

WORKSHOP REPORT

Gender, Water and Equity

South Asia Training Programme

April 27-May 1, 2009
Kalina Campus, Mumbai

Jointly organised by:



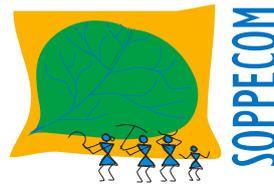
**Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Mumbai**

SaciWATERS

**South Asia Consortium for
Interdisciplinary Water Resources
Hyderabad**



Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)



**Society for Promoting Participative
Ecosystem Management,
Pune**

25 August, 2009

Acknowledgements

The workshop on ‘Gender, Water and Equity’ is the second in a series of workshops for researchers, policy makers, programme implementers, academics and activists from the South Asian region as part of the “Crossing Boundaries: Regional Capacity Building on IWRM and Gender & Water” of the South Asian Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERs), Hyderabad, funded by the Wageningen University, Netherlands.

This workshop was organised by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in collaboration with SaciWATERs, Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and SOPPECOM. I would like to warmly acknowledge the team work of Dr. Sara Ahmed, Dr. Anjal Prakash and Ms. Seema Kulkarni in actively conceptualising and delivering this workshop. All the resource persons, Mr. K.J. Joy, Prof. Chhaya Datar, Dr. Amita Bhide, Mr. Janak Daftari, Ms. Sujata Khandekar and her team contributed valuable inputs to the workshop. Ms. Shabeena Francis Saveri had supported me in co-ordinating the workshop. Ms. Sumangly Suresh and Mr. Mahendra Singh had ably provided the secretarial assistance and logistical support for conducting this workshop.

I would like to specially thank Prof. S.Parasuraman, Director, TISS and Dr. Dibya Kansakar, Director, SaciWATERs, for extending all the requisite official support. I must mention that we had an amazing batch of participants who made the entire training programme pleasurable and memorable in more than one ways.

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24 August 2009

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Report of the Gender, Water and Equity: Training Programme April 27-May 1, 2009

The second 'Gender, Water and Equity Training' (GWET) programme was organised by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, with support from the South Asian Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERS), Hyderabad, and Gender and Water Alliance (GWA), and in collaboration with the Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune.

The programme, which was part of the ongoing TISS-SaciWATERS project themed 'Crossing Boundaries' was held from April 27-May 1, 2009 at J.P. Naik Bhavan, ICSSR (Indian Council of Social Science Research), Kalina Campus, Mumbai. The Crossing Boundaries (CB) project aims to contribute to a paradigm shift in water resources management in South Asia, through promoting interdisciplinary learning/teaching, research and capacity building on mainstreaming gender equity in integrated water resources management (IWRM).

I. Preparatory Phase

The stated objectives of the GWET programme were:

- To understand the larger political context of water use, distribution and management in the context of sector reforms in South Asia
- To strengthen participants' perspectives on gender, water and equity issues
- To examine analytical frameworks that can address gender and equity in the planning and implementation of programmes in the water sector

The applications were selected on the basis of participants with no experience in the water sector; some experience of water/ sanitation but not of gender issues; experiences of water/ sanitation as well as gender and experience of issues related to gender but not to water. *(Please see Appendix 1 for the text of the Announcement)*

At a meeting held on April 1st, 2009, in Pune, the members of the core group scrutinised this shortlist and identified their choices. Applicants who were identified as suitable by all or most of the core group members, were selected. A total of 20 participants from India and Nepal participated in the training.

The workshop was arranged for five days. There were frequent consultations between member of the core group for deciding the thematic areas and finalising the schedule. The administrative staff at TISS along with the Programme Officer worked on the logistics and frequently interacted with the participants through email or telephone.

II. Content of the Sessions

The five-day workshop was focused on the themes decided by the core team. Each day generally started at 9.00 a.m. and closed at 5.30 p.m. (*Please see Appendix 3 for the schedule of the workshop*)

Day one- Gender-concepts, analytical frameworks etc

Day two- Understanding Water as a biophysical resource, equity and linking gender and water followed by group exercises in the afternoon and field trip to urban slums

Day three- Review of water policies at the global level with a focus on domestic water. This was followed by a detailed discussion on the Irrigation sector. The day concluded with group exercises on water policy analysis from a gender perspective

Day four- Domestic water issues with special reference to Maharashtra case. Sanitation issues in South Asia and analysis of water supply and sanitation case from gender and equity perspective.

Day 5- Panel discussion on water issues in urban slums; evaluation and closing ceremony

Methodology of the training

Almost all the resource persons used power-point text/presentations during their sessions; these were all collated in a Zip file, which was given to the participants in a CD and was also copied on their pen drive. Some of the Resource Persons gave hand-outs as reading material related to their sessions. When they arrived for the training, all participants were also given reading material as a hardcopy compilation as well as a CD, comprising papers/articles/chapters related to the themes of the workshop.

II.1 DAY 1, April 27: Gender-concepts, analytical frameworks

Title: Introductory Session

Coordinator: Dr. Lakshmi Lingam, Dr. Anjal Prakash and Ms. Seema Kulkarni

On Day One, April 27, 2009, the training programme started with an introduction to the theme of the workshop and the overview of the five day programme by Dr. Lakshmi Lingam.

The participants were given small chart papers to write their expectations from the training and also apprehensions separately. After this they were divided into sub-groups by their birth months and interest so that they get an opportunity to know each other in a very informal way. The objective of this exercise was to enable the participants to mingle with each other and introduce themselves. The participants were requested to give brief introduction (name, place of origin, work place, main expertise and experience, relevance of this training).

The formal round of introductions was facilitated by Dr. Anjal Prakash of SaciWATERs. A South-Asian map was displayed on the screen, participants were asked to identify their country and the place they presently stay and work and introduce themselves. Participants from Nepal introduced themselves first followed by other participants from India. This was followed by a brief overview on SaciWATERs and its crossing boundaries project. Ms. Seema Kulkarni, SOPPECOM, Pune presented the outlines of the training programme and concluded the introductory session.

The following expectations were cited by the participants:

Expectations:

1. Tools and Techniques

- Tools and techniques of GWE
- Idea and experience exchanging
- Get some expertise on how to address equity issue in WATSAN projects
- Get some teaching learning material on gender and water
- To develop analytical skills
- To know the real situation of women in WATSAN sector
- How to strengthen the role/ active participation of women after the handholding agency/ NGO withdraws from the project?
- To understand what gender and equity actually means and how it relates with water resources, benefit sharing of water resources.

2. Gendered policies

- What are the methods, plans, policies to empower, make participate and make leadership for women in water resource management
- Analysis of national and international laws, policy, strategy on water sectors from gender perspective
- Familiarise with issues and problem on water sectors in India and learn the best practices
- To learn and understand more about world water politics in the context of gender and equity
- To learn new skills and tools for dealing with policy advocacy and initiatives
- To build new networks and partnerships
- Mainstreaming gender in water policies
- To learn about gender laws and policies (national and international)
- How can we bring water professionals address the issues of gender, water and equity at policy level as well as ground level?

3. Partnership and Networking

- Networking with like minded people
- To build a network of people working on water issues
- Collaborative research on GWE

4. Understanding Gender and Water Relationships

- Gender equity in urban communities
- How to train field level NGO staff about gender
- To get gender lens while working in participatory resource management especially in water sector
- To know more on “Gender, Water and Equity” and its impact on health
- Understanding socio-cultural relationship between gender, water and equity in developing countries like India
- Develop greater insight into the gendered frameworks especially with regard to water usage and liberalization
- To know more about the water, equity, PIM issues and Gender which will be very helpful for Ph.D work
- Community participation in water use, empowerment of women through involving in water user’s association, institutional arrangements to WVA, policy incentives and livelihood security
- Develop understanding on gender and water management as well as water and equity
- At the end of training I expect better understanding of Gender issues and how to resolve them in an organization

After writing the expectations and apprehensions the charts were displayed on the wall inside the training hall. Participants were divided into four groups and were assigned various duties for each day. *(See Appendix 4 for details of duties assigned to each group)*

Day 1, Session 1:

Title: Understanding Gender

Theme: Gender and Equity – concepts & analytical frameworks

Resource Person for the Day: Dr. Lakshmi Lingam

Key themes/ points from the session: In recent times, the word ‘gender’ has gained acceptance in the development field as a significant cross cutting issue across various sectors, however, it is often limited to addressing women’s immediate requirements. The objective of this session was to introduce the key concept of gender through an explication of related constructions like sexuality, gender roles, relations, identity, power and hierarchy.

The manifestations of patriarchy in case of women result in subordination, discrimination, insult, control, exploitation and oppression. It differs between classes, societies, periods in history, within and between generations. Gender creates relations of dominance, subordination along with elements of cooperation, force and violence.

In brief, patriarchy perpetuates the notion of ‘control over women’- control over their productive or labour power; reproduction; sexuality; mobility; property and other resources. The understanding of the theoretical formulation of patriarchy in understanding gender construction; the multiple manifestations of patriarchy in various social institutions, and the way gender is embedded in other social stratifiers was developed systematically in this session.

Day 1, Session 2:

Title: Equity and Social Stratifiers

Key themes/ points from the session: This session gave an overview of different stratifiers that create inequalities in society. The concept of ‘equity’ as a framework to achieve the goal of equality was explained. Further, equity with particular focus on vertical and horizontal equity was discussed. With reference to water, social inequalities in access to water can be addressed by understanding in terms of social, spatial, gender and intergeneration equity.

Day 1, Session 3:

Title: Key Gender Analytical Tools

Key themes/ points from the session: The session on gender analytical frameworks was preceded with a quick coverage of development discourses and development paradigms. The session on analytical tools and frameworks emphasised the need to understand linkage between justice, development and women so that we can move towards probable solutions. The session divided the discussion into two parts. The initial part of the discussion dealt with the changing conception of women and development in society. It highlighted issues like how issues with regard to women shifted from periphery to centre in the mainstream discussion on development.

The second part of the session focused on a larger concern, about how do we understand the notion of justice in society especially with regards to women? The participants were introduced to various analytical frameworks that were developed over time. These mainly include frameworks like **Caroline Moser’s** framework focusing on the roles of women and their activities in society. The other one is of **Naila Kabeer** which emphasises social relations framework. The study of these frameworks and approaches illustrate the complexities regarding gender issues in society. The need is to move beyond the limitations of existing approaches and evolve better ways to understand and address the issue of gender in society.

II.2 DAY 2, April 28: Water, IWRM and Equity; afternoon field trip

Theme: Water, IWRM and Equity

Coordinator: Mr. K.J Joy and Ms. Seema Kulkarni

The day started with a recap of the previous day (day 1) by Group II. After the recap, each participant wrote learning of Day One on a small chart paper. The exercise was administered to know the concept clarity gained by the participants. The participants wrote that they learnt the concepts related to gender and equity; sex, gender and sexuality; patriarchy and its effects on women; gender and economy; livelihood issues related to women; importance of issues related with gender, equity and equality etc. *(Please see Appendix 2a)*

Day 2, Session 1:

Title: Bio-physical and Social Peculiarities of Water & Normative Concerns: livelihoods, sustainability, equity and democratisation

Resource Person: Mr. K.J Joy

Key themes/ points from the session: Mr. K.J Joy made a power point presentation and explained the following concepts:

➤ **Water**

- Water is an ecosystem resource that is not easily manipulated and cannot be indiscriminately mined.
- Water is a common pool resource and not a public good.
- Water is both local and non local resource. It is present at many scales.
- Assured and variable nature of water is to be handled differently.
- Peculiarities of water as ‘private property’. Unlike land, water cannot be seen as classical private property. Individually we do not own land except groundwater under our own land.

➤ **Livelihoods**

- There has been a shift from basic needs to livelihood needs to sustainable livelihood.
- Livelihood needs go beyond basic needs including those needs that are imposed due to the nature of the livelihood activity itself.
- Objective is self reliance.
- Biomass base to livelihood.

➤ **Livelihoods and Water**

- How much water is required to meet livelihood needs?
- Concept of water productivity.
- Water required for certain quantity (say 18 tons) of biomass.

➤ **Sustainability**

- Can be defined as increase productivity without compromising primary productivity – by using secondary productivity (chemical fertilizers, hybrid seeds etc) critically.

➤ **Equity**

- Equitable water distribution – what is possible within the system. Basic issue is ‘ensuring social minimum to all’,

Day 2, Session 2:

Title: Linking Gender Equity and Water

Resource Person: Ms. Seema Kulkarni

The main objective of the session was to see the linkages of the gender question in water

Key themes/ points from the session: Seema commenced the session by asking the participant whether "water is a women's question? And why is it so? The answers to this broadly revolved around the special relationship of water with women. Women are responsible for collecting and using domestic water and hence water is a women's question.

These responses highlighted the dominant images of the women and water relationship which shape policy and programmatic agendas. Several arguments can be pursued from the point of view of the women and water relationship. Firstly water is a crucial means of production and source of life which every human being needs to have access to. By this argument women and other socially disadvantaged groups need to have access to means of production. Women should be seen as thinking individuals in their own right not requiring mediation through men in the households or communities. She took the argument further by questioning this image and arguing for women's access to water and decision making around it within a social justice framework.

Through a gender analytical lens we need to assess the current patterns in resource ownership and entitlements; activities around water- who does what; who has access to benefits and finally who takes the major decisions around water. The current knowledge around water is also highly techno-centric and women and other socially disadvantaged groups work does not really feature in any of the core debates around water. Unless this changes social groups and their linkage with water will never be appreciated.

She then went on to trace the history of the gender and environment relationship and how different discourses have led to different kinds of prescriptions for policy and practice. Starting from the women as victims of resource degradation to women as the solutions these debates have informed current policies and practice and unfortunately not understood women beyond welfare seeking category. While discussing this she spoke of eco-feminist theories their potential and their critique and the more recent thinking on

relationships between gender and environment which rest on a far more dynamic understanding of both gender and environment. Feminist political ecology and feminist environmentalism were discussed in this regard.

She discussed at length how this applies to the water sector and despite the new thinking our policies are still shaped by a very instrumentalist approach where women's participation is sought based on their current roles rather than what they hold potential for. In water sector this manifests in terms of women for domestic water, but men for irrigation and productive use of water. These dichotomies need to break if we are to move towards a more just understanding around gender and water.

During and after the session participants raised a lot of issues and also contributed to the discussion. Examples were shared from Meghalaya, Orissa, etc. where women's role in water related work was highlighted and so was their absence from governance related functions.

Day 2, Session 3:

Title: Group exercise on Case Studies

Resource Person: Ms. Seema Kulkarni and K J Joy

1. The main purpose of this exercise was to allow the group to reflect on the 2 sessions done on water as a biophysical resource and linking it with gender. The participants were divided into four groups.
2. Four cases were selected for this exercise. These cases were selected on the basis of their social and equity arrangements, sustainability and democracy in participation. A set of questions listed below were given to the groups. They were to assess these cases from a sustainability and social justice framework

The case studies given to the groups were:

Group 1- Panch Kanya Pilot Project from Nepal

Group 2- Case study of South Maharashtra movement

Group 3- Khudawadi village in Maharashtra funded by Canadian agency

Group 4- Pani Panchayat case

Questions

1. How do you think equity has been handled?
2. Which groups have been included/ excluded from discussion benefits?
3. What are women's and men's role in the programme?
4. How would you redesign the programme to assert equity concerns?
5. What are the constraints for scaling up this as a general strategy?

Summary: Each of the cases had different strengths and the group was able to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the cases from an equity, sustainability and democratic participation framework. The exercise was useful as it helped the participants to

understand the concerns they need to look into when they are planning, implementing or monitoring water programmes.

II.2.1 Field Visit

The main objective of the field visit was to give an exposure to the participants to the water and sanitation issues in an urban context. This field visit was organised to the area where CORO (Committee of Resource Organisations for Literacy), is working in the urban slums in Mumbai. Before leaving for the field visit, instructions were given to the participants to be sensitive towards the issue of water and sanitation and not to hurt anyone by asking intrusive questions.

The participants left for field visit at 4 pm to CORO office and met Ms. Sujata Khandekar, one of the founder members of the organisation. CORO began with adult literacy programmes in these areas and from there evolved into integrated community based work with a large cadre of workers from the communities itself. They use the following strategies for their work:

1. Communication and use of diverse media for awareness, education and mobilisation in different communities.
2. Training and development of manuals for community based work.
3. Advocacy and building linkages.
4. Today there are 326 *Mahila mandals* functioning well to address various issues including violence against women, literacy, sexual and reproductive health and water related issues, masculinity and feminist issues.

The participants were divided into two mixed groups and visited two urban slums: Sahyadri Nagar located in Chembur and Lotus Colony located in Govandi. A few staff of CORO actively working in these slums accompanied both the groups to introduce them to the slum dwellers. Both the groups visited the assigned slum and interacted with the local community on issues related to water, its availability, water shortage, strategies for meeting water requirements and their political participation in order to access water. The participants also discussed issues related to sanitation and requirement of water for sanitation purpose. The field visit ended at 8 pm. CORO staff translated the discussion between the participants and the area representative. Some participants expressed that this was the first time they have seen the actual problems faced by people in the slum. Some expressed that the slums lacked hygiene and felt something should be done for the welfare of the slum dwellers.

II.3 DAY 3, April 29: Global Water Policies, Irrigation and Domestic Water.

The review of water policies at global level was followed by a detailed discussion on the Irrigation sector. The day concluded with group exercises on water policy analysis from a gender perspective

Theme: Policy review; Irrigation sector; policy analysis from a gender perspective

Coordinators: Dr. Sara Ahmed and Ms. Seema Kulkarni

Before starting with the day's session, Group III narrated a recap of the previous day's report. There were presentations made by three groups on their learning during the field visit. Participants shared their experiences during the field visit.

They wrote their learning on the small chart paper. Some of the major learning included: water issues in the slum; social issues related to water; issues related to ownership and right to water; development activities undertaken by NGO; water and sanitation issues; water distribution issues in slum; health problems faced by people in slum due to water shortage; and women's struggle in arranging water for the family. (*Please see Appendix 2a*)

Day 3, Session 1:

Title: Mainstreaming Gender in Water policy and Practice or 'Streaming Gender Away'?

Resource Person: Ms. Sara Ahmed

Key themes/ points from the session: This session provided an overview framework to understand the human rights to water and sanitation within the context of the global water crisis. It is certain that lack of access to water affects the poor, women, children and the marginalised the most (1.8 million children under five die of diarrhoea each year; lack of access to sanitation or water undermines human dignity and human security and sexual harassment of *dalit* or *adivasi* women walking long distances to fetch water is not uncommon in many parts of India).

Though the history of women and gender concerns in water policies started in early 50s, the actual recognition of women's roles were established in the 1990's by **Dublin**

Principles. Dublin Principles recognized women's pivotal role in water provision and management.

Gender mainstreaming is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all water sectors and at all levels (global, national, organisational, community, household). The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality by **transforming** the mainstream, that is, policies, procedures and institutional practice, (Gender and Water Alliance, 2003).

Meanwhile women were also called for at a 'platform of action' in Beijing in 1995. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have also mentioned steps to promote gender equality and empower women (focus on education), but MDG's do not question equity or technology or governance, framework of efficiency and reform. Who is tracking how our countries perform? Whether mainstreaming of gender is becoming miss-streaming gender? Dr Sara mentioned some key gender gaps in water policies, privatisation, its implication, participation, building accountability and transparency.

Day 3, Session 2:

Title: Gender and Irrigation: Sector Overview

Resource Person: Ms. Seema Kulkarni

Key themes/ points from the session: This session was part of the sectoral overviews and gender issues. She began by giving a brief overview of the irrigation sector in India with a focus on Maharashtra. She highlighted the main areas of concern in the sector which can be briefly summarised as inequity in water access, large scale displacement of the poor, stagnating irrigation performance and poor revenue collection. These crises led the state to respond through mechanisms of institutional governance and this is reflected in the current policies which talk of irrigation management through institutional and pricing reform over infrastructure and technology.

The new recipe thus talks of decentralisation and water pricing as the main mantras for sector reform. She then discussed at length the impacts of these policies on the different socially disadvantaged groups and particularly on women in terms of their access, their decision making skills, their labour and ability to pay.

She then contextualised her presentation through presenting the findings of a recent study done on women and water in Maharashtra and Gujarat where quotas have been introduced for women in decision making committees in the irrigation sector. The findings showed that water rights are tied to landownership and hence women hardly have access to water. Very few women were aware of their membership to the water users associations which are water governance institutions in irrigation.

The findings also showed that unless one understands women and water differently we may not find a solution to some of these questions. Women cannot be singled out as a category and need to be seen in the context of their class and caste identities as well. Similarly water sector cannot be compartmentalised and dichotomies of production and welfare need to be mitigated if we want to move towards achieving social justice in the water sector.

Day 3, Session 3:

Title: Reading water policy statements and group presentations

Resource Person: Ms. Sara Ahmed and Ms. Seema Kulkarni

The third session was a group work in assessments and analyses of the water policies of different states of India and gender concerns in these policies.

- Group I presented the case of Maharashtra,
- Group II presented the case of Karnataka,
- Group III presented case of Madhya Pradesh and
- Group IV presented Orissa.

The policies were analysed by using the guidelines given by the resource persons. The participants in the groups expressed that they found the policies to be gender blind.

II.4 DAY 4, April 30: Domestic Water & Sanitation issues in South Asia

Theme: Drinking Water and Sanitation

Coordinator: Dr. Anjal Prakash

The day started with a recapitulation of the previous day. After the recap the participants wrote their learning on small chart paper. The participants expressed in the learning that they understood the technique of analysing policies from a gender lens. Some of the policies were not gender sensitive; there was no element of gender as such in the policies. Some of the policies did not mention the benefits that women would receive. There was a lacuna in terms of gender, equity and equality. *(Please see Appendix 2a)*

Day 4, Session 1:

Title: Domestic Water Supply and Women: Case of Maharashtra

Resource Person: Prof. Chhaya Datar, TISS

Key themes/ points from the session:

- Location of source of water
- Different sources for different uses
- Location of stand posts
- Timings for water release
- Technological help
- Handling of water to maintain quality
- Handling of water shortages
- Task of water operator and repair of leakages
- Water tariff : willingness to pay Vs. ability to pay and seasonal migration
- Recognition of informal networks

Gender Concerns as Planner and Implementer

- Privatisation in urban areas will emphasise the market regime, which is likely to exclude poor as consumers and planners
- Decentralisation in rural areas is pushed with the ethos of inclusionary processes, such as participation of gender and SC/ST in the process of planning and implementing. Unfortunately attempts for capacity building are not serious and hence the processes will succumb to the usual influences of patriarchy and caste politics.
- Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC) provide institutional platform for participation and voicing of gender and caste specific concerns from the inception stage. No statutory status. Supplementary body to GP.

Day 4, Session 2:

Title: Sanitation Concern in South Asia

Resource Person: Dr. Anjal Prakash

Key themes/ points from the session: Before starting with the session Dr. Anjal Prakash showed some scenes of the film Slumdog Millionaire. The scenes were related to sanitation issues in India. In the session he touched on the issue of child mortality and mortality due to water and sanitation problems. People in developing countries fall sick and are hospitalised due to disease caused due to lack of access to water and sanitation. Sanitation reduces the burden of disease. It is the most cost-effective public health intervention to reduce child mortality. Some of the ill effects of lack of access to sanitation and water are infant deaths, loss of work, missed school etc. The session discussed why sanitation is a gender and water issue? There are evidences from south Asia that women need privacy and have specific needs for sanitation while adolescent girls drop out from schools due to lack of sanitation facilities. Women are otherwise excluded in the decision making process and lack control over essential resources and therefore their participation in any project is necessary and fundamental for the success of the project.

While showing the world's best and worst toilets, Dr. Prakash pointed out the iniquitous access to a basic resource such as toilets for the poor and the rich. The rich use the best toilets in the world (with warm, musical seats in Japan) while majority of the poor do not have access to safe sanitation. Sanitation is also directly linked with access to water supply. As the water resources are not near the city or town in most states of India, the government spends millions for getting water even at a distance of more than 100 km. and sometimes more than 200 km. Water, therefore becomes a political resource whose distribution is politically determined. Poor and marginalised, having less access to political and economic resources, are left out from the access which affects sanitation leading to detrimental effects on individual and public health. SACOSAN, South Asian conference on sanitation, an official body to look at the issues of sanitation in South Asia has recently recognised sanitation as a basic human right. However, many efforts are needed to make these rights translate into reality.

In the evening, two documentary films on sanitation issue were shown to the participants. The films were success stories on water and sanitation solutions in urban areas of India and Bangladesh.

II.5 DAY 5, May 1: Water Issues in Urban Slums; Concluding Sessions

Title: Concluding Sessions

Coordinators: Dr. Lakshmi Lingam, Ms. Seema Kulkarni and Dr. Anjal Prakash.

There was a panel discussion arranged to discuss the issues of water with activist working at the grass root level. The theme of the panel discussion was "Urban water: Policy,

Perspective and Community Responses". Following persons were invited for the panel discussion:

- Ms. Mumtaz, Mr. Anil and Ms. Ratna from Mahila Fedration of CORO
- Mr. Janak Daftary, Mumbai Pani and Haque Samiti
- Dr. Amita Bhide, Associate Professor, Habitat School, TISS

The panel discussion was a very interactive session. The panel members shared their information and also the work that is implemented at the grassroots level. The participants were eager to know more about the water issues in the areas that they visited during the field visit. Following is a synopsis of the points that were discussed in the panel discussion:

Mr Janak began his presentation with a narration of the wisdom that women share about inequities in water distribution between urban and rural areas and within rural areas as 'herstory'. Privatisation is 'history' the next issue he had taken up. According to him there is a huge difference between the costs of storage and distribution of water and it is not what the final consumers pay. The charge that individuals pay does not cover the replacement costs in the case of water. The system of privatisation has profit as a motive.

Ms. Mumtaz expressed her concern that people consume polluted water in the areas that the participants visited and also in the other slums that CORO work. The water supply in most of these settlements is controlled by mafia and leaders from the political party. In the absence of assured water from sources directly managed by the Municipal Corporation, poor people collude to continue with corrupt practices of water theft and high pricing of water by water mafia.

Mr. Anil stated that there is a mismatch between the meter reading and the bills that people pay. Water bill is high while water is not in line with the bill. Illegal connections are rampant and there is no rule to stop it.

Dr. Amita Bhide shared details of the sources of water in Mumbai during the British times. She shared that the British discouraged decentralization of water sources and stopped people from using ground water. Tap water connections came part of public health strategy. Bore wells have been permitted but there are no controls. Water is transported from long distances to Mumbai and gram panchayats do not have control over their waters. Within some parts of Mumbai water is erratically supplied. At some places the water is supplied for 24 hours while some places there is restriction on timings. Water is seen as a central supply. Though there is water supply in settlements there is no supply in toilets. The officials feel that slum people will exploit water available in the toilet by using it for domestic use.

Costs of charging water for construction (for the builder) are higher than for domestic use. Many construction bills are left on people who move into the rehabilitation new buildings.

Changes since 1970s have paved the way for privatisation. Water was a service but now has become a commodity. There are at least 10 different categories of users of water. Water used for domestic purpose is least charged while water supplied in five star hotels are highly charged.

Mr. Anil shared the information that there are shared water connections in slums. Most people in slum are tenants and are migrants. Water providers in the slums are people who manage police, BMC and the middle men who release the water supply. The poor migrants from these slums do not approach police for any help as they feel they will be evicted due to their ethnicity.

Ms. Mumtaz narrated that in most of the slums water supply is controlled by the political parties and hence people support them. If the political leader is not supported then the adverse affect is on water supply. The ultimate result is a cut in the water connection.

Some of the questions raised by the participants were:

- What is the nature of politics of water in the area?
- How many illegal connections are there?
- Ms. Seema Kulkarni asked the question: How are different groups (Hindu– Muslim) affected by water politics? How is the role of women important here as women have almost led the water movements?

Discussion

- Women are at the forefront of this struggle for water in slums. It is also related with women’s identity of whether she is going to live with these issues or should she raise her voice against the issue.
- Muslim areas are looked down upon. And it does have an effect on differential water availability for different locations. There is water pouch of Rs. 1/- available people are drinking water in worst cases through pouch.
- If men handle water issue they could be subjugated by mafia men. Culturally women couldn’t be directly bashed. Also it’s a loss of a work day for men so women lead on this issue.
- Women are harassed every day and the first level of harassment is at the household level, in their own house. They get taunted every day, commented upon etc. for supporting the water issue and coming out of their houses to protest.
- Recently there was a case of water not supplied for 4 days and women came together to do a traffic jam but they were taken to the police and a number of cases were filed against them.
- Muslims are discriminated. In Hindu areas, the conditions are not that bad as compared to Muslim areas in Shivajee Nagar or Lotus Colony in Trombay or Kurla area.
- Women are the one who have to deal with the problem of water every day. In most of the slums women fetch water and that is the reason why they come forward.

- Though women fight for water it is often seen that the water connection is in the name of the man and men hardly come in between water issues.

Question: What is the alternative for solving these problems?

Discussion:

- Every village and city should do water budgeting and see how the plan is supported through this planning process.
- Have multiple water sources for meeting the drinking water needs like groundwater, rain water harvesting and piped water and other remedies.
- State system is filled with loop holes and technology itself is not an answer alone. It is very important to improve the state's efficiency in management of water.
- Market is illegal and it is an informal market. State cannot escape from the responsibility from providing water. Formal market will not work because there are deficiencies in the state system. First the state has to put its system in order.

III. Feedback and Evaluation

After the panel discussion, there was a wrap up session. Participants orally shared their feedback about the training. The participants were given small chart papers to write their feedback. An evaluation form was also given to evaluate the training and give their suggestions for further improving the training in the future. On a big chart paper the participants evaluated the overall training programmes (by giving credit points) on aspects like: Content; Methodology; Reading Materials; Opportunity to Learn and Network; Logistics/ Stay/ Food etc. There was refreshment arranged by the organisers as well as the participants.

The training concluded with a round of verbal comments and feedback from the participants. A summary of the participants' verbal comments and feedback received from participants on the chart papers on Day Five is presented below. Each participant received a certificate for successfully attending the training programme.

On each day after the recapitulation of the previous day the participants were asked to write their previous day's learning on a small chart paper. The participants expressed in their learning that the session on sanitation was very useful. The issues of sanitation are similar in countries like India and some South-Asian countries. Water, sanitation and health issues are very closely related. The different types of toilets available in the world helped the participants to understand that affordability of toilet is a major issue. On one hand there are toilets which costs for million and above and there are people who don't have the toilet facility. *(Please see Appendix 2a)*

On the concluding day, the participants wrote their overall evaluation of the training programme, *and Appendix 2b for the near-verbatim content of the evaluation forms. Also see Appendix 2c.*

III.1 Verbal feedback from each participant

- There are GWE issues in the **regional context**.
- Women should be participated in the **decision making**.
- A **network** should be created. Papers published and action research should be shared within the network.
- Involve people from the **field level** in the training as participants.
- There is a need to **sensitize** Government officers on GWE issues.
- Water and gender is an **integrated issue**. This training fills the gap between water and gender.
- The participants should also include some activist working at the grassroots level.
- There was good co-operation and co-ordination among the group members.
- India, Bangladesh and Nepal have common experiences on issues related with water and sanitation. The learning of the training will be used in the project I am working on.

III.2 Feedback participants on organising aspects of the training

The participants gave their feedback on the organising aspects of the training by drawing stars (each star was drawn by each participant) in each column drawn on the chart paper. A replica of the chart is given below:

Description			
Content		*****	*****
Methodology		*****	***** *
Reading Materials	A basic reading on caste. What is caste?	***** **	***** **
Opportunity to Learn and Network	*		***** *****
Logistics/ Stay/ Food etc		**	***** *****

Appendix 1: Announcement of the GWE training

Gender, Water and Equity: Training Programmes, April 27-May 1, 2009 and end October-early November, 2009

Organised by the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)**, Mumbai, **South Asian Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERS)**, Hyderabad, **Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM)**, Pune, and the **Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)**.

The political-economic-social environment globally is in a flux due to numerous interlinked changes. Many of these changes are evident in the water sector. In rapidly changing countries in the South Asian region, water is becoming the source of conflicts at the national, regional, and local levels. The processes of liberalisation and globalisation, growing inequalities, global environmental changes and water scarcities are all interconnected contexts within which an understanding of gender, water and equity needs to be located. These processes particularly affect the lives of women, often the primary informal managers of water, for whom access and rights to water are mediated through their social and economic position in society.

Women's central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water has been reiterated in UN conferences. The resultant conference documents emphasise the need for policies to equip and empower women to participate at all levels in water resources programmes. Policies, projects, programmes and research in India and the rest of South Asia have attempted to integrate women, with varying degrees of success, in countering the multiple processes that contribute to inequalities. However, not everyone is equipped to understand the complexity of the water sector as it relates to gender and concerns of equity.

The proposed training programmes will address some of these gaps, both in terms of conceptual and contextual knowledge, as well as in building practical skills to negotiate concerns of equity and the principles of gender mainstreaming in the water sector.

The objectives of the training programmes are:

- To understand the larger political context of water distribution and reforms
- To strengthen participants' perspectives on gender, water and equity issues
- To examine analytical frameworks that could incorporate gender in the planning and implementation of programmes in the water sector
- To build a preliminary set of skills to incorporate gender and equity issues in the participants' work situations

These trainings are part of a joint project of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and SaciWATERS, called 'Crossing Boundaries'. The project aims to build perspectives and understanding of gender, equity and integrated water resources management in South Asia.

These programmes are also being organised in collaboration with SOPPECOM and Gender and Water Alliance. A core group comprising Sara Ahmed (Chairperson, GWA), Seema Kulkarni (Fellow, SOPPECOM), Anjal Prakash (Senior Fellow, SaciWATERS), Lakshmi Lingam (Professor, TISS) and Shabeena Francis Saveri (Programme Officer, TISS) are associated with these trainings.

The first of the two programmes will be held from April 27 to May 1, 2009. The second will take place at the end of October-early November. The trainings will not be take place at a venue outside Mumbai. This will be informed to selected candidates. Applicants can indicate their preference in terms of which of the two trainings they would like to be considered for, or we may choose to place selected participants in any one of the two programmes.

Eligibility Criteria

- We invite applications from diverse mid-level professionals—individuals working in development organisations, activists, academics, researchers, and officials working in state and central government departments of water and sanitation.
- Applicants can be from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan. For the first programme, from amongst applicants from India, preference will be given to persons from the north, north-east and east India; and for the second, applicants from the south and west India will be preferred. For applicants from the other South Asian countries, there is no regional criterion; they may be from any part of their country.
- The medium of instruction during the training will be English, and participants must be able to clearly comprehend and communicate in English. The organisers are not in a position to provide for translations.

Application Requirements

- Applications must include all the details listed from item 1 to 22 in the following application form.
- Hardcopy applications may be sent to: Dr. Lakshmi Lingam, Dean, Research and Development, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Deonar, Mumbai 400 088, INDIA.
- Softcopy applications may be sent to: [gwetraining@gmail.com](mailto:gwettraining@gmail.com)
- The last date for receiving applications is March 15, 2009.
- All applicants have to give, along with their applications, the name and contact details of a reputed referee, whom we may contact.
- A participation fee of (Indian) Rs. 2,500/- will be taken from each selected applicant. Further details about making this payment will be communicated upon selection.
- By March 30, we will contact applicants who have been selected. Inquiries in the interim, or later by applicants who are not selected, cannot be answered.

Application Form

(Pl. fill out the details and send it as a Word or PDF attachment or send it by regular post before the due date)

1. Title:
2. Name:
3. Age:
4. Country/ Nationality:
5. Organisation/ Institution:
6. Postal address:
7. Tel number (landline):
8. Mobile number:
9. Email address:
10. Educational qualifications:
11. Passport no (required for *all* applicants):
12. Date of expiry of passport:
13. Previous work experience (state briefly):

Please write 3-4 sentences each for questions 14 and 15

14. Experience in the areas of water and sanitation.
15. Current involvement in the areas of water and sanitation.
16. How would you primarily describe yourself? As a person working in or researching:
(a) water (b) gender and water or sanitation (c) gender issues but not in the water sector
(d) none of these categories.

Please write 3-4 paragraphs each for questions 17, 18 and 19

17. Have you attended any gender training in the past?
18. Why would you like to attend this particular training?
19. How would this training help in your work?
20. Would your organisation/institution sponsor the entire or partial cost of your travel and accommodation?
22. If you need sponsorship, please specify for which of these categories:
(a) travel (b) accommodation (c) both.
23. Indicate the name, address, email id and phone numbers of one person of repute who is aware of your work and that of the organisation with which you work. This information is mandatory.

Signature

Date

Appendix 2 (a): From the daily learning

All participants were given a piece of chart paper to write their previous day's learning just before starting the session. The participants wrote the learning of each day on the chart paper:

Day 1

- Relearned concepts on gender and equity
- Clarity concept on GAD
- Role of social stratifiers in gender equity
- Ecological food print
- Multiple voices from diversified gender and ethnic perspectives.
- Tools to carry on and formulate research questions
- Natural cultural discrimination with gender
- Efficiency approach "Women need development" to "Development needs women"
- Learnt and became aware about gender equality and equity
- Moser and Kabeer framework is new and interesting too, it is new to me
- Concepts of sex, gender and sexuality
- Third gender
- Concept of patriarchy and its manifestation
- Evolution of the gender component in development process
- Overview of concepts on gender, equity and analytical tools for understanding gender
- Economic aspect of the gender issue
- Gender, equity, sustainable livelihood frameworks and links to other sources
- Gender frameworks – the transformative potentials

Day 2

- Typical urban slum of India (Lotus colony). Settlements; living conditions; wash problems
- Feminist environmentalism, a new concept
- The relation of biomass, livelihood and gender
- Bio-physical, social and theoretical (eco feminism) aspects and also a wonderful field exposure
- Biochemical and social issues related to water at theoretical and practical levels
- Field experience on water issue
- Contribution of NGO in slum dwellers
- My first visit to the 'slums'
- Ownership and right of water
- Settlement of slum area and water and sanitation issue
- Reality of urban slum community
- Practical observation of slums community
- Interrelationship between water, women and equity
- Water distribution issues in slum area

- The complexities of water and issues around it.
- Scarcity of water they purchase on Rs. 50/- in 40 ltrs of water. Low sanitation
- Linkages between gender water and equity
- Equity- various dimensions, difficulties and strategies to address them
- Interconnectedness between VAW, access to water and sanitation ion urban slum
- Issues of power, powerlessness of women and access to water

Day 3

- Policy analysis process
- Policy gap in gender
- Analysis of policy implementation on gender issues
- Women and irrigation
- How to analyze the policies from gender and equity perspectives
- Some gender-analytical skills of policy
- Water policies of India
- Policy analysis and water policy
- Policy analysis and gender analysis
- Reading water policy critical analysis
- Policy analysis from gender and equity perspective
- Gender analysis of policies
- Policy analysis – with gender and equity framework
- Policy analysis through a gendered lens
- Pre and post 90's water policies
- Water in global level
- Context specific understanding is important

Day 4

- Sanitation overview of South Asia
- Broader to concentrated view/ impacts of water, sanitation and health
- Water and sanitation issue in South Asia region
- Water and sanitation policies and issues with particular reference to India and South Asia in general
- Toilets of the world, North-South debate
- Importance of sanitation and linkage with water, poverty, migration and exclusion
- Innovative experiences of gram vikas and gender analysis
- Aspects of sanitation and drinking water
- Different types of toilets in use all around world
- State of sanitation
- Gender and water supply
- Sanitation and hygiene from gender perspective
- Policy analysis and scale of water crisis
- Water sanitation and conditions of slums through documentary films
- Learnt a lot about different methods of sanitation and the greatness of its problems

Appendix 2 (b): Overall Evaluation

On Day 5, May 1, 2009 the last day of the workshop, participants were given a form to evaluate the entire workshop. The form contained 5 questions. The questions, along with a summary of the responses to each of these questions are given below:

What are the two positive points of the training?

- Cleared doubts about small issues that are often been neglected.
- An eye opener on issues related to GWE
- Mixed group of presentation
- In-depth theoretical orientation with exercises to link with field experiences (case studies)
- Holistic approach
- Training well organised
- Good organisation of the programme itself provided opportunity to know the broader theoretical concepts and practical experience from field.
- Training well managed
- Representation from various states of India and Nepal
- Accommodation was very good
- Interactive and participatory programme
- Group discussion was very useful
- Equal opportunity to each participant
- Good co-ordination
- Good coordination within the team
- Excellent blend of gender, water & equity. Good teaching methodologies.
- Importance of water in our life, livelihood and future use
- Taking us to urban slums for a field visit
- Vast diversity in the group
- Got gender, water and sanitation overview of South Asia
- Got knowledge on policy analysis from gender perspective which is useful for my organization
- Helped me look at water from a whole range of angles
- Gender sensitisation and equity issues discussed very well
- Analytical tool to mainstream gender in integrated water resource
- Situational update of gender and water
- Resource persons are wealthy in knowledge
- Training is informative and educative

What are the two limitations of the training?

- Group should not be permanent. It avoids the communication between participants
- Less time for discussion.
- Reduce the number of days of the training
- Need for icebreaking sessions and similar breaks in between sessions

- The time period may be stretched to 10-15 days, if possible to have deeper understanding
- Arrange more exposure visits
- Some of the lectures were one way. Can include an interactive mode.
- Lots of issues mentioned in short presentation in more cases
- There was very less time for discussion after the sessions. Increase the time for more discussion.
- Include some more case studies
- Provide handouts before starting the session

Ideas for taking this forward- how and where will you apply this training

- In my day to day behaviour
- In my research
- Change my behaviour
- Apply the learning in the office
- Programme Development
- National level policy advocacy
- Stakeholders dialogue at different levels
- Mobilise and advocate for policy initiative
- My responsibility is to influence gender policy into action
- Incorporate the learning to training programmes
- During my association with different projects, particularly livelihoods
- In teaching, research & training
- Networking among participants at professional and personal level
- Undertake projects with focus on gender and livelihoods
- Mainstream learning of the training in the office work
- In research work
- Day to day life for empowering women
- In the ongoing organisation program and on going academic research of IWRM/M/Sc
- Sharing and conducting training in different organization like academic initiative, government institute and civil society
- Knowledge sharing back to organisations and campus
- In my doctoral work

Suggestions for the organisers

- Organise regular training programmes for people from different regions so that they can have an idea on these subjects.
- Organise field trip in rural area as well.
- A list of reading material or specific reading materials can be mailed in advance especially to participants who have not worked on gender and/or water.
- Arrange more field exposures and increase number of exercises. Participants should present their works, achievements and limitations individually which will be benefited for all the participants. Do a follow-up after the training.
- Create alumni network for this training as well as of future trainers.

- Increase number of resource persons.
- Participants from the social activist working in the grassroots level should also be selected for the training.

Appendix 2 (c): Feedback participants on the chart papers (Day 5)

- New insights into gender issues will be applied in my job.
- Knowledge gained was very useful. I can do better now.
- Great mix of people, within countries and sectors.
- I learned a lot. It will have an impact on me and my organisation.
- This will make my class gender sensitive.
- Very useful, got new perspectives on GWE.
- Would like to take this into my projects henceforth.
- Masculinity also needs to be discussed.
- Exposure to rural water issues was very useful since I work on urban water issues. More discussion on equity is required, as well as some urban content.
- Very useful and well done programme; should be done more regularly.
- This is a very essential training for programme people.
- Please share with us a proposal that has good inputs on gender and equity in the water and sanitation sector
- Gender in watershed projects need to be highlighted; what should be the parameters to assess and develop an optimisation model?
- Will use the gender lens for my work and my life. Will devise a two day programme for the H& FW department for health personnel. Stress on the fundamentals is the USP of this programme. Approach is well thought-out and delivered. Subject experts were carefully chosen. Inter-personal experiences as part of this group helped us to understand better.
- We always thought gender is female stuff. We hire women visiting faculty to teach gender. I am going to let go my biases and study further.
- My mind has been opened up a lot. Planning and project development will be done in gender sensitive manner
- All the tools given here will be very useful. We will do better job of our work
- Exposure visit was very useful.

Appendix 3: Schedule of the Training Programme

Gender, Water and Equity Training

April 27-May 1, 2009, Mumbai

Jointly organised by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai; South Asian Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERs), Hyderabad, Gender and Water Alliance (GWA), and the Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune.

Venue: J.P. Naik Bhavan, ICSSR, Kalina Campus

Registrations: 9.30 am – 10 am

Day 1: Monday, April 27, 2009	
Introductory Session: Prof. Lakshmi Lingam, Dr. Anjal Prakash & Ms. Seema Kulkarni	
10 – 11 am	Introductions & expectations
11 – 11.30 am	Introduction to Programme & Objectives – Prof. Lakshmi Lingam, TISS About ‘Crossing Boundaries’ project & SaciWATERs – Dr. Anjal Prakash, SacWATERs Overview of the Programme – Ms. Seema Kulkarni, SOPPECOM
11.30 – 12	Tea break
Theme: Gender and equity – concepts & analytical frameworks	
Resource Person: Prof. Lakshmi Lingam	
12 -1 pm	Understanding Gender
2 – 3.30pm	Equity & Social Stratifiers
4 -5.30 pm	Key gender analytical tools
Day 2: Tuesday, April 28, 2009	
Theme: Water, IWRM and Equity	
(Water as a biophysical resource, equity and linking gender and water)	
Resource Persons : Mr. K J Joy and Ms. Seema Kulkarni	
9.15 – 9.30	Recapitulation of previous day’s session by Group 1
9.30 – 11 am	Ecosystems, IWRM and equity – Mr. K.J. Joy, SOPPECOM, Pune
11.30 – 1pm	Gender, Equity and Water sector – Ms. Seema Kulkarni
2 – 3.30 pm	Group work to study Gender and Water issues
4 pm	To depart by bus for field work
5 – 7 pm	Visit and interaction with urban poor communities to understand water issues (compulsory for all participants)

Tea Breaks are at 11 to 11.30 am and 3.30 – 4 pm on all days unless otherwise stated

Lunch break is from 1 – 2 pm

Day 3: Wednesday, April 29, 2009	
Theme: Policy review; Irrigation sector; policy analysis from a gender perspective	
Resource Persons: Dr. Sara Ahmed and Ms. Seema Kulkarni	
9 – 10 am	Recapitulation of previous day by Group 2 & Learning from the field based experience
10 – 11.30	Policy Perspectives on women, gender and water – Dr. Sara Ahmed, GWA
12 – 1pm	Gender & Irrigation: Sector overview – Ms. Seema Kulkarni
2-3.30pm	Reading water policy statements - Group work
4 – 5.30 pm	Gender analysis of Policies – Group Presentations – Facilitated by Dr. Sara Ahmed and Ms. Seema Kulkarni
Day 4: Thursday, April 30, 2009	
Theme: Drinking Water and Sanitation	
Resource Person : Dr. Anjal Prakash	
9.15 -9.30 am	Recapitulation of previous day by Group 3
9:30 - 11 am	Domestic Water supply and Women: Case of Maharashtra – Prof. Chhaya Datar, TISS
11.30 –1 pm	Sanitation Concerns in South Asia: From Rights to Reality - Dr. Anjal Prakash
2 – 4.30 pm	Reading & Group discussions on Water and Sanitation case study – Gram Vikas
4.30 –5.30 pm	Documentary Film
Day 5: Friday, May 1, 2009	
Concluding Sessions	
9 – 9.15	Recapitulation of Previous day by Group 4
9.15 – 11.30	Theme: Urban water: Policy Perspectives and Community Responses - Panel discussion Chairperson: Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich, SaciWATERs Speakers: Dr. Amita Bhide, TISS, Mr. Janak Daftari, Mumbai Paani Hakk Samiti & CORO community organisers
12 – 1 pm	Group work presentations
2 – 3 pm	Group work presentations
3 – 3.30 pm	Evaluations
3.30 pm	Concluding Session: Certificate Distribution – Prof. S. Parasuraman, Director, TISS Vote of Thanks – Prof. Lakshmi Lingam
4 pm	Brief Party