

Mainstreaming Gender Concerns in the Water Sector

26-27 September 2006, Pune

PROCEEDINGS

Organized by

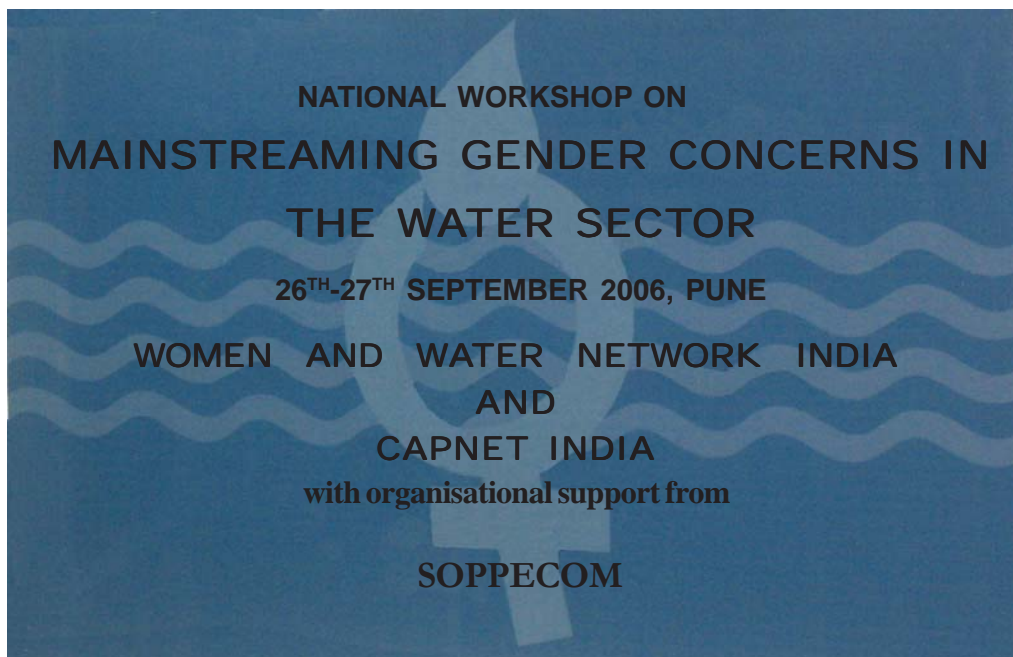
Women and Water Network India

&

CapNet India

(Hosted at IRMA)

Hosted by SOPPECOM



26-27 September 2006, Pune YMCA

Mainstreaming Gender Concerns in the Water Sector

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Day 1: 26th September 2006

Session 1.

9.30 - 11.00

Speakers: Seema Kulkarni, Smita Mishra Panda, K.J. Joy, Sumi Krishna

After the formal registration of the participants, Smita Panda (IRMA, Cap Net India) and Seema Kulkarni (SOPPECOM and WWN) welcomed all the participants and detailed the objectives of the conference. There were participants from various parts in India.

Background of the Conference

Over the last few years most of the states in India have been in the process of formulating their water policies and everywhere the experience is that equity is being compromised and women and the landless are left out of the process. Some of the critical concerns emerging out of this process have been documented in the report compiled by the WWN in its report titled "Gender Concerns in the Context of Water Policy". It is this report that forms the basis for the present workshop on gender and water. In the last 5-6 years most of the states in India are poised for restructuring in order to enable alternative management and implementation options, of which privatization is a key option. Institutional arrangements towards privatization have been initiated in various sub-sectors with an over-riding focus on programme and project efficiency through pricing mechanisms and decentralized governance. There is little evidence that these initiatives have not compromised on equity, given the heterogeneous identity of water users. Coupled with other policy interventions, these interventions are often seen to be grossly disadvantageous for the poorest and women.

Objectives of the Conference

In the light of these developments this workshop has specific objectives a) providing a good platform for evolving recommendations for policy and strategies to influence policy b) identifying key priority areas for further research and analyses and action c) identifying roles that various networks can play in influencing a gender sensitive policy in the water sector.

One of the welcome aspects of this workshop is the initiative taken by CAPNET India in supporting it and willing to jointly organize it. The support comes as a result of the concerns expressed in the area of gender and water. IWMI Tata water policy programme has also provided a partial support for producing a booklet to popularize the gender and water issue.

The first session began after a round of introduction.

Presentation 1

Overview of Water Sector Issues: K.J. Joy

In his presentation, K.J. Joy gave a brief overview of the critical issues in the water sector today and also elaborated on the women and water linkage.

Water, the fountain of life and civilizations, has also been a source of social discrimination, conflict and exclusion. The rise of water conflicts throughout the world today strengthens the notion that water is likely to be a major cause for the next world war.

The conflicts around water are of various types and scales, viz, contending water uses, dams and displacement, water quality, micro level conflicts, privatization, trans-boundary conflicts etc. Today, the agricultural sector is experiencing pressures of water scarcity, as the water use in industries is increasing. The situation becomes critical with the fact that water is under the World Trade Agreement.



There are various significant responses to water crisis by different agencies, viz., social scientists, World Bank and the civil society etc. Some suggestions are: to develop the social capacity of communities and societies to adapt to water scarcity, to shift from water resource development mode to water resource management mode, to emphasize on what can be really implemented at the ground level, creative engagement with and responding to the challenges and coming up with alternative strategies to restructure the water sector in more sustainable, equitable and democratic lines, etc. What we see today is that there is an uncritical acceptance of the World Bank recipe.

While moving towards a New Water Agenda, we need to keep the following things in mind: the need to go beyond polarized discourses, the need to integrate local and exogenous sources of water, need to prioritize water use, need of equitable distribution of water, affordable pricing and cost recovery, need for a graded tariff, rejection of any type of source privatization, service delivery through cooperative/collective entities of the citizens/users, participatory governance in a nested institutional framework, multi-stakeholder platforms and processes (MSPs) for conflict resolution

on the basis of agreed upon normative concerns, water literacy and access to information and data, and mobilization of the toiling masses on the basis of a positive, alternative agenda.

The relationship of women and water must also be taken into consideration while framing a new water agenda. We need to mainstream gender in water concerns. Women's initiatives within a gender perspective should become a part of a wider agenda for restructuring the water sector in a more sustainable, equitable, democratic and decentralised lines. At the same time we need to engage with other social (toiler's) movements and importantly look for spaces within these movements and struggles. He said that the struggle needs to walk on two legs while addressing patriarchy on the one hand it also has to engage with the broader struggle around water.

Presentation 2

Setting the Framework for Gender Concerns in Natural Resources, with a Focus on Water: Sumi Krishna

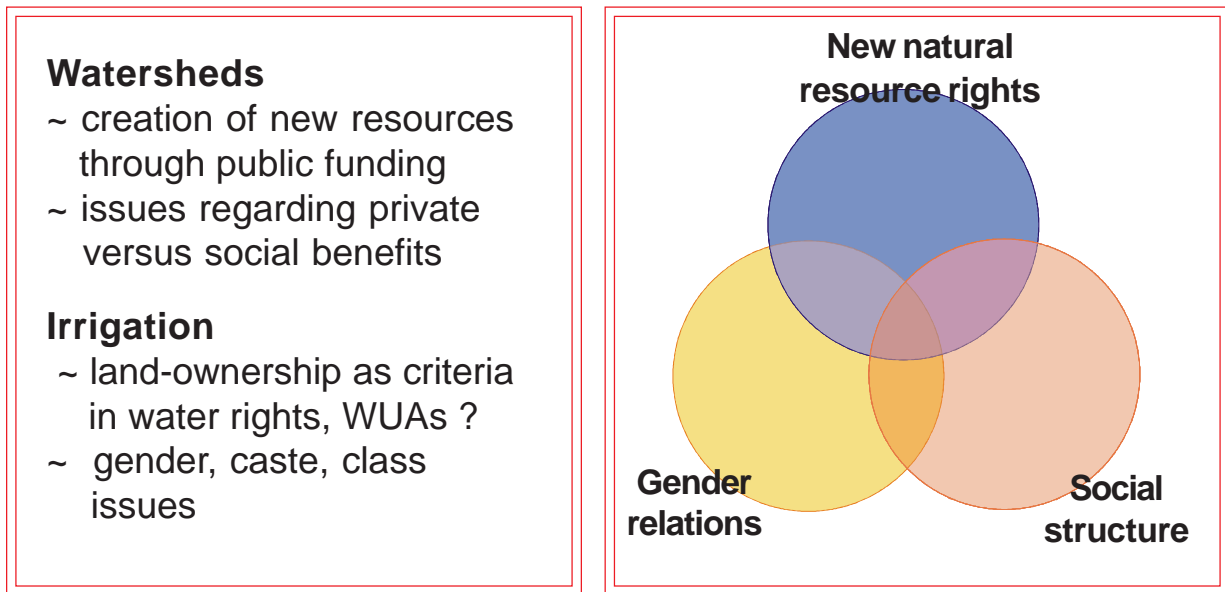
The main contention of Sumi Krishna's presentation was the need to understand the women's question in the water sector in the broader context of gender relations. Sumi Krishna began her presentation by addressing what is meant by gender concerns. According to her in regard to policy, programmes and practices, there have been three approaches towards women: conventional, celebratory, and gendered. In the conventional approach women are generally ignored or are involved in an instrumental way. In the celebratory approach women are valorized by constantly alluding to them as naturally close to nature and by alluding to their nurturing qualities. The third approach is the gendered approach where understanding gender relations becomes important. Here there is an effort to understand and change those aspects that shape values, institutions that sustain the division of gender roles such as domestic and occupational; religious, jural, political functions. This approach therefore is one that promotes equity in access and decision making.

Water should be seen both as a livelihood right and human right issue as it is related to both environmental and health issues. The complex linkages between history of gender relations and social structure contribute to the dynamics in water sector. Illustrating on access issues to water as a livelihood right, she said that women do have right to water as farmers but they are not 'seen' as farmers. For example in Arunachal Pradesh, the women farmers use stream water but the irrigation technology is 'male streamed'. The second example was about women in Haryana. The families in Haryana are female headed and it is the women who irrigate the fields. There is an irrigation system by pump sets, which can be operated at night, but the patriarchal norms prevent women from going out at night. Livestock care too is a woman's job in reality. Women who engage in non-farm activities like paper making, brick kiln work etc also have water related requirements and therefore need to establish rights over water for livelihood.

Women also play a big role in fishing. Many tribal and displaced women were fishers. Various questions arise on the ethical use of technology, right of ownership etc.

The new environmental resource rights are linked to old inequities, which perpetuate caste, class and gender inequities. Thus, the old inequalities are reproduced systematically. Unless we think of an alternative which looks at addressing these inequities we cannot claim to have made any progress on equity issues.

FIGURE 1



Water as a human right: Health Issues: In the 1980s (Water Decade) goal was: Clean water and sanitation at an affordable price for all. This was the UN water decade where drinking water and sanitation needs for all were to be taken care of.

Even today, for women sanitation remains a priority. Parents are hesitant to send their post-puberty daughters to school if there are no toilets in school. The female teachers too benefit from availability of toilets in school. Diseases like diarrhea and anemia have an adverse impact on livelihoods.

The water needed for drinking, cooking and other domestic uses are NOT 'women's needs but household needs. Perceptions that consider these as women's needs must change. Solid waste management too is a part of sanitation.

While concluding she highlighted a few critical points that need to be addressed

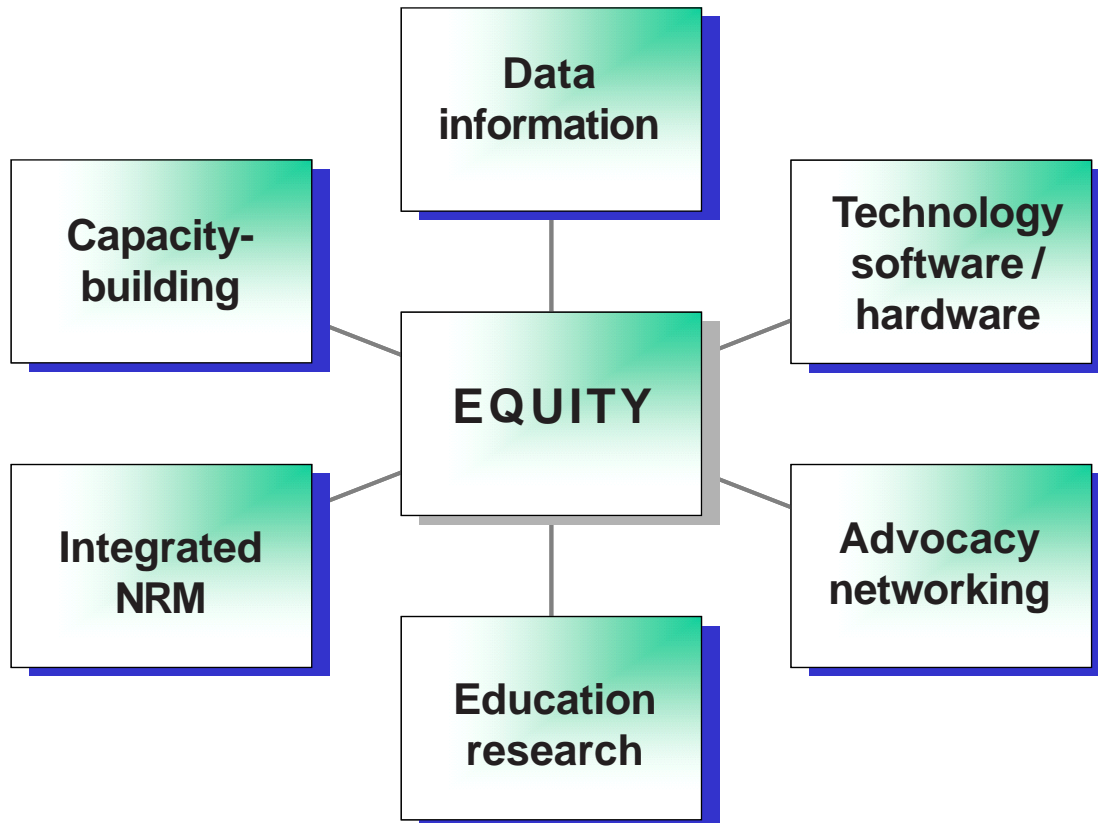
1. Focus on hamlet is critical as there is a politics of location that needs to be addressed
2. Within the Urban working class too the question of housing, water, sanitation is critical
3. Gender impacts of privatization of supply and distribution need to be understood.
4. Balancing multifarious needs of women which include water for domestic use as well as water for various livelihood activities.

She concluded with what she thinks are some of the key issues to be handled for for mainstreaming gender or as she says engendering NRM it would be important to do the following

1. Firstly it is important to collect gendered data
2. Gendered data in the context of water for livelihoods and health
3. Interventions are needed in introducing technology which is eco-friendly and bases itself on low external input and energy costs for eg. water wheel chakkis; foot pumps; composting; soak pits; water harvesting

4. The third area is that of collective rights over the resource and a say in decision making
5. 'Housewifing' of gender has to be fought. This calls for a 'reconceptualisation' of women as a category and their roles.
6. Capacity building in all areas and at all levels is very necessary

FIGURE 2



DISCUSSION

Both these presentations were followed by intensive discussions and some of the key issues that came up were with reference to philosophizing rights. The group felt that there is a need to understand water rights and whether they should be collective or individual. The other contentious issue discussed was related to the meaning of IWRM. How exactly are we going to translate integrated water resource management? It was felt that there is a need to understand the subtleties of the IWRM discourse which is increasingly becoming a donor driven agenda.

Another concern raised by the group was regarding the impact that privatization of the water resource would have on equity.

The other area discussed was with reference to the data rigour. Often it is assumed that quantitative data has the rigour which qualitative data does not have. Often in the process of providing quantified data to policy makers good quality information is lost. Qualitative data often is collected without any systematization. Thus, it is challenging but also important to make our qualitative data rigorous.

Session 2.

11.20 - 1.00

Speakers: Seema Kulkarni, Gilbert Rodrigo, Shilpa Vasavada

Discussant: Jasveen Jairath

Presentation 1

Gender Concerns in Water for Agriculture : Seema Kulkarni

In her presentation Seema Kulkarni, focused upon the issues concerning water, agriculture and gender. She highlighted the thrust of water policy before 1990s, the present crisis in the sector, features of the new water policy, possible implications of new water policy on women, water policy scenario in Maharashtra, "gender just" water sector, and possible role WWN can play in this policy making.

The water sector is ridden with problems such as inequitable access to water, stagnating irrigation performance, large-scale displacement of poor, unsustainability of irrigation systems and depletion of groundwater resources. The present crisis of water sectors gets reduced to scarcity of water, and then there is an emphasis on institutional and economic reform to manage existing resources.

In the new water policy, water is perceived as an economic good. It stands on three principles of recovery of costs towards infrastructure, pricing of water to bear the Operation and Maintenance costs and decentralized management. This has various implications for women that range from her losing control over any decisions over cropping pattern, health impacts due to a shift in the cropping pattern and increased work loads due to the opportunity costs involved in the work whether it is in the form of sweat labour that goes towards recovery of costs or otherwise.

She went on to discuss the main features of the two new acts in Maharashtra: the Maharashtra Management of Irrigation Systems by Farmers Act (MMISF), which deals only with surface irrigation systems, and the Maharashtra Water Regulatory Authority Act (MWRRA), supposed to be overarching for all sources and uses. In both these acts we find that women are completely missing and in fact both try and regulate use based on population. It is ironic to see how a water act which otherwise would not want to look at anything beyond irrigation and water use efficiency suddenly gives importance to population policy. If such 'non' efficiency related agendas can come into the water sector then why not equity and specifically gender equity?

If we review the approaches in the policies so far we see that there are two basic approaches: 'efficiency approach' (women's work valued for efficiency of water use), and 'needs based approach' (reducing women's drudgery in water related tasks). She argued for a need to move away from these approaches to one that promotes equity. This would become possible only when we reconceptualise women as independent members of the household, as a diverse category, as not naturally close to nature, and as equal citizens with equal rights and opportunities.

If we want a gender-just water sector, we need to keep the following in mind: look at water for livelihoods from women's perspective, an integration of all sources for a more integrated understanding of water rights for livelihoods, equity in water entitlements for livelihoods irrespective of land-holding, water pricing - needs to look at affordability for a minimum livelihood assurance- exploring options of paying in kind towards Operation and Maintenance of systems.

In case of decision-making we need separate spaces for women to participate in decision-making. Also the whole concept of 'water use' needs to be expanded. The over emphasis on water for irrigation needs to make a shift. "Water for livelihoods" has to become a slogan. In this altered definition of water use and water user, citizenship rather than command area ownership should be the criteria for membership to WUA and decision-making around water.

She later went on to highlight some of the key areas for further research. These include - field based studies of present access to decision making and water rights for women, Women's work related to water and agriculture, Understanding the implications of the new policies on gender relations. Finally she spoke about the role WWN can perform in this : function as an advocacy network, set up an equity gauge across different states to monitor the gender outcomes of different policies and programmes in water sector, and importantly establish links with the women's movements/groups at national and state level.

Presentation 2

Gender Concerns in Water for Agriculture- A case Study by GUIDE: Gilbert Rodrigo

In his presentation Gilbert Rodrigo from GUIDE¹ presented the case study of Palayaseevaram, a village in Kancheepuram District. He detailed the initiatives taken by the women to protect the natural resources. One such initiative is the emergence of Resource Protection Committee. Palayaseevaram, a place which once had the highest groundwater resources, is now facing the problem of consistent reduction in ground water. He described the various causes of loss of water, impact of this on women and young girls and ultimately their resolution to form Resource Protection Committee (RPC). He explains in detail the outcomes of RPC, the learnings, constraints, challenges and the changes prompted (social, economic, institution, environmental, economic, and organizational) by the RPC.

In Palar district, water availability is reducing at all the three levels: surface, sub-surface and ground water. Some of the factors for ground water reduction are: excessive exploitation of water for industrial use and urban use, dominance of water intensive crops, lack of seriousness in usage of water, ground water not seen as common property, indiscriminate mining of river sand, and indiscriminate mining of tank soil. Also, there are various non-local users. To add to the crisis, the available water is made unusable because of industrial pollution, dying units, sugar factory, distillery, chemical producers, tanneries, and seawater intrusion due to excessive exploitation.

The situation has serious implications for women because of the following factors: even among land owning, women are not considered as farmers, no rights for women of land less families, tanks and ponds meant for women have disappeared, women depend on tap water for most domestic purposes, and on private irrigation pumps for washing and bathing.

Taking a case of Palayaseevaram, he detailed the history of loss of water. The crisis aggravated in 1984 summer, when the tankers used water to meet the city scarcity as a result of which farmers had no ground water for agriculture. In 1992, additional 6 wells were established in the riverbed to meet the increased scarcity thereafter. In 1995, a sugar factory cum distillery were also established, and this aggravated the water scarcity.

¹ GUIDE was established in 1985 with the objective of protection of Human Rights. The primary focus of the organization is the empowerment of Dalit women.

This affected women considerably as it reduced their work availability in the farms to less than 45%, for men it reduced to 15%. Men migrated out but the daily expenses had to be met by women, rather some women had to support their men for their expenses. The uneducated women shared available work and earned less while others became construction workers and hawkers.

The women found the solution in form of (RPC) Resource Protection Committees. RPCs are committees in 82 panchayats, that take up promotional activities such as nursery raising, planting on common lands, deepening existing ponds, filing complaints against illegal sand mining, tank soil mining, ground water commercial tapping, water pollution. RPC's also did 'PRA' exercises like social mapping, natural resource mapping, time line, seasonality, gender division of labour, stakeholder analysis etc.

The lessons learnt were: need to start from the strength of women and landless, one also needs to change attitude towards water ownership, need to start with issue of top priority to primary **stake holders**.

The RPC's did face lot of constraints and challenges like bringing in larger farmers and Ayacut farmers into the RPC representation, helping women to be recognized as a equal partners in the committees, access to needed information by arguing effectively, impressing upon government to recognize this forum as an integral mechanism of Panchayat etc.

The success of RPC was that it could promote changes in social, institutional, environmental, economic, and organizational arenas.

Case Study II

Gender concerns in Water for Agriculture, Learning from grassroots: Experiences of AKRSP (I) and Women and Land Network (Gujarat)- Shilpa Vasavada

In her presentation, Shilpa Vasavada, presented the case study of experiences of AKRSP and Gujarat and MP. AKRSP (I) is a grassroots implementation NGO that focuses on empowering people for NR based livelihoods.

The presentation touched on the various learnings they gained from their work in the area of participatory irrigation management (PIM). She briefly explained the goals of PIM which mainly focuses on improving irrigation efficiency and ensuring maintenance and repair of irrigation infrastructure.

PIM encourages participation of farmers in management of water resources. A Water User's association is formed comprising the user group at 'minor canal level. at that level allocation of water has to be done by user groups and operation and maintenance by WUAs.

In Gujarat PIM is governed presently by GRs and model bye laws of society, and it is not yet an Act. The draft act is not yet finalized, and it has been pending for about four years. The goal was to get 50% of entire command area of Sardar Sarovar project in Gujarat under PIM by 2003. AKRSP has promoted 10 PIM societies, covering 10,443 hectares so far primarily in South Gujarat

As per the present laws membership criteria for PIM: landowners will be members of PIM society, nominal membership for those who cultivate in command area but who have no land titles (Bye laws), no voting rights, and minimum 1/3rd landed women in Executive committee.

With such rules women hardly can become members of the WUA and as a result can hardly participate in the decision making process. In fact if one goes to the fields one would find women very actively working and irrigating their fields but they hardly have a presence in the WUAs.



AKRSP made a special effort to design and develop strategies at the grassroots to enable women's participation in irrigation. To name a few- creation of an enabling environment and empowering "nominal women members" to participate actively in decision making forum, by enabling women farmers in the command area to access land titles .This experience taught them to involve women from the outset and to not be restricted by the present legal frameworks that do not allow any space for women. Just as it was important to convince women it was equally important to talk to men on some of these issues.

At another level they also started a campaign of land rights. To enable women farmers in the command area to access land titles they designed strategies like: identifying categories of women where there has been systemic denial of land rights and focusing on them to start with, putting precondition of land transfer in the name of women for any programmatic intervention related to water, credit or legal advice, restricting water rights to farmers enabling women to gain access to land titles which they work on, mainstreaming women's and rights issue by linking with other issues of federation, etc. In order to reduce the resistance to such initiatives they took up other alternative mechanisms like Naari Adalat, Panchayat Information Centers, etc, encouraging men to will their land to their wives/ daughters by assisting in preparing legal documents (karinama) of contentious cases, felicitation of women and men who have shown new directions for getting land in the name of women, etc.

The experience has shown that water rights should be considered independently and there should be a de-linking of water rights and land titles. It is important to go beyond only landed women/men. We need to mainstream gender concerns in water and need to look at water from a holistic, livelihood perspective than looking at water in a sectoral way of water for agriculture, drinking water, pastoral use, etc.

Discussion

Some of the issues that came in for discussion were around the question of treating water as an economic good. If water is treated as an economic good then can it become affordable for poor and for women? A related issue was that of recovery of cost on infrastructure. This and the question of pricing is a wide topic and perhaps would need a day to discuss and come to any conclusion. But on the whole the group was in broad agreement to oppose infrastructure contribution from the poor for drinking water. There was little clarity on what stand needs to be taken with reference to irrigation water.

The other central concern was decentralization. Some of the main concerns expressed by the group were

- a) whether decentralization is actual devolution of power or whether it is a ploy to cover up the state's inability to perform its role;
- b) who is the decentralized community? Local communities are often ridden in caste and class conflicts and sometimes these are more exploitative than the State. This can have a negative impact on women and other poor.
- c) Does decentralization create a space for women simply because it is closer home?

The need for women to be involved in local politics was also discussed as a precursor to their involvement in the water sector. Delinking of water rights from land rights was one other serious issue that was discussed as an option to widen the scope of irrigation water. Its positive and negative aspects were discussed as delinking can also lead to tradability of water where private interests then step in.

However in this context it is still important to fight for land in the name of women. Representatives from the Women and Land network narrated their experiences where they looked at every opportunity to transfer land rights in the name of women. Men landowners were transferring land in the name of their women to escape land ceiling laws etc. But these spaces can be used creatively for establishing women's rights over land.



Session 3.

2.00 - 4.00

Speakers: Sara Ahmed, Anjali Maideo and Sadhana Dadhich, Bharati Bahvsar

Discussant: Smita Mishra Panda

Presentation 1

Gender Concerns in Water Supply and Sanitation: Sara Ahmed

In her presentation Sara Ahmed, presented an overview about the gender concerns in water supply and sanitation. After a brief overview of the current trends like increase in intensity and frequency of water related disasters and privatization and pricing, increase of competition and conflict over water, emergency responses to disasters / conflict etc, she spoke about the global policy on water supply and sanitation which stresses more on sustainability and not equity. Water she stressed is not considered as a human right in this policy. Thus, we must be careful about the whole WSS agenda.

She then went on to talk about the changing role of the state, which has allowed water to become a 'commodity' than a public good. Role of the state too is changing. The state has now 'allowed' water to be a 'commodity'. state has become a facilitator of demand-responsive WSS rather than a provider. Simultaneously there is a shift from centralized water management services to decentralized approaches based on community participation. there is also a shift from overlooking women's participation to mainstreaming gender: which in fact is mere co-option. One of the impacts of this has been that women are expected to give a lot of voluntary time for meetings beyond the time spent by them in the household and other income related work.

One of the MDG related to GSS was "halving by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation" (Target 10, Goal 7 on environmental sustainability). What is noteworthy in the MDG is the word sustainable access, not equity. In the global policy, they do not recognize water as a human right or gender equality and equity despite focus on women as 'caretakers of WSS'.

If we see the sector reforms in India, the water coverage in rural areas has increased to 94% in 2000. However, rural sanitation coverage is only 15%.

The World Bank WSS sector review (1999) called for alternative sources of funding to meet investment gap - public and private - as well as appropriate technology. The sector reforms in India entails the following: Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) responsible for water and sanitation, 100% O&M contribution from water users and 10% of capital costs, one-third representation of women on village water committees, participatory planning and community capacity building, integrated approach with focus on sanitation.

Although the policy stresses on women's participation and their representation on the committees, we really need to understand the quality of participation. Whether women are really able to participate and which are the women who participate. Understanding the gender question also calls for a more nuanced understanding of formal (structural) and informal (agency, culture) mechanisms necessary and their inter-relationships. Also we need to take a note of women's voices (which women) and also take into consideration their silences. Here the NGOs working

for gender sensitization can play an important role; they can empower women water leaders. She emphasized on the need for a gendered approach to WSS. A critical focus on sanitation is necessary. Engendering WSS means making water services more accountable by including performance indicators for gender equity, engendering water bureaucracies, supporting women water professionals, gender responsive budgeting for WSS, progressive water pricing, subsidies for connections, no capital costs for poor, and water literacy and citizens' water contracts.

Two Examples

Example 1:

SEWA's Millennium Campaign, Women, Water & Work: Bharati Bhavsar

In her presentation Bharati Bhavsar, presented the case study of the water campaign of SEWA², which started in 1995. The aim of this campaign was management and ownership of water with women, and creation and revival of local water sources. She spoke about the approach, activities, impact and experiences of the campaign. She also put forth some recommendations for the water policy from their experience of SEWA.

As part of the campaign they have been demanding drinking water facilities in each village and that the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of water structures should rest with women. Throughout the campaign they mobilized women in gram sabhas and tried to create women leaders. They created awareness and imparted technical training on water related issues. They initiated these activities based on women's demands. They were involved in policy advocacy. They held activities like organizing rallies and celebrating important days, participation in water world forums, awareness trainings. etc. SEWA constructed 2000 Roof Rain Water Harvesting Tanks and also constructed, repaired and recharged other local water sources.

Their campaign had a significant impact. There was improved quality and governance of water supply, increased participation of local community, especially women, increased income of women (by Rs. 12 - 17 / day), increased income of the family through strengthening of livelihoods, improved gender relations, revival and management of water sources by local women, water fetching time saved almost by 3 - 5 hours, less drudgery for women, less health problems and increased capacity to cope with drought.

They also made the following policy recommendations which were as follows

1. Women should be recognized as owners and managers of water supply
2. Women's participation should be ensured at state and national level water organizations
3. Recognition should be given to women for operation and management of local water resources like hand pump, pipe lines etc.
4. Recognition and encouragement to Roof Rain Water Harvesting, multi source approach for drinking water supply, proper allocation/ consumption of water demands that planning for water should involve multi stakeholder dialogues to overcome the conflicts arising due to differences in livelihood patterns, gender concerns, etc.,

² SEWA is a member-based organization of poor women workers in the informal sector.

5. Safe and adequate domestic water supply,
6. Traditional sources of water should be ensured and commitment should be given for uninterrupted water supply and funding and flexible rules are required from the Planning Commission.

Example 2:

Aple Pani (Our water) KfW supported Government of Maharashtra Drinking water scheme: Sadhana Dadhich & Anjali Maideo

In their presentation, Sadhana Dadhich and Anjali Maideo presented the case study of Aple Pani project.

They explained in detail about how the sector reforms in Maharashtra have undergone a major shift in rural water programme from government-led, supply-driven approach to community-led, demand-responsive and participatory approach. This must be given a serious thought because it's a clear indication of retreat of welfare state and role of WB and other donors to shape the policies. They explained about their experience with water and women with Apla Pani Project implemented in Palsoshi village of Maharashtra and related it to the broader issues concerned with water and gender mainstreaming.

They began their presentation by underscoring the changes that took place in the Sector Reforms in Maharashtra. In this demand based approach there is a preference to ground water source based small schemes manageable at local level. The responsibility and ownership from planning phase to O&M of the schemes is with the local communities. This clearly indicates the retreat of the welfare state.

As part of the sector reforms in Maharashtra there are three projects going on, Aple Pani Project (kfW aided), Jalswarajya (WB aided), and Swajaldhara (GoI).

The Objectives of Aple Pani Project are: improvement of the health and sanitation conditions through sustainable water supply schemes, complementary measures for watershed/ groundwater management, health education and empowerment for village-based O&M, and full participation of the villagers in all stages with participation in capital costs and full O&M recovery.'

They emphasised the need to read between the lines and to interpret women's agenda in the scheme to one's advantage. They also detailed other aspects of the Aple Pani project like expected outcome of the gender related strategies, interventions at village level, realities at ground level, women's enthusiasm in the interface with technical issues etc. Here they presented the case of Palsoshi, a village in Maharashtra where they have been able to use the spaces creatively and prepare a roof water harvesting plan through people's participation.

Discussion

Both the examples were very well received by the group. Some of the questions addressed to SEWA related to whether we were really addressing gender inequities or whether we were increasing women's work burden. Has SEWA really looked at the gender relations issue? Has

their negotiating power changed at home and in the community. Does this get reflected in the gender empowerment indicators in that region? Some of these questions however remained questions that need to be addressed at some later stage.

Some of the technologies adopted in both the examples were appreciated and it was thought mandatory to have roof water harvesting structures along with every house which would assure some amount of water for livelihoods for women. Roof top harvesting can be a better way to conserve the rainwater. Especially in western Maharashtra villages – rainwater harvesting is very relevant.

The other area that was stressed in the discussion was to stop overemphasising the role of women in drinking and domestic water. Water problems are often referred to as women's problems and this image of women as care takers must change. There was a need to involve not only Gramsabha but also all the parallel institutions at grassroots like SHGs in leadership of women.

The need for looking at drinking water as a human right was stressed. In this light it was proposed that rethinking needs to be done on the State's role. The state should supply water to all as a right and minimum assurance to drinking water should be provided as a matter of right and should be free.

The other issue which is bogging down the domestic water sector is decentralization of corruption. Decentralisation has become a key word but it has been more misused than used to the advantage. It therefore becomes important to thoroughly go into the issues related to Decentralisation, such as how much are we asking for and what should be its scope and depth. These discussions must precede our recommendations.

As regards the women's empowerment component in the scheme it was strongly felt that donor driven projects have unrealistic objectives. For instance, how can we achieve empowerment of women in two / three years? Patriarchy is so deeply embedded that our 'social - engineering' mode cannot address this. There is need for conceptualisation, space and time for these inequities to be addressed.

Water policy needs to be proactive but we don't have a policy on sanitation. As a part of WWN – we have to have a pro-active approach, towards water policies and sanitation; the whole concept of sanitation is so lopsided that it gets reduced to construction of toilets.

This session too like the previous one raised important issues on the different components of the sector reform programme of the State. Issues like pricing, cost recovery and decentralization need to be addressed and cannot be taken as given.

Session 4.

4.00 - 6.00

Speakers: Madhu Sarin, Neeta Hardikar, Anwar, Abraham

Discussant: Chhaya Datar

Gender Concerns in Watershed Development: Madhu Sarin

Madhu Sarin largely spoke about the development paradigm around Natural resources. She started with discussing the land settlement system. She said that means of livelihood depended on type of land like arid, semi-arid and pastoral etc. Any land that does not generate revenue is 'waste'. There is lack of proper land survey by revenue settlement departments, which is the cause of chaos. She also narrated experiences from Joint Forest management (JFM) where wrong land categorization systems have led to privatization of commons.

She went on to discuss the new context of declaration of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and the likely impacts that these can have on watershed development programme itself. In such a context then livelihoods of poor and women are threatened.



Two Examples

Example 1:

Gender perspectives in Water Management- Practices and concerns: Anwar Islam, Centre for World Solidarity, Hyderabad

The first case study, 'Gender perspectives in Water Management- Practices and Concerns' was presented by Anwar.

After a brief overview that outlined the gravity of the water crisis Anwar described their experience in organizing women in watershed management. This was called the 'Janajagruti'

programme in which they cultivated a patch of the common property land. He talks about the approach they adopted, and the key impacts of this programme.

Their approach was to empower local communities for natural resource management, gender-responsive planning in natural resource management, mainstreaming gender equity and changing rights - common pool resources, recognizing women's gendered roles, recognizing women's existing skills and knowledge, support and nurturing women's leadership in the community, creating male support for women's leadership, and encouraging women's mobility and linkages.

After selecting a patch of land for the programme, the first steps involved in achieving the asset base for women was rejuvenating the highly degraded common land. Women groups started protecting common property land and with proper lobbying, the community could manage usufruct rights from the government revenue office. The regeneration was fast and more than 60 tree species grew. Fodder is harvested regularly from this land.

As a result of these interventions there was an increase in Ground Water Level, due to which women were able to irrigate their dry patches of land. Here they clearly adopted an approach where women would get equitable access to the water for irrigation. Community bore wells were dug.

The programme was a success and despite a severe drought the 445 acres under this initiative is in cultivation, there was no outward migration, and rather there is an inward migration, livestock increased from 982 to 4230, there was food security at family level, social dignity and also there were some changes in the gendered roles.

Example 2:

Women and Watershed Development- Experiences and Reflections: IGWDP and other projects: Abraham Samuel

In his presentation, Abraham talked about the experiences and reflections of IGWDP, the most successful watershed development in Maharashtra. It was the programme where the government for the first time gave money to villagers to plan and develop their watershed.

He explained the different strategies used for gender integration like organizing women into SHGs, women's representation in village watershed committee, coordinating SHGs through SMS (Sanyukta Mahila Samiti only in IGWDP), provision of lady social worker, exposure and training for SHGs, VWCs and NGO staff on gender issues, specific budget allocation for women's development activities (in IGWDP), and encouraging participation in watershed planning and implementation.

He then went on to discuss the impact of the above strategies on gender integration. SHGs are organized in watersheds but their linkage and role in watershed development is not clear. SHGs created space for women and access to small credit but not as a building block for enhancing participation in watershed. SHGs contribute voluntary labour when the required shramdan fell short and the project faces problem. SHGs remain only as a saving and credit group, not as a platform for enhancing gender concerns. His observation was that women are used as labour

and collective strength is built for this purpose. Male labour is increasingly scarce and organizing men is politically difficult and messy and hence women become an easier target.

Watershed committees are responsible for the project (including finance) and women have representation in all watersheds. In spite of this, in reality, it is observed that except in very few instances very few women members play a decisive role in the VWC's functioning. In places where the NGOs have facilitated strongly, as well as where women members have authority, women VWC members are involved in decision-making. But usually, few women participate in the main phase planning and only where NGOs make it a condition. Women have very little say in the choice of technology and the kinds of treatment measures, which are often decided by the NGO and male members.

This is however not meant to present only a negative side of the story and there have been gains for women as well. These can be outlined as availability of labor, equal wages, reduction of migration and related hardships. The women get exposed to the outside world and new ideas, they now have some say in family decisions because of access to savings and credit, even though most often decisions on this are influenced by men etc.

He concluded with raising some critical issues for the floor to discuss

1. Is 'Participation' a neo-liberal agenda?
2. Conflicting 'Rights' in context of allocating rights on CPR
3. Is there a mismatch between concept, expectation and reality?

Example 2:

Women's Participation in Enhancement of Natural Resource Based Livelihoods- Experiences of ANANDI (Area Networking and Development Initiatives) in Panchmahaals and Dahod: Neeta Hardikar

In her presentation, Neeta Hardikar talked about experiences of ANANDI³ in Panchmahaals and Dahod.

She began her presentation by defining the terms gender, empowerment, rights, social power, and gave features of sustainable livelihood: the way Anandi has understood it through their work. She talked about the features of present environmental conditions, like, increase of food insecurity, drought proneness, erratic rainfall, undulating and rock strewn land, fast degrading forest, rain fed agriculture, soil erosion, inadequate efforts for ground water recharge, under developed agricultural practices, water insufficiency and shortage of fuel and fodder etc.

The degradation of natural resources affects women in various ways. It leads to increase in their workload, increase in inequities between women and men, reduced access to means of subsistence, erosion of indigenous knowledge base of women and overall greater insecurity for women.

³ ANANDI has been working with rural women and tribal communities of Gujarat since 1995 to bring rural women's concern in the center of all development processes to establish a just, equitable and peaceful society.

For Anandi, “Watershed Development” means addressing issues of food security of poor families, access to safe and adequate drinking water, alternative livelihood opportunities to reduce distress migration, improving quality of life of poor/women (socio-eco-political) through management of natural resources and involving women and poor communities in decisions regarding community development.

Talking about their implementation strategy she said that they had designed strategies from simple to the most complex activities. They also follow some basic principles like labor orientation rather than mechanized work, 70:30 women – men ratio in the village committee, capacity building of “Eco workers”, and local committees for participatory planning, implementation and monitoring of the process. Their work had impact at various levels- increase in income level, ratio of poor families in decision making and control over the asset, leadership – women, poor, marginalized, change in food intake habits and nutritional status, decrease in distress migration, increase in water recharge, agriculture production, land use, soil erosion checked, and skill upgradation of the eco workers.

The role of Anandi here was to understand traditional knowledge, to impart conceptual and technical training, facilitation in the social development process, capacity building of various village level institutions for sustainable development of the community, and a periodic review of process.

Some of the learnings were as follows

1. If the organization is willing it can ensure participation of the poorest and women of the community in NRM.
2. The organization has to create time and space, it should stand by/support their decisions,
3. Start with what they know, decentralize knowledge through the Eco-Worker, if women have to lead then they have to be in majority till they are able to take charge, community based monitoring system,
4. “Food for Work” needs to be seen in the light of food security, and drought relief for drought proofing.

Their experience taught them to place confidence in women, and to firmly believe that women know their own environment and hence it is important to involve them in planning. They realized that addressing institutional problems that hinder participation of women is important and the most significant of all it is important to change problems into opportunities.

Discussion

There was a discussion after this presentation. The crucial issues which came up were need of a gender perspective running throughout government policy as against having one page on gender, need for more drudgery reduction technologies, addressing property rights, and power relations. It was also discussed that we need to make our programmes more enriching by including Gender as an interwoven aspect of all programmes.

Day 2: 27th September, 2006

Session 1.

Tying up the three sectors - Gender Perspective For An Integrated Water Resource Management : Seema Kulkarni

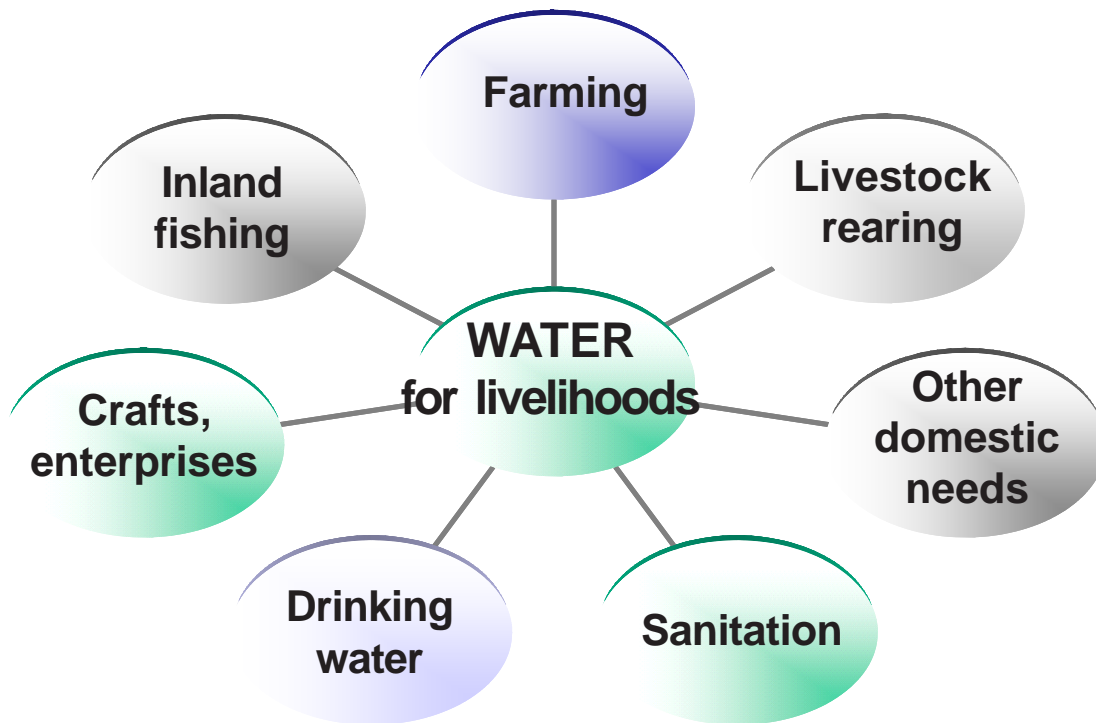
Main agenda points

The first session on day two was aimed at tying up the previous day's discussion to develop a gender just perspective in the water sector that would form the basis for formulating a set of recommendations for water policy.

Sumi's pictorial diagram (see fig..) was used and modified to present the gender just water perspective. Water for livelihoods becomes the central theme in this perspective. This includes water for multiple water uses such as domestic, agriculture, fishing, small enterprises, etc as well as minimum water for eco-systems. Sectoral focus looks at water only from a specific use point of view. So the irrigation sector focuses on irrigation alone without looking at other activities requiring water that are central perhaps to landless groups. The present approach moves away from the sectoral approach to a much more integrated approach towards water sector restructuring. The main features of such a perspective would be

1. Minimum assurance of water for livelihoods- here the question of what this minimum water is becomes important and needs to be answered. It therefore becomes important to detail this out in different socio-political and geographical contexts. It would have to take into consideration multiple uses of water. The assurance of water has to be on a per capita basis and not on the basis of a household. This would ensure that women as much as men have clear entitlements over water.
2. The second issue is related to the question of pricing. Often it is assumed that water has only either a social or an economic value. This leads to polarized debates around water pricing. There is a need to develop a consensus on what is affordable for meeting livelihood needs of people. Does drinking water have to be free? Do people have to pay for the Operation and Maintenance costs?
3. The third and important aspect is rethinking on the present institutional set-up in the water sector. The present institutions range from the Water Users Associations (WUAs) on Irrigation projects, village water and sanitation committees for domestic water and watershed development committees for watershed management. These would have to be redefined in the light of an alternative perspective which looks at water for livelihoods more than water for different sectors.
4. Decentralisation, one of the key dimensions of the present water sector reforms, needs to be seen as sharing power and not mere delegation of tasks- fiscal and power devolution. It should also include representation based on citizenship rather than ownership of land or any other assets.
5. In this integrated approach we may also need to look at different practices and technologies related to enhancing water productivity for better utilization of the water resource.

FIGURE 3



Can this really be a gender agenda? Do gender inequities get addressed through this agenda? Here we need to make a distinction between what the State can do and what is the responsibility of the civil society.

The recommendations mentioned above can very much form part of the State's policy in the water sector but for it to reach to the water deprived sections including women we need to have parallel struggles at various levels. There needs to be a dialogue with different civil society movements as well as academia. The network has to recognise the limits of the State led agenda and therefore need to involve grassroots movements that ensure democratisation of water institutions- sharing of power to address class, caste and gender inequities. Unlike health and domestic violence, water rights cannot become a rallying point for women as like land, water is a resource that is identified as a household resource. For women the household, caste, class and community identities are much stronger than an identity as women when the resources in question are productive resources such as land and water. And yet the contradiction is that power relations between men and women will not change unless women's access to productive resources, skills and capabilities, representation improves

Discussion

There was an animated discussion after this presentation. Crucial issues were raised. Most agreed to the broadly defined perspective. Most of the participants also agreed to the need to engage with the feminist movement and academia. It was also felt important that we engage with larger water rights movements.

It was felt that water productive technologies should replace water efficient technologies. Information flow should be ensured, as this becomes the main hindrance in many schemes. Also, lot of data is generated through public institutions and that data is never available to public. We must ensure that such data is made available at low cost.

One of the points that was raised was whether we were moving upwards or downwards. It was feared that this was too much discussion by a few who were planning for the grassroots women. There is need to interact with women in the villages and develop perspectives from there.

The discussion was moving in different directions and it was finally felt that the group was too diverse so it might be difficult to arrive at a consensus on the issues put forth in the presentation. But some did feel that the workshop needs to evolve a position on gender and water issues and the proposed alternative should be seriously considered to be one.

Session 2.

New Areas Research on Gender and Water: Deepa Joshi

Deepa made a brief presentation outlining the different areas of research required in this field. She stressed on consolidation of existing research and experiences and data on gender-water experiences need to bridge crucial gaps between activism-research, researcher-practitioners, research-policy, practitioner-policy, etc.

While talking about research she said that there is a need to challenge the usual tendency in any research, which is critical without being positive.

Discussing the areas of research she advocated that there is a need of research which focuses on equity and gender. Also many researches on agriculture and water express polarized opinions and offer few solutions. Irrigation projects which increase disparity and inequity, alter social-geographies, huge financial and environmental costs can also be an area for further research. There is also a need for clarity on key issues of water supply and sanitation and how more women could be involved. The need to study possibilities of delivering holistic sanitation to heterogeneous groups of the urban and rural poor was also emphasized by her. She pointed out the need for a critical appraisal of the present low cost options in sanitation , to further their improvement.

Discussion

The crucial issues which came forth in discussion were as follows: need to address the wide gap between reality and policy, possible means to bring forth the experiences of activists, ensure that voices of the poorest among poor is made audible, most urgently how can we prevent knowledge base of old women from dying.

Presentation 2

Who will farm Indian Fields in 2025? : IWMI Tata study

Amrita Sharma

In her presentation, Amrita from IWMI Tata presented their interesting research work 'Who will farm Indian Fields in 2025?' She drew attention to critical transitions taking place in the field of agriculture. Today there is decrease in the absolute number of men working in the field of agriculture. The recent trend shows an increase in number of women in farming. But cross-country analysis shows that later, women too withdraw in large numbers (though their rate of withdrawal is less than that of men). So it raises the serious concern of who will farm the Indian fields in 2025. The objective of this research is to study the prospect of increased female dominance in India's farm sector in view of changing rural labor markets, male out-migration from agriculture and increasing orientation towards diversified agriculture. Other objective is to explore the possible scenarios that can be predicted based on the socio-cultural diversity given the heterogeneity in Indian agriculture. The research also raises some important questions as to whether Indian women who would be taking on this great challenge of farming India's fields really have the resources at their disposal. From the point of view of credit, land and water entitlements these are serious and interesting issues.

Discussion

It was brought forth that the concept of 'gender' is not politically neutral. So when we talk about feminization of agriculture, is it always negative? Women always were farmers, and when we talk about feminization of agriculture, are we not negating her present and past identity as farmer? Feminization must be looked at more qualitatively. Also, do gender relations change by women occupying certain positions?

Session 3.

Presentation of different networks (Vision, Role, Mandate and Structure and Resources) followed by open discussion

Over the last few years there have been various networks which are looking at IWRM and gender and equity concerns. These networks very often have similar goals but are not able to work together. One of things this workshop hoped to achieve is to build synergies between these various networks. The three networks -CAPNET, part of a global initiative, WWN again part of a global process but with its own country identity and the Gender and Water Alliance an international network that has made a mark in International water politics came together on a common platform at this workshop. The session was primarily one where the networks could know each other better in terms of their role, vision and mandate. This was important from the point of view of developing common programmes or developing complementarities in activities of the different networks.

Presentation 1

Women and Water network-Vision, Role and Structure

Seema Kulkarni

Formation of the Network

The WWN was formed as a response to the gender blind policies in the water sector. Women's complete absence from the water sector was one of the main reasons for the formation of the

network. The process of network formation began in October 2001 as part of the Global Water Partnership Programme(GWP) programme in India. The first few meetings held were in the North and south zones of the country. The national network was launched in 2002 in Bangalore which was co-ordinated by NIAS, Bangalore.

Mission

To work towards a holistic approach to water resources development and sustainability; mainstream gender concerns as the organizing principle in water policy, management and distribution; and bring together grassroots organizations, researchers, water professionals, policy makers, and women's organizations, to effect this paradigm shift.

Role

1. Research
2. Advocacy
3. Training

Research

Pilot studies in 4-5 states on new water policies from a gender perspective

Primary data collection to understand the impacts of all the newly launched programmes in domestic water, irrigation and watershed

Advocacy

Based on the study findings launch of an equity gauge at the national level with parallel such initiatives in different states on a pilot basis to monitor the equity outcomes with a focus on gender (WUAs, Pani samitis, watershed committees)

The two most important activities identified under advocacy were a) Dialogue with the state and b) Popular writings and other material to bring the issue to the centre stage

Training

Linking with CapNet India and any other existing initiatives on training

Capacity building initiatives for women professionals in the water sector and training of professionals in the water sector on gender issues

Structure

Presently informal status with an e-group that connects members from across the country

About 125 members are part of this e-group but never get an opportunity to meet

The process supported initially by UNIFEM where NIAS and Saciwaters had taken initial responsibilities. Later some support came from India Water Partnership (IWP)

Currently hosted in SOPPECOM, Pune

Proposed structure

There was discussion on whether the network needs to be formally registered. Since this is a loose network right now connected largely through the e-group, there has been no need felt to register it. However in all its interactions with the India Water Partnership, especially the need to register and have a formal body is felt strongly. Members discussed the pros and cons of registering the network however no decision was taken on this.

There was then a detailed discussion on what kind of a structure the WWN should have. In the proposed structure there would be a three tier system where a national level co-ordinating committee would exist. Then there would be the zonal networks where 5 zones are visualized and this would be followed by the state level networks.

The national level network would be the host organization with small core group membership of 6-7 people who would be selected on a rotation basis. The zonal networks would be in five zones- East, West, North, South and North-East.

State level networks could be existing networks in the state working on the water question and sensitive to gender and equity issues.

Criteria for membership

1. Individuals or organizations committed to gender equity in the water sector and those who agree to the vision of the WWN
2. Non communal
3. Media persons sensitive to gender equity issues

Presentation 2

Cap Net by Smita Mishra Panda and Ravi Sannabhadti

Our Mandate

Network to create, consolidate and institutionalise needed facilities to conceptualise, plan and operationalise Capacity Building for IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management) Launched in March 2004 and it is part of Cap-Net Global and CapNet South Asia

Our Setup

Network presently has around 400 members (institutional and individual) working in the water sector representing social activists, academics, environmentalists, engineers and other professionals from voluntary organisations, government and the educational field
Ten core group members govern the functioning of CapNet India.
Secretariat of CapNet India housed at the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA)

Our Objectives

1. To identify and establish linkages between relevant capacity building institutions in India to undertake training, education and research to promote capacity building (CB) for IWRM
2. To facilitate initialization of local capacity building activities that can later emerge as platforms for IWRM in India
3. To empower and build partnerships in resource management at the local, national and regional levels through networking
4. To evolve an advocacy strategy for the promotion of CB for IWRM and other topical issues in water, of national and local relevance
5. To make an effective impact on policy making, implementation and evaluation in all water related knowledge and development activities

Our Strategies

Working on specific strategies for the following:

1. CapNet India is committed to building synergies through networking
2. Strengthening members in the Network and their capacities (for IWRM and integrating technical and social dimensions of water management)
3. Delivering and evaluating capacity development periodically

Our Activities

In the last two years CapNet has adopted a multi-pronged approach focusing on the following aspects:

1. Institutionalization
2. Capacity building activities
3. Dialogue and advocacy
4. Research on water and related development issues

Institutionalization

1. Building membership (Institutional & Individual)
2. Establish linkages with existing networks, platforms and movements in order to create synergies
3. Creation of databases of water related knowledge and expertise available in the country

Capacity Building Activities

1. Facilitate information sharing and expertise among members by network management
2. Organising workshops and dialogues relevant to water and related issues
3. Link members for mutual capacity building with existing resources

Dialogue and Advocacy

1. Support and/or set-up regional forums to highlight and create strategies to address locally relevant water management issues (particularly in less highlighted areas like the North-East)
2. Document and develop case studies exploring IWRM as understood in different geographical and socio-economic

Research

Conduct research in collaboration with members and regional platforms relevant to understand IWRM in different Indian contexts (Gujarat, South India, Orissa, Jharkhand, etc)

Future Plans

1. Continue with the multi-pronged approach with focus on:
2. Building Regional / Local Platforms for IWRM (to address context specific IWRM issues) in Eastern India, Central India, Northern Hill regions, etc
3. Facilitate local capacity building initiatives in collaboration with members and partners
4. Develop advocacy material in local / regional languages
5. Take up mass awareness and advocacy campaigns

Presentation 3

Gender and Water Alliance An Agenda for South Asia

Sara Ahmed, Member GWA Steering Committee

History

Formed in March 2000 at 2nd WWF, Hague by 110 individuals, organizations

Ministerial Declaration on Water Security for 21st century, recognized IWRM, poverty and need to focus on women/gender roles

Essentially a network with more than 500 members (w/m) from 83 countries

Funding from DGIS, DFID and other partners depending on project

GWA Vision and Mission

Vision: "To achieve equity and equality among women and men in sustainable water resources development and management at all levels as a key strategy for poverty eradication."

Mission: promotion of women's, men's, girls' and boy's equitable access to and control over the development and management of safe and adequate water for domestic supply, sanitation, food security and environmental sustainability.

Strategic focus 2006-2010

Extending and strengthening membership through list-serve, web-site (4 languages)

Knowledge development and management on gender and IWRM: dissemination in various languages, formats and media

Capacity building on gender and IWRM with Cap-Net, UNDP, IRC, GWP, etc.

Policy advocacy on mainstreaming gender – performance indicators, gender budgeting

GWA Governance

Strategic direction provided by Steering Committee with regional representatives elected for 2 years, 2nd term possible, Chair selected

Representative membership from partners or donors: IRC, Japan Water Forum, DfID, UN Task Force on Water and Gender, GWP

Small secretariat based in the Netherlands with staff having diverse language skills, capacities

Support for regional initiatives through members, partner organizations and consultants (south)

South Asia Regional Initiative

First regional workshop planned for Kathmandu, late Jan. 2007 with NEWAH

To evolve a vision and strategy for mainstreaming gender in IWRM in region

Three regional task groups to co-ordinate:

1. Capacity building
2. Knowledge development and learning
3. Policy advocacy, networking

Discussion

This was the final discussion of the conference. It was concluded that it is important for all three networks to come together as an effective platform and recommended policies, and future areas of research and also to know their relations with the grassroots. It is equally important to know the distinct relations between these three networks.

The issue of registration came up. This was an important concern because if one has to influence policy as group and not as individuals, registration is important.

Also do we need to have formalized body of country water partnership? It was thought that we need to have zonal partnership but built-up legitimacy at national level.

Then each network discussed their outcomes of past two years. It came up that just coming forth and discussing on such issues itself is a great achievement.

The conference was concluded with the decision that a draft for the organizational structure for registration of WWN would be worked out by the following members: Deepa, Gilbert, Sumi, Sara, and Seema (coordinator)

As an immediate outcome three proposals need to be developed and the responsibilities would be as follows:

1. It was decided that a policy analysis of water sector needs to be done from a gender perspective. This study would look at the policies and programmes around water and how they have fared on the gender and equity agenda. This can be done for a few states in the beginning and could be followed up with the others. The proposal for this was to be developed by Seema Kulkarni along with Smita and Ravi from Capnet
2. Proposal for Training of Women Water professionals was to be developed by Shanta Mohan to be supported by IWP
3. Documentation of best practices in gender and water from a gender perspective was another area that needed to be documented. A framework of analysis would have to be developed and case studies would have to be contributed in the light of that framework. The responsibility was given to Anwar and Gilbert.

The workshop ended with a vote of thanks presented by Shruti Vispute of SOPPECOM.

Key Issues that emerged from the two day workshop

Mainstreaming gender in water management can be effective only when the change in approach would entail creating policies and laws that institutionalise the equitable participation of women and men, fostering the development of institutions and organizations, that are gender sensitive and that have sufficient expertise in gender analysis and, mainstreaming, and establishing budgeting processes that ensure steady and secure water resources to support the necessary structure and programmes. First and foremost therefore in mainstreaming process is an assessment of the linkages between gender equality and water sector which will facilitate in identifying the gender implications. Such an assessment would provide an understanding of why promotion of gender equality is important for achievement of all other development goals. Secondly, the opportunities for introducing gender perspectives need to be identified in the activities undertaken. These entry-points can be found in research and analysis, policy

development, use of statistics, training events, as well as in planning, implementing and monitoring projects and programmes. Thirdly a sound methodology has to be identified for successfully incorporating gender perspectives into these activities in a manner which facilitates influencing goals, strategies, resource allocation and concrete outcomes. Lastly institutional development is necessary in terms of developing guidelines, utilizing gender specialists, providing capacity development for all personnel to support gender mainstreaming (adapted from Hannan 2003).

It goes without saying that there is a need for an enabling environment in terms of policy, legislation and financing for effective mainstreaming. This would imply policies and laws that institutionalize the equitable participation of women and men; and steady and secure resources to support the necessary structure and programmes. Further in order to develop and implement water policies that are gender equitable will require institutions that are gender-sensitive and have proven experience in gender analysis and mainstreaming. Institutional strengthening with the objective of gender equity, efficiency and sustainability would involve a consortium of stakeholders engaged in decision making with representation of all sections of society including both genders; organizational structures at the lowest level of the basin with participation of both women and men; coordination by government of the national management of water resources across water-use sectors, while steadily increasing the proportion of women engaged as professionals, managers and decision makers (GWP 2006).

If gender equity concerns need to be incorporated in water management, both patriarchal forces that subjugate women and their struggles around water should be simultaneously addressed. Water is both a livelihood and human right. Recommendations to engender water management are – to generate gendered data on livelihoods and health issues, introduce eco-friendly technologies for women, ensure property rights for women either individual or collective as well as advocating equal rights for women in water management.

1. Emphasis on water for livelihoods, representation of women in water user's committees, role of women water networks as advocacy network and also functioning as a gender equity gauge for various water related policies and programmes across the country.
2. Mobilising for women for change, so as to ensure empowerment and women's rights in water management.
3. Ensuring property rights/land rights for women which would go a long way in empowering them (change in gender relations) and legitimize claim for their rights.
4. The need for a gendered approach to WSS. A critical focus on sanitation is necessary. Engendering WSS means making water services more accountable – performance indicators for gender equity, engendering water bureaucracies, supporting women water professionals, gender responsive budgeting for WSS, progressive water pricing, subsidies for connections, no capital costs for poor, and water literacy and citizens' water contracts.