

Module B3

Codes of conduct, norms and procedures (participation, decision-making)

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 B3

Procedure

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

Topic: Codes of conduct, norms and procedures (participation, decision-making)

Objective: to understand the importance of establishing equitable participation and decision making in IWRM strategies

- Introduce and state the main training points of Module B3

Introduction

- IWRM concepts incorporate participatory decision-making among different user groups (farmers, communities, water professionals, water agencies) such that they can influence strategies for water resource development and management.
- This brings additional benefits, as informed users apply local self-regulation in relation to issues such as water conservation, irrigation and drainage, pollution control, recycling, catchment protection and others far more effectively than regulation and punitive action can achieve.

Main Training Points

1. establishing equitable participation and decision making in IWRM strategies
2. issue of entitlements arises when attempting to mainstream gender in local participative frameworks
3. need for a prolonged and concentrated effort to overcome barriers to women's participation in water management.

2. Training Point 1

Establishing equitable participation and decision making in IWRM strategies

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

IWRM concepts call for decentralization in decision-making with management moving towards user control, through wide stakeholder participation. **This is an easy concept to accept, but very hard to do.**

There is also a risk that gender mainstreaming in participative structures and decision-making processes will be promoted largely at grassroots levels.

Research data and project reports of water sector initiatives in Pakistan have shown that:

- Unless women have a clearly defined entitlement over a water resource, their interest in participation is likely to be low
- Potential of proactive gender policies and strategies in water sector is low unless entitlement issues resolved
- Sharing of household responsibilities by men of family to allow women to enhance their participation in water sector programmes, is very hard to achieve
- Strategic interventions that bypass the accumulated "wisdom" of development can move faster towards equity

3. Training Point 2

Issue of entitlements arises when attempting to mainstream gender in local participative frameworks

Procedure

- read through the summary of training point 1 to lead on to training point 2
- brainstorm with the participants on training point 2 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

The issue of environmental entitlements rears its head again when attempting to mainstream gender in local participative frameworks. Unless women have a clearly defined right over a resource, their interest in participation is not likely to be too high.

With the current scenario of marginalized women's movements in many countries, limited genuine gender analysis in the IWRM context and very few women professionals in the water sectors, the potential offered by proactive gender policies, and gender sensitive policy statements in water policies of many countries will not be realized very easily.

The structures at national, regional, departmental and tertiary levels are likely remain driven by men, on the plea that women have to first gain education, experience and exposure to the technical aspects of water, before being allowed into the corridors of power, even within IWRM approaches.

4. Training Point 3

Need for a prolonged and concentrated effort to overcome barriers to women's participation in water management

Procedure

- read through the summary of training point 2 to lead on to training point 3
- brainstorm with the participants on training point 3 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

It is clear that there will need to be a prolonged and concentrated effort of lobbying, invoking commitments made by the state, and taking strategic stances, to overcome barriers to women's participation in water management. Even at the grassroots level, inclusion of women and landless men as members of farmer organizations and water user bodies is not an easy task, restricted as they are by their current roles and expectations.

A specification that participatory decision-making means men and women at every level and in every water agency or institution would send the message home very forcefully. The share of participation should be defined strategically:

- In the case of communities women's participation should be 50 percent
- In the case of farmers or water users' associations women members of farmers' families should also be eligible to participate

- In the case of water institutions and agencies, where there are usually very few women, a greater proportion of the women (or all women) should participate.

This is in keeping with the proactive support structures for women to help surmount the gender gap in the long run. Special tools and skills are needed to support gender mainstreaming in the water sectors. It is therefore, important for the training programmes to be specifically about gender in the particular context of the water sector intervention, in tune with the nature of the intervention.

5. 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 B3

Codes of conduct, norms and procedures (participation, decision-making)

INTERNATIONAL EXAMPLES

Examples of Policy Translating into Norms, Procedures and Practices in Participation and Decision-making

Uganda has had an affirmative action programme since 1997. This mandated that all administrative levels from cabinet down to village should include at least 30% women. A *Gender perspective on Water Resources and Sanitation, CSD, January, 2004* showed that with time, women had found their voices and had been trained to locate water sources in the village, decided on the location of facilities and repairing of pumps. The incidents of breakdown had decreased considerably. Women also participated in business: in rural areas setting up shops to store spare parts for boreholes and in urban areas, managing water systems. In water user associations, women were often responsible for the finances.

Khosla Prabha, MAMA-86 and the Drinking Water Campaign in the Ukraine, prepared for the Gender and Water Alliance, September, 2002, according to which in Ukraine, cleaning railway oil tanks and the city's inadequate sewage system caused overflows of sewage into houses and onto the streets. When women approached the local authority they were denied funds to solve the problem. With the help of an environmental NGO, women met with residents, launched a political campaign and filed a legal suit against the local authority. As a result, the government allocated resources to finish construction of a sewage pump, financed environmental works, and closed the hazardous oil-tank cleaning facility.

Other examples demonstrated the efficiency of projects where women played a pivotal role on all project levels. *International Water and Sanitation Centre, Community Water Supply Management, Case Studies. La Sirena: women taking leading positions, 2004*. For instance, women in the town of La Serena in Colombia wanted to improve the quality

of water in the Canaveralejo River, which was highly contaminated. In 1995 the women struggled to secure leadership positions on the action board. The board was run by men and the women had to impose themselves to participate. Once the women proved themselves capable and were in a leadership position, a treatment plant was constructed. Since then there had been many improvements. Diarrhea and other children's skin diseases had been reduced, and the town was spared in a cholera epidemic.

The Compartmentalization Pilot Project (CPP) in Tangail, Bangladesh CPP was one of the pilot projects implemented under Flood Action Plan. During the implementation period women's participation at all stages of project activities was one of the main issues of the project. It took some convincing and hard work to bring men on board the idea that women could and should actively participate in the three tier institutions of water users and hold office bearer positions as a part of decision-making process. Women were trained to be involved with operation and maintenance of the project interventions. Women took part in the construction and maintenance of embankments, re-excavation of canals, sluice-gate operations, and measurement/reading of water levels at the sluice-gate sites during floods, as paid staff, volunteers and communities. Employment opportunity was created and many poor women involved in embankment maintenance became regular paid maintenance workers. Many were able to buy land and build houses. They were able to send their children to the school and provide them sufficient food and clothes. *Nahar B S, Gender Water and Poverty Experiences from Water Resource Management Projects in Bangladesh, presented at the Regional Workshop on Water and Poverty, Dhaka, September 2002.*

NATIONAL EXAMPLES

Difficulties of Organizing Women for Decision Making at Grassroots

A review and broad estimation of current community-based water supply projects like *large-scale water supply and sanitation projects of government supported by donors, small scale water projects of RSPs and other water projects* showed that participation at grassroots level was not as widespread as imagined.

- Less than one-tenth of projected women beneficiaries and participants from communities were organized
- Many women felt they could not organize
- Biradaris, tribes and caste-groups were an impediment
- Women wanted to organize basically as saving groups

The most effective ways of organizing women for water supply and drainage at grassroots seemed to be:

- First forming smaller women's groups (in tune with village based groups)
- Slowly federating them
- Then helping them interact with or join the men's groups

Women Focused Action to Close the Gender Gap

One of the ways to move towards gender mainstreaming is to empower women to develop capacity to be part of meaningful gender equity.

Women Water Networks – WWNs are women's only platforms that are designed to bring in women from all sectors of society, such that their voice can be effectively channeled into mainstream policies, discussions and actions relating to water. WWN Pakistan was formally launched on 17th December 2002. WWNs have remained active since then, largely using their own resources and several grassroots WWNs are associated with Area Water Partnerships (AWP) in rural areas and recently well structured WWNs have been developed at City Town and Union Council (UC) levels in urban areas.

- An organized women's voice in the water sector in Pakistan
- Active participation in the water management at the local, national & regional levels
- The development of active groups of women in the water sector
- Promotion of viable models
- Linkages to WWNs to water related institutions
- Technology transfer/exchange
- Building capacity of women about efficient and effective use of water
- Creation of awareness on women's role in the water sector
- Contribution to the development of appropriate policy
- Facilitation of women's participation in decision making and implementing processes
- Facilitation of women's access to water
- Opportunities in the water sector