

# **LET THE MEN DO IT: TAKING ADVANTAGE OF GENDER INEQUALITIES IN WATER RESOURCES GOVERNANCE IN THE BOSOMTWI DISTRICT OF GHANA**

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## **Abstract**

*Focus has gradually shifted to the gender dimension of water resources governance, specifically on issues of inclusion and exclusion of women in the water sector. Current discourses depict efforts of mainstreaming female genders into water resources governance since they are mostly in the minority when it comes to the formal administration and management of water resources. Several strategies and actions including policies have been created in an effort to mainstream gender in water resources governance. However, these policies and actions have not yielded expected results. The purpose of this paper is to provide some answers to why these strategies and policies have not been effective in some selected communities within the Bosomtwi District of Ghana. The qualitative method was employed in the research. Using an interview guide, focused group discussions guide and an observation checklist, data were sourced from members from water sector institutions, community members and traditional authorities in two rural and two urban areas within the district. The results from the data showed that the cultural dynamics of this district empowered women which gave them some control over natural resources. It was also found that the female genders took advantage of their exclusion in water resources governance to free them from extra responsibilities hence the inability of government policies on gender mainstreaming to integrate and yield expected outcomes. Therefore, it is recommended that policies should be place-specific because women are not homogeneous but heterogeneous in several ways within different cultural settings in Ghana.*

*Keywords: Water resources governance, gender mainstreaming, Bosomtwi District, female-headed households, traditional authorities, Ghana.*