



GENDER PARALLEL SESSION

4 September 2009, Monterrey – México

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION

2 complementary Community of Expertise leading Gender in ICT for UN-GAID

- ITF (International Task Force on Women and ICT) Main project: the establishment of a Global Women and Technology Program based in ten regional centers. It is concentrated in projects related with empowering women to actively participate in the Information Society through: Education, Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and in the technology Workforce. Three Centers have been already created in Europe, LAC and Australia and 2 more are planned.
- GDISP overview and focus: Citizenship + Gender; Media; VAW; Education and Skills Building

EXAMPLES OF ISSUES TO BE ADDRESS TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUITY IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY:

- Increase the participation of women in STEM careers.
- Look at ICT as overall empowerment strategy for women – women's self-efficacy increases when they use tech – a psychosocial benefit often overlooked.
- Men need to participate in mainstreaming activities; both women and men need to look at all aspects and impacts of ICT programs on women's life conditions and social participation, not just the number of women involved in a project.
- Cultural contexts are different at different levels of employment and expertise – in many cases institutional culture negatively affects women's confidence – women in decision making positions have to pay attention to what is happening to other women.
- Involve more women in ICT entrepreneurship programs, such as the Youth/eGov programs and other good programs implemented in different countries.

- What is “woman friendly?” policy or program – we need to make sure of our common understandings when we analyze programs or program interventions to look for all the hidden assumptions such program make about women and gender relations.

EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS

- India – launched campaign with the messaging that the best dowry for a girl is financial independence - pay for IT training today; financial benefits tomorrow. Offer paternity leave; offer women on extended maternity leave the option to create content while at home – good for company and woman.
- Nigeria - rural women’s training through State/Women’s Affairs Commission.
- LAC Center based in Argentina – mainstream gender and citizenship content in a digital literacy program in Uruguay .Train trainees to promote young women to start buss using and /or producing ICT. Train young women to do research on young women in the IS
- Egypt – link women’s literacy skills/e-literacy skills with women’s rights and health information – a double lesson (“learning objects”).
- “White Flag” example – public visual and symbolic indicators of achievement.

GOING FORWARD

- Best Practices is an overused term – what we are discussing is storied of experience and success. What about a Resource Center to compile them?
- UN-GAID Secretariat proposes to develop 2 Knowledge Bases: one of best practices on gender and ICT and other of success stories. Those bases require a specified methodology and typology of topics, such as health, education, rights...
- GAID Gender blog – revitalize (how does blog fit with the “group” portal site for UN-GAID?)
- Work with other UN-GAID CoEs to mainstream gender in areas such as education, youth, entrepreneurship , e-governance.
- Creative Commons approach to shared content
- UN – help to translate content?

SUMMARY

- This is a serious cross cutting issues, and a large one. To that end, we should first focus on 3 or 4 topics and start populating the Knowledge Base – this will require a template and a methodology. Each entry needs to have a story and “lessons learned.” Then, we can grow the topics and federate the efforts.
- This is an important year in terms of Gender and the UN (Beijing + 15)