

TRAINING MODULE



# POVERTY, INCLUSION AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING



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## **Community Mobilization**

*Training Module prepared and published by*

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1. What is poverty?
2. Poverty in India
3. Role of NGOs in poverty reduction
4. Understanding exclusion
5. Reasons for exclusion/barriers in women's participation
6. Defining participation
7. Ensuring participation in organization and programmes
8. Changes to start with
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# POVERTY, INCLUSION AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Understanding poverty, measurement, relevant efforts to remove poverty and challenges
- ▶ Understanding exclusion and addressing it
- ▶ Addressing gender and inclusion concerns through programme and organization

## AIDS REQUIRED

- ▶ Chart paper and pen/markers
- ▶ Computer/Laptop
- ▶ Projector and screen

## CONTENT

- ▶ Defining poverty, causes, approaches to measure
- ▶ Exclusion and inclusion
- ▶ What causes exclusion and how to address it
- ▶ Barriers to women's participation
- ▶ Participation as central tool for addressing exclusion and gender concerns

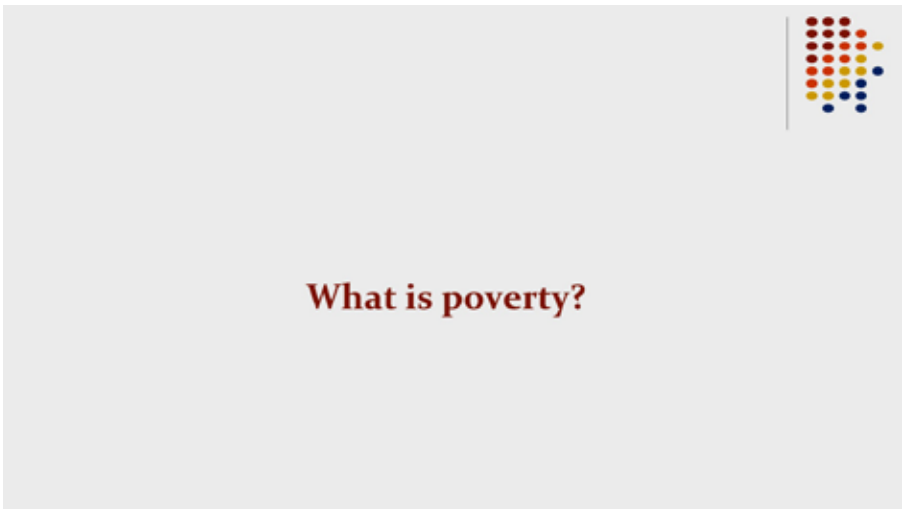
## SESSION PLAN

Sl.	Topic	Methodology	Duration
1	What is Poverty	Guided Discussion	10 minutes
2	Poverty in India	Presentation	10 minutes
3	Role of NGOs in poverty reduction	Presentation	10 minutes
4	Understanding exclusion	Exercise	10 minutes

5	Reasons for exclusion/ barriers in women's participation	Presentation	10 minutes
6	Defining participation	Presentation	10 minutes
7	Ensuring participation in organization and programmes	Presentation	20 minutes
8	Changes to start with	Group work followed by presentation	40 minutes

### 1. What is poverty

The facilitator can start the conversation by asking the participants on how do they define poverty. Typically the responses remain around basic facilities, education, health, home etc. the facilitator should draw their attention to lack of security & social life, isolation, lack of dignity, discrimination, freedom to express/speak does that fits within their definition of poverty? Then s/he should draw their attention to changing definition of poverty.







Poverty is a multidimensional problem  
with variety of factors reinforcing it



## Poverty

- Various ways to look at it
- Income
- Consumption and expenditure
- Calorific intake
- Multidimensional poverty

## 2. Poverty in India

### How many poor in India?




- Planning Commission (July, 2013)-220 million (21.9%) in 2011-12, reduced from 37% in 2004-05
- WB (2019)- poverty declined at fastest rate ever from 58% in 2011-12 to 37% in 2017-18
- RBI (2019)-22% Indians under BPL, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand poorest (45% BPL)
- NSSO, 75th Round (June, 2019), leaked data, consumption levels fell off during 2013-14 to 2017-18 both in rural and urban areas suggesting that poverty might have increased during the period
- Global MPI Report (2018), India lifted 271 million people out of MP during the period 2005-06 (635M) to 2015-16, however, there are still 364 million poor, Bihar poorest followed by Jhk, UP & MP, four have 196 M in MP, Muslims and STs reduced poverty the most, however, 50% of STs and 30% Muslims still in MP, half of them are children
- NCAER (Surjit Bhalla et al, Feb, 2020)- 84 million (8.4 cr or approx. 7%) BPL (2017-18), poverty reduction due to MGNREGA, PM Kisan, LPG subsidy, houses, toilets etc.
- Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC), poverty has become chronic and entrenched in poorest pockets, most poor are in resource rich/forest areas, 50% of the poorest carry poverty inter-generationally
- Globally 1.3 B in 105 developing countries, approx. 25% of their population, approx. 80% only in Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia (more than 1.1 B)

### Poverty estimate in India



### 3. Role of NGOs in poverty reduction

The facilitator will explain that though there are various research/papers confirming positive role of NGOs in poverty reduction due to various comparative advantages that they have as compared to the government, many of the research are also skeptical about their roles. S/he can explain this later in a bit more detail when discussing problems with the NGOs.



## NGOs Role

NGOs Role in Poverty Reduction is recognized



## NGOs Comparative Advantage

- Small scale
- Reaching the poorest
- Flexible
- Participatory
- Low cost functioning
- Innovative

## Approaches in poverty reduction



- Service delivery (health & sanitation, food, access to resources, micro finance, disaster relief etc.)
- Education and skills (literacy and numeracy, financial inclusion, bank linkage, vocational training, resilience etc.)
- Advocacy (organizing & community empowerment, research & knowledge generation, invoking accountability, policy advocacy)

## Mainstreaming poverty reduction in NGOs?



## Problems with NGOs



- Activities remain supplementary to government services, often duplicated
- Performance may be better than the government, but record remains uneven
- Lack continuity, work in isolation, often at cross purposes with other NGOs
- Depend heavily on external aid in encouraging self reliance
- Share a dismal relation with community, hierarchy using them as means for own prosperity?
- Failure to analyze/document successes as well as failures/lessons
- "Participatory" processes not very participatory
- Managerial and technical expertise limited
- Not always low cost
- Lack of exit policies

## Why some have succeeded more than others



- Better analysis
- Competent human resources
- Real participatory processes
- Best use of resources
- Accountability, credibility & legitimacy
- Leadership

The facilitator should drive home the fact that poverty reduction by the NGOs does not need any additional tool (mainstreaming) but it is the central aim of the work of the NGOs, and they should contribute to poverty reduction irrespective of their operation in any sector and any approach. However, to make sure, the NGOs have to go back to the main question of the NGOs right to exist and remain relevant, Accountability, credibility and legitimacy. If they can answer these questions in affirmative, then there is little ground to question their work.



## **Bigger Question: Are we really reducing poverty?**



### **Soul searching**

- **Is poverty really being reduced?**

Globally very dismal reduction in number of people below \$2/day, hunger increasing, inequality increasing consistently, at this rate it might take hundreds of years to rid world of poverty

- **Whether poverty can be reduced by enabling access to services?**

What about inequalities, power structures, politics?

- **Whether its poverty reduction or just postponement of poverty?**

The numbers have been reduced to some extent only due to industrialisation (exploitation of nature through technology) and colonisation (exploitation of labour)

- **Whether we should be satisfied with service delivery?**

The real role of NGOs/CSOs is to challenge the government and offer alternatives to development models, thinking and ideas

These are the questions for deeper exploration with an appropriate audience, and the facilitator should attempt these questions only when he is convinced that the audience will appreciate these questions in thr right stead.



## Inclusion & Gender Mainstreaming



### Inclusion



## 4. Understanding exclusion




### What creates exclusion

- Historical discrimination & injustice
- Gendered role
- Lack of education, opportunities and resources
- Deliberate efforts/Active discrimination
- Skewed social and power structures
- Policies
- Lack of capacity to participate



## 5. Reasons for exclusion/ barriers in women's participation

The facilitator will underline that lack of women's participation is one of the most important barriers in development, and that women form the largest groups among those who are excluded.



### Obstacles in women's participation

- Lack of participation and low attendance is the most common issue, it may be due to
  - Lack of time due to workload
  - Cost of travel and lost income
  - Inconvenient time
  - Low representation in village bodies
  - Low levels of education and literacy
  - Inability to challenge male domination due to lack of education, power, finances, low status

## 6. Defining participation



### Inclusion=Participation

## Participation



**Co-option:** participatory tokenistic, no real input

**Compliance:** asked to follow, with or without incentive

**Consultation:** asking for views, no role in decision making

**Cooperation:** asked for participation without the power of influencing outcome

**Co-learning:** knowledge is sought, little impact on outcomes

**Functional participation:** knowledge & skills valued, authority to participate, role in decision making, planning, designing, implementing, evaluating etc.

## But is only participation enough?



- Participation
- Resist/fight discrimination
- Do no harm

## 7. Ensuring participation in organization and programmes

### How to address through programmes



- Have targeted programmes with explicit gender/inclusion strategy
- Participation is most problematic in traditional settings, explore different settings to ensure participation
- Community mobilization strategies needs to have explicit targets or mandatory requirements, have quota of women/marginalized
- Programmes which allow women/marginalized only spaces better encourage participation and voicing of specific needs, create women/marginalized only groups to discuss, propose and manage programmes/activities
- Free up their time by skills/capacity/resources
- Enhance gender/diversity composition, skills of the team
- Have specific monitoring targets (viz. positive gender outcomes are increased presence and participation in meetings and processes, personal empowerment, women's access to services, increased access to skills and independent income etc.)

### How to address organisationally



- Understanding and capacity (self, management, team)
- Ensure inclusion (in teams and management) and equal participation without discrimination
- Allocate resources
- Give visibility (policies, programmes, commitments should reflect everywhere)
- Accountability (towards the commitments)

## 8. Changes to start with

### Group Work



The participants should be divided in small groups (4-5) to identify and discuss gaps in their organisational policies and programmes, how they can be addressed to effectively ensure inclusion of excluded groups and women?

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSOs	: Civil Society Organizations
DRR	: Disaster Risk Reduction
ESC Rights	: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
FBOs	: Faith Based Organizations
GVNM	: Grameen Vikas Navyuvak Mandal, Laporiya
IDS	: Institute of Development Studies
IEC	: Information, Education and Communication
INGOs	: International Non Government Organizations
LG	: Local Government
LGBTQIA	: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual
NDMA	: National Disaster Management Authority, India
NGO	: Non Government Organization
N-S & E-W	: North-South & East-West
PLA	: Participatory Learning and Action
PRA	: Participatory Rural/Rapid/Reflection Appraisal
RBA	: Rights Based Approach
RRA	: Rapid Rural Appraisal







Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights and Values in India (PAIRVI) is a capacity building and advocacy support organization working at the intersections of rights, development and sustainability. It works with small grassroots organizations and community based groups to enhance their understanding on development discourse and capacity to respond appropriately.

PAIRVI also works with a pan Indian coalition on climate and environmental justice, MAUSAM (Movement for Advancing Understanding on Sustainability and Mutuality), previously Beyond Copenhagen.

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