

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

(Unit II)

Gender and Development refers to the development perspective and process that is participatory and empowering, equitable, sustainable, free from violence, respectful of human rights, supportive of self-determination and actualization of human potentials.

It seeks to achieve gender equality as a fundamental value that should be reflected in development choices and contends that women are active agents of development, not just passive recipients of development.

How it started?

Gender and Development was developed in the 1980's as an **alternative to the Women in Development** approach. Unlike it, the Growth and Development approach is not concerned specifically with women, but with the way in which a society assigns roles, responsibilities, and expectations to both men and women.

Gender and Development applies gender analysis to uncover the ways in which men and women work together, presenting results in neutral terms of economics and competence.

It focuses primarily on two major frameworks, Gender Roles and Social Relations Analysis.

Gender role focus on social construction of identities within the household, it also reveals the expectations from 'maleness and femaleness' in their relative access to resources.

Social relations analysis exposes the social dimensions of hierarchical power relations imbedded in social institutions; also it's determining influence on 'the relative position of men and women in society. In an attempt to create gender equality, (denoting women having same opportunities as men, including ability to participate in the public sphere) Growth and Development policies aim to redefine traditional gender role expectations.

Gender Inequality and Development (Indian context):

Development of a nation in a complete sense means the overall upliftment of the entire population as a whole.

It means each sector of the country has to develop equally. In the past years everyone is saying that India has developed a lot.

But is it true? How can we say that only based on some values such as GDP and GNP? Yes, it is true we as a nation have achieved a lot in the past years but at the same time we cannot ignore the fact that half of the population of the country specially the women are deprived of many things.

The entire nation can achieve the pace of development only when these section of the society i.e. the women begins to equally contribute to the nation. For this it is necessary that all possible steps must be taken to eradicate gender inequality.

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Course: BJMC, Semester: II
Institution: DSPMU, Ranchi
Teacher: Sumedha Chaudhury