

Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Trade and Development Activities

Why, When and How

Lessons Learned from Past Experiences:
LDC-III and Gender"

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Why ?

+ 50 %
of the population

+ 50 %
of the poorest

In parts of Africa women grow as much as 80% of the food

spend nearly 3 X as much time in transport activities and transport 4 X as much in volume

perform 2/3 of the world's work Against 1/10 income

Owen -1/100 of world property

Why ?



- Agriculture employs 70-90% women
- Agriculture contributes 30-40% of GDP

World Bank Report 2000

Female headed households are becoming ever more common.. Common as a result of war, civil unrest, aids, male migration , ...

Why ?



Where women have more control over the income of the household the pattern of consumption tends to be more child-focused and oriented to meeting the basic needs of the household.

Microfinance Experience



Why ?

Countries that promote gender equality have lower poverty rates, faster economic growth and less corruption than countries that do not.

World Bank Report, 2000

Why ?

"Women are one of Africa's hidden growth reserves, providing most of the region's labour, but their productivity is hampered by widespread inequality in education and access. Thus gender equality can be a potent force for accelerated poverty reduction."

World Bank Can Africa Claim the 21st Century

Why ?

"governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programs, so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively".

Beijing 1995

When ?

What better time than when poverty reduction and development of LDCs is on top of the national and international development dialogue;

What better time than when political commitment is waiting decision makers conviction to translate into action;

How ?

Focus objectively on economic efficiency

Draw on facts, figures & Substantive analysis

Involve both men & women Opinion & Decision makers

Credibility
Political
Financial
And
Management
Support

Lessons Learned

To earn credibility for the role of Gender in Trade and Development more needs to be done in substantiating the linkages through research and analysis leading towards evidence based policies regarding globalization and trade negotiations.

Lessons Learned

Promote partnerships & look for synergies

Avoid being perceived as a women activists pursuing rights & privileges for the privileged women;

As a women dealing with the issue of gender remain factual & rational and not emotional & frustrated;

Don't forget

Achieving gender equality is not possible without changes in men's life as well as women's.