

# Rationale of Development

## Organisations working with women

- *Women as Instruments (agency role):*

“Women constitute an important target group in development. If we develop them, their families will automatically develop”

“Women play an important role in agriculture. If we involve them, agricultural production will increase”

# Rationale of Development

## Organisations working with women

- *Women as barriers to their own development:*

“Benefits of economic growth will trickle down to poor households. But women, children, disabled, elderly, widows can not make use of opportunities. They need special targeted programmes”.

“Women are poorest among the poor. Their illiteracy, lack of motivation, unity and skills, combined with their lack of access to resources, are the main hindrance to their development”.

# **GENDER PLANNING**

- The basis is that men and women play different roles in society, they often have different needs which need to be identified for planning for them
- Triple role of women – reproductive, productive and community management
- Gender needs are important to identify

# Practical gender needs and Strategic gender needs

PGN	SGN
Tend to be immediate, short-term	Tend to be long-term
Unique to particular women	Common to all women
Relate to daily needs: food, housing, income, health, welfare of children etc.	Relate to disadvantaged position: subordination, lack of resources & education, vulnerability to poverty, violence etc.
Easily identifiable by women	Basis of disadvantage & potential for change not always identifiable by women

# Practical gender needs and Strategic gender needs

<b>PGN</b>	<b>SGN</b>
<p>Can be addressed by provision of specific inputs: e.g food, hand-pumps, clinics, small scale IGPs, so on.</p>	<p>Can be addressed by: consciousness raising, developing self-confidence, education, strengthening women's organisations, creating a favourable legal environment (inheritance of property, dealing with violence against women), political mobilisation etc.</p>
<b>CONDITION OF WOMEN</b>	<b>POSITION OF WOMEN</b>

# Continued

PGN	SGN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Tends to involve women as beneficiaries and perhaps as participants</li><li>•Can improve the <i>condition</i> of women's lives</li><li>•Generally does not alter traditional roles and relationships</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Involves women as agents or enables women to become agents</li><li>•Can improve the <i>position</i> of women in society</li><li>•Can empower women and transform relationships</li></ul>

# Policy Approaches

## **Welfare Approach (1950-70 & still popular)**

*Origins:* Residual model of social welfare under colonial administration, modernisation model

*Objectives:* Focus on women's reproductive roles – better mothers, women seen as vulnerable

*Interventions:* Comm. Services to improve family welfare esp mother-child dyad, family planning, nutrition, home based female activities – knitting, papad making, sewing etc. – addresses PGN & functional change (non-challenging)

# Policy Approaches

## Welfare Approach (1950-70 & still widely used)

*Assumptions:* Women seen as passive recipients of development, motherhood seen as the most imp. role for women in society

*Problems:* Top-down handouts of goods and services, assumes men's role to be productive, non-threatening



# Policy Approaches

## Anti-Poverty Approach (1970S onwards)

*Origins:* Women's poverty is seen as a problem of under-development and not subordination, feminisation of poverty

*Objectives:* To increase productivity of women through their integration in development

*Interventions:* Basic needs focus, poverty alleviation programmes, IGPs for women only to ensure their participation – addresses PGN and functional change (non-challenging)

# Policy Approaches

## Anti-Poverty Approach (1970s onwards)

*Problems:* Targeting women in small-scale sex specific projects, did not question women's access to and control over income, ignored women's reproductive responsibilities and assumed that women have free time for additional works

# **Efficiency Approach (Post 80s and popular with some donors)**

***Origins:*** Deterioration of the world economy, policies of structural reform relied on women's economic contribution to development

***Objectives:*** Investing in women as a productive resource to ensure that development is more efficient and effective

***Interventions:*** Cutback in public social expenditure (health/welfare) on the assumption that women's unpaid labour/time is elastic (women can always 'cope') – addresses PGN and functional change non-challenging)

# **Efficiency Approach (Post 80s and popular with some donors)**

***Assumptions:*** Economy is seen in terms of goods and services which have a value, ignores gender barriers to labour allocation, assumes HH is altruistic (equal distribution of resources)

***Problems:*** Women's triple role is exploited – ability to extend their working hours, most popular approach with donors.

# Equity Approach (1975-85 UN Decade)

***Origins:*** influenced by Boserup's work, challenge all the patriarchal structures

***Objectives:*** To gain equity for women in the development process, grafting gender into the development process

***Interventions:*** Legal and administrative change for bringing women into the economic system and reducing inequality vs men, access to employment – *addresses SGN and aim at a structural change*

***Problems:*** Difficult to implement in practice as donor agencies and govt. reluctant to interfere with socio-cultural norms, sometime criticised as being a western feminist imposition

# **Empowerment Approach (1975-, 1980s)**

***Origins:*** Failure of the equity approach, many writings from third world women (grassroots perspective)

***Objectives:*** to empower women through greater self-reliance, building new political, economic and social structures, challenge exploitative structures

***Interventions:*** Bottom-up approach in programmes where women are able to make choices, access/control to resources, making participation effective – ***addresses SGN and can bring about structural change***

# **Empowerment Approach (1975-, 1980s)**

***Strategies:*** Representation of women in management committees – JFM, watershed and others, SEWA approach – women's collectives, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> reservations in PRIs

***Problems:*** Resistance from men, family, community and at times bureaucracy

# **Women in Development (WID) vs Gender and Development (GAD)**

WID	GAD
Approach – which views women as the problem	Approach – development
Focus - women	Focus – relations between women and men
Problem – the exclusion of women (half of productive resources) from the development process	Problem – unequal relations of power that prevents equitable development and women's full participation



# Women in Development (WID) vs Gender and Development (GAD)

WID	GAD
Goal – more efficient, effective development	Goal – equitable, sustainable development with women & men as decision-makers
Solution – integrate women into the existing development process	Solution – empower the disadvantaged and women
Strategies – women's projects, integrated projects to increase women's productivity, income and also ability to look after the HH	Strategies – Address PGN and SGN together, people-centered development