

## **Gender, Water and Equity: Training Programmes, April 27-May 1, 2009 and end October-early November, 2009**

Organised by the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)**, Mumbai, **South Asian Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERs)**, Hyderabad, **Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM)**, Pune, and the **Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)**.

The political-economic-social environment globally is in a flux due to numerous interlinked changes. Many of these changes are evident in the water sector. In rapidly changing countries in the South Asian region, water is becoming the source of conflicts at the national, regional, and local levels. The processes of liberalisation and globalisation, growing inequalities, global environmental changes and water scarcities are all interconnected contexts within which an understanding of gender, water and equity needs to be located. These processes particularly affect the lives of women, often the primary informal managers of water, for whom access and rights to water are mediated through their social and economic position in society.

Women's central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water has been reiterated in UN conferences. The resultant conference documents emphasise the need for policies to equip and empower women to participate at all levels in water resources programmes. Policies, projects, programmes and research in India and the rest of South Asia have attempted to integrate women, with varying degrees of success, in countering the multiple processes that contribute to inequalities. However, not everyone is equipped to understand the complexity of the water sector as it relates to gender and concerns of equity.

The proposed training programmes will address some of these gaps, both in terms of conceptual and contextual knowledge, as well as in building practical skills to negotiate concerns of equity and the principles of gender mainstreaming in the water sector.

The objectives of the training programmes are:

- To understand the larger political context of water distribution and reforms
- To strengthen participants' perspectives on gender, water and equity issues
- To examine analytical frameworks that could incorporate gender in the planning and implementation of programmes in the water sector
- To build a preliminary set of skills to incorporate gender and equity issues in the participants' work situations

These trainings are part of a joint project of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and SaciWATERs, called 'Crossing Boundaries'. The project aims to build perspectives and understanding of gender, equity and integrated water resources management in South Asia.

These programmes are also being organised in collaboration with SOPPECOM and Gender and Water Alliance. A core group comprising Sara Ahmed (Chairperson, GWA), Seema Kulkarni (Fellow, SOPPECOM), Anjal Prakash (Senior Fellow, SaciWATERs), Lakshmi Lingam (Professor, TISS) and Sharmila Joshi (Research Associate, TISS) are associated with these trainings.

The first of the two programmes will be held from April 27 to May 1, 2009. The second will take place at the end of October-early November. The trainings will not be take place at a venue outside Mumbai. This will be informed to selected candidates. Applicants can indicate their preference in terms of which of the two trainings they would like to be considered for, or we may choose to place selected participants in any one of the two programmes.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- We invite applications from diverse mid-level professionals—individuals working in development organisations, activists, academics, researchers, and officials working in state and central government departments of water and sanitation.
- Applicants can be from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan. For the first programme, from amongst applicants from India, preference will be given to persons from the north, north-east and east India; and for the second, applicants from the south and west India will be preferred. For applicants from the other South Asian countries, there is no regional criterion; they may be from any part of their country.
- The medium of instruction during the training will be English, and participants must be able to clearly comprehend and communicate in English. The organisers are not in a position to provide for translations.

### **Application Requirements**

- Applications must include all the details listed from item 1 to 22 in the following application form.
- Hardcopy applications may be sent to: Dr. Lakshmi Lingam, Dean, Research and Development, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Deonar, Mumbai 400 088, INDIA.
- Softcopy applications may be sent to: [gwetraining@gmail.com](mailto:gwetraining@gmail.com)
- The last date for receiving applications is March 15, 2009.
- All applicants have to give, along with their applications, the name and contact details of a reputed referee, whom we may contact.
- A participation fee of (Indian) Rs. 2,500 will be taken from each selected applicant. Further details about making this payment will be communicated upon selection.
- By March 30, we will contact applicants who have been selected. Inquiries in the interim, or later by applicants who are not selected, cannot be answered.

### Application Form

**(Pl. fill out the details and send it as a Word or PDF attachment or send it by regular post before the due date)**

1. Title:
2. Name:
3. Age:
4. Country/ Nationality:
5. Organisation/ Institution:
6. Postal address:
7. Tel number (landline):
8. Mobile number:
9. Email address:
10. Educational qualifications:
11. Passport no (required for *all* applicants:):
12. Date of expiry of passport:
13. Previous work experience (state briefly):

Please write 3-4 sentences each for questions 14 and 15

14. Experience in the areas of water and sanitation.
15. Current involvement in the areas of water and sanitation.
16. How would you primarily describe yourself? As a person working in or researching:  
(a) water (b) gender and water or sanitation (c) gender issues but not in the water sector  
(d) none of these categories.

Please write 3-4 paragraphs each for questions 17, 18 and 19

17. Have you attended any gender training in the past?
18. Why would you like to attend this particular training?

19. How would this training help in your work?

20. Would your organisation/institution sponsor the entire or partial cost of your travel and accommodation?

22. If you need sponsorship, please specify for which of these categories:

(a) travel (b) accommodation (c) both.

23. Indicate the name, address, email id and phone numbers of one person of repute who is aware of your work and that of the organisation with which you work. This information is mandatory.

Signature (only for hardcopy applications)

Date