

Assessment Of The Impact Of Feminism And Rise Of Women To Power In Uganda:

Perspective And Challenges

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Abstract

The study aims to explore the impact of Feminism and the rise of women to power in Uganda. Furthermore, assesses whether the rise of women to power has answered the inequality gap that feminists and their movements have always advocated for in their agenda. The study examined a critical assessment of the perceived effect of Feminism in Uganda, how the rise of women in power and politics has addressed the demands of the feminist movement, and what other integrated policies the government needs to design to address gender imbalances and inequalities in Uganda. The researcher used secondary data as his source. He acquired literature from the Ugandan Gazette on policies, research reports, articles, UNDP reports, and other online sources. The author used content analysis as a means of analyzing data. A critical analysis has been drawn at the end of the study as a conclusion.

Keywords: Feminism, Feminist movements, Gender mainstreaming, Women emancipation, Affirmative action, Family law, Reproductive and Productive role of women.

Introduction

Walking the talk of Feminism in the 21st century is a norm that cannot be separated from the political setting of different democracies across borders (Hassim, 1998). Different scholars and terminologies have defined Feminism have been used to define what Feminism is. Sassen (2008) defined Feminism as advocating women's rights on the grounds of equality and equity. Other scholars defined Feminism as a mentality and a belief system that women use to advocate for their political rights, economic independence and inclusion, social rights, equality, and development of women to their potential. The wave of Feminism comes in all directions. These waves come in all forms, coordinated and uncoordinated modules. Most of these feminist movements have their roots in the Western democracies. Feminism in history has no roots in African culture (Tickner, 1999).

Regarding Uganda, Feminism is a tradition that entered the country in the late 1990s. Critically assessing the activities of feminists, one must first understand how the movement came into

existence, the agendas of these movements, how they are staged and how to deal with them in different political contexts. Any movement that comes into existence can have an impact to the government and its leadership. As we go further, we need to examine to what extent are these movements a threat to growing democracies and states Uganda inclusive. Looking at feminist movements across the globe, they share a heterogeneous character. Their objectives are tied on equity, equality and gender mainstreaming.

According to Wendling (2008) argues that feminists and their campaign globally are categorized into classes, those that see government as an agent that makes man dominate women, those that see state as an actor that must create system to balance off the inequality and those that believe that woman race must be superior to the men gender (Wyrod, 2008).

In respect to the feminists' movement in Uganda, their movement is a sole agenda that wants to dominate public service, equitable access to services, gender violence and human rights.

Increased violation of women's rights, increased rape cases, increased family disorders, systematic gender imbalances and emancipation call for the staging of these movements. Scholars like Polavarapu (2019) have argued the Ugandan government to find out suitable policies to address the syndrome, but little has been so far done to alleviate these stated challenges.

Non-governmental organizations have come on board as social busses to assist government to overcome these stated challenges, but government lacks will come on board with these non-governmental organizations. International organizations alike the UN, European Union, World Bank and International Monetary Fund and World Health Organization have always advised Ugandan government to take an immediate action towards alleviating these issues that bring about gender inequalities.

These international organizations have gone an extra mile and financed agendas set by government to alleviate these issues brought about by the system and the population. But to their disappointment, little achievement has been scored amidst of the much funding allotted to the government and its autonomous agencies.

Critical Assessment Of Perceived Effects Of Feminism In Uganda

In history, the course of activism of feminists in the world started way back in 1923 when the national women's party was formed and demanded for amendment of Equal Rights of sexes but this was not a success until in 1960's when more pressure was mounted on the democratic institutions by feminists led by Bella Abzug the US representative (Alvarez, 2000).

In the cultural context of Uganda, women were taken to be as a property a man owns. This is from the cultural setting where a man pays dowry as a bride price. Men in old days could pay this bride price and at the end treat these women as properties they own (McGrath, 1993). By the advocacy of human rights, the mindset change was advocated for also to tame the vice of talking women to be properties. As global waves moved towards Uganda, also the feminism advocacy was registered which in support also fought for what it took to be slavery of women. The way women were treated was against norms of the west. They were denied rights and dignity. Yet the west saw that both genders of men and women had to be sharing equal rights. Once feminists joined the struggle, women of the time started raising their concerns and demanded for natural justice (Hayhurst, 2014).

When a small social class of women started to raise this campaign, the public picked interest and it became a subject of discussion.

According to Parik (2004) argues that, Men in Uganda perceived women as individuals that had to stay home and maintain their reproductive role limited to looking after properties men own, their home steads, animals, vegetation farms, house properties and children. In the old days women had even had no right to disciplining their own children at home. They only had to report bad manners practiced by children to their fathers after coming back home from work. This had given women limited powers of control even in home steads. Once the public picked interest in the feminist campaign, masses had to come in support.

Women were limited from productive service and roles. They were not given chance to work and earn on behalf of families. That role was only reserved for men. Women were not allowed to work beyond home compounds and those that were allowed to work from home only could work in support of businesses of their husbands. Some old, aged women were allowed to put stalls at their home compounds to earn by village courts that saw need where some husbands were not taking good care of their families.

Women were not allowed to foot bills at home. It was a responsibility of men to cater for all bills. With the rebirth of colonialism, many men were taken away by wars, colonialists, and epidemics. The business sector deemed demanding for labor. With such grounds women were considered as a reserve force. But again, they were limited at workplaces. They were given positions that do not require many energies, those that were recruited in army were only given positions of being secretaries, taking care of the injured but were not allowed to join battalions to fight.

With the activism of feminists, they advocated for inclusion of women in the political structure of Uganda. This was aimed to serve equal political representation. In the political structure of Uganda, issues of women were being addressed by men who had by then dominated the public service commission. When the public raised the red flag on issues of women being addressed and represented by men, government and state sat and responded to the wicked problem and included women in public service agendas. Men looked at this as a new force that had come to take them out of the service commission. They managed to penetrate, and motion was raised in parliament, seconded by the members and a bill was enacted. Through this bill laws were made that when the constitution was amended, women were integrated into the Service commission. Political positions were given to them. Where every district had to get a woman member of parliament directly elected by the population (Busingye, 2020).

After women being given direct representation on the legislative arm of state, they worked hard and also integrate women who had acquired education positions in public service. The coming of president Yoweri Kaguta Museveni in power in 1986 gave women gave women a leverage over men. Museveni had worked as the minister of security at the time of President Milton Obote and Eid Amin. During his tenure, he worked a lot with women that were given roles at that time. So, when he rose to power, he had perceived a positive courage of women towards performance. And also, he had in his speeches that his government has come to address gender imbalance that were created by the political system and culture.

Museveni was the first president to give women a position of vice president. Ever since, women started enjoying top positions in government and service commissions. This act by President Museveni increased on the feminist and women campaign for their rights and also women achieved freedom of speech. Men saw this as putting women ahead of them which is contradicting with their cultures.

Museveni brought women into political administration of government and state claiming that men are so corrupt. The few women he had given autonomy in their commission, reports had shown limited corruption tendencies. And those registered corruption cases again were done by men and also women had reported them. This earned women position and trust in the eyes of Museveni.

Feminists in Uganda went an extra mile and advocated for administrative balance. For both the reproductive and productive roles. They advocated for policies that address issues faced by women. These policies called for maternity leave with pay, sick leave and sexual harassment act that was enacted to protect women in politics from sexual abuse at workplaces and in homes. Many officers in administration, used to stalk women sexually and they could not report for fear to lose their positions. But with these forces of the political wind brought by the forces of change led by women in politics many policies were set and passed by the house and the senate to protect rights of women from violation.

The feminists' movement in Uganda also opened eyes for women in the east African region. Countries like Kenya, Burundi and Tanzania also got the same liberation groups that started to advocate for equal right opportunities. In Kenya, they didn't succeed well because of the political setting and strong culture. In Tanzania, they succeeded and even of now they have a female president who was the vice president and was sworn in as the president after their president Magufuli dying during the Covid 19 pandemic. In Rwanda, the movement succeeded very well and of now 80% of the public administration of the state is dominated by women. In Burundi, women make up 90% of the countries' job and food export. This shows how significant their role is in their political context. In Uganda, women make up 43% of the cabinet ministers (Bauer, 2021). This has created a social class question and also affecting the quality of democracy of Uganda. The vice president is a woman, prime minister is a woman, and speaker of parliament is a woman and also most of the permanent secretaries in government departments are women. In local government, women occupy 46%, they occupy 33% of parliamentary seats and 90% on education service commission. This shows that their dominance over men will raise a question of whether their intentions are purely on service delivery of out numbering men in policy formation and public administration of issues of concern (Okedele, 2021).

According to Ramtohul (2021) argue that, Feminists in politics through their rights advocacy wave in Uganda advocated for empowerment of women in different public sectors. This has given

women chance to show their potential skills that were always put and left at homes for reproductive purposes only. Having women in public sectors, this cuts on the corruption tendencies and style of management since women are known for being good managers and administrators.

Feminists in Uganda have gone an extra mile and advocate for the spread of propaganda on women sexual violation, assault and advocating for sexual policy platforms. This is done using social media television shows, writing novels, through movies and publications. These opened minds of girl child on their sexual rights and awareness. This sovereignty is given and granted to women by constitution of the republic of Uganda. Many women organizations have been put in place to assist in the implementation of the policy and also ensure that gender-based violence is reduced. In Uganda, oppressing women and violating their sexual rights is an act that laws stand strong at. In many times courts don't give bails to sexual harassers. All these efforts have tried to shape harmony in the society. But men look at this as an encroachment on liberty and rights of those that are being accused. Many men are being taken to courts of law for sexual harassment that they didn't commit but since laws are so strict, they are denied bails. This is centrally to the laws of Uganda which state that bail is free and everyone's right. Only court can prove one guilty after a fair hearing. A person is presumed innocent until proven guilty (Namy, 2017).

According to Ssempagala (2019) argues that, looking at the family law, these feminists advocated for rights of custody of children, ownership of property and assets. When the laws were amended, they were awarded their requests. But many women have used these instruments of law to make men suffer. Men work hard when they are just housewives, after gaining wealth, they file divorce to courts. Court rules on the basis of sharing assets together and also awards them custody of children were also a man has to keep paying bills, school fees, medical and other related expenses. Men look at this as taking their wealth with utmost injustice. Laws have protected women more than it protects men. Many men are forced to stay in marriages they don't have happiness in. because of fear of sharing their assets and not being given custody of their children. This has increased on the rate of stress at workplaces and hence affecting income generation. These unhappy marriages are a construction of many social evils. Women cannot look at this but if one critically analyses it, many social problems like rape happen because of the root cause of unhappy marriages.

In the Ugandan culture, a man is allowed or can marry more than one woman. But because of the feminist's role and activism, men find it hard to marry more than one woman. They have women association that was formulated it acts as a tribunal for social home affairs its name is International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA). Once a man marries without full filling his obligation this tribunal proceeds and questions the new marriage the man has gone into.

According to Xie (2010) argues that, feminists advocated for same sex rights which is perceived to be against the Ugandan culture. Under this advocacy, they advocated for lesbians and gay rights. Under their demand, they advocated for transgender marriages be constituted. This was against the will of the people. A bill was tabled to parliament for debate by the minority member's bill. The speaker of parliament by then was a woman Hon. Rebecca Kadaaga who stood against the bill and asked members to withdraw their bill. But since the motion was brought on and seconded, she told members to go and consult from their constituencies. The public stood harsh and even passed a vote of no confidence on members who tabled the bill (Jackson, 2013).

How The Rise Of Women In Power And Politics Has Addressed The Demands Of Feminist Movement In The Political Context Of Uganda.

The rise of these social movements and feminist propaganda has opened eyes of the Ugandan population on the sidelining effects of keeping women in reproductive roles. These movements have awakened many women to demand for their rights. Women have done this through putting maximum pressure on their elected leaders, through formation of pressure groups, through formation of women's unions and many others (Tripp, 1994).

But when women saw that little significance is achieved, they joined hands and went into active politics. They went for election rallies and political debates. Through this, they convinced populations and elected them to power. The Ugandan constitution gives all gender a chance to participate in political arenas. The constitution was amended fair enough and provisions gave women direct positions at every district level. By law, every district has to be represented by a woman member of parliament (Nzomo, (1994).

Also, the cabinet that is elected directly by the president through exercising powers granted to him by the constitution, he has always given women positions to make sure issues pertaining women are well handled. The question remains has their coming into power address these issues of gender

imbalances?

We can state it that the rise of women into power is a great effect of feminist movement and struggle. But ever since they rose to these positions have, they done enough to address issues of concern of women in Uganda?

The answer to the stated question is yes. There has been a significant attention achieved by women in Uganda. Many policies have been adopted in relation to fighting gender inequalities. The following are some of the measures that women in politics and feminist activism achieved in Uganda as stated not limited to affirmative actions, women emancipation, family law, financial schemes, women union, equal pay, work ethics, maternal packages, paternity packages, equal employment opportunities, action on women with disabilities and many others (Tripp, 2001).

Assessing affirmative action in Uganda, the government adapted these policies with a clear intention of addressing the women gap in education and leadership. The levels of women participation in higher education were so minimal. This made women be left out in political positions because of their low levels of education (Ahikire, 1994). The government to close the gap it had to look for possible ways of indulging women into higher education for them to be qualified and suit the positions. These policies after they were brought by government many embraced them, and women were given chance to enroll in colleges to further their education. Government went ahead and made it easy for women to enter public service even with their diploma certificates. This was not meant to cripple the provision of public service but rather to make sure that women are incorporated into development agenda. Through enhancing this agenda, the government went ahead and made mature entries for women to join adult education services. This was meant to increase on the literacy levels of Ugandan women (Kagoda, 2011, October).

The government went ahead and designed the **1.5** additional point program at the university entry for girls and women. This was meant to increase on the number of women who attain good and free education in public universities. In the past, girls could not compete with boys at entry level of the university always girls lacked a point back. So, the government through the education service commission, they designed this 1.5-point program when a girl enrolls or makes an application to any public university she is given a merit of 1.5 points on addition to her grade. This earned girls and women a chance in attaining government scholarships in Uganda hence increasing on the literacy number of women (Atekyereza, 2001).

This opened doors for the minority women to compete with men in application for public service jobs and in private sector.

Looking at women emancipation, the journey of women emancipation in Uganda has not been a straight line. Liberating women from all forms of oppression, in all spheres social, economic, sexual, educational and barriers preventing them from attaining to higher levels and positions. The government came up with this tool in order to counter all issues that have denied women platform of attaining to higher positions in public service and private sector. Scholars like Tumusiime (2017) have argued out that, women emancipation is one of the successes registered in Uganda. The only remaining challenges to woman emancipation lies in institutional policies, cultures that people believe in and patriarchy. The government and women in politics have tried hard to ensure that the Ugandan political context and environment is free from all sorts of barriers denying women a chance to score high regarding big positions (Goetz, 1998).

International frontiers like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) came up and put the Ugandan government on spot regarding issues of gender equality and women emancipation. Their contribution towards the success of this agenda is always remembered. As Uganda sets Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 (SDGs 2030), gender and women emancipation should not be looked at as fundamentals of human rights but rather they should be looked at a precondition set for achieving the set Sustainable Development goals of 2030. Development without women emancipation is a mean of development that is not inclusive and effective (Ntale, 2019).

Looking at amendments made in family law to combat gender inequality, the constitution of Uganda has always provided clauses that protect women from all sorts of violation. Article 21 of the Ugandan constitution gives equal rights to all sexes and citizens. Article 21 gives all races and sexes rights to own and acquire properties. Article 31 grants women all sorts of rights before and after their marriages. Women through the constitution are given rights to equal access of education and more. Women have used this political right to participate in national politics and state building. Statistics show that, in the year 2021 34.9% of the parliamentary seats were all occupied by women. This shows clear evidence on how the democratic process and the legal framework have rendered success towards the campaign started by feminists (Jansen, 2006).

Looking at the SDGs monitoring tool for gender equality, it shows that, the Ugandan legal framework has almost 75% of the requirements needed to address gender imbalances. The Ugandan legal framework has a clear focus towards alleviating any sort of violence towards women.

Many clauses within the laws of the land have been amended to suit the campaign. The family law has given women a chance to inherit and own properties in Uganda. In history, women in Uganda were deprived of owning properties and inheriting. This act was tied on the cultures of Buganda. Also, the act of depriving women from inheriting properties was evidenced in the pre-Islamic Arabia. With the coming of Islam, things were laid down by the holy book and women were given equitable shares of inheritance on properties of their spouses and family members.

According to Muriaas, (2016) argue that, family law has protected women and their children when it comes to the worst. At the time of divorce, the man has an obligation to give child support to the mother. The law has made it clear that, their separation is not a mean of making their off springs to suffer in any way. This means that even if the man and woman separate, they have to ensure that their child has access to good education, access to primary health care and recreation.

There is still a gap in the law since the marriage and divorce bill 2009 that was brought on the order paper included that, all religions in Uganda must bind by the law but article 12 excludes Muslim marriages. This does not reflect inclusiveness yet Christianity, Hindu, Bahai and civil marriages are all included.

Looking at financial schemes, the government has always wanted to assist women to gain their financial independence. A lot has been advised to government by women in politics and women in power and policy design. The government through its implementation agencies it has extended a hand towards giving women grants to startup businesses and also finance their existing businesses. The government has financed women groups formed through district poverty alleviation programs (Kitakule, 1999).

Government actions like the poverty eradication action plans (**PEAP**) did not reap results because the aid that was allocated by government to alleviate poverty in the population was diverted and only distributed to men. This means that, the agenda was not achieved as the program created social disorder and imbalances in income generation. Any program brought by the government

should and must be free from all sorts of bias and segregation (Mukasa, 2019). Government programs must be addressing social unrest and social disorder not bringing inequalities in societies. The PEAP was a tool that international institutions recommended to developing states to alleviate extreme poverty in all sexes. But not meant to alleviate poverty in men who perceive themselves as bread winners.

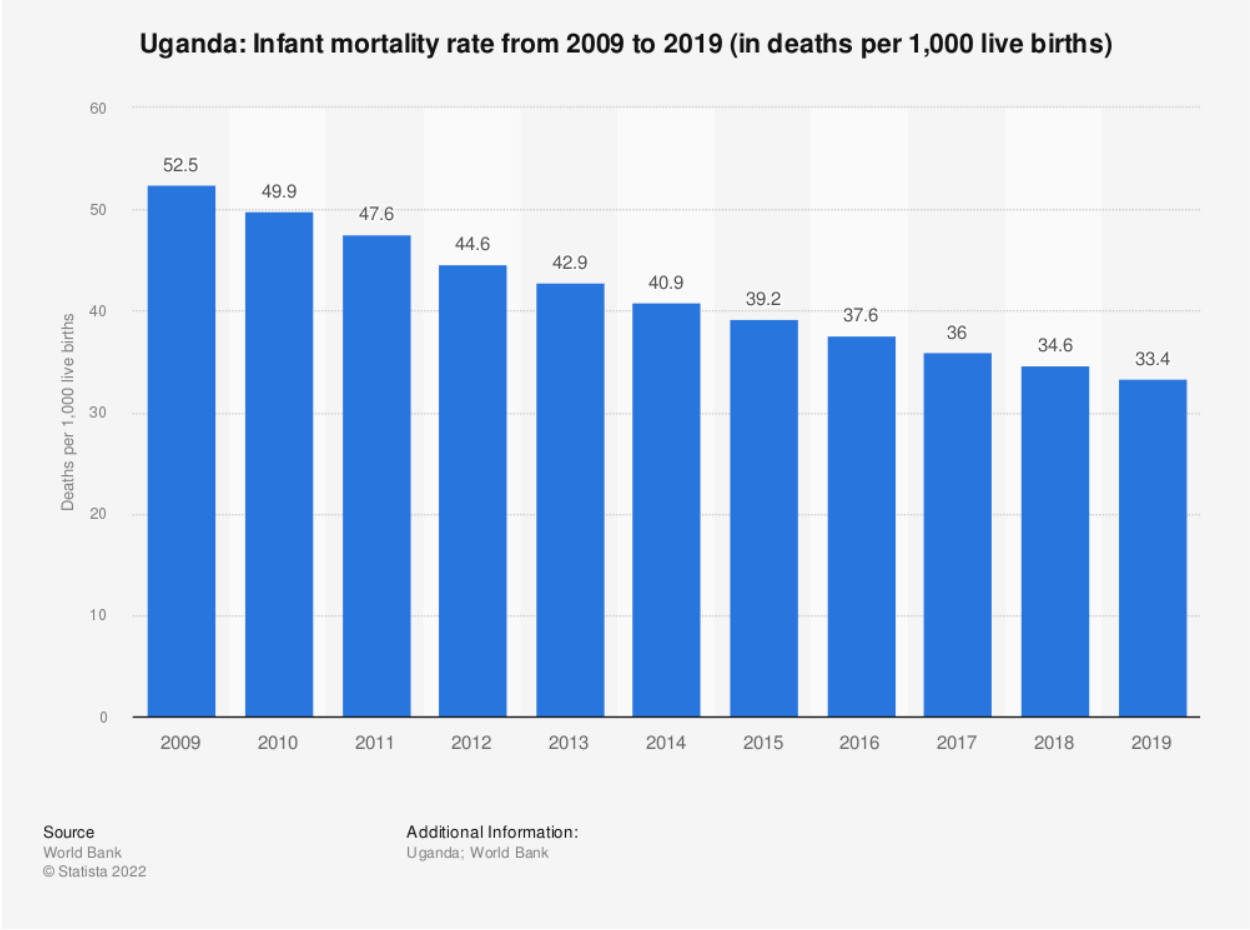
Women in politics through their drive women's empowerment in action brought BRAC international to Uganda. The mission of bringing Brac to Uganda was to add it to the prevailing non-governmental organizations that render aid to women and girl child. Brac through its technocrats, has trained women and transformed them from subsistence farming to modern farming through the loan schemes it extends to them and after it finds market for their harvested commodities. The action of enhancing agro-economies has led to diversification of the economy and also it has contributed to nation building since this has given chance to widening of the national tax base (Nakiyimba, 2014).

Poor women in remote areas could not access loan facilities in central region of Uganda and other urban centers Brac extended services to them by opening up branches in all rural areas of Uganda so that the disadvantaged peasant farmers can access soft loans that do not require much input. Many women could not acquire loans from commercial banks because taking loans from them requires a mortgage or security. This made the process of acquiring loans a hard task to achieve since the system had kept women without right to owning properties. The coming of Brac made acquiring loans easy for these women farmers since no mortgage is required when taking the loan.

Initiation of pride micro finance is another milestone women in politics scored. Pride has enhanced, developed, and transformed women in business in Uganda. Pride has always rendered women in business a aback in acquiring loans, it has rendered financial literacy, project planning techniques, it has helped women in monitoring of their projects at ex-post and axe-ante evaluation levels, mortgage financing were it gives women chance to acquire loans to buy and invest in mortgages, export market search and feasibility studies and lastly it has helped women in planning for their business liquidation procedures (Ellis, 2006).

Women in politics formed women's union with an agenda of fighting the spread of the six killer diseases. These diseases have been so rampant in Africa and Uganda inclusive. Women that joined public service and those in politics used their position to fascinate those in private sector and those

that re not yet employed to come on board and support the union. The union has worked hard to ensure that maternal health in Uganda is achieved. They have worked hard to ensure that and pressurized government to establish healthy centers at every parish level so that the mortality rate reduces. Many mothers were dying while giving birth. Statistics has it that in the year 2003, for every 100,000 live births 520 newly born were dying. With the advancement of the women union, there has been a registered achievement in reduction in maternal deaths (Bantebya, 2014). This can be evidenced in the diagram below:



Extracted from World Bank statistics 2022 report that was based on the ministry of health data center for maternal health in Uganda.

From the table we can see that, there has been a decline in the mortality rate from 52.5% in 2009 to 33.4% in 2019. This shift is not only limited to the efforts done by the ministry and the government. Other factors like the feminist voices and pressure from women union are some of

the many reasons for the success. As these women unions and those in politics push government more to act, much can be archived in improving maternal health in Uganda.

The women union formed by the women in politics and feminists in Uganda also has gone an extra mile and helped in combating the spread of HIV aids. Aids is one of killer diseases that has claimed a lot of lives of people in sub-Saharan Africa. Governments tried all measures to stop the spread but its s myth that cannot be achieved. The struggle made by women in politics and those in the women union have achieved success through proper sensitization of their children at their homes, in communities, schools and public on the harm of the HIV aids. Women unions in Uganda have gone an extra mile and made collaboration with ministry of health and formed The Aid Support Organization (TASO). This organization is known for following those with HIV aids, ensure they take their medication on time, give them counselling and guidance, propagate the use of protectors so that the infected partners do not spread to their loved ones, they spread the gossip of the infected mothers not to breast feed their babies, give balanced deities to those affected with HIV aids and cannot afford balanced diet meals, give career guidance in schools so that youths do not indulge in sexual interacts before their age of puberty and ensure that they spread awareness on stigma so that people that stay with those that are infected don't get discriminated or given negative attitude (Kaleeba, 1997).

Women in politics also have gone an extra mile and organized charity activities like sports, parties, fundraising and drive through all meant to address health related issues like the scarcity in health sanitary wears like pads for menstrual health for girl child and women who cannot afford them yet they seem to not only be a basic need but a crucial one because they need them regularly in their lives. In response to the increased demand in these sanitary pads, women have used their political positions to finance and lobby for research on recyclable sanitary wears. And this has been a success. During Covid 19, many families could not afford buying sanitary pads because they were not earning. This created a big gap and increased demand. Women in politics used their positions and lobbied in government to ensure that they give out sanitary pads to every local parish and division in Uganda.

Women have used their position in public offices and politics to ensure that, fistula is fought and treated. Fistula is an infection disease that tend to create holes in organs of women. This disease is rampant in Uganda more so in remote areas were women take long to visit health experts to check

on their health. Women unions and those in politics have joined hands and fought this disease in Uganda through monthly contributions and bringing international organization on board like the world health organization (WHO). Women have also brought different foreign missions like the European Union, Germany embassy, Italian embassy, UNESCO, and many others. They have given a hand in ensuring that this epidemic is fought, and women enjoy their livelihood (Barageine, 2015).

Looking at workplace and working conditions, we are analyzing how the system has fairly helped women in business and public service by setting social welfare policies to help them balance between their productive and reproductive roles. Scholars like Waiswa (2015) argue that, state has an obligation to set laws and procedures through which women have to work without compromising their reproductive roles. These policies are set to give life to the workers and working environment. Such policies help to motivate employees hence creating a good working relation and achieving proper organizational behavior that is sustainable. These working policies are maternal packages that women need to live a balance life at work and in their homes.

According to Arinanye, (2015) he argues that, laws in Uganda give employees a right of leave under the employment act of 2006. Employers are argued by the law to give employees 21 days off work with a pay. This is done to ensure that these employees even when they are off their duties, still they earn to support their welfare and bills. This employment act of Uganda grants a woman three months of maternity leave with a pay. Although women union and those in public service are still demanding parliament and judiciary to review and make it 4 months. Other countries like Spain, Australia and Finland are giving employees 6 months of maternity leave. Women in power in Uganda are demanding government to amend the law at least to add a month on the maternity leave. Public and employers responded to this request as a policy that will affect the quality-of-service delivery in Uganda.

International labor organizations and the United Nations have argued countries to adopt policies that fight sexual harassment. Uganda being one of the commonwealth countries and subscribes to the UN membership, it has advocated for policies that protect rights of women. Hash measures have been designed to deal with sex offenders and those harass women sexually at workplaces (Mudukuti, 2021).

Women in Uganda have been given a right to indulge in international business where they are allowed to join in market search. This has given them chance to export their products to international markets.

Paternity leave policies are not so much advocated for in different countries more so in sub-Saharan Africa. In the political context of Uganda, men are entitled to four days leave though an employer or a firm can decide in giving any male employee more than that based on the need. Nkwake, (2009) argues that, the stated four days are independent from his annual leave days. This means when a man takes the four days for his paternity leave, he is still entitled to the 21 days on the yearly calendar. Some states give employees family leave independently from the maternal and paternity. This means that, parents working are given more days to balance on their reproductive and productive roles.

The role played by women in politics and in public service is something that we cannot underestimate. Policy design process faces a lot of challenges in sub-Saharan Africa and Uganda in general. Most of the time government wants to alleviate a social problem and ends up bring an alternative right policy to address a wrong problem or society. But with aid of these women union and women in power, government is redirected to design right policies to the right target groups.

Perceived Islamic Perspective Of Feminism

Appreciating revealed knowledge is one of the utmost goals of Maqasid al sharia. Looking at the teachings of Ibn Hazmi and Imaam Shawkie in relation to the role Maqasid al sharia has towards protecting civil rights and liberties, these principles rendered a top notch in protection of women rights and uplifting their value in society. Assessing all these principles, none of them left out protecting rights of women socially, politically, economically, and religiously. Islam has always put women a class above the male gender. This is because of what Allah made woman be. Islam looks at women as the fountain and basis of civilization of the ummah and nurturing. These two independent roles give women an uplift over the male blue pill campaign. Protecting of progeny in Maqasid al sharia aims at ensuring women rights in families, at work and in religion are protected. Maqasid al sharia ensures that injustice of any form is not practiced putting the value of women down as it was before in the pre-Islamic Arabia. Many qur'anic verses call out men to be just to the opposite gender even if that justice conveys pains on men. This is to ensure that supremacy of this gender is kept intact and well protected.

What Are Other Integrated Policies That Government Need To Design To Address Feminism And Gender Inequality In Uganda?

Public policy is an all-round policy cycle where one policy cannot stand on its own to be implemented or to serve a purpose. Rather in policy implementation different policies need other policies. The same applies to policies for fighting gender imbalances and inequalities in Uganda have to be applied hand in hand with others. There are a number of policies that are needed to ensure that applicability is sustainably achieved.

Soft loans. For women to succeed in their agro business and businesses, government has to ensure that women are given loans that are interest free or that they are given loans that attract little interest. Giving women loans that attract much interest is an obstacle to the struggle that had yielded a lot of achievements. So, the central bank as a monetary regulatory organ has to ensure that loan institutions and commercial banks give products that are sustainable in nature.

Adult and technical education as an alternative for those that cannot manage joining higher institution of learning. Many women and girls don't join universities because of various reasons that are attached to low income and cutoff points. The government has an obligation of supporting technical institutions to up skill these students and adults that didn't get the chance of joining higher institutions of learning. This will help them acquire knowledge and skills in different sects like tailoring, electrical engineering, software designing, brick laying, poultry and animal husbandry. This will create more jobs to the less privileged as argued by Akello (2017).

Ban on exportation of girls and teenagers to Arab world for labor works. Many reports have been logged to the government of Uganda indicating that many firms give Ugandan teenagers job opportunities to go and work as house maids, cleaners, barristers and hotel attendants. And at the end, these girls are being forced into sexual abuse. Reports indicate that, girls are tortured, forced into sex, they work over time, forced to have sex with home animals like dogs, denied practice of their religions since some are not Muslims, some not paid as per their agreements and contracts and some spend years without renewing their contracts. Unless government through the internal and foreign affairs departments intervene, Ugandan girls will keep suffering and sexually abused.

Adopting of labor regulatory teams. Many firms don't give employees their benefits at workplaces. And these employees cannot complain or log in court cases for fear to lose their jobs.

Government has to ensure there are teams that are put in place to check on the performance of various entities in the country. Also, those that have given Ugandans jobs abroad should be regulated. Many organizations more so those in the Middle East that have employed Ugandans, deny them chance to come back home yet some leave when they have left children, families, wives and husbands. This forces them to indulge into sex trade with their workmates to fulfill their desires. Some go an extra mile and use sex toy to satisfy themselves which is against principles of humanity, Ugandan cultures and Islam.

In conclusion, the role played by the global waves of Feminism, brought a lot of positive changes in promoting human rights across all genders. Through this advocacy, Women in Uganda scored rights of custody, rights of ownership, voting, inclusion in public sectors and leadership.

The rise of women to power has strongly addressed wicked problems women were facing. Health concerns, economic independence and social welfare policies have been achieved. These feminist movements only are changing goal posts and making women surpass men. This creates unrest in our social settings. Their wave has damaged the Ugandan culture were lesbianism and gay rights have never in history of Uganda been part. The global wave feminism and rise of women to power have brought up Westernization affecting cultures in Uganda.

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