

Module A2

Introduction to Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM

Time

2 hrs

Material

The teaching aids required for the session are:

- Whiteboard
- Whiteboard markers
- Flipchart and markers

Examples/Handouts

International Examples

Examples from Pakistan

Gender web (chart and/or handout as appropriate)

Note: depending upon the target group of participants either use the examples to illustrate training points or explain concepts or give these as a handout.

Guideline / Procedures and Main Training Points

1. Introduction to Module A2

Procedure

- Start the session by stating the topic and objective of the module

Topic: Introduction to Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM

Objective: to understand the concepts and elements of gender mainstreaming in IWRM

- Introduce and state the main training points of Module A2

Introduction

- Gender refers to the social roles of men and women as well as the relationships between them in a given society at a specific time and place. These roles and relationships are not fixed, but can and do change. They are usually unequal in terms of power, freedom, agency, and status as well as access to and control over entitlements, resources and assets.
- Gender approaches in development have evolved over the past five decades into the Gender and Empowerment (GEM) approach that attempts to transform existing gender relations through more equal access and control of resources, more equal sharing of work and a move towards gender equity and equality.

- Evidence shows that the meaningful involvement of women in water resources development, management and use can:
- Lead to the design of effective new solutions to water problems;
- Help governments avoid poor investments and expensive mistakes;
- Make projects more sustainable;
- Ensure that infrastructure development yields the maximum social and economic returns;
- Further development goals, for instance the Millennium Development Goals on hunger, child mortality, and gender equality.

Using a gender mainstreaming approach systematically within the overall framework of IWRM can make water policies and programs better i.e. more effective and more sustainable.

Main Training Points

1. Concept of gender mainstreaming in IWRM
2. Elements of gender mainstreaming in IWRM

2. Training Point 1

Concept of Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM

Procedure

- State that 3 terms need to be explained to understand the concept of gender mainstreaming in IWRM; i) IWRM; ii) gender and water; iii) mainstreaming
- Before explaining each term, brainstorm with the participants and write down their responses on the whiteboard
- After explaining each term ask 1 or 2 participants to summarize and write the summary concept on the whiteboard against each term

Training Points

3 terms need to be explained to understand the concept of gender mainstreaming in IWRM; i) IWRM; ii) gender and water; iii) mainstreaming

i) IWRM

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources based upon 3 principles

1. economic efficiency in water use
2. equity and participation
3. environmental sustainability

These 3 principles take time to become established and implemented and that is why IWRM is a process

ii) Gender and Water

In this decade some serious analytical work has been done on the idea of ‘entitlements’, and

the linkages between poverty and environment (including water). This work shows clearly how women are consistently more disadvantaged than men, when it comes to claiming entitlements, whether they are ownership of, or access to, water (and land).

For example, across the world in less developed countries, including Pakistan, women's use of common property resources has been crucial in maintaining household water and food security, but gender disparities distort access to land and water. Existing social and cultural biases, inequitable inheritance laws and the inadequacies of legal structures further limits ownership and control by women.

Although the water community has made significant strides in designing programs and policies that take into account the differing roles and responsibilities of women and men, most of the progress has been in the area of domestic water supply and sanitation. Much remains to be done on the broader questions of water resources management, development and productive use.

iii) Mainstreaming

Mainstreaming is about changing existing relationships to secure greater equality for the disadvantaged members of society (especially women and sometimes poor men).

Gender mainstreaming strategies may focus on women (rather than men and women) to close the gender gap.

On micro levels, gender mainstreaming refers to design, management, organizational and project strategies and practices that lead towards the same objectives.

On a macro level, gender mainstreaming refers to a strategy for translating and integrating gender equity and gender equality objectives into existing policies, systems and programmes. This has implications in terms of political, institutional, policy, budgetary and sometimes legal reforms.

Gender mainstreaming also includes gender institutionalization, which is the process of making the changes, wrought through gender proactive and gender mainstreaming actions, permanent – i.e. institutionalizing them.

2. Training Point 2

Element of Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM

Procedure

- read through or ask a participant to read through the summary of terms on the whiteboard and ascertain that the concepts are largely understood
- Brainstorm for the (selected) elements of the framework and write down the relevant responses on the whiteboard. This will provide an important link between the introductory module and the modules selected for a workshop.
- ask 1 or 2 participants to summarize main training points on the whiteboard as you go along

- If target audience is appropriate, show the chart of the gender web and give as handout

Training Points

Gender mainstreaming and gender institutionalization in IWRM initiatives require conceptual and analytical rigor to conduct a situation analysis in particular contexts, then define concrete actions, followed by monitoring.

The first step of meeting this challenge is to develop an appropriate framework to facilitate such analytical rigor, actions and monitoring.

This framework comprises 13 elements:

- Women and men's experience and interpretation of their reality
- Research and investigation
- Codes of conduct, norms and procedures (participation, decision-making)
- Laws, policies and planning
- Representative political and governance structures
- Pressure of political constituencies and groups
- Political (and ideological) commitment
- Resources (physical, financial and human)
- Location and sharing of responsibility
- Methodology (and technology)
- Capacity development
- Delivery of programmes and projects
- Theory building

3. Winding up

Procedure

- Wind up the module with a summary and thanks to the participants
- If more than one session in the workshop, announce break and time to return for the next session