

Module B13

Theory Building

Target Group

Policy makers, Project managers, Activists and Community

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

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 B13

Procedure

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

Topic: Theory building

Objective: To understand about building theory on Gender and IWRM

- Introduce and state the main training points of Module B13

Introduction

- Good theories are dynamic, evolving with experience, practice, critique and changing circumstances. Given that gender equality perspectives are an integral theme in IWRM, the ultimate aim of gender mainstreaming in IWRM is to move towards gender institutionalization in IWRM initiatives.
- There is currently little theory available on gender and water. CEDAW and Beijing Follow-up process have contributed part of a framework of rights and actions while small parts of international declarations refer to women's role in water and the environment. UNDP and the Gender and Water Alliance have prepared some guidelines to gender mainstreaming in the water sectors, but most efforts in the developing world remain rather haphazard and ad hoc.

Main Training Points

1. A generally applicable gender and IWRM theory is required for gender Mainstreaming.
2. Training Points
 - 2.1 Training Point 1
A generally applicable gender and IWRM theory is required for gender mainstreaming

Procedure

- Brainstorm with the participants on training point 1 and write down the relevant responses on the whiteboard.
- Ask 1 or 2 participants to summarize main training points on the whiteboard as you go along.

Training points

- Much of the theoretical underpinning of current work on gender and water and women and water is based on the stipulation that in most parts of the world, women are generally at a disadvantage when compared with men. Since in many societies women are directly responsible for the management of domestic water resources (water supply, sanitation, agriculture), it is of paramount importance that women are involved in water resources planning and decision making.
- Another stipulation is that policy and legal frameworks do not give adequate consideration to gender equality – women have less potential to make their needs known, community participation and organizational participation processes need further attention to ensure equity, and there are serious gender imbalances in managerial systems in IWRM.
- In the case of irrigation systems or water supply projects, for example, the building of washing spaces and bathing areas in the proximity of the canals is seen as an appropriate gender intervention. It is claimed that such intervention helps in meeting women's practical needs. While the creation of a domestic water use sphere for women does help in meeting women's current needs, keeping women confined to their gender specific roles arrests the process of empowerment that would come from clear entitlements over water as a productive resource.
- Within IWRM approaches, women's roles in the productive sphere (for example producing, buying and selling) needs support also as a critical factor for women's empowerment and gender justice. Most of all women's strategic needs have to be addressed if gender mainstreaming is to be institutionalized.
- The analytical framework adapted as the Gender and Water Web can also aid in the institutionalization of the processes in the water sector. It has both conceptual and analytical rigor and provides guidance for action.

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.

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Theory Building

INTERNATIONAL EXAMPLES

Applicability of Gender and IWRM Theory

Good theories are dynamic, evolving with experience, practice, critique and changing circumstances. Given that gender equality perspectives are an integral theme in IWRM (referred to CAPNET, *International Network for Capacity Building in Integrated Water Resources Management*, 1999), the ultimate aim of gender mainstreaming in IWRM is to move towards gender institutionalization in IWRM initiatives.

Some of the materials referred to in this document form a body of literature on gender mainstreaming in IWRM, but much more experience is needed for a credible and more generally applicable gender and IWRM theory.

Much of the theoretical underpinning of current work on gender and water and women and water is based on the stipulation that in most parts of the world, women are generally at a disadvantage when compared with men. Since in many societies women are directly responsible for the management of domestic water resources (water supply, sanitation, agriculture), it is of paramount importance that women are involved in water resources planning and decision making. Another stipulation is that policy and legal frameworks do not give adequate consideration to gender equality – women have less potential to make their needs known, community participation and organizational participation processes need further attention to ensure equity, and there are serious gender imbalances in managerial systems in IWRM.

For example, in the case of irrigation systems or water supply projects, the building of washing spaces and bathing areas in the proximity of the canals is seen as an appropriate gender intervention. It is claimed that such intervention helps in meeting women's practical needs. While the creation of a domestic water use sphere for women does help in meeting women's current needs, keeping women confined to their gender specific roles arrests the process of empowerment that would come from clear entitlements over water as a productive resource. Within IWRM approaches, women's roles in the productive sphere (for example producing, buying and selling) needs support also as a critical factor for women's empowerment and gender justice. Most of all women's strategic needs have to be addressed if gender mainstreaming is to be institutionalized.

Some of the examples quoted in similar documents, lay out experiences from which a Gender and IWRM theory may draw lessons of general applicability.

NATIONAL EXAMPLES

Need for Systematic Theory Building on Gender and IWRM

There is currently little theory on gender and water. CEDAW and Beijing Follow Up process have contributed part of a framework of rights and actions while small parts of international declarations refer to women's role in water and environment. UNDP and the Gender and Water Alliance have prepared some guidelines to gender mainstreaming in the water sectors, but most efforts in the developing world remain rather haphazard and ad hoc.

While we can look for guidance to the gender development initiatives of the last 25 years in other sectors and across polity, society, justice, policies, institutions and across development sectors, the issue here is to locate, adopt, operationalize and establish gender issues and considerations in water as a permanent part of all analysis and planning processes in the water sector. The analytical frameworks can also aid in the institutionalization of these process in the water sector of Pakistan.