

CONCEPTS IN GENDER AND ENERGY

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CONCEPT OF GENDER

- Gender is a two dimensional concept.
- Firstly, within the development paradigm, Gender is an analytical variable used to analyse policies, programmes and projects and how these impact differently between men and women in terms of their access to and control over resources and benefits arising there from.

GENDER CONCEPT

- Secondly, Gender describes the social relations between men and women and the way this is socially constructed by society.
- Gender interacts with other variables such as class, ethnicity and religion.

Gender – Analytical Variable

5 major components:

1. Gender Relations of Power
2. Multiple Gender Roles and Responsibilities
3. Position and Condition of men and women
4. Gender Needs of men and women, and
5. Access and control over resources and benefits.

1.a. GENDER RELATIONS OF POWER

- Generally, men tend to have more economic, social and political power than women. This starts from the household, community, organisational, national all the way to international levels.
- There are different types of power.

1.b. Power

1. Power Over
2. Power With
3. Power Within
4. Power To

POWER OVER-basis is position, parent, supervisor. Where one person is subordinate to another.

1.c. Power

- Power With – group power, synergy (1+1 =3), strength in numbers – United we stand, divided we fall.
- Power Within – inner spiritual strength – ability to rebound back from personal tragedy or misfortune

1.d. Power

- Power To – the power which enables an individual to take decisions about directions in their life, take initiatives without waiting to be told what to do first.
- Power To is received through training, coaching, mentoring which gives you knowledge, skills and attitudes
- Power To is the power that truly EMPOWERS.

2.a. MULTIPLE GENDER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4 types
 1. Productive
 2. Reproductive
 3. Community management, and
 4. Community politics

These roles are socially determined, context specific, changeable but also resist change.

2.b. PRODUCTIVE ROLES

- Work undertaken by men and women in exchange for cash or in kind or sometimes for no pay at all.
- For example, women are involved in Agriculture as farmers, peasant farmer's, wives and wage earners.

2.c. REPRODUCTIVE ROLES

- These relates to issues of child bearing and rearing.
- It also involves all tasks undertaken to reproduce the human capital such as cooking, cleaning, looking after the sick and aged.

2.d. COMMUNITY MANGEMENT ROLES

- These are activities undertaken by men and women to provide for and maintain the scarce resource of collective consumption.
- Examples include building communal markets, schools, clinics on a voluntary, unpaid basis.
- For women, this is seen as an extension of their reproductive role.

2.e. COMMUNITY POLITICS ROLE

- These are constituency – based political activities undertaken by men and women at community, local, national and sometimes international levels
- These political activities are undertaken on behalf of customary structures, party politics and lobby and advocacy groups.

3.a. POSITION AND CONDITION

- Position here refers to status or standing in society.
- Condition here refers to livelihood and well being.
- Globally all indicators – such as income, employment, representation in decision making positions in organizations at community, national and international levels – points to the fact that the position and condition of men is generally much higher than that of women.

3.b. Position and Condition

- However, there exist differences among and within different groups of men and women cutting across class, religion and ethnicity.
- So we should avoid “Gender Averaging” i.e. Assuming harmony and homogeneity amongst women and men.
- Analysing the position and condition of men and women in society is called “Gender Audit”.

4.a. GENDER NEEDS

- 2 types
 1. Practical
 2. Strategic

PRACTICAL Gender Needs are concerned with inadequacies in living conditions such as water, food, healthcare, employment and income.

4.b. PRACTICAL NEEDS

- They arise in a given context and usually met within the short-term.
- When practical gender needs are met, improves the **CONDITION** of men and women without challenging or changing their roles.

4.c. STRATEGIC GENDER NEEDS

- These arise from the subordinate position of men and women in society.
- They arise in a given context.
- These needs challenge or change the existing roles and responsibilities.
- Examples include equal pay for work or equal making positions, power to make independent decisions on when and how to use assets, assertiveness, networking.

4.d. STRATEGIC GENDER NEEDS

- When strategic gender needs are addressed, it improves the POSITIONS of men and women.

5.a. ACCESS AND CONTROL

- Access is obtained through permission.
- Control means having the power to decide when and how to use the resources and benefits.
- Resources here are defined to include money, technology, decision making, skills and land.

5.b. ACCESS AND CONTROL

- One can have access to a resource without necessarily having control over it.

Example, one can be allocated a piece of land to cultivate (access) but not have own it (control) – hence can not take decisions such as planting trees on that piece of land since he or she does not own it.

- Gender policy and Development aims at giving people both access and control over resources and benefits.

Both men and women must have access and control.

5.c. RELATIONAL CONCEPT / GENDER CONTRACTS

- When gender is taken as a relational concept, we mean that society allocates rights, responsibilities and privileges to men and women, boys and girls differently.
- The same society socializes men and women, boys and girls to conform to these assigned roles and responsibilities.
- These gender contracts are unwritten but generally understood and followed by men, women, boys and girls.
- We can then talk about Gender privileges, Gender burdens, Gender Obligations.

5.d. RELATIONAL CONCEPT / GENDER CONTRACT

- Since these relations are constructed by society, the same society can deconstruct them. However, this is the process which meets with a lot of resistance to change.

Things are not static

They can be changed

THANK YOU

It is necessary to disaggregate in gender.

DISCUSSION POINT 1.1.1

- Is there a term for “gender” in your own language?
- How would you explain it in a village meetings?
- (FOR PLENARY DISCUSSION)

DISCUSSION POINT 1.1.2

- Is it a biological difference or a social one?
- Men are usually heavier than women
- Women are better at looking after children.
- Girls are shy
- Boys can run faster
- (FOR PLENARY DISCUSSION)

DISCUSSION POINT 1.1.3

- DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?
- “Men are more logical and rational, women are more emotional”
- “Women are unstable at certain time, for example during menstruation”
- “Women have more difficulty working with numbers than men”
- “Women are quarrelsome among themselves and don’t work well in a group, men get on with each better”

DISCUSSION POINT 1.1.3

- “Although it is true that women do some work on the farm, the farmer is really a man”
- “A family really consists of a man who is head of the household, a woman and their children”
- “Women prefer to have a man to make the decisions for them”
- “Children suffer if their mother goes to work outside the home”
- “Men are much less sensitive than women: they do not notice how people are feeling”

DISCUSSION POINT 1.1.4

- In your society, do men or women take the greater role in:
 - Reproductive tasks?
 - Productive tasks?
 - Community management tasks?
 - Community politics tasks?
- Is it different between social classes?
- Compare with others if this different for different cultures.

DISCUSSION POINT 1.1.4

- Which of the four gender roles (reproductive, productive, community management and community politics) is most often addressed in the energy projects you know?
- Are men and women's roles hence needs seen differently in these projects?
- Do you think that the needs of men and women are equally met in the projects?

DISCUSSION POINT 1.1.5

- Do you think that the gender roles in traditional community in your country should be changed?
- Do you think it is possible to change these roles?
- What influence does gender have on the ability of women to take part in planning and implementing energy projects?
- (FOR GROUP DISCUSSIONS)

DISCUSSION POINT 1.1.6

- What is basis for the gender relations that underlie typical gender roles in your society?
- What groups are trying to change elations?
- What are the positive and negative aspects of attempts to change gender relations?
- (FOR GROUP DISCUSSIONS)