

TRAINING COURSE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)¹ is a manifestation of the determination of the peoples of South Asia to work together towards finding solutions to their common problems in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding. The objective of the association is to accelerate the process of economic and social development in Member States through joint action in the agreed areas of cooperation.

Towards this end, the SAARC member states recognized that Human Resource Development (HRD) is one of the means of realizing these objectives and established the SAARC Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC) in 1998 in Islamabad, Pakistan with the objective to harness the resources and capabilities within SAARC region in addressing the specific and shared concern of countries. Recognition of the need to improve the status of Women and to promote their potential role in development, Governing Board of the SHRDC identified Gender and Development is an area for promotion of HRD in the region.

Women in South Asia may work from dawn to dusk, but their economic contribution is scarcely acknowledged at the national level and their access to health, educational and other facilities lags far behind that of men. The overall picture of gender-related development is poor in South Asia². Nonetheless, there have been a number of improvements to women's lives in the past twenty years in the South Asia. For example, female life expectancy is increasing; more girls are going to school; more women are in the paid workforce; and, countries in the South-Asia have introduced laws to protect

¹ SAARC comprises seven countries of South Asia, i.e., Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

² Human Development in South Asia 2000: The Gender Question, Mahbub ul Haq Human Development Centre, Oxford University Press, Karachi, Pakistan, 2000

women's rights. In spite of this, much is required to be done to reduce the gender gap and achieve greater improvement in women's social, economic and potential status. The women are isolated, unorganized and constrained by socio cultural and legal structure that restricts their access to resources and their control over their own lives. There is a growing realization that the regional forum like SAARC should do something to boost up the lives of women of South- Asia. In this context, as a continued activity, the SHRDC is conducting a training course on Gender & Development (GAD) from 6-19 October, 2003 with an ultimate aim of imparting knowledge to the gender and development related functionaries to make them able to raise the lives of women in South –Asia directly or indirectly through sustainable plans, policies, programs and strategies.

OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of the training program is to strengthen the abilities of participants to carry out critical analyses regarding the conceptualization of broad area of gender issues; to evaluate gender policies from various feminist and gender analytical position to enable them to understand the process of mainstreaming gender analysis for development and to launch practical programs accordingly in this field. The specific objectives are to:

1. Sensitize the participants on issues of Gender and Development;
2. Contribute to identify, assess and manage gender issues in different environments;
3. Develop a clear understanding of women's role as a change agent in socio-economic activities;
4. Enable gender aware practitioners in key institutions to undertake the task of training others in gender analysis and development

APPROACH

The training program on Gender and Development has been structured in a way to sensitize the participants regarding the importance of Gender and Development, deepen and update the knowledge and understanding on the issues of Gender and Development, Gender Analysis, Gender Mainstreaming Framework, appreciation the process of making governance gender responsive etc. The following would be the Training Modules:

- I) Basic Concepts, Dimensions and Issues on GAD;
- II) Gender and Development in the SAARC region or SAARC initiative on Gender and Development;
- III) Gender Sensitive Programming;
- IV) Making Governance Gender Responsive;
- V) Gender Analysis and Gender Analysis Frameworks; and
- VI) Mainstreaming Gender Considerations in Development.

METHODOLOGY

Training methodology includes lectures by resource persons followed by discussions, case studies, country report presentation by the participants, and experience sharing. Field visits will also be arranged for the training purpose. All the audio visual aids like multi media projector, slide projector, overhead projector, flip chart, and board etc will be used for the training program.

EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE TRAINING

At the end of the training program the participants will be able to:

- Develop knowledge on the concepts of Gender and Development;
- Develop skills in using analytical tools to assess, plan, and evaluate development programs from a gender perspective;
- Understand Gender Analysis Frameworks and Tools;
- Explain that taking gender into consideration as a critical variable leads to a better understanding of development processes and outcomes, and that gender is an indispensable variable in addressing both rural and urban poverty and other related issues like health, nutrition and education and
- Understanding and the appreciation of the process of making governance gender responsive.

PARTICIPANTS

This training course is primarily meant for the mid level functionaries, trainers/ professionals from government, semi-government organizations and NGOs working in the field of Gender and Development related training, planning and development, policy analysis and advocacy of the SAARC Member States. There will be 25 participants in total- 3 each from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and 7 from Pakistan (being the host country).

DATE AND DURATION

Duration of the training program is two weeks. It starts on 15 September , 2003 and will end on October 19, 2003.

VENUE

SAARC Human Resource Development Centre, Chak Shehzad, Islamabad.