

# Feminist encounters with development

Supriya Pattanayak

# Introduction

- The essentialist category 'woman' is replaced by analysis which differentiates *among* women as *among* men in terms of class, race, age, marital status, etc.
- Colonial discourse was both a discourse of knowledge as well as a discourse of power where western based knowledge was privileged and presented as 'the virtuous face of colonialism'.
- Local populations considered as 'unscientific exploiters' of the resource base and their 'particularist knowledges of the environment' were silenced.
- Local knowledge was subjugated by its disqualification as unscientific

# The language of legitimation

- Resources were given to colonialists through a 'righteous language' – that they will do what is right and what is good with it
- Today also there is politicization of the discourse and legitimation attained by a language that is persuasive and manufacture's consent
- While agricultural tasks were clearly defined between men and women, the policy concern was for the man alone. While in many places this led to a gender based struggle over land use, in many places in India it led to further subjugation of women and their relegation to the private domain
- We need to enquire whether the boundaries of gendered knowledge altered and renegotiated, in the context of changing relations of power.

# Silent Spring by Rachel Carsons

- **Silent Spring** is considered the book that started the global grassroots environmental movement. Released in 1962, it focuses on the negative effects of chemical pesticides that were, at the time, a large part of US agriculture. Rachel Carson and her work began initiating a shift in global environmental consciousness.
- The overarching **theme of Silent Spring** is the powerful—and often negative—effect humans have on the natural world. Carson's **main** argument is that pesticides have detrimental effects on the environment; she says these are more properly termed “biocides” because their effects are rarely limited to solely targeting pests.

# Chipko movement

- **Chipko movement**, also called **Chipko andolan**, nonviolent social and ecological **movement** by rural villagers, particularly women, in India, aimed at protecting trees and forests slated for government-backed logging.
- It began in 1973 in Uttarakhand, then a part of Uttar Pradesh (at the foothills of Himalayas) and went on to become a rallying point for many future environmental and women's **movements** all over the world.

# Ecofeminism

- A movement where in a connection is seen between degradation and exploitation of the natural resources and the sources and beauty of nature along with the oppression and suppression of women.

# Two aspects from a policy and practice perspective

- Gender analysis
- Gender Based Budget

# Gender Analysis – Some practical tips

- Who does what and when? - Activity Profile
- Who has what? – Access and Control Profile (resources and decision making)
- What is the socioeconomic context? – Analysis of factors and trends (how the previous two are shaped by structural factors (demographic, economic, legal and institutional) and by cultural, religious and attitudinal ones.
- What gender considerations are needed for the project? – Programme Cycle Analysis (gender sensitive planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation)
- Who wins? Who loses?

# Activity Profile - Issues

- Production of goods and services
- Reproductive and human resource maintenance activities
- Community work
- Community organisation and activities

# Access and Control Profile - Issues

- Productive resources – land, equipment, labour, capital and credit, education and training
- The extent to which women are impeded from participating equitably in projects

# Socio-economic context - Issues

- Demographic factors including household composition and headship
- General economic conditions such as poverty levels, income distribution, infrastructure, terms of trade
- Education levels and gender participation rates
- Political, institutional and legal factors

# Programme Cycle Analysis - Issues

- Do the planning assumptions adequately reflect the constraints on women's participation
- Do project performance indicators identify the need for gender disaggregated data? Will changes in the gender division of labour be monitored? Will women's access and control be monitored over time?
- Can the project meet both PGNs and SGNs?
- Do the goals, purpose, objectives of the project explicitly mention women's needs and priorities?
- Do the project inputs identify opportunities for female participation in programme management, in the delivery and community management of goods and services, in any planned institutional changes, in training opportunities and in the monitoring of resources and benefits? Will the project resources be relevant and accessible to poor women in terms of personnel, location and timing?
- Does the project include measurable indices for the attainment of its GAD objectives, to facilitate monitoring and evaluation?

# Gender Analysis Concepts

- Gender Division of Labour/gender roles
- Access to and Control of Resources
- Practical Gender Needs and Strategic Gender interests/Condition and Position
- Transformatory Potential

# Condition and Position

The distinction between the everyday condition men and women face *and* their positions in society.

Condition refers to our material state and our immediate environment. This usually includes basic needs and our daily routine.

Position, on the other hand, refers to women's economic, social and political standing relative to men.

Most development policies and programmes attempt to address women's condition but not their position in society.

# Condition & Position/ Practical Needs & Strategic Interests

- Practical needs arise from a person's condition
- Strategic Interests arise from a person's position in social relations

# Practical Gender Needs

PGNs are immediate perceived needs related to men's and women's condition.

Men and women share PGNs.

# Strategic Gender Interests

Interests that are related to improving the relative position of women and men.

Result from women's subordinate position and men's privilege. Therefore men do not share these with women. But is it in men's interest?

# PGNs/SGIs

Addressing PGNs does not automatically challenge women's subordination.

PGNs and SGIs are not mutually exclusive. Addressing PGNs is important and a precondition for women to identify their SGIs.

## PGNs

- ✓ tend to be immediate and short-term
- ✓ unique to particular men and women
- ✓ relate to daily needs

## SGIs

- ✓ tend to be long-term
- ✓ common to almost all men and women
- ✓ relate to disadvantaged position

## PGNs

- ✓ easily identifiable
- ✓ can be addressed by provision of specific inputs (food, handpumps, clinic...)

## SGIs

- ✓ not always easily identifiable
- ✓ can be addressed by consciousness raising, increasing self-confidence, education, strengthening women's organizations

## Addressing PGNs

- ✓ tends to involve women as **beneficiaries** and perhaps as **participants**
- ✓ can improve the **conditions** of women
- ✓ generally does not alter traditional gender roles and relationships

## Addressing SGIs

- ✓ involves women as **agents** or **enables** women to become agents
- ✓ can improve the **position** of women in society
- ✓ can empower women and transform gender relationships

# Transformatory Potential

- Acknowledges both men and women maintain and accept gender roles and relations, they are affected by them, but then also challenge them
- TP allows us to see PGNs can be met in ways that have the potential of transforming relations

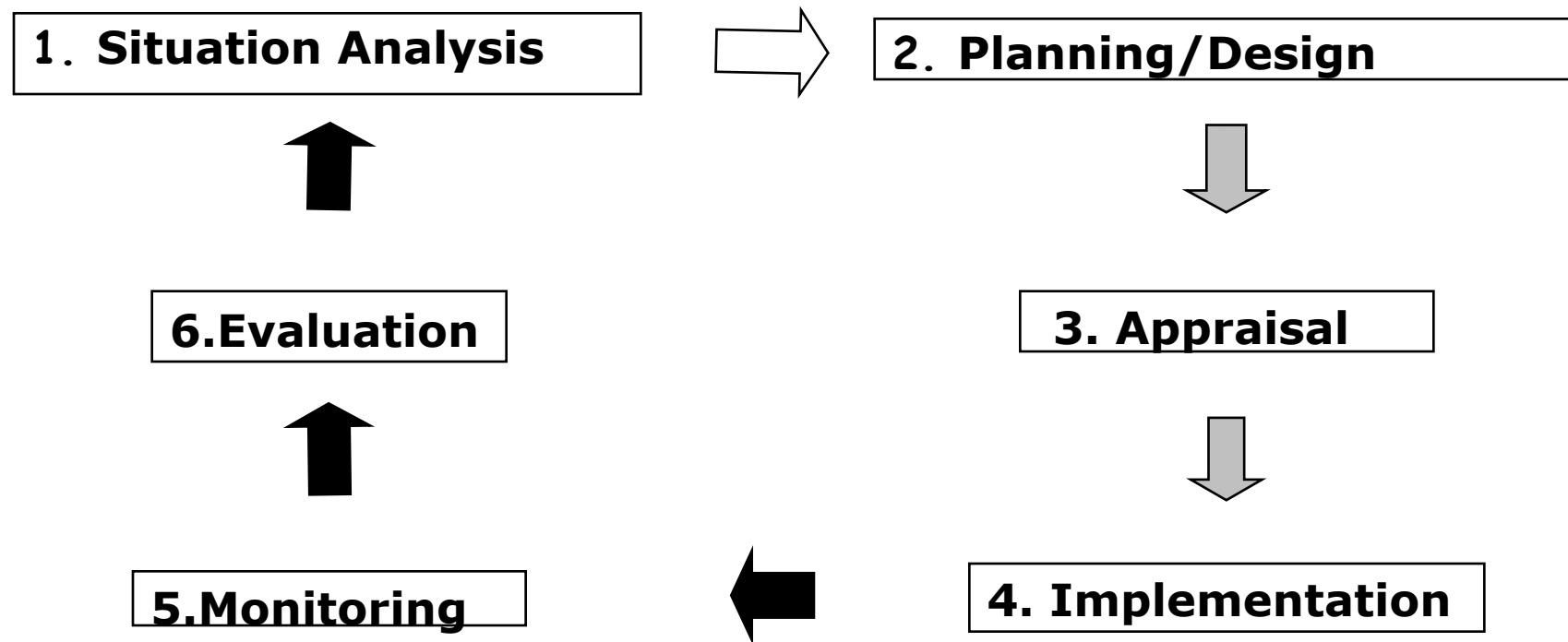
# Gender Blind policy

- Gender Blind policy design and analyses are those which are implicitly premised on the notion of a male development actor and which
- While couched in gender-neutral language, are implicitly male-biased in that they privilege male needs, interests and priorities in the distribution of opportunities and resources.

# Gender aware policy

- Gender neutral - accurate assessment of the existing gender division of resources and responsibilities
- Gender specific - intended to target and benefit a specific gender in order to achieve certain policy goals
- Gender transformative - interventions designed to transform gender relations more equitably

# When is gender analysis conducted?



# 1. *Situation Analysis*

- Identify the different perspectives of women and men on poverty issues.
- Examine gender roles and relations in terms of the distribution of power and resources, and how these are affected by social factors such as age, disability, caste, class and ethnic differences.
- Ensure data collected is disaggregated and analysed by gender.
- Identify partners and allies who share gender concerns.

## 2. Planning/Design

- Ensure objectives and strategies address the gender issues identified in the situation analysis.
- Ensure the representation and active participation of women and men from diverse & marginalised groups in the planning process, and check that their gendered interests are reflected in decisions made.

### *3. Appraisal*

- Identify whether the implementing organisation has gender sensitive policies and practices eg staff training, resources and leadership on gender.
- Explore whether activities are gender-sensitively planned eg does the programme aim to reduce discrimination against women and will this be monitored?

## *4. Implementation*

- Ensure appropriate participation of both sexes in implementation.
- Ensure that participation of women does not merely increase their workload, but means their active involvement in decision-making.
- Ensure that men understand the reason for this and support it.

## *5. Monitoring*

Use of gender-sensitive indicators to detect changes  
eg changes in the balance of women and men's access to resources and decision-making, incidence of gender-based violence, discriminatory attitudes against women, women's empowerment, and sensitisation of men to the need to strengthen gender equality.

## *6.Evaluation*

- Evaluate the different impact the project may have had on women and men, and on the power relations between them.
- Ensure a gender balance of staff on evaluation team.
- Ensure that evaluating impact on gender equality is included in evaluation terms of reference.

# Gender and Budgets

- **The Problem** - There has been lack of progress in reducing gender inequalities, particularly due to weak political commitment and gender-blind macroeconomic frameworks.
- **What are GBIs** - Gender budget initiatives (GBIs) break down the government's budget in order to see how it responds to the differentiated needs of and impacts on women, men, girls and boys.
- **What they can do** - GBIs can make significant contributions in terms of equity, equality, the realisation of women's rights, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and transparency.

# Common problems with budgets in developing countries

- Lack of accurate budget data and socio-economic statistics
- Lack of accountability
- Lack of transparency and participation
- Lack of clear measurements regarding efficiency and impact
- Lack of revenue, inappropriate projections and pressure of multilateral donors
- Decentralisation

# GBI in India – NIPFP Study

- While Union Govt has initiated many schemes specifically for the benefit of women, the total allocation is still small
- Schemes smacked of tokenism – schemes were also too small
- Executing dept not aware of the logic or need for such a scheme
- Actual expenditure very low
- Share for girls significantly less than half, where schemes were to provide benefits to both men and women
- Expenditure head traditionally under welfare of mothers and children

# GBI in India (contd)

- There was a positive relation between the gender development index for a country and the percapita fiscal allocations to functions of health and education.
- Over half of the total public expenditure in the country remains the responsibility of the sub-national governments.

# How are GBIs implemented

- Women-specific targeted expenditures: resources allocated for programmes that specifically target women.
- Equal employment opportunity expenditures: resources allocated to affirmative action in order to promote employment of women and men in equal numbers, equal representation within management posts, and equal pay.
- Mainstream expenditures: the bulk of the remaining expenditures not covered by the first two categories

# Demystifying implementation

- Capacity of implementing staff
- The many stages the allocation of funds goes through
- Compliance of lower level staff
- Capacity of local governments to deliver – division between sub agencies, procedures to be followed, etc unclear
- Confusion in the chain of command
- Financial auditing a nightmare – shown spent at one level may be in reality lying unspent
- New projects add to the workload

# Ensuring Efficiency

- For achieving more efficient policy interventions on the part of the government, it is essential that the policies themselves are properly formulated.
- Governments have wasted a lot of time on initiating programs and then abandoning them after a few years trial

## Getting women's priorities into the budget

- Women to get organised – to inform and orient policy makers about women's needs. This orientation has to cover several aspects of policy making:
- Women are concerned about changes in public policies
- Women are not merely dependents of other workers or supplementary earners but economic agents in their own capacity
- Recognise that women have basic rights as citizens and human beings