

The Study of Georgian Youth's Awareness, Perceptions and Attitudes of Gender Equality

Center for Social Sciences

Project Leader: Elene Japaridze

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The proposed research aims to study youth awareness, perceptions and attitudes towards gender equality in Georgia. Gender equality is a central issue that can be used to address social inclusion, civil society development and societal values in democratic transition processes. Research into gender consciousness, varying perceptions and attitudes of youth is of significant importance, as youths greatly contribute to the advancement of democratization processes and the construction of civic institutions and societal values. Regardless of immense legislative reforms related to gender equality, in conjunction with a considerable number of projects and programs targeting increasing awareness in gender issues that foster a gender-sensitive environment, the general public still obtains limited information relevant to these issues. It is the lack of comprehensive studies analyzing gender equality-related perceptions and attitudes in Georgia that creates barriers for effective policy planning.

The proposed research, first and foremost, aims to identify current perceptions, attitudes and awareness of Georgian youth in relation to gender and gender equality in Georgia. Secondly, it will evaluate the aforementioned research in relation to gender as a social construct and gender equality in Georgia. Furthermore, it will reveal the extent to which they are modern/global, or traditional/local. The research will close with the exploration of disparities in perceptions, attitudes and awareness within the traditional/local, to modern/global framework, according to different age and sex groups—teenagers versus young adults, male versus female and urban versus suburban. In order to meet the above-mentioned goals, both quantitative and qualitative approaches will be applied. Qualitative data will be obtained through two methods: In-depth interviews (with activists and experts related to gender issues); and focus groups among Georgian youths. Critical discourse analysis (CDA) and categorization framework will be used to analyze the qualitative data.