

Advancing Gender Equality

Some Practical Proposals

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Progress in Societies*

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Success enhancing factors

- **Global and regional commitments and monitoring mechanisms**
- **The growth of constitutionalism and democracy**
- **The place of PRSPs and legal reforms**
- **The presence of an active civil society including media**
- **Increased access to information**
- **Formal and non-formal education**

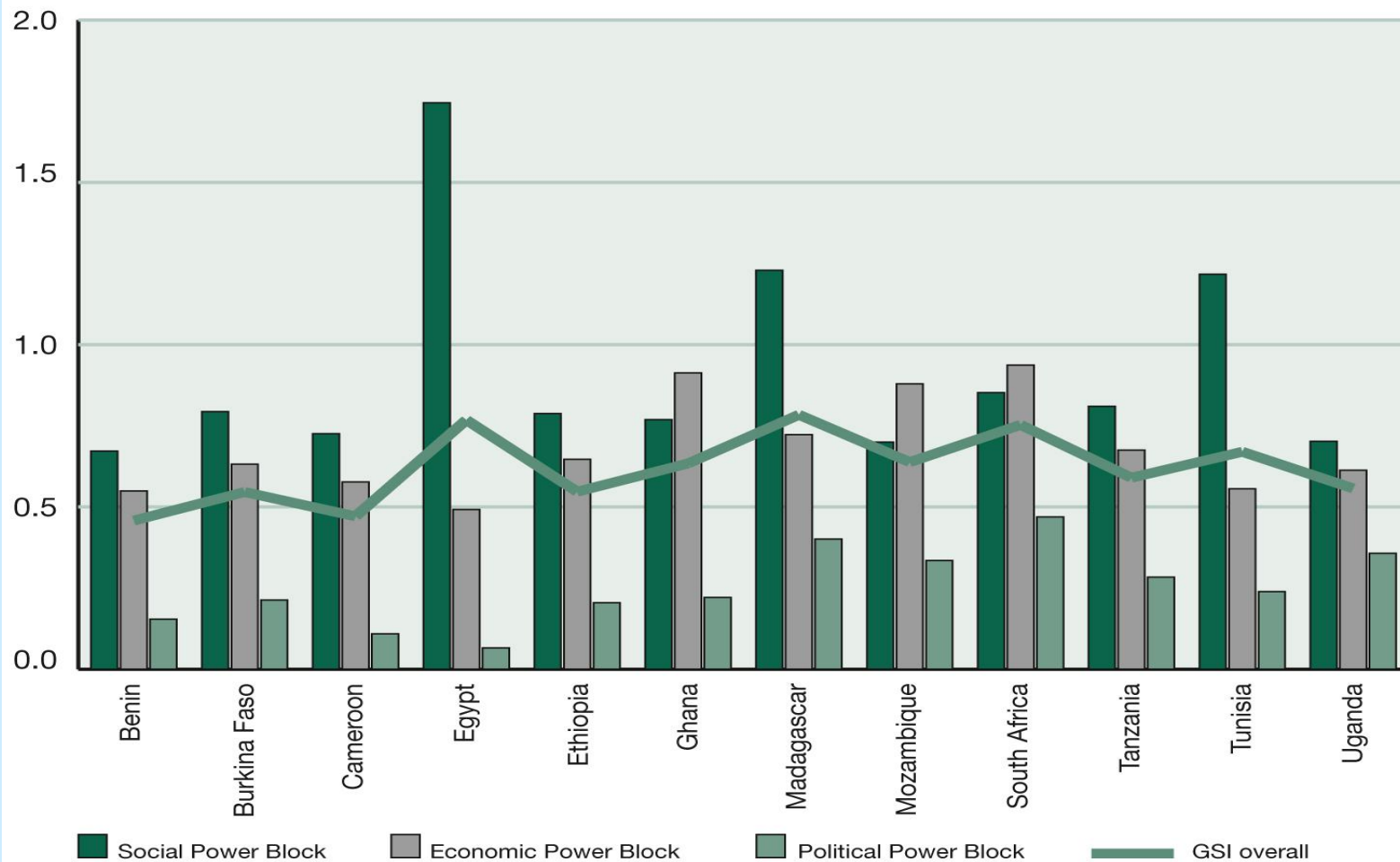


Inhibiting factors

- The nature of politics and policy agenda setting in Africa
- Persisting negative notions of the role of women in society
- Contradictions between advancements in social, cultural, economic and political rights reforms
- Limited budgetary commitment and capacity for gender mainstreaming
- Weak institutional reforms including decentralisation
- Limited access to opportunities to enforce rights
- Limited efficacy of global, regional and national monitoring mechanisms



Case study of women's status in 12 African countries





Enabling progress

- What do we mean by local level?
- Negotiation
- Can tradition and perceptions change?
- Are there aspects of tradition and culture which advance the cause of women?
- Are there existing traditional resources that we can tap into?
- Seeking close alliances with male and female traditional authority
- Invest in education. However initiatives should not work to the disadvantage of boys



Enabling progress contd.

- The important role of decentralised development participation and accountability
- Innovation in service delivery. E.g. the use of Non-Physician Clinicians and incentives for community members to teach in their localities
- The deployment of female role models at village level and naming of streets, schools, parks and scholarship funds after successful females



The way forward

- The link between gender equality and progress in development must be established scientifically and reduced to forms that would be appreciated at different levels of society (e.g. technocrats, politicians, traditional rulers, civil society, children)
- All data collection should be subjected to gender disaggregation and countries should be encouraged to collect data in areas where there are serious shortfalls (e.g. Time Use)
- Recognising the non-monetised work of women in national accounts would go a long way toward improving perceptions of their roles in society



Way forward contd.

- Strengthen systems of global, regional, sub regional and national systems of accountability towards women
- This should include an appreciation and acceptance of the justiciability of economic and social rights
- Enhance and promote decentralised governance and systems of service delivery
- Enhance opportunities for financing gender equality concerns through gender-aware PRSPs and other Development Frameworks
- Integrate gender concerns at all levels of learning and capacity building for purposes of appreciating gender as a natural part of development as opposed to being an adjoining part