Gender and welfare system in Export Processing Zones: a case of export processing Zones in Kenya

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Abstract:

This study assessed work condition of the following three garment manufacturing enterprises, Baraka Apparels Nairobi, Altex Apparels Athi River and Kapric Apparels Mombasa in Kenya. The results of the study show that the existence of export processing zones continues to be mired by a reputation for low wages, poor working conditions, sexual harassment and underdeveloped labour-relations systems. Working in such hostile environment makes workers vulnerable to exploitation. The study concludes that given the rigid nature in which these organizations are terms and conditions of work will continue to be deplorable. Under such circumstances it is understood that the ideal work conditions would prevail in the export processing zone if minimal measures to ensure the welfare of the worker are taken into consideration.