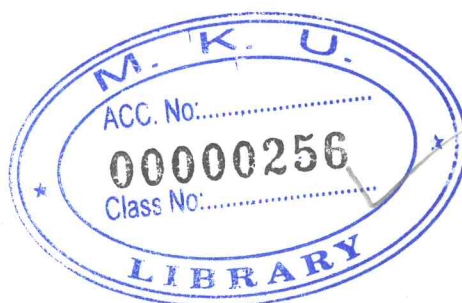


AN INVESTIGATION OF INHERITANCE PRACTICES AMONG THE
CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TOWARDS
ACHIEVING OF GENDER EQUALITY IN KENYA.
A CASE OF SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH
IMENTI DIVISION OF MERU COUNTY

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ABSTRACT

The inheritance system of the Meru superficially takes one aspects; patrilineal where inheritance is passed from father to sons; but also traces of matrilineal is found where property is passed from mother to daughters. The two aspects are fundamental realities in Meru society; placing more emphasis on importance of the boy child thus leading to social stratification. This social stratification infers that inheritance of the girl child is obviously undermined. Groups like FIDA have teamed up to fight for the rights of the girl child suggesting that they have been discriminated in inheritance aspect. The research aims to solve the problem by promoting equality to all in regard to inheritance. The research methodology used mixed design. The research instruments used were structured questionnaires and interview guide. Piloting of the instruments was done before the usual research, to test their validity. To ensure reliability, the researcher carried out a pilot- study; that is, pre-testing the survey procedure on a small group to monitor the effectiveness of the research instruments. The collected data was be analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. The quantitative data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 19 and results were presented in tables, graphs and charts for interpretation, conclusions and recommendations. Generally it has been alleged that the girl-child in Meru community does not have any right to inherit the parents' property. But according to the data collected, it all came to the light that there are still some enlightened people who strongly stick to the opinion that girls too have the right to inheritance.