Proposal for a Poster on Gender Bias in Agricultural Development: Case Study of Rift Valley Province in Kenya
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Introduction
Gender equality is the key principle underlying the protection of women’s rights. Women experience, a wide range of discriminatory practices, limiting their political and economic rights, as well as rights relating to the exercise of agricultural activities. Women make up about 75 percent of the agricultural work force and have become active in urban small businesses. Nonetheless, the average monthly income of women is about two-thirds that of men and women hold only about five percent of land titles. Women have difficulty moving into nontraditional fields, are promoted more slowly than men, and bear the brunt of layoffs. The government’s macroeconomic policies in Kenya do not incorporate gender perspectives in their design and ignore the structure of households and social relationships that influence women’s roles in production agriculture. In fact, they are usually presented without specific mention of gender, but this practice and policies are gender biased.

Purpose
The purpose of this poster is to present strategies for conducting needs assessment aimed at gender bias in the Rift Valley province of Kenya. The poster identifies gender issues affecting agricultural development and food production in Kenya. It also analyzes the gender dimension of norms relating to agriculture and other natural resources.

Major Points
The proposed poster will address the needs of women using Q methodology to describe and identify key problems affecting agricultural development and gender issues.

Conclusion
If Kenya and other African countries are to feed their populations, gender issues are critical aspects for the future of agriculture. Poverty and malnutrition may be reduced if African governments have supportive gender policies in agricultural development. Small-scale agriculture dominates many developing nations, and, if adequately supported, problems of food shortage and widespread poverty may be issues of the past. Women are custodians of family morals, land, cultures, and food security. If gender issues are identified and women recognized as key stakeholders in agriculture, hunger and poverty may be drastically reduced.

Educational Importance
This future study will obtain views of men and women on gender issues with the purpose of identifying important cultural barriers to changing established but uneven social norms and practices. It will enable learners to understand why women are marginalized in most developing nations and how these disparities affect agricultural development and create economic hardships. The poster will review gender policies with the aim of promoting the use of gender analysis in community-based development programs. It will explain changes in Extension preparing women for the future will be addressed.