

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS OF
GABILEY REGION IN SOMALILAND**

BY

**ABDIRAHMAN HASSAN MUHUMED KHALIF
MDS/33529/111/DF**

**A THESIS PRESENTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER DEGREES AND
RESEARCH IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE AWARD OF MASTERS DEGREE IN
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES OF KAMPALA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY**

NOV, 2014



ABSTRACT

The study sought to determine the relationship between affirmative action and women's participation in politics in the Gabiley Region of Somaliland. This study was guided by four objectives which consist of these objectives; to determine the demographic characteristics of the study respondents; to determine the level of affirmative action in Gabiley Region; to determine the extent of women's participation in politics and to establish the relationship between affirmative action and women's participation in politics. Using a cross sectional survey design, data were collected from 381 respondents by the use of a structured questionnaire. The study found that affirmative action in the Gabiley Region was low; the level of women's participation in politics in the Gabiley Region is low and that affirmative action has a significant positive influence on women's participation in politics ($r= 0.741$ p value <0.05). The study further found that affirmative action has a significant effect on the level women's participation in politics in the Gabiley Region ($F=118$, $P>0.05$; $\beta =0.741$, $p<0.05$). The study concluded that level of affirmative action that is directed towards improving women's participation in politics in Gabiley region is low. It also concluded that women's participation in politics in the Gabiley Region of Somaliland is low and does not allow for full representation of women in government and political positions. The study further concluded that in Gabiley Region of Somaliland, women's participation in politics increases with increased affirmative action. The study recommends that; the government should put in place a quota system that can enable women to be voted for in public office; the government of Somaliland should put in place a system to finance activities that make equity for both men and women a reality; the government of Somaliland should make an effort to support women during campaigns. Women's campaigns should partly be funded by the government. Affirmative actions should be undertaken to increase women's income. This can be attained through providing credit and income generating activities to the women in order to improve their income levels; The government should increase positive media coverage for women who chose to run for public office and that through sensitization and mass education, there should be attempts by the national government to remove all forms of cultural discrimination against women in the region