

# The African Concept of a Dual-sex System and Freire's Characteristics of Dialogue as Potential Pivots of Globalising World

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## Abstract

*The idea of a dual-sex system, which scholars such as Sofola (1998) lobby for, is an aspect of African people's communalist philosophy that helped men and women complement each other in all life activities of a precolonial society. That concept helped push both men and women to realise that although they were biologically different, they were both vital actors in the process of the society's growth and development. This article argues that if the concept of a dual-sex system is interpreted from an understanding of Freire's (1970) characteristics of dialogue it will have the potential to map out a gender-based framework for a globalising world. Therefore, this article discusses the possibility of using indigenous African philosophies of gender as points of reference for action at a time when the world is being perceived to be 'globalised'. The argument pursued in the article is that genuine globalisation cannot be attained outside a sound framework that can potentially deal with gender disparities that are currently rampant in Africa and the other societies of the world. This article relies on Sofola (1998) and Freire (1970) and on examples that are drawn from Shona culture to create an argument.*

## Introduction

This critical effort argues that the world's globalisation should be guided by a sound and humane ideology (globalism) on the level of gender. That sort of ideology, as this effort lobbies for, should promote a dual-sex system which will in turn promote a sense of holistic harmony between men and women in all life activities. The sense in question will allow them to dialogue and partner on the level of mutual understanding and respect in their daily routines. Such an ideology, as what this effort lobbies for, should be a philosophy of life that does not promote gender disparities and gendered disharmonies since a philosophy of life that promotes a gender divide leads to a lop-