Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Urban Development and Budgeting in Nepal

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Overview of government effort on GESI mainstreaming in urban development and budgeting—while doing so also highlight the importance of GESI

Presentation Organization

- Context setting
- Policy reform
- Government efforts on internalization
- Challenges and Way forward
Inequality disrupts social cohesion and city’s productivity leading to social conflict.

Evolving Theories: Just cities, *Right to the city*, Inclusive city

Focus on inclusive planning and collective right to participate in shaping planning and development.
Access to basic service varies with income & geographic locations

- Piped to House
- Access to sanitary system
- Access to Garbage disposal

% Access to Basic Services in Urban Households (Source: CBS, 2011)
State of Inequality: Gender

Huge gap in share of female in economic activities
Low female literacy widens gender disparity

Level of Literacy in Male and Female (Source: NLSS, 2004)

Economically active pop KV (Source: CBS, 2006)

Male
Female

63.6%
28.4%
State of Inequality: Ethnic Groups

Poverty is more pronounced in certain ethnicity/caste group

Muslim
Tarai Janajati
Hill Janajati
Tarai Dalit
Hill Dalit
Hill Chettri
Newar
Tarai Brahman
Hill Brahman

National Poverty Rate

(Source: CBS, 2011)
Nepal is undergoing major policy reform for inclusive planning in all development sectors including urban development since 1995.

Reforms on GESI have followed two broad phases:

i. Phase of structural or policy reform and (1995-2007)

ii. Phase of internalization (2007--)

• **Tenth Plan (2002-2007)** focused on single agenda of poverty reduction—with four strategic pillars

- Broad based economic growth
- Social sector development
- Targeted social inclusion programs
- Good governance
Phase 1: Policy Reform

- **Interim Constitution, 2007** acknowledges GESI to remove structural inequality.

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**Fundamental Rights**

- **Rights to Equality:** All citizens are equal, no discrimination.
- **Right against Untouchability and Racial Discrimination:** No discrimination on the basis of caste, race, community or occupation.
- **Right to environment and health:** All citizens have right to live in healthy environment.
- **Right of Woman:** Sons and daughters have equal rights to ancestral property.
- **Right to property:** Every citizen shall have right to acquire, own, sell, dispose and deal with property.
Phase 1: Policy Reform

- **National Urban Policy, 2007** channels deliberate investment towards backward regions, especially regional cities and intermediate towns. Urban Environment Improvement Programs (UEIP) are underway in several regional and intermediate cities.

- **National Housing Policy, 2012** emphasizes on “safe, adequate and affordable housing for all”—including those living under the poverty line and living in informal settlements—through provisions of serviced plots, basic services and accessible financing.
• Declaration of Gender Responsive Budgeting, 2007-08
• Gender Responsive Budget Preparation Guidelines 2012 to prepare gender responsive programs and budget based on three categories:
  i. Directly gender responsive
  ii. Indirectly gender responsive
  iii. Gender neutral
• Formulation of GESI Directives by National Planning Commission, 2013
Phase 2: Internalization in Planning

- **Municipal Periodic Plan** requires participatory planning that prioritizes programs for women, marginalized groups, poor & children.
Local bodies are obliged to dedicate **35% of the unconditional grant** for women (15%), children (10%) and “marginalized communities” (10%).

**Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP)** since 2008 at national level—initiation of *Ward Citizens Forum* and *Integrated Plan Formulation Committee* for annual plans, programs and budget.

**Urban Development through Local Efforts (UDLE) (2008-2010)** useful in devising methodology for social inclusion and poverty reduction at community level.
Phase 2: Internalization in Monitoring

- **Minimum Conditions and Performance Measures (MCMP), 2009** requires municipalities to adopt participatory and inclusive planning including pro-poor budget to ensure the flow of central grant.

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Indicators measuring inclusive planning in MCMP
Phase 2: Internalization at Institutional Level

- **GESI Guidelines, 2013** for increased access of women, poor and excluded (WPEs) communities to urban development resources and its benefits.
- **Guidelines** direct both Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and (Housing, Urban Development, and Building (HUB) sectors
Organizational Improvement in Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD)

- Establishment of Social Coordination Section in MoUD
- Establishment of Social Coordination Section within sectoral departments to oversee works of both WASH and HUB.
- Undergoing orientation and education program for ministry, department and other agency officials.
Phase 2: Internalization at Program & Project Level

Evolution of methods in UEIP and UDLE

GIS based Urban/Poverty mapping reveals incidence of poverty—and enables Gender and Need Assessment

Alternatively, poverty profile can be compiled.
Social Institutional Development: Through social mobilization, local people have learned to work as a group and put forward their concerns. Together they assess problems and issues and seek solutions with their municipalities.
Phase 2: Methodological input of UDLE

**Targeted Action:** Improved livelihood by skill development or building entrepreneurship using Savings and Credit Groups and micro-financing and building social capital through networking.
Phase 2: Methodological input of UDLE

**Targeted Action:** Improving basic community facilities
**Women participation**: Requires 33% women participation in Municipal Project Management Committee (MPMC) and in Tole Lane Organizations (TLOs)

TLOs undertake physical upgrading works. Skills imparted to HHs of the poverty clusters

Sewing and computer trainings foster self employment and community development
Block Grant: 35 % of Total Block Grant should be allocated for women, children and marginalized groups
Challenges and Way Forward

• GESI Guidelines needs to coordinate with Gender Responsive Budget Preparation Guidelines.

→ Requires parallel execution of both guidelines without undercutting each other.

• GESI Guidelines needs to be clear, specific and instructive especially in planning and design.

→ Requires tool kits so that it can be practiced and operationalized at the ground level.

→ Regional resource centers and resource persons to provide constant technical supports on GESI to the district units.
Challenges and Way Forward

• Need to align GESI goal of MoUD with efforts of other sectoral agencies including development partners and non-government organizations (NGOs).

→ Requires capacity building of MoUD GESI Units and training centers including curriculum development.

→ Institutional performance indicators on GESI to evaluate both output and process.

• GESI sensitive Targeted Actions need prioritization.

→ Requires dedicated budget allocation.
Concluding Remarks

GESI is a development orientation vis-a-vis a development goal—the pursuit of which is fundamental for eradicating inequality.

The efforts of GESI mainstreaming in the urban development sector is only a part of a long haul and a broad based national pursuit that is required including political will at the helm.
Thank you!