

# The Third Gender, Water, & Equity Training Workshop in South Asia

November 23-27, 2009, India



Women's central role in the provision, management, and safeguarding of water has been reiterated in several international conferences and policy statements since the 1970s. However, 'equipping and empowering' women to participate at all levels in water management and governance is a challenging process which requires sensitivity to diverse social and cultural contexts, and women's positioning and agency.

In most countries of the region, recent sector reforms in domestic water supply programmes have provided space for women to participate in community water management institutions through quotas. Yet, to move beyond numbers or the mere integration of women, capacity building for both women and men in decision-making is critical. 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 workshop 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.

## WHAT WILL YOU GAIN?

The programme will help in -

- Understanding the larger political context of water where in gender and equity issues are placed at the centre
- Strengthening participants' perspectives on gender, water, and equity issues
- Examining analytical frameworks that could incorporate gender in the planning and implementation of programmes in the water sector

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- ⇒ Mid-level professionals working in NGOs, donor agencies and UN agencies dealing with water management
- ⇒ Activists, academics, researchers, and officials working in state and central government departments related to water management
- ⇒ Applicants can be from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan

## Participant Speak

A very comprehensive exposition which helped to perceive the link between gender, equity, and policy making.

**Kumud Sumangalie Atulugama, Attorney at Law, Sri Lanka**

I can now understand the gender imbalances in other parts of the region, study the remedial measures and put into practice the best ones in Bhutanese context which best suits the Bhutanese community.

**Tshering Phuntsho, Bhutan Water Partnership, Bhutan**

GWET facilitates a nuanced understanding of gender. This allows assessing and embedding gender equity issues at pre-project stage and improving the quality of implementation.

**Amitangshu Acharya, Arghyam, India**

The training was very well organised with a perfect blend of information and practical ways of seeing the situation from a gendered perspective.

**Usha Baniya, Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP), Nepal**



## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

A rapidly changing political, economic and social context throughout South Asia means that water is becoming a source of conflict and competition at the national, regional, and local levels. The processes of liberalisation and globalisation, growing poverty, social inequalities, water scarcity and climate uncertainty are all interconnected contexts within which an understanding of gender relations and their intersection with water and equity needs to be located.

These processes particularly affect the lives of poor 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.

## How to Apply ?

For the complete application package the interested candidates can send their letter of interest to Dr. Anjal Prakash, Senior Fellow, SaciWATERS at [anjal@saciwaters.org](mailto:anjal@saciwaters.org)

Last date for submitting the filled in Application form is **August 30, 2009.**

Selected candidates will be given full support for participating in the training. The venue will be in India.

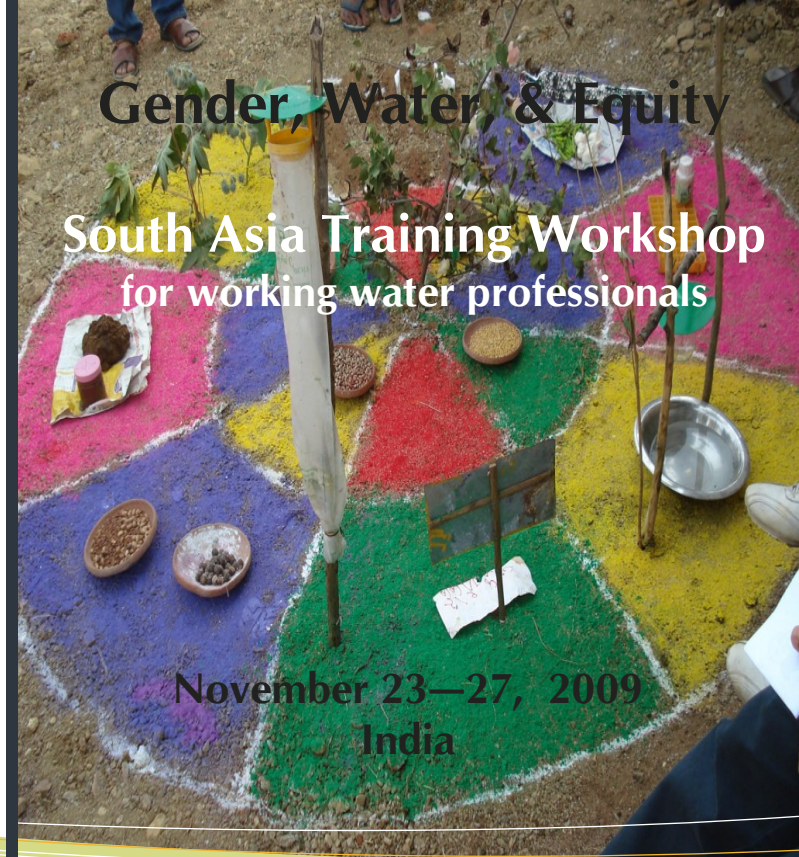




## About the Programme

This training-workshop on Gender, Water and Equity is the third in a series for researchers, policy makers, development practitioners, academics, and activists from the South Asian region as part of the Crossing Boundaries project of SaciWATERS. The project focuses on regional capacity building on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Gender of the South Asian countries.

This training- workshop is hosted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, India together with SaciWATERS, the Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune, and the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA). The programme seeks to raise participants' awareness on key gender, water and equity issues in South Asia and the challenges in mainstreaming a gender equity perspective in water policy and practice through interactive sessions, case study analysis, small group discussions and field exposure.



## About the Organizers

**SaciWATERS** comprises a network of accomplished scholars and activists from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. It works towards producing and disseminating new knowledge to address the pressing problems in the water sector in South Asia through education, capacity building research, and advocacy. [www.saciwaters.org](http://www.saciwaters.org)

**TISS** is a premier school of social work in India. The Institute has made a significant contribution to policy, planning, action strategies, and human resource development in several areas, ranging from sustainable rural and urban development to education, health, communal harmony, human rights, and industrial relations.

**SOPPECOM** is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation working in the area of Natural Resource In

Management (NRM) primarily in rural Maharashtra in India. It is committed to the principles of sustainable and rational use of natural resources, equity and social justice in the distribution of benefits especially to the disadvantaged sections like dalits, landless, women, and to the democratic and decentralized governance of these resources through policy reforms. [www.soppecom.org](http://www.soppecom.org) .

**GWA** is a global network with more than 1400 members from 110 countries managed by a small secretariat in the Netherlands. Its members are elected regionally for representation at the Steering Committee. It seeks to promote women's and men's equitable access to and management of safe and adequate water for domestic supply, sanitation, food security and environmental sustainability. [www.genderandwater.org](http://www.genderandwater.org)

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## Profile of Resource Persons



**Dr. Sara Ahmed** is a Senior Programme Specialist, Rural Poverty and Environment Programme at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), New Delhi. Dr. Ahmed taught at the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) between 1992 and 2002 before working as an independent researcher on issues of water conflicts, gender and water governance and vulnerability, climate change and governance. She was a Senior Associate with the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) and Chairperson of the Gender and Water Alliance (2007-09). Dr. Ahmed is the author of *Flowing Upstream: Empowering Women through Water Management Initiatives in India* published by Foundation Books 2005. She has contributed to several book chapters and articles on gender, water, and climate change issues in leading journals. She is currently working on a co-edited reader on gender and water in South Asia to be published by Sage.



**Mr. K. J. Joy** is one of the founding members of SOPPECOM and has participated in people's movements for equitable water distribution. He has special interest in people's institutions for land and water management. Mr. Joy has been a core team member and consultant in many action research studies and pilot projects undertaken by the Centre for Applied Systems Analysis in Development and the Society for Promoting People's Participation in Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune, India. The research has particularly focussed on participatory management of natural resources, and participatory irrigation management.



**Ms. Seema Kulkarni** is one of the founding members of the Society for Promoting Participative Eco-system Management (SOPPECOM), Pune. She has been with SOPPECOM since 1992, and has worked on gender and rural livelihoods since 1989. As a Fellow at SOPPECOM,



she co-ordinates the organisation's gender, water and livelihood activities. Seema has published several articles and book chapters on issues of gender, water, and rural livelihoods. She is associated with the women's movement in Maharashtra, particularly in south Maharashtra, where she has worked with the Stree Mukti Sangharsh Chalwal.

**Prof. Lakshmi Lingam** is a Professor and Dean, Research and Development, at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India. She has been on the faculty at TISS since 1988, teaching post-graduate courses on gender and health and gender and development. She has carried out several research projects, including a recent project on micro-credit programmes and women's empowerment, and published several papers in national and international journals. Lakshmi is currently involved in two international projects, one on gender, equity, and water, and the other on gender sensitivity in TB programmes.



**Dr. Anjal Prakash** is Senior Fellow, Research and Outreach, at SaciWATERS. He has worked extensively on issues of groundwater management, gender, natural resource management, and water supply and sanitation in western India. Before coming to SaciWATERS, Anjal worked with the policy team of WaterAid India, New Delhi, where he handled research and implementation of projects related to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Papers written by him have been published in leading journals and as chapters in edited volumes. Anjal is the author of *The Dark Zone: Groundwater Irrigation, Politics and Social Power in North Gujarat*, published by Orient Longman.



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Towards an Interdisciplinary Water Resources Knowledge System

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