

Module B5

Strengthening Representative Political and Governance Structures moving towards Gender Equality

Target Group

Parliamentarians, Policy makers and Project Managers

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 B5

Procedure

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

Topic: Strengthening Representative Political and Governance Structures moving towards Gender Equality

Objective: To understand the need for strengthening representative political and governance structures moving towards gender equality.

- Introduce and state the main training points of Module B5

Introduction

- The fact that social and cultural circumstances vary between societies suggests that the need exists to explore different mechanisms for increasing women's access to decision-making and widening the spectrum of activities through which women can participate in IWRM.
- To be truly representative, political and governance structures in IWRM should have, or at least visibly strive for, **gender parity**.

- Achieving gender parity is an uphill task under all circumstances and to attempt this in the male-dominated water sectors will be tough, but this element is also essential for achieving overall gender mainstreaming in IWRM.

Main Training Points

1. The different ways for strengthening representative political and governance structures moving towards gender equality.

2. Training Point

2.1 Training Point 1

The different ways for strengthening representative political and governance structures moving towards gender equality

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

- To be truly representative, political and governance structures in the water sector should strive for gender parity.
- At local level, representation or participation of both men and women can be achieved in river management committees at sub-basin level, irrigation districts, and other associations of water users in municipal/local elected bodies and in community group. Their involvement at local level may lead to their engagement in local governance planning e.g. on public services priorities, informal negotiation over entitlement to resources. They can also held meetings with water users and may use media for campaigning on their issues n interests.
- At regional level, representation or participation of men and women both at river basin level in management councils may lead to interactions with water officials, informal advocacy through contacts, e.g. interactions with sympathetic officials.
- At provincial level representation or participation of both men and women may facilitate in lobbying for change through representational system, and in open advocacy with intermediate groups supporting rights claims.
- Representation or direct participation of both men and women in national elected assembly/bodies can involve in public hearings, can be engaged in national policy and planning process and sectoral planning.

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.

Examples of Module B5

Strengthening Representative Political and Governance Structures moving towards Gender Equality

INTERNATIONAL EXAMPLES

Striving for Representative Political and Governance Structures

The fact that social and cultural circumstances vary between societies suggests that the need exists to explore different mechanisms for increasing women's access to decision-making and widening the spectrum of activities through which women can participate in IWRM.

To be truly representative, political and governance structures in IWRM should have, or at least visibly strive for, gender parity. Moser, C and Norton, *To Claim our Rights; Livelihood Surety, Human Rights and Sustainable Development*, ODI, 2001 makes some suggestions on how this can be achieved at different levels. Achieving gender parity is an uphill task under all circumstances, and to attempt this in the male-dominated water sectors will be tough, but this element is also essential for achieving overall gender mainstreaming in IWRM.

It may be noted that there is already experience at local, sub-basin and basin levels of engendering governance in IWRM-based fora and platforms, particularly in the GWP family of institutions. This is a very valuable experience on which a medium term strategy for strengthening and advancing women's participation in governance structures can be built.

Visible Trends towards Improved Structures

The recent increase in the number of women appointed as water and environment ministers is an exciting trend which may provide an impetus to gender and water programmes. In late-2005, there were 40 women ministers of water or environment, representing every region and level of development in the world. H.E. Maria Mutagamba, Minister of State for Water of Uganda, is currently the chair of the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) and of the African Ministers Initiative on WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), supported by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). The Women Leaders for WASH are championing the role of women in decision-making, capacity building, educating children on sanitation and hygiene, and mobilizing political will around other priorities such as the linkages between water, sanitation, hygiene and HIV/AIDS (see www.wsscc.org).

NATIONAL EXAMPLES

Political Participation in Water sector

To be truly representative, political and governance structures in the water sector should have, or at least visibly strive for, **gender parity**. The box below uses a political participation framework to measure the current status in Pakistan.

Level	Gender Participation	Status in Pakistan
National	Representation or direct participation of both men and women in national elected assembly / bodies	Currently 20 percent of all national assembly members are women - 17 percent are on reserved seats and 3 percent have come in through direct elections
State/provincial	Representation or participation of both men and women in state/provincial elected bodies	Between 17 -20 percent of provincial assembly members are women – 17 percent on reserved seats and the rest through direct elections
Regional	Representation or participation of both men and women of both men and women at river basin level in management 'councils'	In as far as some institutional reforms have been attempted in Pakistan to move towards farmer management of the irrigation and drainage systems, there are hardly any women in the Provincial Irrigation and Drainage Authorities, the Area Water Boards, a few women members in the Farmer Organizations and the Water Course Associations
Local	Representation or participation of both men and women in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ River management 'committees' at sub-basin level ▪ Irrigation districts ▪ Other association of water users ▪ Municipal/local elected bodies ▪ Community group 	In the case of irrigation districts (delineated and used for irrigation water supplies) a handful of women engineers have been reported, mostly working of donor-funded projects. There are, however many reported women's groups among community-based association of water users In terms of local elected bodies, 33 percent are now women, and some are beginning to take up the issues of local water supply. It is in community groups to do with drinking water and sanitation that women's membership is on the increase, especially in donor-funded projects.

Source: Framework adopted from Moser C and Norton A, *To Claim our Rights; Livelihood Surety, Human Rights and Sustainable Development*, ODI, 2001, data from Assembly records and data from National Drainage Programme documents

Rough Sketch of Governance Structures

There are reportedly several women ministers in federal and provincial governments (one advisor and one minister at federal level, five provincial ministers), and six women are members of parliamentary standing committees on water, women and related areas. In local councils many women are reported as members of committees and development projects to do with women's development and/or water, but there is no formal compilation of this data.

Detailed description: There are 3 women at senior level posts in Ministry of Environment; Deputy Secretary (CC), Section Officer (Water) and Deputy Director (Media). The EPA at federal level includes a woman Deputy Director (Research & Investigation) while there is also a woman Deputy Director at provincial level (Punjab – EPA). Also there are 2 women deputy directors and 2 assistant directors at the National Bio-safety Center.