Trade and Gender

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Trade & Gender Linkages

• Trade brings opportunities as well as challenges.
• Countries take commitments to liberalise their trade, investment and other areas of economy.
• Trade Policy:
  ✓ Negotiations (namely WTO and Regional Trade Agreements).
  ✓ Autonomous liberalisation
• Trade Policy is considered “Gender Neutral”.
  – But the effects of liberalisation is not.
## 2030 ASD and Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>SDG</th>
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<tr>
<td>Improving Women’s position in the labor market</td>
<td>SDG 5.5, SDG 8.5</td>
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<td>Improve Incomes in the Agricultural Sector which is largely dominated by Women</td>
<td>SDG 2.3, SDG 2.b</td>
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<td>Removing Barriers to Women’s Access to the Labor Market through access to Vocational Training</td>
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<td>Removing Barriers to Women’s Access to the Labor Market through access to Technology</td>
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<td>Creating Structures to enable Entrepreneurship amongst Women</td>
<td>SDG 1.4, SDG 5.a, SDG 8.3, SDG 8.10, SDG 9.3, SDG 9.a, SDG 10.b</td>
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<td>Removing Barriers to Trade for Women</td>
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<td>Implications resulting from greater labor force participation for Women</td>
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Mainstreaming Gender Through Trade

• Challenges:
  ➢ Targets:
    ✓ Entrepreneurs
    ✓ Employees
    ✓ Formal versus informal sector employments
  ➢ Instruments:
    ✓ Policies support
    ✓ Subsidy
    ✓ Promotion
    ✓ Protection

• Identification of sectors having strong gender presence.
Female Entrepreneurs

• Nigeria: 41% (highest)
• The Philippines: 18%
• Thailand: 17%
• China: 12%
• India: 6%
• Japan: 3%

(Source: http://noceilings.org/entrepreneurs/)
Employment

• Bangladesh: Garment (80% of total)
• China: Textiles, leather, processed food etc.
• India: Textiles, tobacco, processed food, software etc.
• Indonesia: Agriculture and forestry, manufacturing, wholesale and retail etc.
• Iran: Education and healthcare.
• Kazakhstan: Healthcare and education.
• Mongolia: Education, healthcare wholesale and retail etc.
• Pakistan: Agriculture, manufacturing and personal services.
Foreign Trade Policies

• India:
  – Incentives for industries which provides better facilities to women employees
  – Promote and protect sectors

• Pakistan:
  – The objectives - to facilitate women entrepreneur’s access to regional markets in selected sectors through gender responsive policy frameworks and strengthening institutions.
  – Development of a Women Entrepreneurs Network for Easing Trade (WE-NET).
Engendering Trade Policy

• Defensive:
  – Can we keep the gender sensitive products/sectors out of commitments for liberalisation in WTO and RTAs?

• Offensive:
  – How to ensure that on those products/sectors get market access in other countries?

• TP – how to engender? Positive discrimination?

• Is it necessary to keep all the gender sensitive sectors out of liberalisation or where have a comparative advantage one can liberalise?
Challenges

• General acceptance by Government that there should be a positive discrimination on the basis of gender (Social issue)
• Lack of consistent & validated data – industry wise (unit level data) as well as ownership wise – census/sample survey.
• Identification of sectors that are dominated by women employees.
• Identify the Gender Products (as per HS nomenclature for goods and WTO classification of Services sectors/sub-sectors)
  – Items of defensive interest (Sensitive products)
  – Items of offensive interest (Potential export products)
• Prioritisation
• Consultations
• Make trade policy accordingly.
Classification

• Women Entrepreneurs.
• Units – women employment is high (what percentage to be prescribed?).
• Sectors – that have high percentage of women employment (research and survey to identify the sectors).
• Should they all be treated at par or should there be different treatment for providing support/incentives?
Issues for future......

• How to define an Entrepreneur?
  – Proprietorship – Single women or Joint
  – Partnership – how much percentage share
  – Private Limited Company
  – Public Limited Company
  – Educational qualification

• Are they to be treated at par with such sectors where the women employment is high?

• Can there be a separate category of factory/unit - wise - women workforce (percentage basis – say such factories where atleast 50% women are employed)?

• What kind of benefits to be given?
Some Readings…..


2. Cockburn, John; Decaluwe, Bernard; Fofana, Ismael and Robichaud, Veronique; Trade, Growth, and Gender in Developing Countries: A Comparison of Ghana, Honduras, Senegal and Uganda, Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network and CIRPÉE (Université Laval), 2009.


8. Ratna, Rajan Sudesh; Mainstreaming gender through India’s foreign trade policy; CWS, IIFT, India; 2010.

THANK YOU