

Gender Inequity: Findings from research and experiential learning



National Symposium on "Gender and Eye Health - Equal Access to Care"
VISION 2020 India World Sight Day Celebrations

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Case Study:

Ms. Santosh Devi, 36 from Lukhlada, UP, India

- Could see the faces of my children and take care of all their needs.
- Cook on my own
- Doing my weaving and sewing
- Able to feed my animals
- Fetch water for my family
- Sister-in law came for support - went back to school now.



My whole family got vision back 😊

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Concept of Gender



- At a descriptive level, refers to social differences between men and women
- At an analytical level refers to power relations between men and women

Biological difference can only differentiate male and female.

Gender Impact

- Indian girls enrolment is lower than that of boys at secondary and tertiary levels
- Indian women continue to own little property
- Female labour force participation in India continue to be significantly lower than that of male
- Gender based violence against Indian girls and women persist
- Although Indian women are numerically present in local governance they exercise little political decision making
- Women have very little rights over their reproduction and sexuality
- 2 out of 3 married women in India were victims of domestic violence and that one violence translates into women losing 7 working days in the country

Few facts ...

- Rural women alone produce half of the worlds food and 60-80% of the food in most developing countries
- In Kenya, giving women farmers the same inputs and education as men could increase yields by more than 20%
- According to world bank, where the influence of women in public life is greater, the level of corruption is lower

Facts ...

- According to UN statistics, women do 67 % of the world's work, yet their earnings for it amount to only 10% of the world's income
- According to WB, In Sub Saharan Africa, inequality between men and women in education and employment halved economic growth between 1960 to 1992
- If men and women have equal right to decision making 13.4 million underweight children under 3 years old in SA would be adequately nourished

Women's Role in Poverty Alleviation



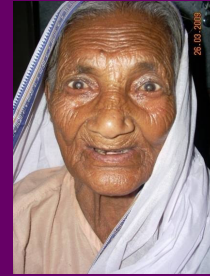
Gender in Sightsavers Programmes

- Gender is part of our policies - both programme and organization
- Greater understanding about the issue
- Focus on unreached sections
- Service provision to women is higher
- Special focus on women in MoUs
- Special projects on women and children
- MIS - segregates data by sex



Women and Eye Health

- Two out of every three people in the world who are blind are women. 90% blindness occurs in developing countries
- In Asia and Africa where cataract is the biggest cause of blindness, women account for approx 74% of all people living with cataract
- 75% of global blindness is preventable or treatable, which means over 20 million women are needlessly blind



Women & Eye Health

- On average, the rate cataracts are operated is 1.5 times higher for men than women
- Blind or visually impaired women may not seek examination and care because of cultural constraints, cost, Travel or lack of access to information
- When women are denied equal access to health services, education and employment they are less able to care for themselves and their family



Strategies.... ..

- Sensitization of professionals.
- Awareness generation with gender focused information.
- Gender mandate in the projects and proposals.
- Intensive periodical review looking at Gender : Steering committee.
- Special strategies to attract women - reduce drop outs from camps, more women field staff, counseling to clients, grant to women surgery!?!.
- Multi-sectoral collaboration - participation of women groups (SHGs) in planning, implementation and evaluation of the projects .
- 26% and 74% of proportion in service delivery.



Failing to take action now.....
will keep our Vision 2020 as a distant dream.
If we treat more women there will be less blindness

References

- Gender, Poverty and rights. A trainers manual developed by Ranjani K Murthy and Mercy Kappan, Visthar, Bangalore
- Institutionalizing Gender within organisations and programmes
- Facts sheets developed by Sightsavers and CBM for WSD 2009
- World Bank, 1992, Women and Poverty in India
- Gender and blindness, World Health Organizations
- Sightsavers briefing paper by Rachel Heald.
- United Nations Report, 2005



Thank you



We have greater responsibility eliminating hunger and poverty from our society, so help us to access services

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Puzzle

A doctor and a nurse were in a love more than three years. Having faced lot of difficulties due to non-acceptance of their family members, finally they got Married and settled.

First year of their married life they were blessed with a son. Four years of happy married life passed....

Now the fact is the doctor is not the father of the child....

HOW COME???

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