

Training on IWRM in Perspective of Gender and Climate Change

Venue: Khulna Press Club

Date: April 20, 2013



Initiative for Right View (IRV)
20/2 Miyapara Main Road, Khulna

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IWRM Concept

IWRM is a coordinated development approach of water, land and related resources to face the growing competing demands for finite freshwater supply without compromising the sustainability of environmental systems. Policy makers, analysts, international organizations and governments have sought consensus on prioritized key principles of IWRM include:

- Water should be treated as an economic, social, and environmental good.
- Water policies should focus on the management of water as a whole
- Governments should manage water resources by the provision of integrated water policies and regulatory frameworks.
- Water resources should be managed at the lowest appropriate level.
- Women should be recognized as central to the provision, management and safeguarding of water.

The application of IWRM can assist in addressing the:

- Need for improved water governance and for increased coordination and collaboration among various water sectors
- Potential competition and conflicts among different stakeholders from all sectors and among individuals, communities, and governments.
- Environmental degradation that is threatening all life on the planet.
- Gender and social disparities in terms of equitable access to and control over resources, benefits, costs, and decision making between women and men.
- Need for sustainable water resources development as a key to poverty eradication.

Gender and IWRM

Generally gender is associated with unequal power and access to choices and resources. Gender mainstreaming is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men can benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.

Previously developed policies addressed the needs of poor women entirely in the context of their role as wives and mothers. Women were passive recipients of benefits. Water and sanitation services were defined in the context of health care and hygiene, which were seen as women's responsibilities.

Therefore a gender perspective in IWRM is necessary for a variety of reasons:

A project is more likely to achieve what planners hope it will achieve if women and men (both rich and poor) are active participants and decision makers.

Social and economic analyses are incomplete without an understanding of gender and social differences and inequalities. With a gender analysis, planners gain a more accurate picture of communities, natural resource uses, households and water users. Understanding the differences among and between women and men (who does what work, which makes which decisions, who uses water for what purpose, which

controls which resources, who is responsible for different family obligations, etc.) is part of a good analysis and can contribute to more effective results.

In Bangladesh, Water-related hazards, such as early flash floods, can damage not only the fields producing crops, but also food stores and processing equipment, driving up the prices of food staples. Any disruption in food supply impacts a woman's ability to make a living from existing resources. Women's lack of mobility also limits alternative strategies for coping with stress on family resources, especially if she is the head of household.

Without specific attention to gender issues and initiatives, projects can reinforce inequalities between women and men and even increase gender disparities. Projects and programmes often bring new resources (training, tools, technology, etc.). Whether someone is male or female can influence whether he or she can take advantage of these opportunities. Programmes need to enable both women and men to benefit equally from water initiatives. An initiative can also serve to reinforce existing inequalities, even when there may be opportunities to help support people's efforts to build more equitable societies and economies. The importance of specific attention to gender and diversity issues is all the more critical given the generally low profile of these issues among many water professionals.

To ensure that the analysis increases the positive impacts of water programmes and that the overall objective to support the advancement of women is reflected in all IWRM initiatives, the following should be considered:

- Incorporating the insights from the analysis into project design. Women's views should influence the priorities and objectives of the initiative.
- Giving importance and recognition to women's responsibilities and views in planning.
- Making links to key expected results of the initiative. There should be a clear analysis that links [the] gender analysis to the overall objectives of the project.
- Identifying concrete objectives. During the project design phase, objectives relating to gender equality should be clearly specified.
- Developing indicators to track success towards meeting the results. General indicators should be disaggregated on the basis of sex there should be a breakdown between women and men.

The global environmental crisis, growing poverty in urban and rural areas, and continued gender inequalities all point to the need for a different governance approach to water use and management. Applying this approach requires cohesion among the different institutions, policy, and regulatory frameworks and deliberate measures that take account of environmental sustainability and an intersectional analysis. Gender in this context is not a sufficient point of analysis without also considering intersecting identities of race, class, caste, ethnicity, age, ability, and geographical location.

Both women and men should be recognized as central to the provision, management and safeguarding of water.

- Campaigns to reduce water wastage should target men and women and especially industries and institutions that waste water.
- Women's skills and knowledge are crucial for the effective and efficient management of water.
- More attention is needed to control pollution and to improve water quality and sanitation for the benefit of women who collect domestic water and to improve health.

Concern for environmental sustainability

Due to distinctive engagements of men and women with the natural environment, women's experience and knowledge around the world are critical for environmental management. Using a gender perspective

and enabling the integration of women's knowledge of the environment will increase the chances of environmental sustainability.

Mindanao, Philippines Lake used to generate electricity was silting up from deforestation and soil erosion. There was a need to reduce soil loss and to engage local institutions in monitoring soil loss and soil recovery. Both men and women farmers were brought in to monitor the water without much success. The project then determined that women were more interested in health issues than soil loss. As women learned about how water quality affected the health of their families and the program expanded to include monitoring for *e coli* bacteria, women became interested and participated. This led to their further engagement in a wider range of environmental activities. Ultimately, the community's involvement led to positive outcomes, such as an increase in the adoption of soil conservation techniques by both men and women farmers.

Concern for gender equality, equity and empowerment

Without specific attention to gender issues and initiatives, projects can reinforce inequalities between women and men and even increase gender disparities. Programmes need to enable both women and men to benefit equally from water initiatives. Gaps between rich and poor women can often increase as a result of development interventions. Proper initiative can serve to reinforce existing inequalities, even when there may be opportunities to help support people's efforts to build more equitable societies and economies.

Water, especially crisis of fresh water has become intensely alarming in southwest region of the country. Natural and manmade crisis made the situation further worse. In such a situation, with the cooperation of Bangladesh Water Partnership, Bhairab River area Water Partnership, Initiative for Right View (IRV) and Bangladesh Women Water Network organized a workshop on April 20, 2013 at 9.00 am in VIP lounge, Khulna Press Club on Integrated Water Resource Management in Perspective of Gender and Climate Change to raise public awareness and increase skill. The program was divided into two parts.

Inaugural Session:

The inaugural session was chaired by Ms. Zakia Akter Hossain, Executive Director, Banaful and chief guest of the Workshop was Dr. Tarun Kanti Sikder, Director, Department of Environment, Khulna. Among the special guests Dr. Salma Begum, Professor, Environmental Science Discipline, Khulna University, Mr. Maqbul Hossain Mintu, President, Khulna Press Club, Begum Shamsunnahar, Gender and Development Specialist and Coordinator, Bangladesh Women Water Network (BWWN) and Mukta Akter, Assistant Executive Secretary, Bangladesh Water Partnership were present.



At the beginning of the workshop inaugural speech was delivered by Marina Juthi, Associated Coordinator, IRV. She welcomed everyone and shared that water is an essential and precious issues. We use water for all of our regular affairs. But the availability of fresh drinking water has been decreasing. As a result IWRM became the most bringing talk all over the world. It includes gender and climate. Clity like Khulna, the southern metropolis of Bangladesh, has been identified as one of the 15 most vulnerable cities under climate change impact. Khulna is included in the report as one the most vulnerable coastal cities. The city is home to around 1.3 million people. Among the especial guests Dr. Salma Begum, Professor, Environmental Science Discipline, Khulna University, said that There is integrated relation among woman and water. Climate change also play vital role in perspective of water management. She also said that Disasters are frequent phenomenon in Bangladesh which poses multiple threats to people. Climate

change contributes to increase frequency and severity of **disasters** with adverse impacts on humans, natural ecosystem and human survival. There is also evidence that the peak intensity may increase by 5% to 10% and precipitation rates may increase by 20% to 30%” (IPCC 2001).

Mr. Maqbul Hossain Mintu, President, Khulna Press Club shared that climate change has been affecting our day to day life. Natural disaster has been increased, increasing salinity damaging our agriculture. As an agricultural country we are very much depended on water for irrigation. So integrated water resource management is very essential. Begum Shamsunnahar, Gender and Development Specialist and Coordinator, Bangladesh Women Water Network (BWWN) emphasized on the participation of women in water management. Government should come forward and take active role in perspective of Gender and Development. She said that for proper water management IWRM is very effective. A gender perspective in IWRM is necessary for a variety of reasons. Involving both women and men in integrated water resources initiatives can increase project effectiveness and efficiency. Social and economic analyses are incomplete without an understanding of gender and social differences and inequalities. With a gender analysis, planners gain a more accurate picture of communities, natural resource uses, households and water users.

Mukta Akter, Assistant Executive Secretary, Bangladesh Water Partnership said that Water is the common problem in the world. Climate change is the new phenomena for water crisis. Climate change mainly refers to temperature rise, other associated changes may include, precipitation, humidity and evaporation etc. We believed that if we implement our project or program as per our national policy then proper water management will be possible.

As chief guest Dr. Tarun Kanti Sikder, Director, Department of Environment, Khulna shared that we need water every where. If we think we need lot of water procuring paddy or meat and for other kind of product. In terms of estimation of Water Demand the people of villages mostly use water for drinking, cooking, washing, bathing, livestock, and irrigation. We should be conscious taking our food. We should make proper utilization of water also. Climate change also changing our livelihood. It increases the natural disaster. Our water is better managed when women and men make decisions together in the changing environment. Giving thanks at last the chair Zakia Akter Hossain, Executive Director, Banaful closed the inaugural session.

Technical session

In the technical session Begum Shamsun Nahar (Gender and Development Specialist and coordinator Bangladesh Women Water Network) conducted training on "Integrated Water Resource Management in Perspective of Gender and Climate Change". She discussed the basic themes along with role of government, government policies on gender and water and principles and implications of IWRM. The training gave special attention to create a network of women from grass root to national level to ensure equal partnership of men and women in water management which can provide sufficient water at all level from under privileged to rich people of the community.



Outline of the training was

1. Gender and Development

- Gender concept
- Definition of Gender

- Mainstreaming Gender
- Role of Government in Gender and Development

2. Integrated Water Resource Management

- Objectives
- Gender and Water and Government Policy
- Principle of IWRM and Gender Implications
- Framework of IWRM Bangladesh approach
- Gender, Water and Network

Mukta Akter, Assistant Executive Secretary, Bangladesh Water Partnership conducted training on skill development on gender and climate change in perspective of Integrated Water Resource Management. She emphasized on water use in agriculture and domestic reasons, accessibility of men and women in water. Also she discussed on social determinants of power by which accessibility of men and women in water is determined. She mainly emphasize on

- 1. Gender Water and Networking (What and Why)**
- 2. Climate Change**

Salma Begum(PhD), Professor Environmental Science Discipline, Khulna University presented on Gender & Climate Change Aspects of IWRM. In her augural speech she discussed on the related basic themes of gender and climate change and discussed how water management is affected by gender role. She emphasized that water resource is better managed when men and women take decisions together on the issues like Rainwater management in Agriculture, Irrigation, Groundwater, Fish etc. She facilitated on

1. Women and Water Relation in Perspective of Climate Change

Merina Juthi, Associated Coordinator, Initiative for Right View (IRV) conducted training on community participation on the water management of south-west region. She discussed about conservation of natural sources of water, proper management of alluvium, bottom up approach in decision making, public participation, and implementation of indigenous knowledge etc issues. Also she emphasized on community participation in project design and implementation, local favor on salinity and non-salinity, national water policy and existing reality. Her training mainly based on



1. Water Management and Community Participation in Perspective of Southwest Region

- Efficient management and sustainable development of Water Resource for Multiple use
- Water Resource Management and Cross Sectoral Issues
- Appropriate Approach to Water Management

In this workshop, Water Management Group of Bangladesh Water Development Board and members of Water Management Cooperative Society of Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) also participated.

Reported by: Marina Juthi, Associate Coordinator, Initiative for Right View (IRV)