GEN 214: Introduction to Development Studies

Module 5: Gender and Development

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Key concepts

Gender and Sex

Sex	Gender
Sex is biological (natural)	Gender is socio-cultural (man-made)
Refers anatomical difference and similarities between men and women.	Refers to socio-cultural construction of sexual difference (masculine and feminine qualities, behaviors pattern, roles and responsibilities).
No variation from culture to culture or time to time	Gender is variable, it changes from time to time, culture to culture, even family to family
Cannot be changed, except with the medical treatment.	Gender can be changed , since social values and norms are not static

Source: Bhasin (2014)

Gender and Sex (cont.)

Example

Sex	Gender
Only women can give birth. Only women can breastfeed.	The expectation of men to be economic providers of the family and for women to be caregivers is a gender norm in many cultural contexts

- Sex roles: naturally fixed
- Gender roles: differ from place to place, change with time

PRACTICAL POINT

At birth, the difference between boys and girls is their **sex**;

as they grow up society gives them different roles, attributes, opportunities, privileges and rights

that in the end create the **social differences** between men and women.

Exercise

Challenge	S	G
Women give birth to babies, men don't	✓	✗
Girls are gentle, boys are rough	✗	✓
Bangladesh garments workers, women are lower paid than male wage	✗	✓
Men's voices break at puberty; women's do not	✓	✗
There are more women than men in the caring professions such as nursing	✗	✓
Men are susceptible to prostate cancer, women are not.	✓	✗

Gender Roles

- Allocation of different roles, responsibilities and tasks to women and men based on **societal ideals** of what men and women **should do and are capable of doing**.
- Different tasks and responsibilities are assigned:
  - according to their sex-gender roles
  - Not according to their preference or capabilities.

- Gender Division of Labour

Productive work	Both women and men
Community work	Both women and men
Reproductive work	Primarily by women

- New division of Labour

Men

Assigned:
modern cash economy

Women

Assigned:
- **domestic**
- **subsistence**
- **informal sector of economy**

Patriarchy

- System of male authority which oppresses women through its social, political and economic institutions.
- It is a social system in which the role of the male as the primary authority figure is central to social organization, and where **males hold authority over women, children, and property** (Walby, 1990)

Patriarchy (cont).

Manifestation of patriarchy

- **Son preference :** no control over fertility or reproductive rights
- **Food distribution:** discrimination against girls
- **Lack of access:** education, resources, property, inheritance, mobility (restriction)
- **Exclusion:** power , politics, autonomy over her own life
- **Violence** against women

According to UN
"Women do more than
60% of the hours of work done in the world,
but they get
10% of the world's income and own
1% of the world's property

Gender Blind

- Failure to recognize that the roles and responsibilities of women/girls and men/boys are often determined by gender, which can affect quality of life.
- Gender blindness can be harmful.
- It can further gender inequalities because it ignores historical differences between people of different genders.

Gender awareness:

- Understanding that socially and culturally determined differences between **girls/women** and **boys/men** based on **learned behavior** affect their **ability to access** and **control resources**.
- Aims: gender-related challenges (violence against women, gender pay gap)
- Provide evidence on **gender equality**

Gender balance (or gender parity)

- The equal participation of women and men at all levels of an organization and in all areas of work.
- equal opportunities and access in all the institutions of the society: religion, economy, education, culture, polity.
- ensure equal representation and participation

Gender equality

- Equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for everyone, regardless of their sex
- Rights, opportunities, and access to society are not different based on their gender
- Their interests, needs, dreams and priorities are valued equally
- How can we make gender equality a reality?
  - Awareness
  - Education
  - Legislative support

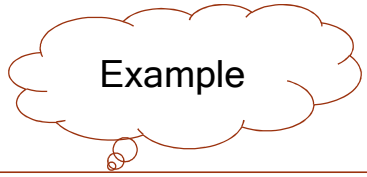
Example

A family has limited funds, and both daughter and son need new pair of shoes for the new school year, but only one can get new shoes this year. If the family decides (and who in the family decides?) which child will get the new shoes based on the child's NEED, and not on the child's sex,

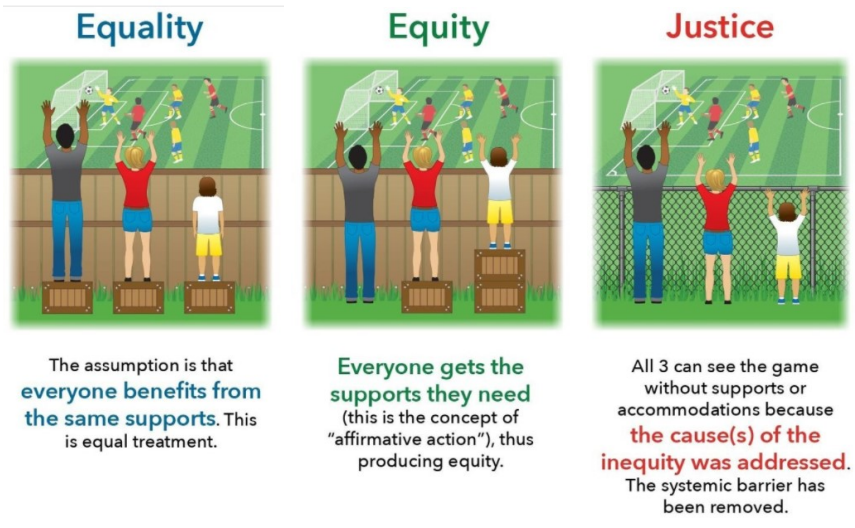
"this is an example of gender equality"

Gender equity

- Justice and fairness in the treatment of women and men in order to eventually achieve gender equality
- **Equal treatment**, or treatment that is different but which is considered **equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations** and **opportunities**.
- Maximize an **individual's choices** in all aspects of life.



Provision of leadership training for women
or
establishing **quotas for women**
in decision-making positions
in order to achieve
the state of **gender equality**.



Source: https://www.mobilizegreen.org/

Important point!

Equ(al)ity

equality=the end goal

equity=the means to get there

- Equity leads to equality!
- Equity means that there is a need to continue taking differential actions to address historical inequality among men and women and achieve gender equality!
- Gender equality implies equal enjoyment of rights by man and women.

Gender mainstreaming

- Systematic integration of the respective **needs**, **interests** and **priorities** of men and women in all the organization's policies and activities.
- **Rejects** the idea that gender is a **separate issue** and something to be tacked on as an afterthought.
- Means to achieve the goal of **gender equality**.
- Gender mainstreaming makes **public interventions** more effective and ensures that **inequalities** are not perpetuated.

- How Gender Mainstreaming is done?

  - Policy design
  - Decision-making
  - Access to resources
  - Procedures and practices
  - Methodology
  - Implementation
  - Monitoring and evaluation

Three distinct theoretical paths

A. Women in Development (WID)

Integrated women in the development process (economic; legal ; admin; and productive system)

B. Women and Development (WAD)

- Emerged from a critique of the modernization theory and the WID approach in the second half of the 1970s.
- Focuses on relationship between women and development process

Theoretical paths (Cont.)

C. Gender and Development (GAD)

- Alternative to the WID
- Approach developed: 1980s.
- Offers a holistic perspective looking at all aspects of women's lives.
- It questions the basis of assigning specific gender roles to different sexes

Approaches to gender and development

- Welfare approach (1950s onwards)
- Equity approach (1970s)
- Anti-poverty approach (1970s)
- Efficiency approach (1980s)
- Empowerment approach (1990s)

Approaches to gender and development

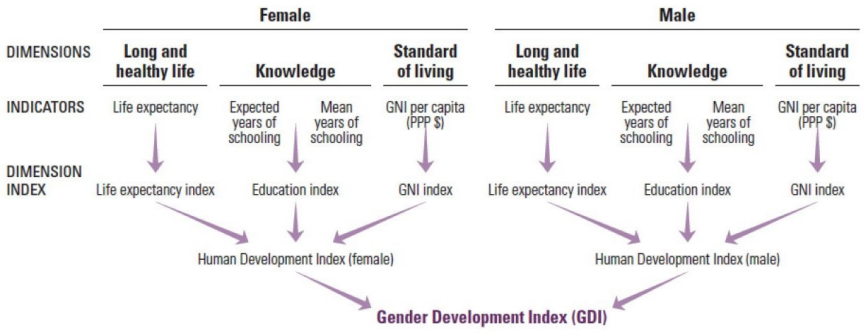
- **Welfare approach**
  - Focus on poor women, mainly in the roles of wife and mother. Population control – causes poverty. This was the only approach during colonial periods, and was favoured by many missionaries
- **Equity approach**
  - Focus on equality between women and men and fair distribution of benefits of development. UN advocacy and women's civil and political rights (UN decade for women (1976-1985). Feminists working on 'gender equality'

Approaches to gender and development (Cont.)

- **Anti-poverty approach**
  - Women targeted as the poorest of the poor, with emphasis on income-generating activities and access to productive resources such as training and micro-finance
- **Efficiency approach:**
  - Emphasis on need for women's participation for success, effectiveness of development; assumes increased economic participation will result in increased equity.
- **Empowerment approach**
  - Focus on increasing women's capacity to analyze their own situation and determine their own life choices and societal directions. likely to be most useful where a human development and rights-based approach to development predominates, or is desired.

Measuring gender

- A. Gender Development Index (GDI)
  - GDI measures gender gaps in human development
  - disparities between women and men in three basic dimensions of human development–health, knowledge and living standards using the same component indicators as in the HDI.
  - HDIs calculated separately for females and males using the same methodology as in the HDI
  - gender gap showing the female HDI as a percentage of the male HDI.



http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/gdi_2020.jpg

B. Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)

- Measure women's achievements in the economic and political spheres.
- Calculated by the UNDP

Three elements:

(a) political participation and decision-making
- share of parliamentary seats held by men and women

(b) economic participation and decision-making
- women and men's share of positions as legislators, senior officials and management
- shares of professional and technical positions

(c) power over economic resources
- estimated income figures for men and women.

International commitments and Global Campaigns

- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (2006)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/UNCRC) (1989)
- Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) (1946)
- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979)

Class work:

Dimensions of Gender Inequality and Discrimination in Bangladesh

Egyptian Women are ranked No. 1 in beating their Husbands

It is always reported that women are a victim of violence and abuse by their spouses (husbands). It is very common these days especially when anger and frustration prevails. No one gets acknowledged by the fact which is revealed by UN crime report. UN crime report statistics indicate that "Egyptian women are considered internationally number one in abusing and beating their spouses (husbands). In short Egyptian husbands are being targeted victim of their wives".[irp]

https://lifeinsaudiarabia.net/egyptian-women-are-ranked-no-1-in/

OrissaPOST

HOME STATE METRO NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS OPINION FEATURE TIMEOUT ENTERTAIN

Shocking! Indian wives rank third in beating their husbands

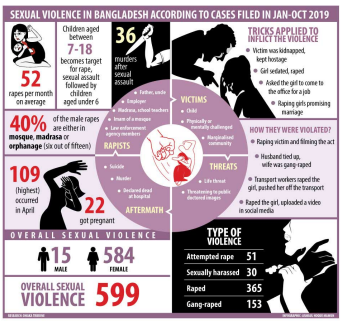
https://www.orissapost.com/shocking-indian-wives-rank-third-in-beating-their-husbands/

Girl throws acid on boy's face for 'refusing love proposal'

Jamalpur Correspondent*daily-bangladesh.com*

Published: 11:42 29 May 2019 Updated: 14:02 29 May 2019

https://m.daily-bangladesh.com/english/Girl-throws-acid-on-boys-face%C2%A0for-refusing-love-proposal/24000



https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2019/11/26/sexual-violence-against-women-hits-record-levels-this-decade

https://m.daily-bangladesh.com/english/25pc%C2%A0women-physically-tortured-by-husbands/37703

The victim is being treated at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital

https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/crime/2020/11/24/man-throws-acid-on-ex-wife-for-divorcing-him

- **Reference**

Willis, Katie. 'Environment and development theory' in *Theories and practices of development*. Taylor & Francis, 2011.

Bhasin, Kamla (2014): "Understanding Gender," Kali Press, New Delhi, India.