

TOWARDS BUILDING AND ENGENDERING SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY OF THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY IN UGANDA IN THE AREA OF SMALL ARMS CONTROL AND HUMAN SECURITY".

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The Uganda focal Point on small Arms organized training for researchers facilitated by RECSA and ISS. The theme of the workshop was "Towards Building sustainable capacity of the Research community in Uganda in the Area of Small arms control and Human Security".

Canon Joyce Nima was privileged to be requested to train the researchers in Gender, Ethics and Cultural dimension in Small Arms Research. My first reaction was that the theme should have aimed at Building and **Engendering** Sustainable Capacity of the Researchers. This view is based on the need to mainstream gender in all Small Arms programmes and activities.

It was emphasized that the UN was the first to recognize that in view of Resolution 1325 the POA, Regional mechanism and National Focal Points need to be engendered. The UN provisions on engendering the POA and Recommendations for national and Regional Focal Points were availed to the researchers.

The objectives of the training include:

1. Creating a forum of researchers to exchange information on areas of research undertaken and identify existing gaps and develop thematic areas
2. Draw up a two-year National Research plan on Small Arms

3. Initiate engendered sustainable research capacity building for researchers on small arms and human security

Ethics and Gender Voices

Kohlberg Theory of stages in moral Development contrasted with that of Gilligan's Moral Voices as analyzed by McMillan was discussed. It was considered that Gilligan's Moral Voices of men emphasis on Justice, Rights, fair treatment and codes of conduct contrasted with women emphasis on care, responsibility, caring about everyone's suffering, preservation of connectedness and responsibility towards real individuals.

Researcher's attention was drawn to the Gilligan's views of the self. Men voices are those of autonomy, freedom, independence, rules and hierarchy while those of women are on relatedness, interdependence, emotional connectedness, response to needs of others, empathy and connections. The gender views on moral safety were also contrasted.

The different theories of Gilligan's claims - separate but equal, superiority of women moral voices, Integrationist are moral voice male or female; and criticisms were explored. Emphasis was put on the diversity theory where different moral voices are a source of richness. Diversity challenged the traditional stereotypes where more feminism is less masculine while both genders can have both masculine and feminine voices.

The discussion on gender moral voices was considered important for researchers who will go to communities to gather information from both men and women. The researchers needed skills to analyse gender voices in order to understand the nature of responses they may get and why they may be different from men and women.

Engendering Research in small arms

Emphasis was put on mainstreaming gender in Small Arms programmes including research.

Gender Mainstreaming

The process of assessing the implications for men and women of any planned action, including legislations, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and

experiences an integral dimension of the design. Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated "(Ecosoc 1997).

Gender analysis was considered important for Small Arms researchers in order to help them draw attention to people, raise questions on who distributes, owns, uses, who is killed or wounded by small arms. The analysis would highlight human rights aspects of small arms proliferation. This would also reduce consideration of communities as homogenous and seek out men, women perceptions and inequalities.

Reflections on unequal relationships would highlight issues that need researching like

- Women, men, boys, girls often participate in armed conflicts in different ways
- While traditionally men comprised majority armed combatants, there is increasing number of women joining armies and rebel groups
- Women and girls have been forced to serve as cooks, couriers, wives carrying supplies
- There is an increase in gender based violence and human rights violation in war situations.

Research and analysis could strengthen understanding and documentation of how the issues play out in concrete situations.

It was emphasized that there was also need to investigate how involvement of boys, girls and children both as victims and trained perpetrators experiences, how to mobilize women, boys, girls, children to participate in public awareness and how to promote their expertise in decision making.

Practical Analysis Tools

The researchers were introduced to some analysis tools that they could use in the field. They were given exercise to try them out. It was emphasized that the tools had to be applied in cultural specific situations.

CJN 1 Definitions

This group looked at gender characteristics and roles in the Teso culture for men and women. One outstanding phenomenon is that dowry is a key gender issue in marriage. Consent does not matter as long as dowry is paid. Any semblance of marriage where no dowry is paid poses a lot of problems.

The definition of gender in Teso community was considered to be the "Contract of relations where males head the family monopolize access control of resources, paid dowry and provide security. The females do house keeping, have united access and control of resources accept authority and on security will make alarm. Any situation that changes these relations is a social disruption of gender roles.

CJN 2 Gender Power Relations Analysis

The group looked at power relations in the Ankole culture in times of violent/war situations and also how this differs during peaceful situations. The group analysis of the question showed the power relations at household community level, gains and loses and discussed the implications for research and for addressing small arms proliferation and misuse.

CJN 3 Gender Divisions of Labour, Conditions and Positions

The group analyzed Karamoja tribe cultural roles men and women play in managing society. The group decided on a scoring scale of heavy, moderate, light and little. They then analyzed the work load, treatment by society, expectations, needs, interests for men, women, boys and girls in times of violence and in peace time. It was noted that the analysis could be expanded to include: elderly, children, persons with disability. The significance of the tool was considered to enable a researcher to identify issues of equity, human rights abuse, domestic violence, empowerment, control of resources in armed communities. It also shows that what needs to be changed in order to address gender interests and needs, including decision making.

CJN 4 Gender Roles in Reducing Violence and Arms Proliferation

The group analyzed the Aringa tribe of Yumbe District by looking at both the positive and negative roles of men, women, boys and girls. Impact on different genders. They then considered the advantages of working with the different genders as well as how partnership could be improved with each of them.

It was considered that improvement would be through massive awareness raising/sensitization on dangers of small arms and light weapons.

CJN 5 Gender sensitive Early Warning and Early Response Analysis Tool

The group analyzed the Pokot community that strides across Uganda Kenya borders. The members generate some early indicators of arms trafficking and misuse in the Pokot community that included: gun injuries, banditry, strangers in the community. They discussed the most reliable in identifying the indicators as well as who would be the most effective in seeking early response of men, women, boys, girls as well as elderly, children and persons with disability.

Conclusions:

The researchers had consensus on the need to prioritize and mainstream gender into research conducted. The researchers did recognize the need for affirmative action to take advantage of the unique qualities and position in data collection, and seek ways of increasing their role in decision making. The researchers also felt they were better equipped to mainstream gender in their research on small arms.

The 30 Researchers introduced to gender mainstreaming should form a basis for meaningful research that shall give data on armed violence and development covering the needs of all genders.