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Gender sensitive indicators in sanitation

**Gender in WASH:
Bangladesh experience on Women in
Decision Making and Menstrual
Hygiene Management in Schools**

Shaila Shahid (GWA)

Gender and Water Alliance





The gender dimension

GWAPB Technical Support Project:

MAX Value for WASH

GWA Gender Approach

- Foster participation, promotes equality and demand driven
- Apply an empowerment approach with 4 interacting elements (physical, socio-cultural, economic & political)
- Avoid lip-service

Reducing child mortality with integrated WASH approach, emphasis on hard core poor, minorities, (pregnant) women & children with SRHR Rights.

8 million people in 3 coastal districts

420 community based organization (1/3rd women)
Health Development Committee (50% women)
Community Support Groups (All led by women)
Women entrepreneurship on sanitary products

70,000 school children in approx. 200 schools receive hygiene messages and sanitation promotion

Menstrual Hygiene management lessons among girls
1248 students and 154 teachers trained on WASH

Gender Action Plan and Gender disaggregated data for M&E framework

Bangladesh Scenario

Only 42.26 M people have access to Improved Sanitation (JMP)

Coverage in H2R areas much below than minimum level

21% population with extreme poverty, received little attention due to geo-physical, socio-economic and political reason.

Total 1,144 Unions under 50 districts like coastal belt, char areas live with poor WASH infrastructures and services, less gender equality, less financing on WASH

Shaila Shahid
shaila.shahid@gwapb.org

Learning from Gender Mainstreaming in WASH:

- ❑ A learning and capacity building approach within the projects staff, the target group, and marginalised men and women is more gender responsive on WASH. (e.g. self reflection, views on gender, personal experience can catalyse powerful change)
- ❑ Only increased attendance of women does not automatically contribute to empowerment. Active participation and women's access to decision making should be encouraged and practiced. (e.g: use of affirmative action led by woman, choice in sanitation infrastructures etc.)
- ❑ Education, and awareness raising (in combination with hygiene messages, health risks, options of sanitary products) empower girls with factual information about their bodies and how to look after it.



Gender Sensitive Indicators:

Both quantitative targets and qualitative interpretation.

- ❑ Number and type of positions hold, level of involvement by men and women within water users group, management committees, hygiene promotion, planning meetings and construction activities;
- ❑ Percentage of time, income spent by women and men in accessing WASH services in different geographic location (e.g. Hard to Reach Areas); Women's economic benefits from improved access to WASH facilities;
- ❑ Number of WASH facilities, addressing needs of women and girls separately in terms of suitability, distance, technologies and infrastructures. The dimensions, safety of accessibility, availability and quality of WASH should be measured;
- ❑ Availability of separate toilet block and safe sanitation in schools, cabin for girls which includes basin, running water, toilet, towel, mirror, waste bin, electricity and hygiene messages.



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Linking project level indicator at National level:

- ❑ Active and decision making participation of women in WASH committees, representation in the management bodies of water institutions at policy and operational level;
- ❑ Sex disaggregated data in all sanitation interventions and facilities combined nationally with gender sensitive sanitation budget allocation at LGIs, UPs;
- ❑ Proportion of educational institutions that provide private and safe sanitation facilities for girls and boys, including those living with disabilities. Monitor the girls drop-out in schools;
- ❑ Integrate Menstrual Hygiene Management into a wider hygiene promotion approach on WASH and also in curriculum of schools;
- ❑ The existence of gender specific objectives and indicator within number of interlinked sector development policies and strategies (Sanitation Strategy, Water Act, Health and emergency policy).



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How to Monitor Gender indicators at National level:

- ❑ Monitoring tools and definitions of indicators on WASH needs to be harmonised. Increased understanding on methodologies in data collection, processing and transparency are equally important on sanitation;
- ❑ Innovative open Inquiry methodology can be initiated where the beneficiaries, target group and local people can interact freely under an open dialogue (specially woman). Social accountability mechanism on WASH at local level can be established;
- ❑ Gender sensitive sanitation budget tracking; structured and non-structured follow-up processes with quality standards to monitor and evaluate;
- ❑ Encouraging greater collaboration and coordination between different national level agencies involved in the water and sanitation sector monitoring.



Thank You!



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