Gender, Science and Technology:
Perspectives from Africa

Edited by
Catherine Wawasi Kitetu

CODESRIA Gender Series 6

Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) is an independent organisation whose principal objectives are facilitating research, promoting research-based publishing and creating multiple forums geared towards the exchange of views and information among African researchers. It challenges the fragmentation of research through the creation of thematic research networks that cut across linguistic and regional boundaries.


CODESRIA would like to express its gratitude to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA/SAREC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, NORAD, the Danish Agency for International Development (DANIDA), the French Ministry of Cooperation, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rockefeller Foundation, FINIDA, CIDA, IIEP/ADEA, OECD, OXFAM America, UNICEF and the Government of Senegal for supporting its research, training and publication programmes.
Contents

List of Contributors ...................................................................................................................... v
Acknowledgements ......................................................................................................................vi
Introduction
Catherine Wawasi Kitetu .............................................................................................................1

PART I: Science and Technology in Society:
Discourse, Perspectives, Practices and Policy

Chapter 1
Discourse and Practice of Science: Implication for Women in Africa
Catherine W. Kitetu ......................................................................................................................11

Chapter 2
National Policy on Science and Technology: An Integral Component
of Development Strategy for African Countries
John W. Forje ............................................................................................................................21

Chapter 3
Binary Synthesis, Epistemic Naturalism and Subjectivities:
Perspectives for Understanding Gender, Science and Technology in Africa
Damian U. Opata .......................................................................................................................30

PART II: Science and Technology in Education

Chapter 4
Educational Policies and the Under-Representation of Women
in Scientific and Technical Disciplines in Niger
Elisabeth Sherif ..........................................................................................................................49

Chapter 5
Girls Opting for Science Streams in Benin: Self-Renunciation or Discrimination in the Educational System?
Ghislaine Agonhessou Yaya .....................................................................................................66
Chapter 6
Towards Gender Sensitive Counseling in Science and Technology
Olubukola Olakunbi Ojo ........................................................................................... .....80

Chapter 7
Early Scientists Were Men; So Are Today’s: Perceptions of Science and Technology Among Secondary School Students in Kenya
Kenneth O. Nyangena .......................................................................................................88

Chapter 8
Looking Beyond Access: A Case Study of Girls’ Science and Technology Education in Murang’a District, Kenya
Mweru Mwingi ...................................................................................................... ...........97

Chapter 9
Gendered Views on Science and Technology Notions in Performing Arts: Characterisation and Casting in Kenya Schools Drama Festival Items
Lydia Ayako Mareri .................................................................................................... ...114

Chapter 10
Repositioning Computer Studies: Cultural Context and Gendered Subject Choices in Kenya
Fibian Kavulani Lukalo ........................................................................................ .........128

PART III: Science and Technology: The Case of One Woman, Many Women

Chapter 11
Busy Career and Intimate Life: A Biography of Nahid Toubia, First Woman Surgeon in Sudan
Jackline K. Moriasi ..................................................................................................... ...147

Chapter 12
Assessing the Impact of Coffee Production on Abagusii Women of Western Kenya: A Historical Analysis (1900–1963)
Samson Omwoyo ........................................................................................................ ...156

Chapter 13
Gender-Based Associations and Female Farmers Participation in Science and Technology Projects in Anambra State of Nigeria
Anthonia I. Achike .............................................................. ...........................................168
List of Contributors

**Anthonia Achike**, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nigeria, Nigeria.

**Catherine Wawasi Kitetu**, Department of Languages and Linguistics, Egerton University, Kenya.

**Damian Opata**, Department of English, University of Nigeria, Nigeria.

**Elisabeth Sherif**, Centre d'Etude d’Afrique Noire. Institut d’Etudes Politique, Dedeaux, France.

**Fibian Kavulani Lukalo**, Institute for Human Resource Development, Moi University, Kenya.

**Ghislaine Agonhessou Yaya**, Department of the NGO FMN, Calavi, Benin.

**John Wilson Forje**, Department of Political Science, University of Yaounde II, Cameroon.

**Jackline Kerubo Moriasi**, Department of Agricultural Economics and Business, Egerton University, Kenya.

**Lydia Ayako Mareri**, Department of Languages and Linguistics, Egerton University, Kenya.

**Mweru Mwingi**, Department of Education, Rhodes University, South Africa.

**Kenneth Nyangena**, Department of Development Support, University of Orange Free State, South Africa.

**Olubukola Olakunbi Ojo**, Department of Educational Foundations and Counseling, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

**Samson Moenga Omwoyo**, Department of History, Archaeology and Political Studies, Kenyatta University, Kenya.
Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I give many thanks to CODESRIA, which invited and financed the one-month peer reviewing of the proposals presented at the Gender Institute 2003. CODESRIA also funded all the research that the laureates went on to do, and finally arranged the publication of these papers. Thanks to the CODESRIA secretariat in Dakar, who worked tirelessly with us while in session with much cheerfulness and good humour. Thanks are also due to the resource persons and all the laureates of the Gender Institute 2003, for their patience and very active participation during the workshops and, later, while working on their papers which form the contents of this book. Many heartfelt thanks are also due to my co-director, Josephine Beoku-Betts, who painstakingly reviewed the first drafts of all the papers in this collection. All efforts have been made to polish the thoughts presented here. However, the positions adopted are those of the writers of the chapters and not necessarily those of the co-directors of the Gender Institute 2003 or CODESRIA.