

## Engendering District Planning: Experiences and Lessons from Udaipur

### The Background

During capacity development for district planning, emphasis is on introducing tools and methods that ensure that women, especially from the disadvantaged groups have an important role to play in the envisioning process as a whole for the district plan preparation. In that direction, the project is expected to demonstrate methods of gender sensitive and inclusive planning and to generate plans that prioritize the needs of excluded groups especially women which can then be funded, implemented and monitored.

### The Thrust

Preparation of gender sub plan is being considered as a first step in an effort to transform the prevailing social discrimination against women concurrently with increased direct action to rapidly improve the social and economic status of women. They are the tools to identify problems at local level and attempt to address them through making district plan gender sensitive. This intervention is being made in conformity with the ten-point guideline developed by the Planning Commission of India for gender-sub plan preparation. The following guidelines provide a framework for mainstreaming gender concerns in the district development planning process in order to improve the social, legal/civic, political and economic conditions of women:

1. Gender Orientation and sensitization of government and non-government stakeholders
2. Analysis of the situation of men /women and boys and girls
3. Spatial planning for micro level needs
4. An assessment of the extent to which the sector's policy addresses the gender issues and gaps described in the first step
5. Envisioning and participation of stakeholders
6. Good Setting and mainstreaming
7. Gender Appraisal of all new programmes and schemes
8. Preparation of gender sub plan
9. Monitoring whether the money was spent as planned, and how much of it was delivered to women
10. An assessment of the impact of the policy,project and schemes and the extent to which the situation was assessed in the stock- taking exercise has been changed

### The Strategy

Gender Sub-Plans are being prepared in all pilot districts of the UNDAF states. For engendering the district planning process, CDDP adopted the following strategy:

1. Gender Orientation and workshop for building capacities of district officials and local NGOs to prepare Gender Sub-Plans
2. Determining process and time-frame for draft District Gender Sub-plans
3. Consultations with women stakeholders prior to GSP formulation and seeking inputs from gram sabhas
4. Formulation of first draft of GSP based on inputs received and findings of evaluations or monitoring
5. Review and feedback on first draft of Gender Sub-Plan by technical experts and organizing follow-up workshops
6. Revising Gender Sub-Plan and getting it approved from the District planning Committee to become a part of District Plan

7. Discussing the modalities for operation and implementation of the Gender Sub-Plan
8. Community based monitoring and evaluation through gender impact analysis
9. Integrating and mainstreaming gender into the district planning guidelines
10. District specific tentative road map for integrating gender into district planning process

## The Process

Gender Sub-Plan process was initiated in Udaipur district of Rajasthan, which has miles to go before it can achieve MDG goals./ Rajasthan is epitome of women inequality which is historically suffering from low status of women, patriarchal society, feudal customs and values, social polarization along caste lines, high illiteracy and extreme poverty. Sex Ratio in Rajasthan was 921 in 2001 while juvenile sex ratio (0 to 6 years) was only 909 in 2001 that indicates a dismal picture of women in the state. Government data indicates violence against women in form of high maternal mortality, total fertility rate, high infant and child mortality rates, deteriorating sex-ratio, and juvenile sex-ratio in particular.



As a first step, towards achieving the goal of gender sensitive planning process in the district, a two days Training Cum Workshop on preparation of Gender Sub Plan was organized on 2nd and 3rd November 2010 at Udaipur to increase awareness and sensitize the district planners on gender issues and to enhance their capacities for preparation of Gender Sub-Plan.

The training was organized under CDDP project by UNDP with the support of State Planning Department, Rajasthan; the training was the first of its kind where preparation of gender sub plan process was unfolded. 50 officers from key departments of the Udaipur district attended the training workshop.

As a way forward, it was unanimously decided that major 20 department plans need to be clubbed into major sectors at the district level. A working group will be formed to brainstorm and finalize worksheet as per Planning Commission guidelines. After the initiation workshop, the key departments were divided into 5 major sectors and which met internally to decide on the strategy for developing a consolidated Gender sub plan under the supervision of Chief Planning Officer: Udaipur and District Collector. Working groups meetings were held on regular basis under the supervision of CPO, Udaipur. Such meetings served as a platform for sharing departmental concerns, supporting each other and planning together. Situational analysis of women/men; Si-s boys in each sector was conducted. Specific targets and goals related to women were identified for each sector. Gender sensitive SMART indicators were developed for different indicators. Assessment of the relevant legislation, policies, programmes and schemes related to women was done.

The working groups shared their sections in March 2011 and consolidated to make a Gender sub plan of Udaipur for the year 2011-12, which has been finally made and incorporated in



the district plan of Udaipur. The district plan chapter highlighted some general gender issues with its analysis. On the gender front, it was identified that Udaipur faces several issues like imbalance in child sex ratio, low Sex ratio at birth, low female literacy rate, particularly that in tribal communities, gender disparity in anemia, higher risk of death of women in reproductive age, gender differentials in IMR and violence against women.

*-Udaipur shows a negative change in sex ratio between 2001 and 2011 Census data. Sex ratio at Birth for Udaipur as per census 2011 is as low as 849. Child Sex ratio of the District has fallen from 948 to 920 between 2001 to 2011. Female literacy is only 49 percent*

### **Lessons Learnt**

Four major challenges faced during the implementation of this initiative are:

1. Integration of gender works best if it is bottom up process involving grassroots stakeholders such as gram sabhas, communities, self-help groups and NGOs
2. Efforts have to be made to make officials realize integrating gender in the planning process means making sufficient space for women in the current planning process itself. The objective is to do need based planning for women rather than allocating a specific amount for women as being done through Women Component Plan
3. Lack of availability of sex-disaggregated data at the district level proved to be a big hurdle in the development of effective district plan. Sex-disaggregated data helps in finding out the conditions of women and in tracking the impacts of schemes and policies on women. It also helps in allocation of resources in an equitable manner
4. Fourthly, instructions from higher officials have little impact as it is usually seen as someone else's responsibility and burden. Unless and until district officials don't own up to this initiative, it is very difficult to sustain this process

In order to capitalize on and upscale this initiative, sustained efforts are required to deepen the process of mainstreaming and integrating gender in the district planning process. Women should be part of all stages of planning like monitoring; evaluation etc. It is only then the planning processes can be engendered and made inclusive.

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