
PRACTICAL AND STRATEGIC GENDER NEEDS



CHOICE C J

Assistant Professor

Department of social work

St. Mary's college, Thrissur



Practical Gender Needs

- Practical Gender Needs are the need of women or men that related to responsibilities and tasks associated with their traditional gender roles or to immediate perceived necessity.
- Responding to practical gender needs can improve quality of life but does not challenge divisions or men's and women's position in society.
- Practical gender needs means different requirements of women and men, which when fulfilled enable them to effectively undertaken defined roles



- These refer to material conditions of life e.g. availability of food, water, shelter, clothing, health care, basic education and gainful employment.
- They are not unique to women but affect disadvantaged men as well.
- They tend to be short term and they can therefore be met through direct material inputs e.g. supplying water if there is a water shortage.
- They mainly deal with providing finished goods and services or making them easily available to the needy.
- Meeting the practical gender needs does not challenge the power relation between men and women.



Strategic Gender Needs

- The notion of “strategic gender needs”, first coined in 1985 by Maxine Molyneux, helped develop gender planning and policy development tools, such as the Moser Framework, which are currently being used by development institutions around the world.
- The strategic gender needs of women and men that when met, enable them to carry out those roles that are not social their sex.



- Strategic gender needs represent what women or men require in order to improve their position or status in regard to each other.
- They place people in greater control of themselves instead of limited to the restrictions imposed by socially defined roles.



- They are long term(they aim to improve the positions); they also intend to remove restrictions, and are less visible as they seek to change attitudes.
- Example of addressing SGN includes action such as Giving right to land
 - Inheritance
 - Credit and financial services
 - Increasing participation of women in decision making
 - Creating equal opportunities to employment (equal pay for equal work)
 - Improving social system



▪ Strategic gender needs are the needs women identify because of their subordinate position in society. They vary particular context, related to gender division of labour, power and control land may include such issues as legal rights, domestic violence, equal wages, and women's control over their bodies.

▪ Meeting SGNs assists women to achieve greater equality and change existing roles, thereby challenging women's subordinate position.



- Strategic (Gender) Interests. Interventions addressing strategic gender interests focus on fundamental issues related to women's (or, less often, men's) subordination and gender inequities.
- Strategic gender interests are long-term, usually not material, and are often related to structural changes in society regarding women's status and equity.
- They include legislation for equal rights, reproductive choice, and increased participation in decision-making.



- A few examples of activities which address strategic gender needs are:
- Improving women's access to resources such as credit, land and education and training.
- Enhancing women's participation in cooperatives and their access to decision-making levels;
- Ensuring that women are afforded equal treatment in regard to employment opportunities, promotion, wages etc



THANK YOU....