan (Felix & Kayode, 2023). She is expected to act this way to persuade the clan that she is the right person to be trusted in the new clan. Therefore, she must behave appropriately towards her mother-in-law for the first few years (Felix & Kayode, 2023). So, women think that once they gain their in-laws' trust, they will be more likely to rely on them for support in times of difficulty. Acting decently during the first few years can also help a woman to learn more about her husband's clan. She needs to be aware of the process used to make decisions and understand when and how to challenge the new clan.

In patrilineal societies, a woman is considered her man's property, and thus she cannot own any resources. Even in her parents' home, she cannot own land (Amoako, 2024). Women do not inherit land from their parents, as the community expects them to access land from their spouses upon marriage (Issa-Zacharia & Marenzi, 2024). Traditionally, there are two kinds of communities or kinships in Tanzania, namely, patrilineal and matrilineal societies. Considering

these communities’ systems of decision-making in the family, Kongela (2020) summarises that the common matrilineal societies in the past were the Luguru, Zaramo, Kuguru, Makua, Makonde, Yao, and Makua, from southeast Tanzania. Nevertheless, these tribes have not preserved their social organisation owing to the villagisation campaign that ran in the country in the 1970s (Gray et al., 2024). Today, matrilineal norms have begun to change because of different factors. Similarly, patrilineal societies have also begun changing, leading to egalitarianism or mutual decision-making among spouses (Kilgallen et al., 2022). Despite the changes pointed out by Kongela (2020), Gray et al. (2024) reiterates that patriarchal communities still dominate in Tanzania. Consequently, the miscellaneous results regarding gender inequality in land ownership based on either matrilineal or patrilineal societies in Tanzania call for the policy environment to be further reviewed to allow equality in land distribution among men and women in the country, unquestionably.

8. Individual Factors Promoting Gender-based Violence Against Women’s Access to Land

Individual factors for GBV against women’s access to land (see Table 3) are viewed as a combination of isolation/discrimination, stigma, exposure to GBV, and lack of information on gender equality (Popoola et al., 2023; Muperere et al., 2021). The misconception of gender equality and a lack of participation in sensitive gender equality programmes (Sekoni, 2023). There are instances where an individual faces different obstacles, which aggravate gender inequality in patrilineal societies. A lack of awareness about the regulatory framework and individual rights makes many women blind to what to do. Also, many women are exposed to GBV as a result of culture, as well as family and community systems, where women are considered weak and less valued. Most of them are less informed about gender issues and their land rights.

Table 3. Factors promoting GBV regarding women’s access to land

No.	Factors	Issues
1.	Physical factors	Poor enforcement of the law Family and community structure Lack of livelihood opportunities
2.	Socio-cultural factors	Culture Religion, laws, and norms Family breakdown Lack of confidence

No.	Factors	Issues
3	Individual factors	Brother's complex and self-hurt (Igbolekwu et al., 2023) Isolation/discrimination Stigma Lack of information on gender equality The misconception of gender equality Poor participation in sensitive gender equality programmes

Source: Authors' reviews, 2022

There are established laws and policies, including property and land laws and land Acts, which need to be harmonised to protect women on land issues (Table 1). Protecting women can be achieved by promoting gender equality in ownership and access to land. In Tanzania, women's land rights are protected by legal frameworks such as property, inheritance, matrimonial, and human rights (Munisi, 2023). However, literature shows that what is in the legal framework differs from what is actually practised. This is because women are less aware of the legal frameworks that state their rights to own and access land (Muperere et al., 2021; Lusasi & Mwaseba, 2020). Thus, it is vital for the legal frameworks, including laws that protect women on land issues be mainstreamed and enforced in the patrilineal societies in Tanzania to ensure equality in land ownership by formalising land tenure and issuing land titles. This can act as one of the measures to combat GBV through improved power relations between women and men, as far as ownership of resources for economic empowerment is concerned.

The formalisation of land tenure significantly motivates both general development and women's empowerment. However, as a counterpoint to tenure formalisation, a traditional land tenure system is frequently considerably biased against women, especially in African countries, including Tanzania. Ali (2023) propounds that the vast margin of women's land titling, which we refer to as the limitation of these changes, must be overcome in any policy aspects to increase their land ownership. According to Muperere et al. (2021), most rural women are illiterate or unaware of the present entitlements and are less involved in administrative institutions. Therefore, the process of empowering women on land ownership needs to be accompanied by the provision of education on the legal framework for land ownership, the customary tenure system, and accessing social identity. The Tanzanian government's ongoing efforts to formalise land tenure overlook the gender dimension, thus the current policy also formalises the existing skewed female land ownership arrangements (Muperere et al., 2021). The status of women's informal land ownership, which is still not legally established in the country, has raised concerns among many gender activists. The 1999 Land Act, which incorporates many sections guaranteeing ownership rights to women

who co-live with their spouses, is lauded as one of the land laws that recognise women's rights as landowners. However, the legal revisions have not been fully translated into ownership rights (Ali, 2023; Hasunga et al., 2022).

Solar & Ricart (2022) influenced Tanzania's land tenure formalisation. This theory underscores that formalisation would mean to free up the informal sector's 'dead capital' and promote economic development. This disagreement is explained by its rarity and the importance accorded to it. Although this is a common challenge for all, women are considered the most disadvantaged group. More efforts are being made to guarantee equitable land access for gender-inclusive sustainable development (Ngohengo, 2022). Despite the Tanzanian efforts to address gender inequality concerning land ownership through the reforms of land laws. Ngohengo (2022) recently established that there had been a significant shift in how men obtain and govern the land, outranking customary matrilineal norms. It was thus concluded that when formulating diverse resource access and resource mobilisation policies in Africa, policymakers and governments should consider this issue from the perspective of gender equality.

Several principles were established by the 1999 Land Act, which was updated in 2019 to help protect women's land rights. The impact of these reforms has been negligible thus far, as studies on land laws report that gender disparities are associated with women's access, control, and ownership of land (Muperere et al., 2021). Tanzania is ranked 130 out of 159 countries, with a high gender inequality index score of 0.539 (Vyas et al., 2023; Magambo & Nyamwesa, 2022).

9. Conclusion

This chapter has analysed the implications of GBV on the access to land for rural women's empowerment in patrilineal societies in Tanzania. Specifically, the chapter has examined the factors promoting GBV against women in access to land in the country, the policy environment for addressing GBV in access to land, and the implications of GBV on women's access to and ownership of land resources. The chapter establishes that despite various legal frameworks and policies for protecting women's land rights in Tanzania, women are still highly discriminated against in land ownership. This causes women to have limited access to funds and credit, limited use of communal lands, and a lack of control over land and legal land ownership. The factors promoting GBV against women's access to land have been identified and classified as physical (such as lack of livelihood opportunities), socio-cultural (e.g. culture, religion, and family structures), and individual (such as isolation, discrimination, lack of information, and awareness on land rights).

The chapter concludes that, despite the significant role that women play in development in Tanzania, their chances to participate in economic activities are restricted by limited access to land, inadequate enforcement of laws, gender discrimination, and exclusion. It is also concluded that, due to women's uproar, the land tenure system in patrilineal societies in Tanzania and Africa in its entirety is in jeopardy. The chapter provides useful information for effective land governance in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in Tanzania. It conjures women's voices on land ownership and gender disparity in the region. Thus, it offers new insights into the key factors behind GBV that limit women's access to land. Likewise, it offers policy options on the best practices for the wellbeing and empowerment of women in Tanzania.

Recommendations

This chapter analysed the implications of GBV on the access to land for rural women's empowerment in patrilineal societies in Tanzania. Based on the results, the recommendations are:

- Tanzania must enforce a sound land policy to ensure that community behaviours reflect what the policy and regulations specify. This can help to reduce conflicts over land ownership, promote sustainable land use practices, and ensure equitable access to land for all its citizens.
- Since most women are unaware of their rights, they have to be informed of the procedures and laws that guarantee their rights to family lands and participation in family decision-making concerning assets. In many societies, women are traditionally excluded from decision-making processes related to family assets, including land. By educating women about their rights, they can become empowered to stand for their rights and participate in decision-making processes related to family assets. This can help to promote gender parity and reduce gender-based discrimination in the family and society at large.
- Since land is essential for human survival and wellbeing, it must be equally available to all genders for commercial and subsistence farming, housing, and other activities. By ensuring equal access to land for all genders, societies can promote gender equality, reduce poverty, and enhance social and economic development. Women can have greater control over land resources, leading to more sustainable land use, better nutrition, and improved livelihoods.
- Empowering women to realise their rights needs to be addressed in the modern world to ensure they are not discriminated against or excluded. This implies

that women can have greater control over their lives, make informed choices, and contribute to the wellbeing of their families and communities.

- Factors that promote GBV against women's access to land in the country, such as male dominance, norms, and traditions, require rapid remedies to achieve equitable land access. To solve these issues, it is essential to address the underlying factors that perpetuate gender-based discrimination and violence. This requires changing cultural norms and attitudes towards women's rights on land ownership and improving the legal frameworks that protect women's land rights.

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