



# **WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

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## **in Kenya**

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# Intro'

- Development of the WEI represents a major milestone in the country's evidence-based policymaking and sets a baseline for monitoring of the government's progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5) on achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.
- The initiative was with collaboration State Department for Gender, UN Women and UNICEF

# Domains of empowerment

- (a) Attitudes toward wife-beating,
- (b) Human and social resources, (indicators of educational attainment, exposure to media, exposure to family planning information, knowledge about modern contraception, knowledge about access to contraception, and knowledge about HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission)
- (c) Household decision-making,
- (d) Control over sexual relations, and
- (e) Economic domain. (Paid employment and house or land ownership.)

*Weight of the domain was then distributed equally to each of its constituting indicators.*

# Limitations

- The 2014 KDHS was mostly used in the production of WEI.
- Existing literature calls for a number of areas to be considered in the index however, the 2014 KDHS didn't include this and neither was the data available in other survey vehicles.
- County disaggregated data was not possible and only at the national level (rural and urban)
- Lack of sex-disaggregated data on ICT enterprises survey on business ownership
- Lack of e-commerce (both buying and selling component) at county level.

# Recommendations

- Expanding the consultations process to include a wide range of related stakeholders, particularly women in design of the measure of women's empowerment.
- Including data on women's use to ICT at the individual level, including ownership, usage, and purpose of usage of mobile phone, computer and the internet.
- Including data e-commerce data on women on both aspect of those who buy products online and also those who sell products online
- Changing the sampling methodology to allow measurement of women's empowerment at the county level.

# Recommendations Cont'

- Collecting information on women's knowledge of their legal rights and mechanisms, and institutions through which they can seek recourse and through which their rights are reinforced.
- Collecting data on women's access, ownership and usage of productive resources such as land, house, enterprises and other capital.
- Collecting data on women's participation and ability to engage in public speaking.
- Collecting data on women's psychological empowerment, including feelings of self-confidence, self-esteem and self-empowerment, as well as perceived psychological wellbeing.

# Recommendations cont'

- Collecting data on women's perceptions of power and empowerment in the community.
- Collecting data on women's perceptions on empowerment of their spouses, parents, siblings and children.
- Collecting data on women's perceptions of power, and of their husbands', families's, and communities' attitudes and expectations



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Link for the report: <https://www.genderinkenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/WEI-REPORT-10.08.2020.pdf>

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