



**INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
FOR EAST AFRICA
(IUCEA)**

**INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON GENDER
STUDIES FOR UNIVERSITIES
IN THE EAC PARTNER STATES**

GUIDELINES

January 2015



Inter-University Council for East Africa

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PREFACE

Following the completion of the baseline survey on HIV and AIDS prevalence and behavioral status in 18 universities selected in the 3 East African countries of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, IUCEA organized a dissemination workshop for the study results from 13th-14th March 2012, involving Heads of the 18 Institutions where the studies were conducted. One of the recommendations from the workshop was to finalise and disseminate the Gender and Rights Based Approach (GRBA) Toolkit, a document which provides an opportunity to understand and address gender factors that contribute to the increased vulnerability of the university population to HIV and AIDS through policies, academic and administrative systems. IUCEA organised a dissemination workshop for the (GRBA) Toolkit which was held on 19th-20th June 2014 in Entebbe, Uganda.

The dissemination workshop led to the development of a roadmap for implementing gender related matters for Higher Education Institutions in the EAC. One of the actions in the roadmap was to develop guidelines for gender mainstreaming in academic programs and administration. In response to the recommendations from the above workshops, an IUCEA Thematic Cluster specific for Gender and Youth, developed guidelines for mainstreaming gender in university curricula.

The workshop that developed the guidelines for mainstreaming Gender in universities in East Africa was held at Imperial Golf View Hotel, Entebbe Uganda on 17th & 18th July 2014.

The guidelines will facilitate the development of curricula on gender by universities and be used as a common course for Universities. The curricula will enhance students' knowledge and skills necessary for application of gender perspectives during their study life, and in all aspects of their career and social lives.

I therefore call upon the heads of Commissions/Councils for Higher Education, heads of member Universities and teaching staff to adapt the guidelines and use them to enrich the curriculum and competence of our student population in gender related matters.

Prof. Mayunga H.H Nkunya
Kampala, January 2015
Executive Secretary, IUCEA

1. Introduction

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) is an institution of the East African Community (EAC) whose mission is to promote strategic and sustainable development of higher education systems and research for supporting East Africa's socio-economic development and regional integration. Its vision is to become an EAC strategic institution responsible for promoting, developing and coordinating human resources development and research in the region.

As an institution responsible for Human Resource development and research in the EAC, IUCEA promotes networking between scholars of related disciplines and for multi-discipline projects and programmes in order to strengthen capacity of universities in teaching, research and services. IUCEA introduced 13 Thematic Clusters, focused on providing sector wide developmental themes for our economies and livelihoods. The Thematic Clusters therefore constitute one of effective systems for bridging academia and community gaps. Among the 13 Thematic Clusters is the Gender & Youth Thematic Cluster.

IUCEA has to date, held a number of meetings and workshops on Gender and Youth under the auspices of the Gender and Youth Thematic Cluster. In 2008, a joint workshop on gender and youth and HIV and AIDS was held in Dar-es-Salaam, to discuss the role of gender and youth issues in the management of HIV and AIDS. In January 2010, IUCEA organized a gender and youth workshop to enhance competence, and awareness of universities on gender matters. The meeting dwelt on discussion about gender perspectives and their relevance to university settings. The meeting brought together participants from a number of universities from the region and IUCEA staff. It was noted that there is need to carry out a survey in higher education institutions to establish the status of gender and youth studies in their curricula, and the approach to share their experience with their colleagues in other universities and beyond. On the other hand, the need to establish the mode of exploiting the Gender and

Youth studies to influence administrative performance and vice-versa was observed.

During the dissemination workshop for the Gender and Rights Based Approaches Toolkit held on 19th-20th June 2014 in Entebbe, Uganda, a roadmap for implementing gender related matters at the Higher Education Institutions in the EAC was developed. One of the actions in the roadmap was to develop guidelines for gender mainstreaming in academic programs. Therefore, a workshop for developing an introductory course on gender for universities in East Africa was held on 17th-18th July 2014 in Entebbe, Uganda, involving IUCEA staff and representatives from partner states. The workshop produced guidelines which will enable development of curricula on gender, as a common course for all University students.

2. Rationale

Gender issues are key aspects in the local and international human rights agenda and human-centered development. The mandate to mainstream gender into all development agenda is derived from the United Nations Human Rights Policies and programme activities, based on the Beijing declaration and Platform for Action. In the East African Community Partner States, gender issues are being addressed through provisions in the countries' legal and institutional frameworks.

In higher education, some institutions have incorporated elements of gender in teaching, learning and research at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, while others have not. However, gender mainstreaming in university functions is not adequately coordinated and harmonised at institutional, national and regional levels. Considering that universities in the EAC are at different levels of advancement on the development or implementation of gender programmes, there is a need to find a common ground. Gender studies play a critical role in moulding the socio-cultural perspectives that promote equitable and sustainable development. The

Guidelines for mainstreaming gender in university curriculum in the East African Community

guidelines will be instrumental in providing a common framework to integrate gender in the teaching and learning at universities in the East African Community Partner States.

3. Course Description & Study Level

This is a common course that responds to institutional, national and regional needs in regards to gender issues. The course aims at equipping students from across all disciplines with knowledge and skills to contribute in addressing gender issues during, and after their study life. The course will preferably be offered during the first two years of the undergraduate programme.

4. Overall Objective

To provide a framework for developing a course that equips students with knowledge and skills necessary to apply gender perspectives to all aspects of life.

5. Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of the program the student should be able to:

- i. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of gender concepts and their importance to personal and societal development.
- ii. Utilize technological tools and methods based on gender disaggregated data and empirical evidence in addressing gender issues.
- iii. Demonstrate critical understanding and ability to share gender knowledge and skills as change agents in society.
- iv. Underscore the significance of women's empowerment by recognizing sexist bias, gender imbalance, distortions and trivialization of women's contribution to mainstream development.
- v. Appreciate the importance of strategic alliances between men and women in addressing gender inequalities.
- vi. Describe strategies for addressing gender inequalities.

- vii. Demonstrate an understanding of the value of gender equitable access to, and control of resources.
- viii. Utilize knowledge and skills acquired to mainstream gender in their respective disciplines as well as social and professional lives.
- ix. Demonstrate understanding of national, regional and international frameworks for gender equality and women's empowerment.

6. Teaching and Assessment

Rules and regulations governing teaching and examinations in respective universities shall apply.

7. Implementation Guidelines

The Commissions/Councils for higher education in Partner States will be expected to oversee the implementation of these guidelines through their regulatory, accreditation and other appropriate frameworks and mechanisms.



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