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Gender Impact – Suggestions Based on Indian Experience

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Gender Impact – Our Current Project on Gender Norms

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Introduction: Our project studies the gender impact of poverty alleviation schemes in rural India and Bangladesh. Combining a variety of sources, we give a fresh view upon the effect of anti-poverty interventions. We focus on how women's experience is mediated via local norms. We draw on a number of discipline-specific methods and theories, including sociology, economics and social policy.

Four Pathways to Impact (WO) and fifth covered by Prof. Dubey

- Local
- Training
- Stakeholder workshops & activities
- Publications
- Media (by Professor Amaresh Dubey of JNU)

Pathway 1

- Local people see the researchers twice; we are
 - ambassadors for gender equality and also have to show due regard for all people,
 - especially those who are vulnerable.
- we can encourage youth in the villages to consider themselves eligible for education
 - Regardless of their sex.

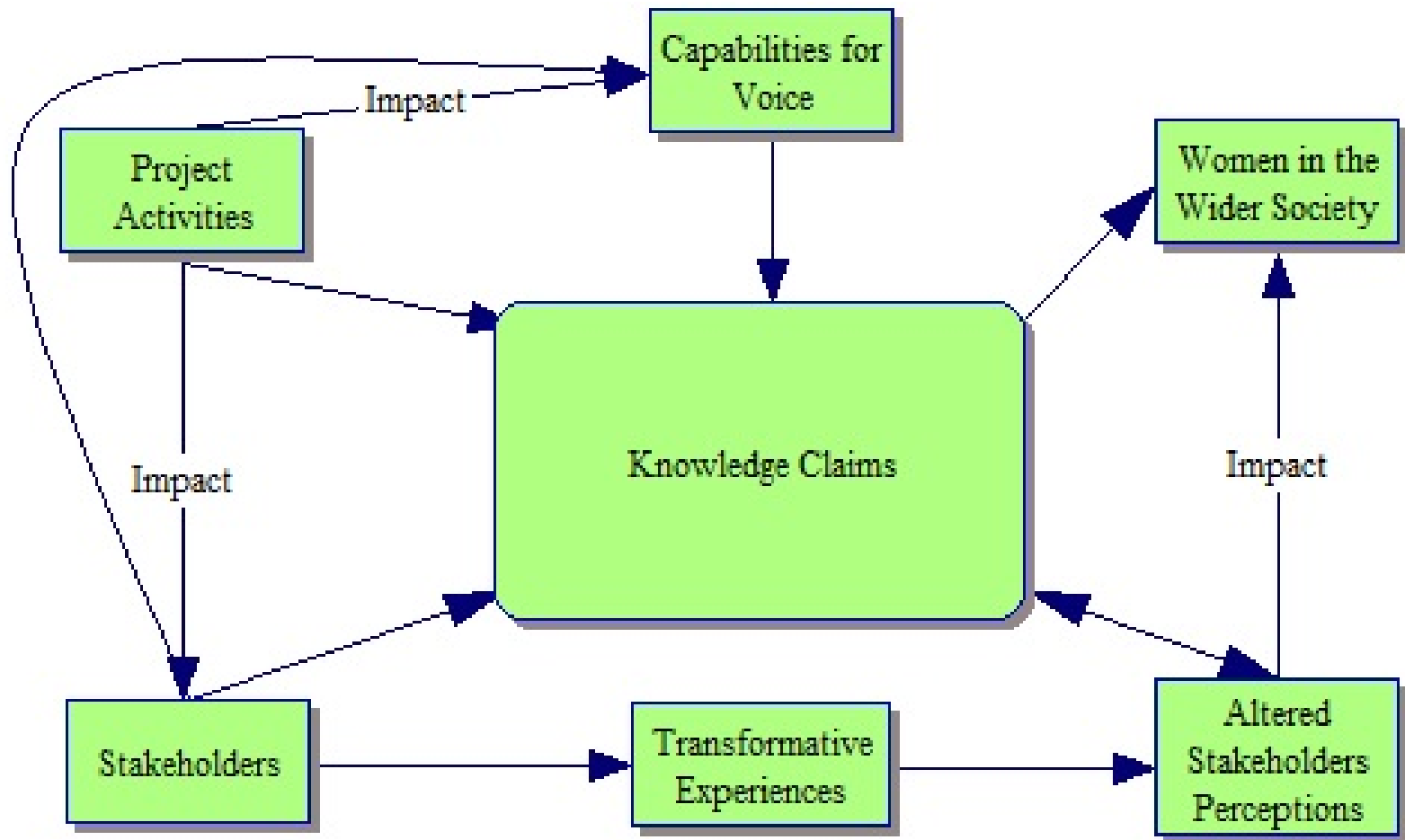
Pathway 2: We do capacity building.

- Four areas of capacity building in particular:
 - Cluster and stratified purposive sampling;
 - A new survey instrument on attitudes about gender roles, basing the questions on some existing questions;
 - **Time-use diary as a way to record informal labour.**

How we create new indicators of the attitudes to women's in-house activities and the domestic division of labour.

- Ethical procedures throughout.

Pathway 3: Stakeholders



Examples of Stakeholders in a Gender Project

- Inception and final workshops
 - Manager of Working Women's Hostel
 - School principal
 - Labour department official
 - Landlord, farmer, worker invitees from the rural areas
 - Aim for a mixture of male and female
- Data confrontation workshop (year 3)
 - Students in Banaras Hindu University
 - Visiting students from Lucknow, Delhi

Theorising How Societies Change

- WID vs. GAD: GAD allows more for differentiation of women.
- Institutions support basic structures, but people's attitudes about gender norms are diverse ... so the institutions are only indicative sets of rules,
 - Mezzo-rules
 - Diversity
 - Things are changing before our very eyes

Further spinoff....

- The data are also going to be submitted to the ESRC Data Archive, creating a legacy. The researchers in each country can utilise and write about these data after the project has ended.

Pathway 4: short-circuit the academic publication timeline, and hit academic beneficiaries early on.

- The team is creating four briefing papers
(topics ethics, sampling, factor analysis)
- five journal articles in development journals,
- one survey dataset,
- one set of transcripts of interviews, (VOICE)
- & online working papers.

From our Ethics Briefing Paper

Local laws

UK laws

No harm

Informed

Consent

Deal with
distress

Pseudonyms

- + Four case studies of research ethics.
- The Briefing Papers will be a lasting online resource.
- They precede the formal academic publishing process.

Discussion of how gender norms change led by Wendy Olsen

--Discussion question: Is there a generation gap and a time-bomb of young-women-expecting-jobs, or are women naturally housewives? Is women-working-in-jobs to be encouraged?

Note- Gender role attitudes- 54% of adult women in India thought in 2005 that it can be justified for a man to beat his wife – National Family and Health Survey [DHS] 2005/6 3rd round.

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Media Coverage:

Prof. Amaresh Dubey will speak on how gender messages got high levels of publicity over time, based on Indian experience.

Media coverage: Indian Experience

- Levels and Changes in poverty
 - Poverty estimate at sub-state level: This was a project sponsored by Ministry of Statistics, Government of India.
 - First comprehensive poverty estimates for all the states and regions in India by place of residence using NSS unit level data out-side NSS (research carried out by independent researchers at Indian Statistical Institute)
 - Highlights were large intra-state differences in levels of poverty
 - News item picked up by news agencies highlighting intra-state differences, op-ed articles
 - Debate and discussions in Indian Parliament and State Assemblies (Questions)

Media coverage: Indian Experience (continued...)

- Spatial differences: rural and urban
- Socioreligious differences (inequalities) in development outcomes
 - Indian socioreligious structure: Social Groups, Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and the rest; major religion groups Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and a few more religious minorities
 - Among the social groups, ordering is STs- SCs- OBCs- Rest in almost all the development indicators: poverty incidence, literacy and education, health outcomes,
 - Gender dimension in all the outcomes on socioreligious groups axis
 - Op-ed, opinion pieces by researchers, e.g. piece in The Hindu on April 5, 2014

Media coverage: Indian Experience (continued...)

- Add regional dimension: states in India
 - Gender dimension: different gender norms across states
 - Large differences in gender roles
 - negative media coverage mostly in north and north-west
- Regional X Socioreligious:
 - socioreligious structure within each region (state): Social Groups, Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and the rest; major religion groups Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and a few more religious minorities
 - Gender dimension in all the outcomes on socioreligious groups axis in each of the regions
 - E.g. gender equality among the STs across regions but relatively better outcomes in the NER

Media coverage: Indian Experience (continued...)

- What made news recently?
- Opinion piece in The Hindu on April 5 (several other pieces based on IHDS data)
 - Discussion on median household income
 - Very high income inequality, increased over time
 - Narrowing rural urban differences between 2004-2012
 - Narrowing SRG differences during 2004-20012
- How it has been achieved: pro-active media impact approach:
 - Organising interactive sessions with media, e.g. release of reports, findings etc
 - Pro-active media approach could include writing Op-ed, opinion, blogs,