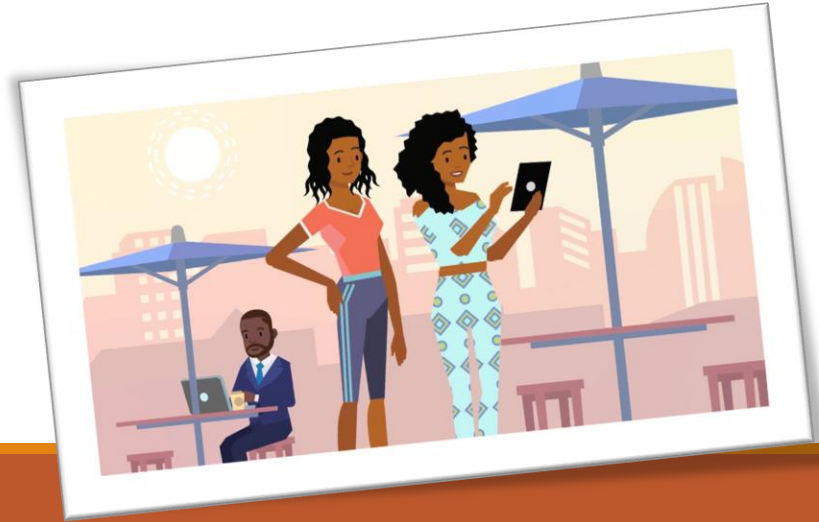




WIKI LOVES WOMEN



WIKIMEDIA
Community User Group
RWANDA





Tell Us About Her: Women At Work

Wiki Loves Women
Wikimedia Rwanda User Group



Oct, 20th 2021

Context

Gender inequality is rife across Africa. Although much progress has been made to address these inequalities in the workplace and within society, there remains a systemic bias towards profiling women, especially with regards to information, news and knowledge sources, both online and offline.

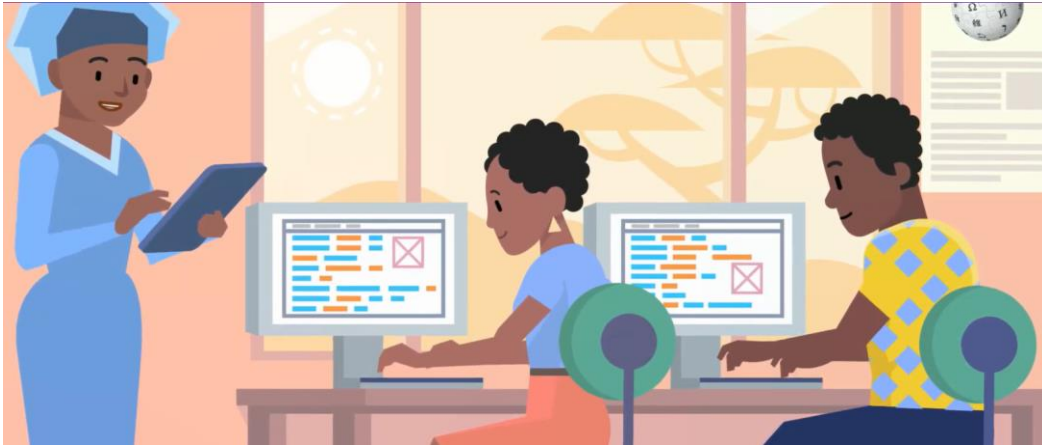


Context (Cont.)



There are significant numbers of notable women who have shaped the past of African societies, **there are innovative African female businesswomen who help to drive Africa's many economies** (formal and informal) and there are everyday realities that women and female children must face due to their gender. These stories need to sit alongside the ones of their male counterparts. Very few of these subjects can be found online, far fewer on the world's largest knowledge repositories, such as Wikipedia.

Why Wiki Loves Women?



Internet access for women lags behind men. Overall, **48%** of all women use the Internet, compared with **58%** of all men. In Africa, the internet penetration rate drops to 33.8% for men and 22.6% for women.

The digital gender gap has been widening over recent years. Other research finds that urban poor women are 50% less likely to use the internet than men.

Why Wiki Loves Women? (Cont.)

Analysis of these statistics mentioned above indicate the following barriers to Internet use:

- Affordability
- A lack of digital skills
- A lack of meaningful and interesting content (subjects that women are interested in or relate to, e.g. local issues, health,)
- A lack of content that represents their experience (e.g. expert women as thought leaders, stereotypical portrayal, etc.)
- A lack of cultural considerations (local context, stories and languages).

Why Wiki Loves Women? (Cont.)

Lack of access to information by women becomes a self-perpetuating cycle.

If women do not see themselves represented online with stories that are in their language and relevant to their culture, they are less likely to see themselves as capable of contributing.

Further, without inspiring women being showcased on local media, many women will not be inspired to follow similar pathways. Leaving nobody behind is a central precept of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Wiki Loves Women Project in Rwanda

Wiki Loves Women focuses on bridging two significant **Gaps** on Wikimedia projects – **women** and **Africa** – both in terms of content about these subjects and in terms of participation by people from these groups.

The project is designed to leverage Wikipedia's role as a global repository for the dissemination of information to achieve accessible and fair online representation of **notable women** in Rwanda.

It encourages the contribution of existing researched and verified information by civil society organizations to Wikipedia with the intent of redressing the systemic bias online about women.



Wiki Loves Women Project in Rwanda (Cont.)

The donated data and content specifically focuses on women's contribution to the political, economic, scientific, cultural and heritage landscape, as well as the current socio-political status of women in each country that it is instigated.

Le projet Wiki Loves Women vise à mettre en valeur les contributions et les réussites des femmes africaines notables ainsi qu'à attirer l'attention sur les défis spécifiques rencontrés par les femmes africaines dans leur quotidien.

Content Policies (Summary)

- Stay neutral
- Maintain verifiability
- No originality, please
- Don't promo your pals
- Use reliable sources
- Test Notability





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THANK YOU!

Q&A



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