

**Women's traditional rights to land ownership and use in rural Tanzania**  
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This work studies traditional rights to land ownership and use in rural Tanzania with focus on Arumeru. Our study has revealed that in the rural areas, access to land ownership has been crystallized into customary land rights under the existing land tenure laws. Land is regarded as a vital asset, necessitating the need for its protection against alienation outside the clan or family. This has worked in favour of the male gender and against the female. The study further revealed that the position of women is changing. Some, though perhaps few, women have managed to acquire land in full ownership. The study is divided into five chapters. Chapter one lays out a theoretical perspective. It provides the background to the research problem, the statement of the problem, the objectives and hypotheses. It also includes review of literature and the methodology. Chapter two deals with property rights of women in Tanzania it sets out to examine the question of women's traditional rights to land ownership and use. This part includes customary land tenure and rights to real property and other productive resources within marriage, upon dissolution of marriage and under inheritance laws. Chapter three examines laws which limit particularly rural women's general rights to land and other productive resources. It includes problems of legal pluralism, and legal obstacles to credit access and cooperative membership for rural women. Women's rights in landed property in other countries are also discussed briefly in order to obtain a comparative view of the subject. Chapter four focuses on Arumeru District as a case study. It examines traditional land rights during marriage, upon dissolution of marriage either through divorce or death of the husband, inheritance and guardianship. Chapter five is a concluding chapter. It includes a summary of the study and provides some remedial suggestions and recommendations to alleviate the problem under study. This part also outlines areas for further research.