

## **Malawi proverbs in [the] Chichewa language.**

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In recent years, concerns have been expressed about the role of education in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Literature and research reports on this issue are somehow contradictory on whether the role played by language in this regard is a positive or negative one. However, education alone cannot be used as a tool in achieving the Millennium Development and Education for All goals. There is empirical evidence that there is great impact on the use of language and cultural considerations in the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of girls and boys, women and men. One way in which language is used, is through the use of proverbs. Generally speaking, proverbs are taken very seriously in African cultures.

Proverbs are the reservoirs of a society's wisdom. Eloquent use of proverbs in speech is usually a mark of a person who is traditionally held in high esteem as a person of wisdom. As such, proverbs have the power to influence public thinking. Relying heavily on documentary evidence, mainly from other research work and from my own experience, this paper undertakes a gender audit on proverbs in Malawi that can empower or disempower women. The paper also examines the extent to which proverbs can impact the realization of Millennium Development Goal number three, which talks of the promotion of gender equality and EFA Goal number five, which emphasizes the achievement of gender parity.