

**Responding to the Gender and Education Millennium Development Goals in South Africa and Kenya:
Reflections on Education Rights, Gender Equality, Capabilities and Global Justice**

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Abstract

This paper explores understandings of gender equality and education and the nature of global goal and target setting, drawing on empirical data collected in central and local government departments in Kenya and South Africa reflecting on their implementation of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1, concerned with poverty, MDG 2, concerned with education, and MDG 3, concerned with gender equality. The study raises questions about the ownership of the MDGs and the reasons for the kinds of changes in meaning about gender and rights made by differently situated officials. Keywords: South Africa; global justice; equality; policy.

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Full-text: <https://doi.org/10.1080/03057925.2011.581516>