

Rationale

The diploma in Gender, Women and Development Studies is designed to address multidisciplinary issues in gender, with emphasis on women and development in the African perspective. Women studies are related to all other disciplines, not only the social sciences but also natural and applied sciences. Gender studies and Women studies complement each other. Gender studies is an important aspect or component of feminist movement since feminists concerns are about ending gender inequalities, we cannot discuss such issues without referring to gender. Analysis of women centred problems and questions could suffer if the agenda shifts exclusively to concentrate on issues shared with men. In the African context and in reference to Kenya, where poverty negates development, it important to adopt a multidisciplinary approach and look at both women studies and gender studies in relation to development.

The programme targets decision-makers in the formulation of gender sensitive policies and to apply gender knowledge and skills that are essential to all careers and in the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Education For All (EFA) goals. Knowledge on gender and development is relevant in social work, institutional management that promote social and gender equity, legal systems, community development among others. Gender has become the key element for economic sustainability and social justice.

The interdisciplinary nature of the diploma course will make it applicable for those in mid-career and wishing to up-grade or refresh existing skills, those intending to change career focus in the community, government, or private sectors, those with challenges in the workplace that would be helped by a serious consideration of the issues which women studies and gender studies address. The course will offer new career opportunities for the graduates. In Kenya, the government and Non-Governmental Organizations are in need of trained personnel in the field of gender and development. The knowledge and skills acquired in this course will give the graduates a competitive edge in the job market.

Programme Objectives

The fundamental aim of the programme is to equip students with appropriate applied knowledge, skills and attitudes related to gender, with emphasis on women and development. By the end of the programme, the students shall be able to:

- i) Identify and analyse the importance of gender equity in relation to women and development in the society.
- ii) Sensitize the community on women and gender issues through advocacy, counselling, gender theories and practice.
- iii) Improve organizational capacities with regard to planning and implementation of gender strategies for development.
- iv) Incorporate gender perspectives in planning and implementation of development projects.
- v) Apply acquired skills and knowledge for gender mainstreaming in their fields of specialization.
- vi) Conduct research in women, gender and development related areas.

Admission Requirements

- i) All university rules and regulations governing admission into the diploma programmes shall apply.
- ii) Admission shall be open to holders of Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education with a minimum C (plain) grade.

iii) Applicants who have a certificate course in Gender, Poverty and Development will be considered and may be required to appear for an interview by the Institute (either oral or written) to determine their eligibility.

Course Structure and Duration

The training for the Diploma in Gender, Women and Development Studies shall extend for a period of not less than three academic years but not more than six academic years for part time students. This will include three months of attachment and report submission before graduation.

Examination Regulations

All examinations for this programmes will be conducted in accordance with the examination regulations as stipulated in the Statutes of Egerton University.

Grading System

The grading of examinations for this programme shall be conducted in accordance with Egerton University Statute XXVIII.

Graduation Requirements

To graduate, a student shall be required to take and pass all scheduled courses within the stipulated period

Diploma Classification

Diploma Classification shall be in accordance with Egerton University Statute XXVIII