



Gender in Development



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- Historical overview of gender in development
 - Reveal the theoretical premises underpinning development work that does, or does not, address gender

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- Situation of gender at present:
 - Checklist
 - Irrelevant
 - Addressed, in a variety of ways



□ Trends that can be discerned:


- Gender as limited to the private sphere
- Gender and macro-policies as unrelated
- Gender as political agenda rather than core value




- Gender versus Development

Importance of Gender

- Welfare costs – health, education, psychological wellbeing
- Productivity costs
- Governance costs

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- Advancements:
 - Primary education
 - Labour
 - Life expectancy

But much ground yet to be covered...

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- Prior to 1970s
 - Work of Ester Boserup
 - Emergence of WID

WID – Women In Development

- Undergird by the views of liberal feminism
- Undergird by the modernization paradigm of development
- Projects catered for women – resource investment



□ Problems

- Unchallenged view of development
- Ignored triple role played by women: reproductive, productive, and communitarian agents.

WAD – Women And Development

- Influenced by dependency theories of development
- Emphasis on the **relationship between women and development**
 - Class structures highlighted
 - Women and men affected
 - Need change of economic systems




□ Problems

- No full scale analysis of process of patriarchy, production, female subordination
- Aggregation of women and men across classes
- Tension on resource allocation for women
- Preoccupation with women's productive roles
- Other social variables (race, ethnicity, etc) not considered

GAD – Gender and Development

- Influenced by socialist feminism
 - Cannot separate reproductive and productive
- Influenced by changing conceptualization of gender
 - Gender as socially constructed, therefore, changeable

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- Emphasis on how gender identities constructed – influence of other variables
 - Private/public dichotomy redressed
 - Highlights the role of the state
 - Focus on the **strategic** needs of agents
 - Patriarchal structures highlighted



□ Problems

- Easier to theorize than to apply



□ Points of note:

- No linear progression WID, WAD, GAD
- No homogenous application

Conclusions

- Importance of learning from errors
- Importance of multi-faceted understanding of development and gender
- The challenge of our new understanding
 - More research
 - Avoiding damaging effects



□ Gender

- Socially created
- Affected by other variables
- Affecting other variables