

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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An Assessment of the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network's Gender and Information Programme in promoting women empowerment

by

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A Research Project Submitted to the National University of Science and Technology in Partial Fulfilment of the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree

in

Library and Information Science

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BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

YEAR: 2014

ABSTRACT

Women in Zimbabwe are lagging behind because they lack information on women empowerment thus the study sought to assess the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network's Gender and information programmes in promoting women empowerment. Literature review revealed that women need empowerment information that includes gender equality, social empowerment, economic empowerment and political empowerment. The programmes being offered by special libraries include Gender and Development Talks (GAD) Talks, Information Communication Technology (ICTs) training, and research and advocacy. Women face challenges in accessing women empowerment information and the challenges includes location of the resource centres, membership policy, physical facilities and opening and closing times. The solutions for the challenges include networking and resource sharing. The case study research method was employed with the use of questionnaires and interviews. Purposive and convenience sampling were used to get a total sample of 37 respondents. Qualitative, tables, pie charts and graphs were used to summarise data that was collected. Findings revealed that women are aware of some of the programmes offered by ZWRCN and these included library facilities, GAD Talks, ICT training and Research and publication. It also revealed that the women were aware of the information products offered by ZWRCN. It was found that women require empowerment information that includes political empowerment, social empowerment, economic empowerment and gender equality. It was found that most of the women were satisfied with the programmes and information products offered by ZWRCN. The study concluded that although ZWRCN is making effort in providing women empowerment information to women there is still a gap between the kind of information the women required and the information the organisation provided. The study recommended that the organisation should advertise their programmes using different channels, the organisation should also engage in resource sharing, the organisation should also engage into fundraising projects and that the clients should consult on the services that the library offers.