

Extent of feminist consciousness and its relation to political participation in Tanzania

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This study attempted to discuss the relationship between feminist consciousness and political participation. At its core, it attempted to examine the extent to which feminist consciousness has developed and affected political behaviour of women in Tanzania. It also endeavored to examine the political participation of Tanzanian women who are members of women organisations and those who are not. The findings of this study suggest that feminist consciousness has positive influence on the political behaviour of women in Tanzania, that is, their active participation in politics is the function of their high level of feminist consciousness. In this connection the study revealed that the involvement of women in politics is enhanced membership in women organizations which constitute a force against the structural and cultural constraints facing women's participation in politics. On the basis of the study's findings we recommend deliberate structural and institutional efforts aiming at enhancing feminist consciousness in a bid to achieve an equitable political plain for both genders in the Tanzanian society.