

GENDER AND WATER DIALOG

24 – 25 July 2008
Panorama Hotel, Kalutara, Sri Lanka



A lecture in progress



A group work in progress

WORKSHOP ASSESSMENT

Submitted to : Cap-Net Lanka

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WORKSHOP ASSESSMENT REPORT

Gender and Water Dialog

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This workshop on “Gender and Water Dialog (GWD)” that was held at the Panorama Hotel, Kalutara on 24-25 July 2008 was the 7th in the series of workshops organised by NetWwater (Network for Women Water Professionals) to create awareness on the importance of IWRM (Integrated Water Resource Management) at various levels with especial emphasis on gender issues. GWD programs have already been carried out in Ratnapura, Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Kurunegala, Kegalle, and Matale with the co-sponsorship of Cap-Net Lanka, a capacity building network for IWRM in Sri Lanka.

As the co-sponsor to the program, Cap-Net Lanka has entrusted the author to assess the effectiveness of the program in planning and executing and the impact/s that the programs had or can have in the respective districts.

This report attempts to summarise the post-workshop evaluation that was carried out in the form of a questionnaire survey (Annex I).

1. Summary

Nearly 50 officials from various government and non government organisations participated in the above two day non-residential workshop. The composition of participants in terms of gender and age were well balanced. However, the number of participants was little more than the expected number (40) by the organisers.

The workshop was held at a convenient location for the participants. The sessions had been chosen accordance with the need of Kalutara district (eg. flood, land slid, drinking water problem, etc.). The resource persons were drawn from relevant government departments and Universities.

A questionnaire survey was conducted among the participants at the end of the workshop to assess the various aspects of the workshop. Out of the (nearly) 50 participants 36 responded to the survey.

Given below is the extract from the workshop assessment form on the overall learning as felt by the participants.

	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
Overall, did the event meet your learning needs?	6	16	14		

It indicates that, on the one hand, the workshop has achieved one of its major objectives of making the participants aware of the IWRM issues and its applicability in their own context. Majority of the participants (61%) indicated the outcome of workshop as more than satisfactory in meeting their learning needs.

On the other hand, gender was felt as the least important issue in IWRM (please see section 4), indicating a serious laps in the approach towards the second major objective of the workshop.

The participants are keen in applying their new learning. They indicated that they are planning to take the following actions as a result of this workshop:

- Prepare an awareness program on water management for *grama niladharis* and *samurdhi niladharis* (grass roots level officials of the local government).
- Prepare an awareness program for people.
- Use the knowledge in project planning.
- Hoping to start a dialogue including gender and water management within the office community.
- Use the knowledge gained to modify our awareness program on minimizing the effect of flood to avoid disasters.
- Hoping to start program like this for villagers to improve their knowledge.
- I will try to aware the agriculture board on energy serving.
- I will try to improve the villager's knowledge to minimize environmental pollution.
- I will try to share this information with people who living around me.
- I will give my maximum contribution to supply clean water.
- By giving this information to my office members, I will try to reduce water pollution.
- As a field officer I can use the knowledge to aware the people on IWRM.
- I will try to give this information to my people to reduce disasters.
- Try to spread this information at village level.
- I can spread this information via department training program.
- This information can be used in my office work.
- Try to change the awareness program according to information given by this program.

Additional observations made:

- The audience was mixed in all aspects (discipline, age, gender, etc.) to provoke active participation.
- The, group was too big for the sessions to be audible. Particularly, the session on drinking water was not audible.
- Learning materials were high in quality and distributed in Sinhala.
- Session on gender was placed 5th in this workshop. It must be placed next to the session on IWRM.
- Gender issues were not incorporated in most of the sessions. Only the session on land slide made deliberate attempt to bring in gender issues.
- Method of delivery of certain sessions could be improved to be attractive and participatory. The session on flood was little monotonous.

2. Aims & Objectives

The Gender and Water Dialog (GWD) is a continuing program of Net Water supported by Sri Lanka Water Partnership (SLWP) and Cap-Net Lanka for promoting IWRM and gender mainstreaming while highlighting the need for a holistic approach to water resources management policy. It is designed to highlight relevance of gender issues on a district level and to draw attention of district administrators and policy makers to the importance of gender issues in water sector. GWD programs have already been carried out in Ratnapura, Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Kurunegala, Kegalle and Matale.

Specific objectives / expected outcomes

- Examine impact of water related issues, problems and constraints at district level from an IWRM perspective.
- Build local actor awareness on IWRM.
- Highlight importance of gender mainstreaming in water sector.
- Highlight the need for an integrated water policy.
- Add to GWD documentation process and eventual resource book.

The feedback from the assessment forms on achievement of the aim and objectives are listed below.

	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
Achievement of Aims and Objectives	8	18	10		

All who responded have felt that that the workshop has met all its objectives. However, the comments received from the participants and direct observations suggest that the concept of gender mainstreaming in IWRM was not well received by a considerable number of participants including women. Therefore, it is suggested to the organisers to pay more attention to this aspect as it is one of the core objectives of the workshop.

3. Target audience

The audience included nearly 50 officials from various agencies such as local government authorities, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Irrigation Department, Department of Agriculture, NGOs, media, etc. The number of participants were little more than the anticipated number by the organisers and majority of them remained until the end of the two day non-residential session. The composition of the participants in terms of age and gender was well balanced. The list of participants who have signed the attendance is given in Annex II.

Summarised below is the 'Relevance of workshop to their job' as stated by the participants.

	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
Relevance of workshop to your job	8	18	9	1	

As seen above, almost all the respondents felt that the workshop was very relevant to their working environment.

4. Workshop programme

The workshop agenda and the detail of the resource persons are given in Annex III and IV, respectively. Except for the discussions and group activities held at the end of the workshop, the method of delivery was non-participatory. Active participation reflecting their experiences could be observed during the discussions. The participants could incorporate the knowledge gained in analysing issues pertinent to Kalutara district.

Subject areas and objectives

Participants appreciated the content and delivery of the lecturers in general. Given the composition of the audience (relevance) and the method of delivery, the sessions on IWRM, land slide, climate change, flooding and natural disasters are some of the sessions that were well received.

Session on drinking water was not up to the expectation of the participants. At least six (06) out of 36 expressed their dissatisfaction on either the content or the method of delivery of this particular lecture. The voice was not much audible. Measures should be taken to improve the session as it is an important aspect of IWRM where gender could be easily incorporated.

Similarly, seven (07) out of 36 indicated that the session on gender was the least important aspect of the workshop. This clearly indicates that one of the major objectives or expected outcomes of the workshop has not been met. Therefore, measures should be taken to strengthen the "gender mainstreaming" component. Highlighting gender issues in IWRM with research evidences could convince audience of this nature without leaving room for arguments. In order to stress the importance of gender in IWRM, the session on gender should be placed second in the agenda, i.e. after introducing the concept of IWRM (it was placed 5th in this workshop). Furthermore, all other sessions also should attempt to incorporate gender issues. It was the session on "land slide" that attempted to bring in social issues including gender deliberately.

The following table indicates that the quality of materials and the visual aids used were more than satisfactory.

	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
Quality of sessions	7	17	11		
Quality of course material	8	17	9		
Use of visual aids	10	16	8		
Use of participatory teaching methods	6	20	10		
Help with problems during the workshop	5	18	11		

However the comments received from the participants suggest that there is room for improvement to meet their expectations.

Some of the comments received are listed below:

- “The water quality and problems” lecture should be handled differently. The method of delivery could improve.
- Coupling gender with water is not appropriate.
- Sessions should be more discussion oriented.
- Solutions for clean water management should be clearly discussed.
- Drinking water problems should be discussed further with better arrangement.
- A session on agriculture and environment should be included.
- Time management is very important.
- The program should be done at divisional level and all strata of the people should be able participate.
- The lectures should be developed by adding new advanced subject and practical matter.
- More practical programs should be added.
- Awareness program for villagers and school children need to be formulated.
- The titles should be change to motivate the people.

The following new topics were suggested for inclusion:

- Management aspects of clean water supply should be included (discussing the importance of water management only is inadequate).
- Protection of natural water bodies.
- Environmental effects of agro-chemicals.

Certain comments indicate that the expectations of the participants were more than mere awareness. They expect in-depth knowledge on certain aspects of IWRM. While this can be addressed by Cap-Net Lanka on the basis of the needs, NetWwater should make the workshop objectives clear to the participants from the very beginning. This will not only help to attract appropriate participants but also eliminate misunderstandings.

5. Strategy and Work Plan

- NetWwater collaborates with two major actors, Sri Lanka Water Partnership (SLWP) and Cap-Net Lanka in conducting this workshop.
- Topics covered such as flood, land slide and drinking water problem are accordance with the need of the district.
- Resource persons are drawn from relevant government departments and Universities.

6. Administration and resources

Administrative arrangements and resource allocations were made by the NetWater. As seen below, most of the participants felt that the arrangements were more than satisfactory. However there were concerns over the pre-workshop communication which needs to be addressed.

	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
Pre workshop communications	7	18	8	2	
Training room facilities	12	14	7	1	
Quality of translation					
Food / accommodation / location	7	18	8	1	

The resource input was minimal and the outcome was highly satisfactory, as most of the participants didn't have prior exposure to the concept of IWRM.

It is advisable to insist on pre-registration to avoid resource shortage due to over participation.

Objectives (gender and water) of the workshop should be informed to the prospective participants well in advance to avoid mismatch in expectations.

Efforts should be made to mainstream gender into the sessions.

It is advisable for NetWwater to conduct workshop assessment in its own to obtain feedback, both positive and negative from the participants. Also it is proposed to conduct follow up assessments to gauge the impact of the past workshops.

Cap-Net Lanka can utilise this forum to conduct training needs assessment in IWRM.

Author:

Date: 15 October 2008

Dr. S. Pathmarajah

Acknowledgement

First of all, I am grateful to Cap-Net Lanka for entrusting me with the task of assessing the 7th “Gender and Water Dialog” which was organised by NetWwater (Network for Women Water Professionals).

I am also thankful to NetWwater for all the logistic and other support in conducting this assessment successfully.

Finally, I appreciate the support rendered by Ms. Nadeeka Sewwandi and Mr. Buddhika Gunathilake of the Department of Agric. Engineering in translating and summarising the questionnaires.

Annex I



OVERALL FEEDBACK BY THE PARTICIPANTS

NAME OF WORKSHOP: Gender and Water Dialog (GWD)

DATE:

Kindly provide your comments on the quality of the workshop so that improvements can be made. Please indicate your level of satisfaction by ticking the boxes or by writing your views.

	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
Achievement of aims and objectives					
Relevance of workshop to your job					
Quality of sessions					
Use of visual aids					
Use of participatory teaching methods					
Help with problems during the workshop					
Quality of course material					
Quality of translation					
Training room facilities					
Food / accommodation / location					
Pre workshop communication					
Overall, did the event meet your learning needs?					

What action are you planning to take as a result of this workshop?

The best aspect of the workshop was:	The worst aspect of the workshop was:
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The workshop could be improved by:

Please suggest topics relevant to IWRM for future workshop or learning support:

Annex II

List of participants:

No.	Name	Affiliation	Phone
01	Damayanthi Perera	Deputy Provincial Director	034-2222440
02	MSR Cooray	Development Assistant	034-2243209
03	SP Ratnalila	AD/ Fisheries	034-2222482
04	Yogabandu Rajakaruna	HSO	077-3171639
05	KADD Seneviratne	EA / NWS&DB	034-2222278
06	Jayanda P	DE/ Water Board	034-2223777
07	D Rajapakshe	DS	034-2252415
08	IDGS Premachandra	ARPO	072-5620005
09	MGL Fernando	DEO	038-2290238
10	UWM Chandrala	DEO	071-6552053
11	HGA	DSO / ASC	038-2291026
12	WMDI	TO	034-2281700
13	TDA Weerasekera	Counsellor / WCC	072-3407066
14	Rasika Kiriella	DS / Horana	034-2261239
15	HMHN Kumaryhamy	Paddy Research / BW	034-2281673
16	PD Jayawardene	Paddy Research	034-2281673
17	CS Weerasinghe	Assist. DS	034-2222233
18	UDC Jayalal	DS / Beruwala	034-2276178
19	BGDS Weerasinghe	RO / RPRDC, BW	034-2281673
20	DK Jayasinghe	Irrig. Eng.	034-2237382
21	SPS Malinda.	Staff Assist	077-3438453
22	WM Sunathra	DO	038-2236690
23	SKN Fernando	Planning Assist.	034-2298412
24	A Dishanthi Rangika	Sewa Lanka Foundation	034-2231909
25	DG Kanthi	Samurthi Officer	034-2228529
26	M Indra Perera	DO / CEA	034-2221420
27	WN Silva	IE Office	034-2237382
28	H Wajara Chandra	Dev. Cor.	034-2298412
29	Ranjith Samaraweera	Social Service Officer	038-2232238
30	WJ Mendis	Director / DPS, Kalutara	034-2222621
31	Dharmadasa Perera	DD / DPS Kalutara	034-2222088
32	WK Wimalaratne	IEA / Agrarian	034-2222404
33	ML Upa lo	ASC	034-4922999
34	JMPA Jeewandara	Agrarian Officer	034-2272598
35	MV Somathilakke	DS	034-2251068
36	DSP	EA / NWS&DB	034-2222275
37	GAM Abeygoonawardna	AE / NWS&DB	034-2235196
38	DGH Senarath	AE / NWS&DB	034-2235196
39	HGGJ Dharmasena	DS Office	034-2269977
40	NK Champika Sri Kumar	District center	034-2232236
41	BAKPPeris	DS Office / Horana	034-2261239
42	SMD Senevirathna	Secretary / SLRCS	072-4162130
43	EH Janaka Chaminda	Media	077-7397347
44	Sunil S. Thanthiriarachchi	Media	072-6023181
45	Wijayasiri Vidyasekare	Media	077-3404753
46	Samson Premasiri	Media	071-4749667
47			
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Annex III

Gender and Water Dialogue, Kalutara

Agenda

Day 1 (24.07.2008)

0830 – 0900 Registration

0900 – 0930 Inauguration Ceremony and Welcome Address by Ms. Swarna Sumanasekera

0930 – 1030 What is IWRM? by Mr Missaka Hettiarchchi

1030 – 1045 Tea

1045 – 1145 Biodiversity and deforestation by Dr Deepthi Wickramasinghe

1145 – 1215 Discussion

1215 – 1315 Lunch

1315 – 1415 Landslides and water related disasters by Mr Sunil Jayaweera

1415 – 1515 Flood by Dr. Ranjana Piyadasa

1515 – 1600 Discussion

Day 2 (25.07.2008)

0900 – 1000 Gender and Water by Mrs Swarna Sumanasekera

1000 – 1015 Tea

1015 - 1115 Drinking water issues by Mr D.S.D.Jayasiriwardena

1115 - 1215 Climate change and its effects by Dr Champa Navaratne

1215 - 1245 Discussion

1245 - 1345 Lunch

1345 – 1600 Group work and Wrap up - Swarna and Champa

Annex IV

List of resource personals:

No.	Name	Affiliation	Phone
01	Ms. Swarna Sumanasekara	Former Secretary to the Ministry of Women Affairs (Gender)	
02	Mr. Missaka Hettiarachchi	Researcher Dept. of Chemical Process Eng. University of Moratuwa (IWRM, Wetland mgt.)	077-3709070
03	Dr Deepthi Wickramasinghe	Senior Lecturer Dept. of Zoology University of Colombo (Bio-diversity, Wetland mgt.)	072-2143400
04	Mr. Sunil Jayaweera	NBRO (Landslide, Disaster mgt.)	077-9202575
05	Dr. Ranjana Piyadasa	Senior Lecturer (Hydro- geologist) Dept. of Geography University of Colombo (Groundwater, Flood, Erosion)	071-4191581
06	Dr Champa Navaratne	Head / Senior Lecturer Dept. of Agric. Engineering University of Ruhuna (Climate change, Water mgt.)	077-9024013
07	Ms. Nadeeka Perera	Regional engineer NWS&DB Kalutara (Quality of drinking water)	
08	Dr (Ms) Indrani Gunawardane	NetWwater	071-4711105