

**REPORT ON
MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON
GENDER, EQUITY AND WATER MANAGEMENT**



ORGANIZERS

TERI School of Advanced Studies and ICEWaRM

DATE: MAY 30-31, 2019

VENUE: HOTEL LEMON TREE, JAIPUR

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 65

Day 1, Thursday, 30 May 2019

Inaugural Session

Keynote Address

Smt. Mamta Bhupesh, Hon'ble State Minister, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Rajasthan

Smt. Bhupesh in her address brought to light the water situation in the villages. She mentioned that in her role as a minister she often gets a chance to visit the villages in Rajasthan. During her visit she mentioned that the men in villages have a different perspective when it comes to water availability and accessibility. He simply goes home and asks the woman in the house to give him water to drink or to take bath or asks her to wash his clothes or serve food. He usually does not ask her about how and from where has she got the water to meet the household needs. Today, there is enormous water crisis and we have people talking about it everywhere. In cities, water is supplied for a limited time but it gets filled up in the overhead tanks and people are able to use it throughout the day. In rural areas, handpumps are installed but within a span of an year or two they dry up and women have to travel a very long distance to fetch water. The responsibility to ensure water availability in the house is perhaps more of women than men. Appreciating the two days MDP on Gender, Equity and Water Management, she mentioned that such programmes are the need of the hour. There are lot of initiatives being taken by various government to address the issue of water and sanitation. Citing the example of near absence of water and electricity supply in the newly built toilets, she mentioned that, the needs of all genders should be kept in mind while planning projects.

Dr. Ian Reid, Chief Academic Officer, ICE WaRM

Dr. Ian Reid in his address mentioned about the commitment of the Australian government to sponsor and support the cause of gender equity in the Indo-Pacific region and appreciated the support being given by the TERI School of Advanced Studies, PHED, Water Resources Management and RACEWaRM in promoting mainstreaming of gender in water management. He also highlighted the exchange programme between Australia and India, wherein officials from PHED and Water Resources Department in Rajasthan got a chance to visit Australia to learn about water management practices in there and the planned visit of Australian practitioners to India. He thanked the Minister for the support given by the Government of Rajasthan in setting up the Centre for Excellence.

SESSION 1

Panel Discussion: Water Security issues in Rajasthan

The session was chaired by **Mr. Anil Jain, S.E Ajmer Smart City Ltd.** He started the discussion by mentioning that gender equity cannot be bought by money and our inability to bring equity in the society can well be attributed to people's thought or mindset. He brought out the fact that an engineer looks at a "limited process" in his/her engagement with water. Their goal is

to ensure water is delivered to the end-user. Hence, all problems and associated solutions are perceived only with the aim of 'water delivery'

Mr. Vinod Shah, Chief Engineer and Additional Secretary to Government (Retd), Water Resources Department, Rajasthan shared the overall scenario of water scarcity in India, with specific focus on Rajasthan and also put forth the state's 2045 Vision. Highlighting the Rajasthan's geography, he mentioned that 2/3rd of the State is covered by Thar Desert and 3 out of the 16 basins are critical when it comes to water supply. Additionally, 90% of the state's water usage is in agriculture sector (irrigation), while domestic use is only 8%. He also shared the numerous inefficiencies in water use for agriculture, and hence proposed to improve agricultural efficiency of water use and divert the savings towards strengthening domestic supply of water.

Mr. Pradeep Mathur, Chief Engineer (Retd), Water Resources Department, Rajasthan, focused on the importance of traditional knowledge in water use and management, and also shared examples of existing large projects having either implementation or other issues. He elaborated on the Mukhya Mantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan (MJSA) (Chief Minister's Water Self Reliance Campaign) mentioned about its importance in achieving water security in Rajasthan. He highlighted that it is a four year program of making villages self-sufficient in water and creating "islands of excellence". It has been launched across 295 Blocks of 33 districts with people's participation. The financial resources of the campaign has been mobilized from multiple sources- Line Departments, NGOS, Corporate houses, Religious Trusts, Non-resident villagers, Social groups etc. Relating to the traditional aspects, he stressed that it was a Gandhian model of self-reliance, i.e. Swavlambhan. Three phases of MJSA have already been completed, and its fourth phase was kicked off in October 2018. The various structures built and rejuvenated under the project include Bawaris, stepwells, rooftop harvesting, tanks, minor irrigation tank (MIT), minor storage tank (MST), and afforestation.

Mr. R M Mathur, focused on irrigation use for agriculture, in which efficiency of projects is only 10 to 40%, causing significant amount of water losses. He highlighted two main reasons for the inefficiency- evaporation losses from the irrigation canals and farmer mindset to collect and store water.

Further, the panelists agreed that to address the issue of water-use efficiency, from a user's perspective, pricing of water is important. However, this would require commodification of water as a resource, and our socio-cultural understanding of water is still not as materialistic to view it as a commodity. Further, community must be at the core of operationalizing Water User Associations (WUA). Any form of association is never formed by force, it has to be owned and led by the community from the very beginning.

SESSION 2 -Conceptualizing Gender- Prof. Vishal Narain, MDI, Gurgaon

Dr. Vishal helped in understanding how 'Gender' is different from 'Sex'. Sex is the natural biological identity. It is based on physical, biological and sexual reproductive features. Gender is a social construct. Gender influences our thinking and creates roles by building artificial boundaries and differences. Hence, gender construction leads to exclusion and overpowering of natural identity and social identity becomes stronger and gets embedded in the society. Gender is created through the process of socialization. Family is one of the strongest elements in this process. These influences lead to Gender stereotyping. Further he described how social stratification happens based on the idea that people can be ranked differently in terms of their social importance or status, the unequal distribution of goods and services, rights and obligations, power and prestige and all attributes of positions in society, not attributes of individuals. Finally he explained the difference between equality and equity.

SESSION 3 and 4

- **Water access: Gender and Equity Issues**
- **Institutions, Gender and Equity: Understanding the relationships in water access, Approaches to mainstreaming gender in the water sector: Issues and Experiences**

The two sessions focused on understanding concepts of equity, equality and institutions. It tried to explain the role of institutions in shaping access and the value of a gender perspective in water resource management. Finally, the session examined the factors that can lead to a transformation of gender relations. The discussion revealed that equality is about sameness while equity is about fairness. There is no bench mark for equity as it is a value laden concept while equality is often measurable. Equity is more difficult to acquire as it depends on different ways, perceptions and values of stakeholders. Equity as a whole is a broader concept of justice and gender is one of the smaller dimensions of equity in social sciences. Other dimensions that are often looked at separately or together are class, caste and religion.

The next point of discussion was understanding institutions and resource access. Institutions are regularized patterns of interaction through which the society organizes itself. They are sets of norms, rules and conventions. Law, property rights and social relationships are all forms of institution. These institutions can be written or unwritten and may or may not be explicit. Institutions are different from organizations which are groups of people bound by some common objective. North (1990) categorized four types of organizations namely Political, Social, Economic and Religious. Through examples the presentation revealed the importance of institutions for resource access. For example, the wood fuel crisis in Africa showed how institutional scarcity might be more important than physical scarcity. Hence, property rights, gender relations, systems of land tenure, markets and rights shape access to resources like water. Understanding such factors like gender relations are important for understanding and planning solutions. Having a gendered perspective helps understand that men and women access resource differently. Gender is a social construction that is located in time and space. For example, Drew's study on rice transplantation showed how gender was located in space wherein in some countries transplanting was a man's role and women's role

in another. Further, gender also intersects with other axes of social differentiation to shape access to water and gender relations are not static. Two examples were discussed. In Sultanpur case study daily migration of men for employment to urban centre changed gender role. Originally upper caste women of Sultanpur did not go collect water and had to wear the veil. However, when men started working in urban centres they didn't have time to collect water. This forced the women to start collecting water and even break the earlier rules of wearing the veil and staying indoors. Another example was the Budhera village where acquisition of common property resources led to changing gender role. Grazing is considered a man's work but when grazing land was acquired by the government the cattle were stall fed. This work of fodder collection and stall feeding became responsibility of women increasing their workload.

Approaches to mainstreaming gender in the water sector: Issues and Experiences

In this session emphasis was laid on looking at water issues as gender issue and not a women's issue alone and viewing it from the perspective of the differential relationship that men and women share in managing water. Explaining it with the example of a government scheme, he mentioned that if you look at the scheme from a gendered lens, you will have to understand what the differential role of men and women in the scheme is. As in when the scheme is implemented, how it is going to affect men and women independently. Instead of assuming that women are not engaged in irrigation it would be appropriate to investigate their involvement. The way to operationalize gender or to bring gender to the mainstream is to ask question- who does what? Understanding gender relations would help understand how roles are divided in a work. It is also important to consider the relative roles of men and women in the farm, in household and how these roles have changed overtime.

SESSION 5

- **Understanding water rights and property right regimes**
- **Importance and role of common property resources and the reasons for their demise**

The session mainly focused on understanding Tragedy of the Commons, property right regimes and Legal Pluralism. Tragedy of commons was first discussed by Hardin. He used the example of a grazing land to describe a situation in open access resource where individual acting independently according to their own self-interest behave contrary to the common good of all users and lead to destruction or depletion of a common resource. In such conditions the demand overwhelms supply and the resource becomes unavailable to some or all. These commons followed open access property regimes. Similarly there are 4 property regimes for natural resources namely State Property, Common Property, Private Property and Open access. In India water fall under all the property regimes. All surface rives are considered the property of the government are hence state property. A large number of ponds and similar surface resources often community managed or have open access rights. Lastly groundwater in India becomes a private property owing to its attached nature to land. This means that the individual who owns the land owns the groundwater beneath the land. Such private right often lead to increased inequity in the system by excluding a large proportion of

the population who are landless. Hence, do not have access to water. Examples from field were discussed to understand the changing rights systems in different parts of India. The next topic discussed was legal pluralism. Legal pluralism is a conceptual lens and deals with the social significance of law. It says that there is a divergence between what people should do from a state law perspective and what they actually do. These differences are captured using two concepts namely concretization of rights and materialization of rights. Under such a system more than one form of right governs a water resource. In most case state law co-exists with customary rights and practices with the latter often take precedence over the former.

SESSION 6

Panel Discussion on Empowering Women at the Grassroots for water management chaired by Prof Kanchan Mathur, Honorary Professor, Institute of Development Studies

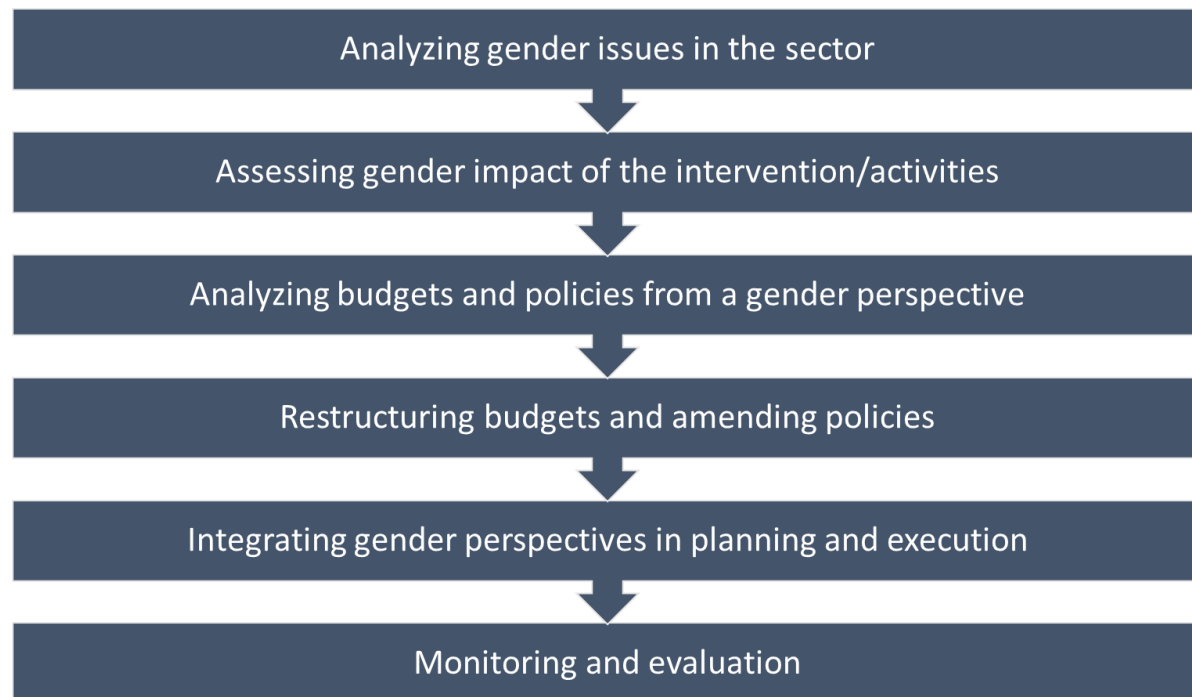
Mr. Prakash Kumar from Advit Foundation discussed about the several structures built by Advit Foundation as part of various watershed development programs in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. In Rajasthan, they have worked extensively in Phagi block where they have built several structures for a cumulative storage capacity of 2,50,000 cubic meters. He focused mainly on their work in Phagi, Rajasthan, where they also worked on energy efficiency projects in solar and mobile charging stations. Identifying livelihood as another issue, the Foundation worked on developing a cook stove for potters in the village, who initially used to procure plastic waste from Jaipur city to burn and produce energy. The new cook stove used fuel wood and offered higher fuel efficiency, along with saving time and money spent going to Jaipur. Recently, they have initiated spice processing and cloth bag making activities by women in the Foundation's Aarohan Center in the village.

Ms. Prabha Gupta, Executive Engineer, SWRPD, Govt. of Rajasthan stated that gender discussion is not only about women, but includes everyone as one family or society. This also includes men. Explaining gender budgeting she said that in general, the basic human needs of all are more or less similar, but specific needs may be different. The differences in needs has budgetary impacts which are different on both men and women. She argued that the basic change that needs to be made is to 'think from a woman's perspective'. A greater focus on women has economic impacts as well – social return on investment (SROI) – and add to the gross national income (GNI). Women focus more on health and education for their children, which also aids intergenerational progress.

Dr. Kanchan Mathur, the chair of the session said that we should understand the crux of the matter in 'gender'. Disparity between policy and reality should be understood. While most policy is drafted with male citizens in mind, the actual beneficiaries include large proportion of women as well. She provided an example of farmers and agricultural laborers, which we preconceive as being men. The image of the Indian Farmer is usually male. However, in reality women share a large portion of agricultural work as well. We should be cognizant of the intersectionalities between gender, caste, class, and religion while planning interventions.

SESSION 7 – Gender Budgeting

Dr. Fawzia Tarannum explained gender budgeting as the process of conceiving, planning, approving, executing, monitoring, analyzing and auditing budgets in a gender-sensitive way. She said that it involves analysis of actual expenditure and revenue (usually of governments) on women and girls as compared to expenditures on men and boys. She also stated that gender budgeting allows governments to understand how revenue and spending, and the policies can have different impacts on women and men. The steps involved in gender budgeting explained by her are shown in the flowchart below:



She also divided the participants into groups and conducted a group activity on social inclusion and gender budgeting. The group members were made to play the role of representatives from WRD, PHED, NGO, WORLD BANK, M&E (AUDIT) and Community. They initially did a need identification in their work space – e.g safe drinking water in rural Rajasthan or Water use efficiency in Irrigation. They further analyze gender issues – Men/women/marginalized community and assessed gendered impact of the proposed idea. Further, gender sensitive policies were proposed and budget allocation was done. Analysis of the proposed idea was done and an inclusive implementation plan was proposed. Finally the group members also developed a monitoring and evaluation plan.

SESSION 8

- Understanding legal pluralism in water access

Discussion of paper- “Mediating scarcity by design: water rights and legal pluralism in protective irrigation”

- Translating our understanding of Gender to policy and planning

Discussion of paper “Shifting the focus from Women to Gender Relations: Assessing the impacts of Drinking Water Supply interventions in The Morni -Shivalik Hills of North West India”

The participants were divided into two groups and they were given time to read the case studies. Later they were asked to share their learnings from the two cases.

Way Forward

The participants appreciated the program and said that such programmes should be held more often to bring in change in the mindsets of people. A few of them proposed an increase in the duration and practical exposure to develop a better understanding of the concepts. They also took a pledge at the end.

