

Basadi mo Botswana: Women in the Socio-Economic Order of Botswana

Hannah McQueen, Coe College

The tale of Botswana's development following its independence in 1966 is one of prosperity, rapid globalization, and stability. However, not everything in Botswana is as rosy as it seems at first glance. In particular, the inferior opportunities and status that Botswana women (Basadi) hold compared to their male counterparts in Tswana society are the direct consequence of a traditional patriarchal system that still shapes the socio-economic order of present-day Botswana. In order to explore this gender inequality and its impact on both the societal and the economic growth of this sub-Saharan country, I have split my research topic into three main parts. First, I explore the current condition of Botswana's economy; second, I discuss the place of women and how their status has evolved in recent decades; and finally, I address how the pervading gender inequality impacts the economy of Botswana. Ultimately, my paper is designed to give some insight as to how gender inequality is harmful, not only to the oppressed, but to all of society's members, because of the negative affects it has on economic growth and development.