

Rethinking GAD (Gender and Development) in Staring at the Second Trump Administration

OKANOCHI Tadashi*

The newly inaugurated second Trump administration attacked the concept of gender itself as an ideology and ordered the abolition of development cooperation, including humanitarian aid, as a waste for the American people. This is an attack on gender mainstreaming to achieve gender equality through the GAD (Gender and Development) approach, which has been promoted by the United Nations since the end of the 20th century and incorporated into the SDGs, and will have serious repercussions for women and vulnerable populations, which constitute the overwhelming majority of human society.

However, a countermeasure to this situation had already been proposed during the first Trump administration: a women's revolution in which women would lead the overwhelming majority of the population and transform the political and economic systems to build communities that prioritize caring for vulnerable people such as children, the elderly, the disabled, and the sick.

Such a women's revolution has been driven by the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) since July 2012. Recent research has revealed that this women's revolution has taken root in the community, garnering overwhelming support from the people of this region including men, who have suffered genocide and sexual violence, and from the real threat of the Syrian civil war.

*AAIJ member
Professor, HOSEI University

The Entanglement of Violence and Modesty: A Structural Analysis of Violence Against Women in India

NAKANE Satoko*

This paper examines how violence against women in India is produced and sustained within a patriarchal socio-legal framework. Analyzing crime statistics from 2012 to 2022, it demonstrates that violence against women remains a critical and unresolved issue, with reported cases increasing significantly beyond population growth rates. The study explores legal discourse, particularly laws on "women's modesty," showing how they reinforce gender norms rather than dismantle oppression. Applying Kate Manne's concept of misogyny, it argues that legal and social structures punish women who defy patriarchal expectations. Consequently, it reveals how laws designed to protect women paradoxically contribute to the reinforcement of patriarchal norms, thereby perpetuating misogynistic violence instead of eradicating it.

* AAIJ member

Associate Professor, Faculty of International Studies, Ryukoku University

Thinking about "Gender Transformative Education"

SAWAYANAGI Takahiro*

Gender Transformative Education (GTE) aims to achieve gender equality in and through education by transforming gender norms, which are the root causes of gender inequality. Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), gender equality has become one of the most essential goals in the international community, and GTE is gradually positioned as an important instrument to achieve gender equality. Still, there are many challenges to GTE practice, including patriarchal gender norms, child marriage, gender gaps in digital learning, and gender-based violence so that GTE practices must consider the cultural and social context of each country and region. In addition, there is a lack of research to capture GTE practices and outcomes. Thus, to promote GTE practices in much broader contexts, further development of research on GTE practice is expected. The author clarifies the importance of GTE and the challenges ahead and emphasizes the role of GTE in realizing a gender-equal society.

* Advocacy officer, Plan International Japan

An Essay on the Drafting Process of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: A Study from the Perspective of Legal Pluralism

KIMURA Mitsuhide*

The purpose of this paper is to present a modest attempt to show that it is possible to examine the treaty drafting process from the perspective of legal pluralism. Legal pluralism considers the pluralistic juxtaposition of multiple (formal and informal) legal orders in different social spheres. As such, this paper focuses on the controversy that arises between Western and non-Western countries participating in the treaty drafting process - over liberal and non-liberal values. This is because the legal pluralist perspective focuses on the methods of compromise and the inner workings of such conflicts. The subject of analysis is the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Among them, the drafting process of seven articles will be analyzed: abortion and fetal rights, the family responsible for the child, religious freedom, protection of children deprived of a family environment, adoption, the right to health, and the purpose of education. The following findings emerged from this analysis. First, there are four patterns of compromise in the conflict between liberal and non-liberal values: postponement, concession, give and take, and balance. Second, there are multiple types of conflict between international human rights norms and legal pluralism: confrontation, the former actively tolerating the latter, tolerating the latter within the limits of the former, and balancing the two. Third, the existence of precedent (soft law) and the ingenuity and cohesion of non-Western countries are important for the incorporation of legal pluralism into international human rights treaties.

* AAIJ member

Part-time Lecturer, Kansai University

What origin of, what kind of, and how many staple foods can people consume? The transformation of dietary energy supply of staple foods in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1962–2019

SEO Yasuhiko*

Data on “varieties and quantities of staple foods people subsist on” exist for each country, but not for Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, and country-specific data do not indicate the origin of each staple food (i.e., whether it is locally produced or imported). In this study, we obtained data on origin, type, and quantity of staple foods that are available in Sub-Saharan Africa, by calculating the various types of country-specific data. We then elucidated their long-term trends through the analysis of the obtained data; we also identified factors contributing to these trends. Furthermore, we also examined these issues for each of the four Sub-Saharan African regions. The results of this study were as follows. (1) The downward trend of dietary energy supply from staple foods in Sub-Saharan Africa have ended. (2) The causes of the dietary transition currently underway in Sub-Saharan Africa are an increase not only in wheat imports but also in rice production. (3) A decrease in per capita staple foods production did not cause the decline in staple foods self-sufficiency rate. Thus, the situation regarding staple foods in Sub-Saharan Africa has undergone a remarkable transformation since the 2010s, overturning conventional wisdom and previous studies.

*AAIJ member

* Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, Chiba University