

Critically analyze women in development (WID) and Gender and development (GAD) models. Discuss its basic principles and limitation in addressing women's needs in developing countries.

Answer

1) Introduction:-

WID and GAD are known to be revolutionary approaches in developmental discourse. WID focused more on making women a part of developmental process while working within the system. Yet it failed to recognize or criticize the systemic causes of women marginalization. On the other hand was GAD. This approach was inspired by socialist ideology and focused more on social ~~reg~~ relations that define gender dichotomies. Although, GAD called for systemic change and gender mainstreaming, it found these ideologies difficult to implement. Critics also say that GAD has dimmed the focus on women welfare.

2) Women in Development (WID) :-

WID was an approach that emerged in the 1970s as a result of work of Washington-based group of female developmental experts who saw the fallacies of post-colonial welfare policies and how they were compounding women problems.

According to Caroline Moser:-

"WID approach assumes that the problem is women's exclusion, not the structure that perpetuates inequality." (Book: Gender Planning and Development)

3) Basic Principles of WID :-

Following were the focus points of WID

a) Egalitarianism

WID sought egalitarianism in terms of economic development, employment and opportunities for women.

b) Working Within the System to Integrate Women

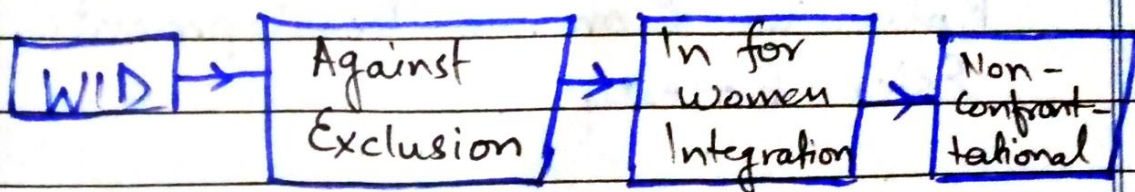
The liberal focus stressed for working with the prevalent

system to integrate women in economy
Example:-

It led to women groups working with UN and other welfare agencies to integrate women in development. Percy Amendment to US Foreign Assistance Act is a case in point.

c) Emphasis on Practical Gender Needs :-

WID was focused on women's practical gender needs (money, food, water) and for that it advocated for equal opportunity programs, equal employment rules (in USA) and economic integration (in the rest of the world).



Successes of WID:-

WID was successful in many aspects including:-

a) Development of International Machinery for Women Integration

It led UN and other agencies like World Bank to develop

new focus for west development
of new programs for women
in the west

b) Lobbying For Percy Amendment

In the USA, WID successfully
lobbied for Percy Amendment
to USA's foreign assistance act
that called for integrating women
in development.

c) Spurred Research in Favor of Women and Development Economics

WID also inspired research and
advocacy where researchers scrutinized
welfare approach of the west
capitalist economies that were
hurting the post-colonial agriculture
systems of the west (Women's
Role in Economic Development,
Ester Boserup).

5) Limitations:-

Critics of WID argue
that WID ~~does~~

- has failed to challenge
underlying issues of capitalism,
patriarchy and dependent
status of women

- treats women as a homogeneous group while ignoring differences of race and class
- has led to replacement of welfare approach with development approach which is not always applicable to all especially in the case of disable women who need welfare and cannot take part in development/economy

6) Critical Analysis :-

WID was the first approach that thought of changing women's status from 'welfare recipients' to active members of society. However it failed to achieve drastic change due to its non-confrontational approach and intersectionality issues -

7) Gender And Development (GAD):-

GAD approach emerged in the 1980s and it focused on social relations between men

but on the social construction of the gender and the assignment of specific roles, responsibilities and expectations to men and women.

—E.M. Rathgeber

8) Basic Principles of GAD:-

Basic principles of GAD include:-

a) Emphasis on Gender Roles and Power Relations

These are frameworks of analysis that GAD uses to describe the causes of marginalized status of women in social and economic realms.

b) Criticizing WID's strategy of Women as 'Target Group'

Criticizing WID's strategy of taking women as the 'target group' or 'people that need saving' is another focus of GAD. GAD posits that ~~the~~ women are active members of economy.

c) Seeking Institutional and Policy Reform

GAD has the most confrontational approach as it calls for revolutionizing the very institutes that are perpetuating marginalization.

9) Successes of GAD:-

a) Gender Mainstreaming

GAD successfully lobbied for Gender mainstreaming at Beijing Platform of Action held in 1995.

b) Gender Planning Framework

It led to UCL Development Planning Unit to come up with Moser

Gender Planning Framework that later got turned into a policy framework for social relational analysis and social change.

10) Criticism

- GAD is difficult to implement because NGOs are afraid to dive into it (Talking of Gender, I. Smythe)

- GAD stresses too much on social differences, ignoring the potential social bonding.

- GAD fails to dig deep enough into social differences and how they undermine women-only programs.

11) Critical Analysis:- According to the critics:-

- WAD fails to dig deeper into the social causes of women marginalization

- It ignores the potential for role reversal and stresses too much on social factors.

"The change has shifted focus from women to men" - Nighat Said (W)

12) Conclusion:-

Both WID and GAD have been crucial strategies for women development and have furthered women empowerment with varying strategies. Both strategies have had substantial successes but also a handful of drawbacks too.