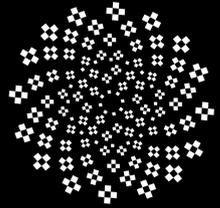


July 2020

SUCCESS
CAPITAL
YOUTH LED, MANAGED & SERVING



ADVANCING A FEMINIST FUTURE

AN OVERVIEW AND TAKE ON CONTEMPORARY
ISSUES FROM A FEMINIST LENS

Prepared by:

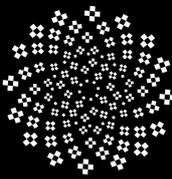
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Supported by:

Urgent Action Fund Africa



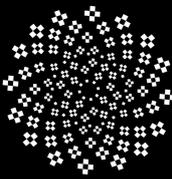
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Our work is centered on safeguarding and strengthening youth agency. Work has been centered on uncovering voice and visibility within human rights, sustainable development and the systemic frameworks that aggregate inequities.

It recognises the links to injustices of vulnerable and marginalised communities that absolve leaders and systems from accountability, reducing inequalities, affirming the marginalised and letting them thrive.

This includes participatory research, training and advocacy on the COVID-19 crisis response and recovery, Africa's Agenda 2063, Nuclear Disarmament, Water and Energy, SDGs, UHC, HIV, SRHR, APRM, Governance, Philanthropy, social protections, migration, climate, treaty body mechanisms, special procedures and policy making instruments among others.

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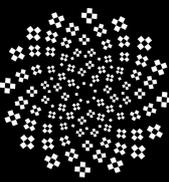
Feminist Economics

Feminist economics dates back from around the 17th -18th century, it is a social science that takes an unorthodox approach to market factors producing a parlance of subjectivity thus challenging the status quo of neoclassic economics or dialects of mainstream economic theory. [1]

Feminist economics is fundamentally about improving the position of women in society, however, the concept is still non-coherent because a tried framework is yet to be structured and developed without conflicting on the need to toe the line between economic equity and protection against the adverse gendered work impacts. [2]

Under -representation of women cuts across the dynamics of education, welfare and income distribution to the greater socially construction of macro-economics. Studies from developed countries have shown a high Human Development Index, which comprise of mainly, life expectancy, literacy and income development drops significantly when the gender element is factored in. [1] Feminist economics strives to eliminate the biasness held in mainstream economic research that has been the fibre of patriarchal structures that stirs masculinity in political, social and economic institutions. Henceforth, Economic policies that balance the gender equilibrium need to be formulated and widely stipulated.

Neoclassical economics strips women of bargaining power and subjects them to oppression of their supra-counterparts. It is a basic value-free natural law that is of the standpoint that factors are in ceteris paribus thus uniformity to all, a very unrealistic approach with further consideration of gendered labour segregation and inequity. Feminist economics argues that all is not ceteris paribus but all economic theories are formed by social forces, including the value system of society that forms the legislative fibre to economic market forces. Economic apathy is often the decapitating norm for women emancipation.



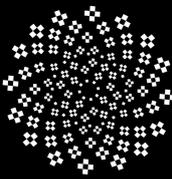
Feminist Budgeting

To formulate a holistic feminist budget, comprehensive legislative fund allocation, judicial directives and public investment on a value education system are the scaffolding towards the achievement of gender equity and justice. [2]

To achieve this, funds must be earmarked and specifically deployed to the apt gender despondent sectors of education and health care. Gender justice goes above and beyond allocation of funds but more on the dismantlement of the patriarchy, 'killing sacred cows' in the process. Henceforth, the budget plan should align resource for strategic allocation for a comprehensible gender equity road map and optimization taking into account to avoid underutilization or scant allocation.

Women are the edifice of communities hence supporting their health should be prioritized to achieve productivity and sustainability, obstinately to target gender equity. The gender budget framework should aim to avail reproductive and maternal health amenities that cater for the well-being of women who form the backbone structure of socio-economics. This will inevitably increase their productivity levels and output especially in third world countries and emerging economies where policies and amenities are more stringent. Henceforth, budget provisions for reproductive health care & maternal health care alongside policies on educational opportunities towards women empowerment should be budget inclusive.

Socio-economic issues always have a ripple effect that creases the macro economy hence judicial cases adjudicating for alimony, child-support or maintenance and the flow of funds into women and children welfare are a strong budget consideration. Budget should cover the socially inclusive justice system comprising of activism on child marriage, sexual assault and harassment in the work place and security threat as, domestic violence, assault and rape. Trauma counselling amenities and support services are essentially a budget requisite.



Feminist Care Work during COVID-19

The overrepresentation of women in frontline work, from nurses' aid and nursing home to low income supply chain workers and child miners make them more susceptible in crisis time [3]. The gender differential impact of COVID-19 crosses the tiers of gender parity making frontline women much susceptible in mortality rate.

As schools close and conversational education systems shutdown, the role of women as teachers and child minders has grown exponentially during COVID-19 crisis. The value of care workers in this field of which the majority is accounted for by women is becoming clearly evident. Overrepresentation of women in low-wage frontline work highly exposes them to threats; trend in developed countries indicates a disproportionate level of unemployment of minority women, especially women of colour. [3]

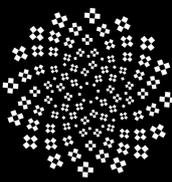
Women's physical and mental healths alongside the communities that rely on them for their work are at stake. The majority vast of both paid and unpaid care work personnel is women and because care is undervalued they mostly earn a low wage from their care work, hence, the economic spheres of feminist economics should come to play to balance the equilibrium scope for care workers in formal settings and home.

COVID-19 simply exacerbates the already dysfunctional labour market of which much is required of women than men and for low wage payment. Beyond the myopic view, the crisis offers a chance to disrupt the connotations of gendered care work. On the hand, greater scrutiny is critical to establish the extent of domestic power relations and establishing a level labour playfield. [4]

Distinction between 'care work' and 'feminist care work'

There is a slight distinction between general care work and feminist care work. General care work involves the care processes done in service of others. Inherently different from other work categories, although can attribute to paid work, care work is normally pursued beyond the sole reasons of financial compensation. [11] A trend shows an accentuation of women as the gender dominating the care social system. Furthermore, this trend has been the rhetoric yard stick of most domestic setups, thus, revealing the imbalance attributed to care work.

The care work feminist theory thus suggests a redress to the disproportionate attribution of gendered care. [12] Feminist care work advocates for equity and the equal treatment and recognition women carrying out care work. Thus, feminist care work takes into account the recognition of care work as actual work thus the need for remuneration, equal pay and equal treatment to their male counterparts, suitable working provisions, and a legislative deterrence from exploitative pursuits.

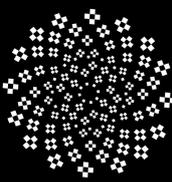


Feminist Responses in Emergency Situations

The gendered dimensional imbalance extends to the homes where gender role divisions are prevalently still carried out by women. Women still do most of the unpaid care work around the globe than their male counterparts [5]. With the vast closing of schools and childcare facilities and the surging number of patients due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the need for home-based caring labour has unequivocally increased. It is also a global trend for households to be headed by single women who bear the financial support of dependents. The matriarchal family setup is most common hence the dependence of single income is a resting pressure for women at large. Intense pressure may impact the physical and mental health of women [4]. Psychological mental support for care workers and health workers is thus an essential interventional need and crisis resources must cater to that. [6]

In March 18, 2020, The US Fed' s announced that the COVID-19 relief package includes paid family leave and medical benefits for those who fall sick or have to leave the work to take care of sick relative.[7] This is response to the financial laden on care workers, of which most comprises of women. The introduction of the emergency paid leave policy also extends to anyone who needs to need to leave work to mind children amidst the schools closure. The passing of this legislation has been an effective response that has immensely helped care workers balance responsibility and have financial aid.

Moreover, the crisis does not remove the need for women's access to reproductive health care resources and maternal care. [8] The role of feminist economics is more crucial during a crisis because sanitary pads, child delivery and care are still issues to mull over and economies need these resources for continued social reproduction and welfare. The whole world is experiencing an economic downturn, and the reduction in productivity may as well mean the increase in price of vital reproduction services and resources, a dire effect for the less privileged women as they distribute their income to other consumables. [9][10] Allowance through economic stimulus packages must be made globally to cushion against the economic slumps.



Framework towards achieving a Feminist Economy

A ted-talk by one Ms Pheko [12] suggests a revolutionary approach to wealth indicators, thus, the new model is that which transcends beyond materialistic gain or standard GDP, but on over stipulation on the quality of life, moves beyond a nation's ability access to amenities and services but on the intrinsic quality of the accessible amenities and on non-quantifiable cadre like bliss, comfort, serenity, equity and freedom of choice, all of which is not nearly recognized in the discussions surrounding feminist economics. However, this approach omits the economical theories status quo hence data collected leans closely on subjectivity thus analysis might not be viable for wealth measurement and economical control.

Furthermore, Marxist feminism is an elective theorem that can be used in downplaying the exploitation of women in carrying out their care work; Marxist feminism strives to achieve this by attenuating the impacts of capitalism, [13] to achieve this, a government-centric feminism framework should be formulated and effectively accentuated. Capitalism focuses on profit-making and efficiency, hence to the greater extent, on the exploitation of the low social class. It also results in the unfair power attribution in societies making the low class susceptible to exploitation by the higher class.

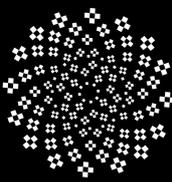
Affirmative to Marxism theorem, gender transformative action in spheres of both public service and private sector that would inherently form a linkage to the broader political and socio-economical dynamics of gendered care work might just be the feasible framework towards a feminist economy. What is the role of the state then? To the greater extent, a mixed economic framework levels the playing field towards gendered care work. Whilst government play their part, corporate accountability is key player for the principle of feminist care work ethics and beyond. Moreover, the economic components of Botswana's economy are enablers for one such an economy, *ceteris paribus*, market movers are a given.

Framing a Feminist Future

closing remarks of the curator

Olorato brilliantly presented fundamental aspects of our existence as people. Acknowledging that we live in a capitalist world with neo-liberal policies and contrasts of equitable participation, recognition and privilege. This world remains enabling for an elite few or toxic majority. Where money is not a factor, patriarchy is. Where neither prevail; then it is power and how it exerts itself on the 'othered'. Those who continue to benefit from systems of governance, colonialism, trade and development will not concede their power for more equitable and participatory means of existence. They rely on populations remaining subdued to inequitable means of production, consumption and beneficiation. The individualistic framing of success in Westernisation of global geopolitics have left 'hard work', 'struggle' and 'motivation; as ingredients to what is deemed as a acceptability in income and wealth generation. It can never be viewed from a moral, values or human rights lens unless it is permitted by them.

The inconvenience of accountability has perpetuated the idea that poverty is of laziness, being 'worthy' of it, or blindness to opportunity. It absolves the corrupt and progressive alike from answering for their privilege as it wastes away avenues for building alternative systems that value the collectivism and sustainability entrenched in indigenous practices and de-colonial dissonance. Instead they continue to deflect the mirror from themselves towards populations to remind them that they can vote, have to work and must do better for their nations. All whilst the greedy ilk of privilege, power and patriarchy hoard resources at times of emergency and government complacency. They thrive off of rights apathy, labour fatigue and care work that consume our time away from participating in creating a future that includes, recognises and respects all. This is all about to change, as a **Feminist Agenda** will continue to underpin our work.. We will unravel, unlearn and share alternatives to becoming and belonging.



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