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# STUDENTS' STEREOTYPES ABOUT INSTRUCTORS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT. No recent study has yet examined gender stereotypes on service expectations using the SERVQUAL model in Ethiopia. Although the model has been used to measure perceived service quality and performance, customers' stereotypes in service expectations are overlooked. The purpose of this paper is to investigate if students hold stereotypes and their expectations vary across the gender of the instructors. This study was conducted on three conveniently selected universities between March and April 2019. Multistage cluster sampling was used to select students taught by both female and male instructors in the previous semester. First, students were asked to rate their expectations of their instructors over the dimensions of service quality namely tangibles, reliability, responsiveness, assurance, and empathy. Consequently, no significant difference was observed across the two genders. However, when the students were asked to rate their general expectations of their instructors, they showed significantly lower expectations of female instructors than male instructors. This indicated that there is a contradiction on students' expectations which might be caused due to preconceptions or stereotypes against female instructors. Governmental bodies, policymakers, and politicians have to be involved to take a radical step for accepting women instructors and support them in their professional works.

*Keywords:* Expectation, Service quality, Gender, Stereotypes, Ethiopia

#### Introduction

Globally, men represent a higher share of faculty members. Women faculty are disproportionately represented in many fields of specialization. In Europe, women are a minority among senior faculty members holding only 21% of academics in 2013 (Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, 2016). Out of the full-time faculty members in Canada, women academics accounted for 40% in 2016-2017, and women full professors accounted for

28% of full-time teaching staff in 2017-2018 (Statistics Canada, 2017). In Australia, women held 45% of senior faculty members in 2016 (Australian government, 2016). In Japan, women represented only 24% of full-time faculty members in 2016 (Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office, n.d). In 2015, 32% of full professors in the US were women. (National center for education statistics, n.d). In the same year, Indian women held 25% of professors and equivalent faculty positions (All India Survey on Higher Education, n.d). In South Africa, only 25% of full professors were women in 2012 (Africa check, 2014).

The women faculty members' share is worse in Ethiopia. The underrepresentation of women in higher education has been unavoidable in teaching, research, and leadership. Some progress has been made concerning the incremental of female faculty members, yet the sector remains one of the areas where huge gender disparity exists. Only 18% of the current academic staff in the Ethiopian higher education sector is female (Anouka et al., 2015).

The representation of female staff is even worse when it is further segregated by qualification and field of studies. Only 24% of academic staff at the bachelor's level are women instructors where their share drops significantly to 12% at the master's level and goes even down to 8% at the Ph.D. level. Women only hold 8% of the share in engineering and technology faculties of public universities; 7% women in natural and computational sciences; 15% in medicine and health sciences; 11% in agricultural and life sciences; 10% in business and economics; and 11% in social sciences and humanities (The worldview, 2018).

The underrepresentation of female faculty members has caused gender stereotypes against women. It is generally expected that women are not capable to perform and that they will not succeed. This stereotype of 'expected failure' implies that society does not trust in women's capacity to achieve. Affirmative actions also feed ideas that women are not able to achieve by themselves (Anouka et al., 2015). Gender stereotypes affect not only women but also the overall growth of the Ethiopian economy. It makes a half a segment of the population to lag behind and not perform to their full potential in social, economic, and political life. This has made the issue very sensitive and needs an urgent solution. Given that no recent studies are conducted that aimed to investigate student's expectations of instructors in Ethiopia, this study aims to investigate if stereotypes exist in students' expectations of female and male instructors' performance and suggest the possible way to bring gender equality in the area. In doing so, the study adopted the SERVQUAL method to measure students' expectations and compared them between female and male instructors. The second part presents the theoretical aspects of stereotypes, expectations and the SERVQUAL model. The third part presents the methodology of the research while the fourth and fifth section presents the empirical result and conclusion of the study respectively.

#### 1. Literature review

#### 1.1. Stereotypes and expectations

A stereotype has been defined by different authors as follows. Stereotyping is the process of ascribing characteristics to people based on their group memberships (Oakes et al., 1994). "A stereotype is an overgeneralized belief about an individual or people based on their membership in one of many social categories" (Anselmi & Law, 1998, p. 195). "A stereotype is a generalization about a person or a group of people in which identical characteristics are assigned to all members of the group, regardless of actual variation among the members" (Aronson et al., 2015, p 416). A stereotype is how a person belonging to a specific group typically is or behaves (Burgess & Borgida, 1999).

Gender stereotype results in the association of women and men to certain behavior and

characteristics (Ashmore & Del Boca, 1979). For example, characteristics such as independent, logical, and effective were more attributed to males than female but women were perceived to be irrational and dependent (Bem, 1981). If women behave in any masculine way, gender prescriptive stereotypes overlap with the descriptive ones. Thus, women are expected to portray the behaviors that stereotypically match their sex but if they don't or probably show the stereotypical man characteristics, they will get negative feedback (Heilman, 2001).

The term "expectation" in service quality literature has been defined in different ways by different authors. According to Parasuraman et al. (1988), expectations can be viewed in two different ways. The expectation is depicted as the desires or wants of consumers in service quality literature. This shows what customers feel a service provider should offer rather than would offer. Whereas in satisfaction literature, expectations are viewed as predictions of customers about what is likely to happen during a service delivery process. In this study, the expectation is defined as the desires or wants of customers because the study deals with what customers expect from instructors as quality service.

In service quality literature, different researchers have investigated customers' perceptions and expectations by analyzing various dimensions of service quality. SERVQUAL is one of the most common models introduced by Parasuraman et al. (1988) designed to measure service quality. The model is composed of five dimensions namely tangibles, reliability, responsiveness, assurance, and empathy. Tangibles assess the appearance of the service setting's, physical facilities, equipment, staff appearance, and communication material. Reliability measures the ability to perform the promised service dependably and accurately. Responsiveness represents the willingness to help customers and provide prompt service. Assurance measures the knowledge and courtesy of employees and their ability to inspire trust and confidence. Empathy assesses the caring and individual attention the firm provides its customers (Parasuraman et al., 1988).

The rationale behind implementing SERVQUAL method for this study instead of other models such as (SERVPERF) by Cronin and Taylor (1994); Evaluated performance (EP) by Teas (1993); Higher Education Performance, HEdPERF model by Firdaus (2006) and the Importance performance analysis model (IPA) by Martilla and James (1977) is that all those models measure service quality based on the perception of the customers on the performance of the service provider only, however, this study aims to investigate the expectation of students.

## 1.2. Stereotypes, personality traits, and gender roles

Gender-based stereotypes of students towards the instructor could be either favoring male or female instructors. When students set expectations of educational service, they could base their expectations on the gender of the instructor. What they expect from male instructors could be different from what they would expect from female instructors. Such differences in student's expectations could stem from the personality and role difference between males and females.

Stereotypes and prejudice at work are too often the results of such gender stereotypes in the public and the grouping of personality as masculine or feminine. Moreover, Eagly (2003) suggest that characteristics such as assertive, ambitious, aggressive, independent, self-confident, daring and competitive are usually recognized in men, whereas communal characteristics such as a concern for other people and being affectionate, helpful, kind, sympathetic, interpersonally sensitive, nurturing, and gentle are identified in women. These interesting findings explain the fact that student's expectations of service may be shaped and constructed by the gender-based characteristics played by male and female instructors.

There are certain types of characteristics that students would expect to see from their female and male instructors that are associated with the instructor's gender. As a result, when

instructors violate the gender expectation they will be rated less (Chamberlin & Hickey, 2001; Dalmia et al., 2005; Sprague & Massoni, 2005).

Gender expectations in the workplace are highly constructed by gender roles (Risman, 2004). Men are expected to have competence, credibility and are considered as professors who have authority, while women are assumed to be less capable and less competent and are considered as instructors with less power (Johnson, 2003; Miller and Chamberlin, 2000; Morris, 2011). Women and men have certain roles in society that affect individual beliefs and gender attitudes. The belief about what men and women are capable of doing/not doing and how women and men are expected to behave can be influenced by traditional gender roles that are established in the human mind at an early age (Koenig, 2018).

Ethiopia is one of the countries where gender equality is a vision but not yet a reality. It is a patriarchal country with a strong religious and cultural foundation that affects the way people perceive women. Women in Ethiopia are regarded as unproductive parts of society and hold a lower position than men. They have been disadvantaged in several ways such as low status in their society, livelihoods, basic human rights, literacy, health, and employment (UN women, n.d.). According to the Global Gender Gap report (2010), Ethiopia is ranked 121 out of 134 countries in terms of gender disparities. With such minimal gender balance, women in Ethiopia are discriminated against for cultural and religious excuses. Thus, students' gender expectations of the instructor in Ethiopian higher education could be influenced by gender role complexities.

### 2. Methodological approach

This study is a cross-sectional study that was conducted between March and April 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Data were collected from secondary sources (scientific studies and literature) and primary sources (survey). This study used 22 pairs of items designed to assess the five dimensions of service quality in the SERVQUAL model (Parasuraman et al., 1988).

Students were asked to tell their expectations of service performance on a five-point scale with end anchors "strongly agree" and "strongly disagree". Then the expectations scores were compared between female and male instructors. To investigate if students hold a stereotype, a set of supportive questions to the existing model were asked to tell students' expectations of service from female and male instructors and their preferences of the gender of the instructor. A Chi-square test was used to analyze if there exists a significant relationship between the instructors' gender and students' expectation. The survey was conducted on 450 students (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year) enrolled in three Addis Ababa University campuses.

Addis Ababa University has 15 campuses of which 3 are located out of the city. The survey was conducted on 3 campuses. Out of each campus, 3 departments were chosen. Two types of sampling techniques are employed throughout the data collection procedure. The selection of the universities and class years were done based on convenient sampling. Once the universities were selected, multi-stage cluster sampling was made based on the departments. Then the sample was reduced to a smaller cluster based on classes taught by female instructors. In Addis Ababa University there are departments with only male instructors, therefore, it was necessary to select departments where female instructors also teach. Departments were selected based on the class where female instructors taught in the last semester.

College of Business and Economics, School of Commerce has 6 departments in it out of which 4 departments had a female teacher taught in the past semester and 3 departments were selected for the study. Accordingly, accounting, marketing, and management departments were chosen. The departments have a total of 301 students. Out of that 209 students were taught by both female and male instructors in the past semester and 150 students were reached.

College of Natural and Computational Sciences has 7 departments out of which 4 departments had female instructors taught in the past semester and 3 departments were selected. These are biology, mathematics, and computer science and altogether have 397 students of which 243 were taught by female instructors and 150 were reached. Whereas social work, print and web, and public relations departments were selected from the College of Social Sciences and College of Humanities, Language Studies, Journalism, and Communication. The departments have a total of 400 students of which 200 were taught by female instructors and 150 were reached. Hence 450 samples were taken on the three campuses.

The 3 campuses were selected on the ground that first, they have the best composition of study of fields where both female and male students are enrolled in and the institutes in the campus are conducive for the study because they have a more likely proportionate number of women and men instructors which makes the study unbiased. Second, they have the biggest number of colleges compared to the other campuses. Third, the campus accommodates a larger number of students than the rest of the other campuses. Not to mention that the campuses consist of the largest share of students coming from different parts of Ethiopia with diversified cultures and backgrounds. This contributes to the generalization of the study result.

To distribute the questionnaire, first, class schedules of the last semester were collected from the departments, then classes taught by female instructors were screened, finally, those classes were reached out for the survey. The questionnaires were distributed to all students while they were in the class. First-year students were excluded from the survey because we believe that sophomores and meddlers know better about the education service than the juniors. 500 questionnaires were distributed to students but only 450 were valid for analysis. Consent for collecting the data was first asked from the designated instructors and there was no time limit to fill the questionnaires. Every student had an equal chance of filling the survey and it took approximately 15-20 minutes. As can be seen in Table 1 the sample covered 9 departments and both female and male students.

Data analysis was carried out using SPSS 24. The results of the reliability analysis showed that coefficients of alpha for all the dimensions are above 0.85 And, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of sampling Adequacy indicted an index of 0.89. Factor analysis and chi-square tests were carried out to analyze the data.

Table 1. Students' demographic information

		Frequency	%
Sex	Male	209	46.0
	Female	241	54.0
Department	Accounting	54	12.0
	Biology	56	12.0
	Computer science	61	14.0
	Management	42	9.0
	Marketing	54	12.0
	Mathematics	31	7.0
	Print and web	40	9.0
	Public relation	45	10.0
	Social work	67	15.0
	Total	450	100.0
Year	Second-year	211	47.0
	Third-year	239	53.0

Source: own compilation

#### 3. Results and discussion

## 3.1. Students expectation scores

The expectations score were compared between female and male instructors. However, no significant difference was seen between the two genders. This implies that students' expectation does not vary across the gender of the instructor over the five dimensions of service quality. As indicated in Table 2, a higher expectation score was observed on "assurance" while "empathy" accounted for the lowest expectation score.

Table 2. Expectations scores

Tuote 2. Expectations scores	Female in	structors	Male instructors			
Statements	Mean (E)	SD	Mean (E)	SD		
Tangibles	` '		` '			
The instructor's reparation of up to date handouts	4.26	0.90	4.22	0.93		
The instructor's use of visually appealing physical facilities	3.87	1.00	4.12	0.84		
The instructor's use of visually appealing teaching materials	4.08	0.85	4.17	0.99		
The instructor's professional apperance	4.16	0.90	4.17	0.90		
Total	16.37		16.68			
Reliability						
The instructor's interest in solving your problem related to the class	4.11	1.00	3.94	1.05		
The instructor's interest in solving your general problems outside the class	3.49	1.36	3.60	1.21		
The instructor's willingness to provide services as promised	4.03	1.02	3.97	1.06		
The instructor's ability to get things right the first time	3.95	0.90	3.91	1.00		
The instructor's ability to maintain error-free records and grades	4.11	1.04	3.91	1.10		
Total	19.69		19.33			
Responsiveness						
The instructor's accuracy of informing you when class and exams will be carried	4.18	1.00	4.30	0.81		
The instructor's dedication to finish the course on time	4.33	0.80	4.19	0.91		
The instructor's attention to respond to your requests	4.04	0.90	3.91	0.95		
The instructor's honesty in giving fair grade and nondiscriminating	4.18	1.10	4.32	0.91		
Total	16.73		16.72			
Assurance						
The comfort you feel in approaching the instructor	3.96	1.07	3.96	0.99		
The instructor's ability to build confidence in your performance	3.80	1.17	3.86	1.04		
The instructor's politeness to you	3.93	1.00	3.96	0.98		
The instructor's encouragement of student expression	4.13	0.91	4.04	0.88		
The instructor's knowledge to teach the subject	4.40	0.84	4.20	0.96		
Total	20.22		20.02			
Empathy						
The convenience of the instructor's office hours	4.08	0.99	4.08	0.91		
The individual attention you receive from your instructor	3.77	1.00	3.77	1.01		
The instructor's having your best interests at heart	3.64	1.08	3.82	1.02		
The ability of the instructor to understand your specific need	3.75	1.21	3.78	1.00		
Total	15.75		15.45			

Source: own compilation. Note: "E" represents the expectation

## **Factor analysis**

The total data fit into 5 components and all variables above 0.40 were maintained. The decision to include a variable in a factor was based on factor loadings greater than  $\pm 0.3$  (Hair et al., 1995). The extracted components of the data explained nearly 61% of the variability in the original 22 variables. The rotated component matrix as shown in Table 3 indicated a very arbitrary grouping of the variables. Many of the items loaded on several components making the variable loading difficult to interpret. Thus, the result did not support the five-dimension SERVQUAL model proposed by Parasuraman et al. (1988).

Table 3. Rotated component matrix for female and male instructors

	Component							
Statements	1	2	3	4	5			
Your expectation about the ability of the instructor to understand your specific need	.840							
Your expectation about the instructor's having your best interests	.771							
Your expectation about the individual attention you receive from your	7.61							
instructor	.761							
Your expectation about the instructor's ability to build confidence in your class	.560							
performance								
Your expectation about the convenience of the instructor's office hours	.519							
Your expectation about the instructor's politeness to you	.518							
Your expectation about the comfort you feel in approaching the instructor with concerns	.451							
Your expectation about the instructor's knowledge to teach the subject		.775						
Your expectation about the instructor's encouragement of student expression		.731						
Your expectation about the instructor's dedication to finish the course on time		.524						
Your expectation about the instructor's honesty in giving fair grade and not		.493						
discriminating students		.493						
Your expectation about the Instructor's attention to respond to your requests		.440						
all the time you needed		.440						
Your expectation about the instructor's provision of well-organized and			.817					
informative handouts								
Your expectation about-the instructor's preparation of up to date handouts			.764					
Your expectation about the instructor's professional appearance and dressing			.520					
Your expectation about the instructor's willingness to provide services at the			.506					
time promised to do so			.500					
Your expectation about the accuracy of the instructor to maintaining error-free				.683				
records and grades				.005				
Your expectation about the instructor's ability to get things right the first time				.617				
not causing rework				.017				
Your expectation about the instructor's interest in solving your general				.613				
problems outside the class								
Your expectation about the instructor's interest in solving your problem related				.497				
to the class								
Your expectation about the instructor's use of visually attractive teaching materials				.418				
Your expectation about the Instructor's accuracy in telling you exactly when class and exams will be carried					.78			
Class and exams will be carried								

Source: own compilation

#### 3.2. Students stereotypes

Chi-Square test was used to analyze if there exists a significant relationship between the instructor's gender and student's expectations, and a significant relationship was indicated (p < 0.05). The detail of the whole analysis is as follows.

## 3.2.1. Students' expectation of the instructors' gender

When a majority of students think of an instructor "a male figure" pops up in their mind. Many of the students (62%) think that instructors are males. Students who think instructor as female and both genders are 11% and 24%, respectively, whereas the rest 3% are indifferent (Table 4).

Table 4. Students' expectation of the instructors' gender

The avecatation of		Gender of the instructor					Chi-Square	Divolue
The expectation of	Fe	Female		Male		otal	Value	P-value
service quality	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Which gender Male	132	60.0	141	64.0	273	3 62.0		
pops up in Fema	ale 35	16.0	12	6.0	47	11.0	_	
your mind None	e 8	4.0	6	3.0	14	3.0	13.14	0.004 **
first when you think of an Both instructor?	48	22.0	60	27.0	108	24.0	-	

Source: own compilation. \*\* indicates significance level at 0.05

The finding shows a significant relationship between the instructors' gender and students' expectation about instructors' gender (P = 0.004). Students' gender didn't matter in attributing instructors as male. Regardless of their gender, most of the students had the thought of men when they think of instructors. Female students accounted for 54% compared to 46% of male students. This shows that the conceptualization of male as an instructor than a female is not associated with the gender of the students. It is rather a widely spread idea and accepted by the general population.

The gender-based stereotype of students could be because of the low female literacy rate in Ethiopia. According to the World Bank (n.d), Ethiopian female literacy of aged 15-24 was 47% compared to 63 % of males the same age. Educational attainment of the female population who aged 25 and above who completed a bachelor's degree or equivalent was 0.4% while the male population of the same age accounted for 2.0%. Because of the educational gender gap, a male is more regarded as an instructor than a female. Globally, women are often assumed to have less academic rank than men (Carson, 2001). Miller and Chamberlin (2000) revealed gender disparities in the attribution students give to female and male faculty members. Despite the position held by male and female faculty members, students attributed the Ph.D. achievement to a man, even to the male graduate instructor. Whereas, students were less likely to attribute a Ph.D. to the woman even to a full professor. The authors believe that such misattribution of students is associated with the imputed statuses "teacher for women", and "professor for men". Female instructors have reported that students call them "Ms." rather than "Dr" while their male colleagues become "Prof." rather than "Mr" even when it is their proper title (Carson, 2001).

#### 3.2.2 Students' expectation of service quality from female and male instructors

The service quality that students expect from a female instructor is significantly lower than what they would expect from a male instructor. Only 27% of students expect a very good service from female instructors compared to 59% of the male instructors (Table 5 and 6). The relationship between the instructors' gender and students' expectation of service quality is significant (P < 0.001) such that women instructors are rated lower than men instructors. There was no significant difference between male and female students in rating female instructors. However, female students rated male instructors higher than male students (P = 0.007) showing a significant difference between the genders.

Different researches have also come up with similar findings. Boring (2017) and MacNell et al. (2015) argued that students give lower scores to women than men for the same level of teaching effectiveness. Arbuckle and Williams (2003) also found that students hold a strong gender stereotype against women favoring male faculty members.

Table 5. Students' expectation of service quality from female instructors

The expectation of service			Gender of the instructor						D 1	
		Female		M	Male		tal	<ul> <li>Chi-Square</li> </ul>	P-value	
quality		N	%	N	%	N	%			
What kind of	Very good	46	21	73	33	119	27			
service do you	Good	74	33	87	40	161	36	- 33.87	<0.001**	
expect from	Average	41	19	46	21	87	20		<0.001**	
female	Poor	34	15	8	3	42	9	_		
instructors?	Very poor	27	12	8	3	35	8	-		

Source: own compilation. \*\* indicates significance level at 0.05

Table 6. Students' expectation of service quality from male instructors

The expectation of service quality		Gender of the instructor						- Chi-Square	P-value	
		Female		Male		Total		- Cili-Square	r-value	
quanty		N	%	N	%	N	%			
What kind of	Very good	106	48	154	69	260	59	_		
service do you	Good	79	36	53	24	132	30	- 24.79 -	<0.001**	
expect from	Average	30	13	11	5.0	41	9		<0.001***	
male instructors?	Poor	6	3.0	3	1.4	9	2			
	Very poor	0	0.0	1	0.6	1	0	_		

Source: own compilation. \*\* indicates significance level at 0.05

Further, the experimental study of Goldberg (1968) revealed that college students showed gender bias, attributing more positive evaluations to a male-authored article even when the journal article varied only in terms of its author's sex. In a similar experiment, Noel and Allen (1976) asked students to rate the quality of writing in essays. The study found that both male and female students rated the essays as being lower quality if they believed the author was female.

## 3.2.3 Students' preference for the instructors' gender

The male instructor was preferred compared to the female by most of the students (Table 7), 56% preference for male vs. 17% preference for female. A significant relationship was found between the students' preference and the gender of the instructor (P = 0.001). Gender affects

students' preferences where students prefer male traits over female traits for instructors (Bennett 1982; Burns-Glober and Veith, 1995).

Table 7. Students' preference for the instructors' gender

Preference of the instructors' gender			Ge	Gender of the instructor Chi-S					P-value
		Female		Ma	Male		tal	Value	P-value
		N	%	N	%	N	%		
Which gender	Male	103	47	143	64	246	56	-	
would you	Female	47	21	28	13	75	17	14.59	0.001 **
prefer as your instructor?	Don't mind	71	32	51	23	122	27	-	

Source: own compilation. \*\* indicates significance level at 0.05

The students' gender didn't contribute to a significant difference in the preference of the instructors' gender. Both male and female students preferred male instructors than female instructors. In an experiment conducted on college students to evaluate their preference for the gender of the instructors, it was found that students showed a preference for male candidates. In the experiment, students were given a hypothetical applicant's name - Sam, Sarah, and Dr. Lawson for a faculty teaching position and stronger gender bias were shown against the female applicant (Burns-Glover and Veith, 1995). Such apparent gender bias could be the result of men's dominance in a lecturing job which makes women seem out of place (Siskind and Kearns, 1997). Seeing such a difference in Ethiopian students' preference for the instructors' gender might not be a big surprise for a country where women academics are outnumbered by their men counterparts and have a minimal gender parity but not in such a significant difference.

#### Conclusion

This study aimed to shade insight into students' expectations and gender stereotypes across the gender of the instructor and suggest ways to overcome the causes of gender disparity. Consequently, the findings of this study revealed that when students were asked about their expectations related to the five dimensions of service quality, they showed no significant difference in their expectations towards female and male instructors. However, when they were asked about their general expectation on the performance of female and male instructors, the students' expectation of female instructors' performance was significantly lower than their counterparts. This implies that the students seem to be prejudiced against women. From the overlap of their expectations, it can be understood that the students' rational evaluations were taken over by emotional evaluation when they were asked general questions about their expectations of female and male instructor's performance. Such kind of biased attitudes against women might be caused because women hold a lower position in Ethiopian society. The evidence provided in this study could alert higher education management to how extent that gender stereotypes exist against women instructors. It is also a wake-up call for governmental bodies, policymakers, and politicians to work on closing the gender gap in education and employment. All responsible bodies have to be involved to take a radical step for accepting women instructors and support them in their professional works. More women instructors should be encouraged in higher education jobs and universities are advised to have a genderbalanced workplace. Awareness should be raised on gender equality not only in higher education but in all service sectors. Unless gender equality is achieved, gender gaps could not be closed in service quality. The current Ethiopian political situation where more women are welcomed to leadership and management could be a good opportunity to achieve this goal. Bringing more women to higher positions and empowering them could eventually change the

misconception on the performance of women. When women are given the opportunity to lead, they can prove to the society that they can do better. The society could finally put trust in women's ability to perform when they witness their accomplishments.

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# Appendix

Part I

5= Strongly agree; 4= Agree; 3= Neutral; 2= Disagree; 1=Strongly disagree

Statements	Ex	pect	ed s	ervi	ce
Tangibles	5	4	3	2	1
The instructor's reparation of up to date handouts					
The instructor's use of visually appealing physical facilities					
The instructor's use of visually appealing teaching materials					
The instructor's professional appearance					
Reliability					
The instructor's interest in solving your problem related to the class					
The instructor's interest in solving your general problems outside the class					
The instructor's willingness to provide services as promised					
The instructor's ability to get things right the first time					
The instructor's ability to maintain error-free records and grades					
Responsiveness					
The instructor's accuracy of informing you when class and exams will be carried					
The instructor's dedication to finish the course on time					
The instructor's attention to respond to your requests					
The instructor's honesty in giving fair grade and non-discriminating					
Assurance					
The comfort you feel in approaching the instructor					
The instructor's ability to build confidence in your performance					
The instructor's politeness to you					
The instructor's encouragement of student expression					
The instructor's knowledge to teach the subject					
Empathy					
The convenience of the instructor's office hours					
The individual attention you receive from your instructor					
The instructor's having your best interests at heart					
The ability of the instructor to understand your specific need					
Part II					
1. What is the gender of your instructor?					
Female □ Male □					
2. Which gender pops up in your mind first when you think of an instr	mioto				
	ucio	1			
3. What kind of service do you expect from a female instructor?					
Very good □ Good □ Average □ Poor □ Very	poor	r 🗖			
4. What kind of service do you expect from a male instructor?					
Very good□ Good □ Average □ Poor □ Very	p001	r 🗖			
4. Which gender would you prefer as your instructor?	•				
Male □ Female □ Don't mind □					
Maic L Politillia L					