

gay/lesbian youth, the information is applicable for use with any adolescent who is beginning to deal with their own sexuality.

All in all, I felt that the book provided a lot of helpful, and appropriate information for dealing with gay/lesbian youth. The references cited in the text and the bibliography included at the end of each article will be especially helpful for those interested in exploring more in-depth information.

However, one must keep in mind that this book is based on dealing with and understanding gay/lesbian youth within a western societal context. In a Zimbabwean context, gay/lesbian youth are an invisible population. Therefore, a number of ideas for dealing with this group of adolescents are irrelevant. For example, suggestions and recommendations in terms of available social and support services simply has no relevancy here at all.

At the same time, one may argue, that the information, at some point in time, may be helpful for those who find themselves dealing with a client, friend or child who happens to be a gay/lesbian adolescent. The emphasis, or at least the tone of the book, appears to lean towards an active political role on the part of mental health workers, which is certainly not applicable to our Zimbabwe context.

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From Strategies to Action: A Research Perspective, edited and published by Association of African Women in Research and Development (AAWORD), Nairobi, 1995, pp 182.

Ahead of the Fourth World Conference for Women held in Beijing, China, the Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD) published the book **From Strategies to Action: A Research Perspective**. The timely book has also a timely message: that with regard to women in development the focus is shifting from the strategies to action.

The book not only reviews the progress made in the area of Women in Development since 1985 when the Nairobi Women's Decade Conference was held, to the 1995 Beijing Conference, but also outlines specific actions that would see women's lot improved in the next decade.

In virtually all the articles in the volume, two parts are discernable: The first part of each article reviews the progress made in the area of Women in Development since 1985 when the "Forward Looking Strategies" were laid down in Nairobi. The second part outlines the necessary action.

The volume consists of eleven articles covering over five different themes. The

main themes are women and law, education, politics, culture, environment and economic spheres. The book appropriately opens with an article entitled "*Research Priorities in WID (Women in Development) Issues in Kenya*," by Jacqueline Odhiambo-Oduol. The article briefly outlines priority research issues in Women in Development in Kenya as envisaged by AAWORD. AAWORD (Kenya chapter) is involved in advocacy research, viewed as a tool for furthering women in Development in Kenya. The author of the article identifies crucial research issues as, "*research practice, research training, dissemination of research findings, effective utilisation of research findings and consolidation of research efforts*" (p7).

In the area of law, Kameri-Mbote identifies and assesses laws that discriminate against women, particularly citizenship laws, civil laws, parental and inheritance laws and criminal laws. She considers the move from strategies laid down in the 1985 Nairobi Conference to action in the constitution of the Task Force mandated to review laws relating to women in Kenya. The law reform is expected to result in the elimination of legal barriers to advancement of women. The author of the paper, however, cautions that, "*...it is imperative that implementation mechanisms be ingrained in the specific legislation if they are to benefit Kenyan women*" (p9).

Muganda acknowledges that some crucial progress has been made towards equity in education. It is, however, evident that much remains to be done, especially in higher education to achieve equity.

The political front is portrayed in the book to have registered least progress since 1985. This lack of significant progress is blamed on the government which is accused of derailing the women's movement through tokenism, divide and rule, compartmentalisation of women's issues and 'shelving.' Judging from the political status of women in Kenya before 1985, readers would be excused if they consider the article rather hyper-cynical.

The otherwise interesting and informative book is adversely affected by numerous editorial shortcomings. For example the chapters are numbered (1, 2, 3,...) in the text, but not in the table of contents. Secondly, section titles of some articles are numbered (1.0, 2.1...) (eg, in chapter 1 and 11), while the rest (chapter 2 to 10) have unnumbered section titles. Third, names of some authors are preceded by the word "by" (eg, chapter 2), while others are not. Fourth, reference and citation notations are not standardised for all articles. In addition, one article (chapter 5) has no list of references although quite a number of works are cited in the article text.

The shortcomings notwithstanding, the book, to a significant extent, meets the objectives of AAWORD in that not only does it document gender issues but articulates crucial issues in the Women in Development debate in Kenya.

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