

Summary of the Portuguese language conference (in English)

OBJECTIVES

At this stage, the general coordinators requested in their introductory message reports of successful or unsuccessful cases on themes of "gender and water" known to the participants. Afterwards a dialogue was set up among the case reporters to widen the degree of information and experience sharing. This objective was partially attained for the sharing experiences item. We will return to the subject in the recommendations chapter.

Ten cases were described in our network, geographically one from Africa and the other nine from Brazil. We imagine that in the African as well as the Brazilian case, the situations reported are part of a universe of realities that may also occur in other geographic regions, whether or not in developing countries, that are distinguished by culture peculiarities and the way of life in the communities involved. The ten cases reported are summarized at the end of this document.

As a characteristic of the work culture in this part of the world, the moderator was asked to put on the network 08 messages outside the specific interest area of the meeting for two months to: announce events of interest on "gender and water"; an opportunity to circulate for an environmental protest about the installation of a polluting industry; an article published of interest for the general theme of women and their situation of little importance in the world today, in the vision of the authors, besides a TV program on the theme of water resources in Brazil. Thus, about 6% of the messages filled the screen with these subjects.

RESULTS OBTAINED

The origins of the ten cases were balanced for authorship, 60% of the reports came from researchers while 40% were the initiative of players in the water sector and civil society in general. Two of the 06 studies by researchers were carried out by men and 04 by women. From the total universe of the 10 reported cases, 04 were by males and the rest by females. The observation of the theme of women in relation to the rivers around their life environments was dominant, with the 06 cases of HATE OF THE RIVER (ÓDIO DO RIO), Santa Terezinha stream (CÓRREGO SANTA TEREZINHA), CEIVAP, PROJETO MANUELZÃO (PROJETO MANUELZÃO), WOMEN OF JEQUETINHONHA (MULHERES DO JEQUITINHONHA) and WOMEN FROM JACUNDÁ (MULHERES DO JACUNDÁ). Two cases showed negative sentiments, one regarding pollution of the waters - HATE FOR THE RIVER - while the other, WOMEN OF JACUNDÁ - expressed the emotions of revolt and loss caused by the wrong procedure by the authorities in resettling a population and of women whose lives were affected by the flooding for hydroelectric dam in the Brazilian Amazon.

From the reports presented in the other 04 cases linked to women's lives around rivers, the experience seems positive from an intelligent living with the water source and where some women today exercise their full citizenship after much experience and a hard life. Another point drew attention. In the carefully elaborated research study on water valorization, in the case of de-polluting Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, there was no concern nor any space given to the "gender and water" theme which shows the need to expand the diffusion of studies in this area to Latin America as a whole and especially to Portuguese-speaking countries. The same can be said of the study by CEIVAP in three Brazilian states in the Paraíba do Sul river basin. Latent potential for projects, in the future, could encourage new partnerships for this subject.

In the Brazilian semi-arid region the researcher Adélia Branco drew attention to the contrast in economies resulting from irrigated, therefore rich, areas, and other dryland agricultural areas that are also the most impoverished in the region. The research was limited to the analysis of the trio power, gender and water, and upset some old formulas of the Brazilian northeast where the man always appears as the strong one in the relationship in society and the woman as weak and

helpless. It is not quite like this in the reality of the research, where migrant women sustain economically their families of origin, therefore exercising leadership at a distance. There is further the case of the exercise of power by the well owners in the semi-desert area, where only a chosen set 'and friends of the king' have access in the case of the old well-known colonels in the Brazilian Northeast.

In the African experience, however, the exercise of power transcends the ruling legislation for equal conditions. In the report from the specialist, it is evident that there is still much prejudice and fear that the women reach, in the African case, a situation of water resource management and there are maneuvers by the men in the daily life of the communities to keep the women outside the power scheme in the more expressive areas of society in general. Is this just an African model or can we generalize it to other cultures?

Another relevant experience is the application of questionnaires on "gender and water" in a real-time meeting during a workshop at the Congress for water citizenship in Nogueira, Rio de Janeiro, with about

600 participants, to contact persons that do not usually use the Internet. From the analysis of the responses, it was clear that the theme 'gender' is still unknown to many, understood as a scientific vision by some or as a social question by others. The report is also interesting because many prefer training courses and learning through books, newspapers and magazines as well as radio programs instead of the Internet because of the difficulty of access to this system in many of the developing countries.

It is important to report the concept of water valorization seen from the point of view of an environmental commodity where, from its scarcity, the economist Amyra el Khalili points out that the price of water tends to fall and its value increases with the application of different elements that permit its re-use, rationing and re-processing. It is important to report aspects linked to the ethics of care, highlighted by Ninon Machado in the case of HATE OF THE RIVER, where the principle of protector-receiver could be encouraged.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is relevant to highlight the following points:

1. The concept of gender for Portuguese speaking countries is still unknown to many and little applied by others.
2. The wealth of the gender water relationship is little exploited in the reported cases.
3. Our network in the conference reached a public of more than 99% of "gender and water" collaborators, with inherent consequences and potentialities.
4. The low quantitative contribution and discussion of cases, if compared to the expectation of the international design of the project, can be explained by the conjugation of inter-related elements, such as:
 - a) Ignorance of the themes dealt with;
 - b) No time to dialogue on the net because of other commitments;
 - c) Little interest from some participants in releasing information who forget that sharing always enriches everyone;
 - d) Low perception of the "gender and water" relationship in the universities and organized society in general and in cases reported by other sources;
 - e) Potential for creating interest by the theme "gender and water" among the referred peoples, but some maturation time is needed for its absorption, as has been happening in other continents and cultures.
5. The insertion of gender and its equality in legislation in the countries still lacks coordination, because there is no assessment monitoring to measure progress, suggestion of public policies or action to divulge the theme in areas of scientific knowledge or in civil society daily life.
6. The need to increase access to information and training, through centers and areas that have reached another stage in "gender and water" interaction.

SUMMARY OF CASES REPORTED IN THE SECOND STAGE

01. HATE OF THE RIVER (message 165)

- *Locality*: outskirts of Greater São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
- *Objective*: report of the hate for the river felt by a woman in her statement to the case reporter;
- *Results*: collaborators help to demonstrate other technical ways and change the negative focus;
- *Success Factors*: none reported; Problems found: hate resulting from the pollution of the river from the people who live along it.

02. VALDETE FROM THE SANTA TEREZINHA STREAM (message 191)

- *Locality*: Velhas river basin, Belo Horizonte Minas Gerais, Brazil;
- *Objective*: report the positive feeling towards the stream
- *Results*: Escalation of Valdete's leadership, a woman from the region, who struggles to keep the river healthy;
- *Success factors*: perseverance, class struggle; Problems found: poverty and lack of conditions to bring up children at the beginning of life, success after 40 years of struggles;

03. CEIVAP WATER COURSE PROGRAM

- *Locality:* 9 municipalities in three Brazilian states, through which the River Paraíba do Sul runs - São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais, Brazil;
- *Objective:* environmental education for water resource management in the Paraíba do Sul river basin;
- *Results:* Training of 171 multiplier-teachers, training for 1800 multiplier students; implantation of 40 reference centers for water; partnerships with government, the private sector, universities and NGOs; CEIVAP institutional strengthening;
- *Success factors:* Hard work by the project implantation team and perseverance in maintaining performance, even under adverse conditions.

04. "GENDER AND WATER" RESEARCH IN A SEMINARY ON CITIZENSHIP BY WATERS- CREA

- *Locality:* Nogueira, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil;
- *Objective:* carry out real time questionnaire and interview at a conference on the theme to check the subject of collaborators who do not have the Internet;
- *Results:* gender understood through various matrixes, unknown to some, a biological science to others; interviewed collaborators preferred information through newspapers and magazines because they do not have Internet;
- *Success Factor:* Previous planning, questionnaire formulated by researchers, exemplary action in covering the event and data checking.

05. WATER, GENDER AND POWER: THE CASE OF THE BRAZILIAN SEMI-ARID REGION(message 195)

- *Locality:* The Brazilian semi-arid region, Pernambuco state, Brazil;
- *Objective:* discuss dogmas of the semi-arid society where the man is strong and the woman weak and submissive;
- *Results:* Through research, the reporter found the opposite when migrant women sustain and lead their families at a distance; power was shown in the well owners in the semi-arid region;
- *Success factors:* perseverance and the struggle to survive of the women who exercise power in their own way, when they act from a distance and become leaders, helped by class organs and the Catholic church.

06. MANUELZÃO PROJECT

- *Locality:* urban streams in greater Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil;
- *Objectives:* health, environment and citizenship through the work of the Rio das Velhas river basin committee, with 51 municipalities in Minas Gerais;
- *Results:* environmental recovery of stretches of the river basin and exercise of citizenship by its integrants with the character, Manuelzão, portrayed by the writer Guimarães Rosa;
- *Problems found:* in more than 20 years' militancy, social, environmental health and citizen formation problems are the most expressive;
- *Success factors:* action through the university that embraced the project with its researchers and local values that are expressive in terms of citizenship.

07. WOMEN OF THE JEQUITINHONHA VALLEY (message 217)

- *Locality:* Jequitinhonha river valley, Northern Minas Gerais, Brazil;
- *Objectives:* preserve the river and fish in the region;
- *Results:* through work of making clay cooking pots on the river banks, women manage to bring up their children, preserve the river and the fish in the region and also care for its beauty and conservation;
- *Problems found:* one of the poorest regions of Brazil, great courage and perseverance in these regional leaders;
- *Success Factors:* constant fight to maintain the project objectives.

08. THESIS ON THE VALORIZATION OF WATER IN THE GUANABARA BAY DE-POLLUTION PROJECT

- *Locality*: The bay surrounding the city of Rio de Janeiro and neighboring municipalities, Rio de Janeiro State, COPPE, UFRJ, Brazil;
- *Objectives*: Use water valorization as an instrument for environmental management;
- *Results*: creates mechanisms available to society to widen this process to other areas through directed research;
- *Problems found*: those common in this type of research, such as lack of systematized information and data monitoring;
- *Success factors*: skill in carrying out the research work.
There was no discussion from the perspective of gender.

09. WOMEN FROM JACUNDÁ (message 271)

- *Locality*: Edges of the lake created in Tucuruí by the hydroelectric dam with the same name, Pará state, Brazil;
- *Objectives*: according to the licensees, generate electricity for progress;
- *Results*: for the persons affected by the flooding by the lake and submersion of cities such as Jacundá, an endless struggle, in the hope of justice;
- *Problems found*: problematic resentment already in its second stage, not considering the financial, social and emotional losses of the people who suffer this type of unequal and unfeeling treatment in the name of perverse development that destroys lives and hopes.
- *Success factors*: none reported.

10. THE USE OF POWER: THE EXPERIENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE

- *Locality*: Mozambique, Africa
- *Objective*: report the relativity of having gender legislation in the laws of the country and its consequences;
- *Results*: when there is no greater awareness of role distribution in civil society the report from Mozambique exemplifies the use of defense mechanisms used by men through fear of the exercise of power by women on community work fronts;
- *Problems found*: women remain in an inferior position in African society through maneuvers made by men to prevent them from reaching decision-taking positions;
- *Success factors*: none reported.

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