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**Is The Development Policy Improving The Gender
Situation In Asia?**

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Abstract. Asia, and India in particular, witnessed the highest rate of economic growth globally. However, there is an issue of economic and social concern: gender balance of poverty. Based on the empirical evidence, the paper analysis the design and impact of development aid provided by international donors on the gender situation in rural areas in India and partly of other parts of Asia. In conclusion, the women-situation type of conditionality was contained in 20 percent of the projects under scrutiny. The positive impact was detected in 22 out of 28 projects having such a conditionality.

Keywords. Gender policy, India, Asia, Development aid.

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1. Introduction

The objective of this paper is to analyze the gender situation in rural India. The focus is on the relation between the development aid and women situation. The research question is whether the international donors aim at improving women situation by the means of the policy design of the development projects. The paper also evaluates if such a possible focus actually improves the women situation.

In Asia and the Pacific region poverty is basically a rural problem, and the gap between rural and urban poverty is widening over time in spite of impressive progress in the last three decades in economic growth and poverty reduction. Two thirds of the world's poor live in this region and the majority of the poor are women. Most of them live in rural areas. In many rural areas of Asia, more women than men are among the "working poor" than among the poor as a whole. The reinforcing causal link between the "feminization of poverty" and the "feminization of agriculture" is a key rural gender equality concern in the region with considerable importance to rural poverty eradication programmes. Almost one third of the country's population of more than 1.1 billion continues to live below the poverty line, and a large proportion of poor people live in rural areas, population is much smaller (IFAD, 2002).

In India, 71% of the population live in rural areas. According to FAO general information (FAO website), women accounted for 49% of the rural population in 2001, accounting for 32% of the agricultural labour force. Aside from the legal constraints hampering women's access to land, socio-cultural factors, such as the practice of female seclusion, prevent women from claiming their rights to land. The gender situation in rural India is a function of several factors of economical, social

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and cultural nature. Rural areas in India exposes women to a complex situation. Last decades India has remained more of a male-dominated society. Girl education in villages, health issues and poverty existing in rural India are the most powerful reforms acts started by Indian government. The work of rural Indian women is left unrecognized and have less autonomy. By the Indian census, half of the women main workers work as agricultural workers. Such factors are reducing women's quality of life in India: 25% of domestic violence against women, 50% of women's access to land, 50% of women's access to bank loans, 50% of women's access to property other than land (OECD, 2013).

In rural India, agriculture and industrial sectors employ as much as 89.5% of the total female labour. The role of women engagement in taking responsibility in the local decision making improved. By 2011, India had achieved acknowledge for the level of gender parity in political participation and empowerment. As of 2005, the unorganized sector accounts for 99% of Indian manufacturing establishments, 80% of Indian manufacturing employment (National Sample Survey Organisation). There is heightened women's entrepreneurship in the organized sector. Manufacturing employment grew 17% from 1994 to 2005, employment in women-owned establishments in the unorganized sector grew 138%, and associated employment of 40% after political reservations were implemented, but not to increased employment generally of women in manufacturing. Activity were implemented favored industries where women have historically owned more establishments nationally (Ghani, E., Kerr, W. & O'Connell, S., 2011), however reported crimes against women increased (Lakshmi, I., Mani, A., Mishra, P. and Topalova, P., 2012). As the India study of Srivastava, N. Srivastava, R. (2009) made clear, higher work participation does not lead to better employment outcomes unless accompanied by higher education and better access to assets. Monitoring the effectiveness of existing policies and projects from a gender perspective must take into account distinct gender contexts (Sancar, A. & Bieri S., 2009).

2. Methodology

The methodology is based on the empirical qualitative analysis. Six international donors to rural areas of India are scrutinized: the World Bank, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) - a specialized agency of the United Nations, the European Union (EU), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nation Women (UNW).

The individual project were of these six donors were analyzed at the project level. The period under scrutiny covers 1995 -2013. The sources of data were public websites of the international donors.

The gender conditionality test was run at the project level. Where available, the impact on the factual improvement on the women situation was checked.

3. Results

In total, 152 projects of six international donors were analyzed from the point of view of their conditionality to improve gender situation of women.

Table 1 shows the results of the gender focus of the projects under scrutiny. The empirical analysis results show that 20 percent of the project (31 projects) contained gender conditionality. The gender focus was highest in the case of the projects of the UN Women where 80 percent of the project contained women-related conditionality. In case of the European Union, there where 56 percent of the projects containing gender related conditionality, followed by the World Bank

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which had 46 percent of its projects gender-related. In the case of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), this was 27 percent of the projects.

Table 1: *International projects to India and their gender orientation*

| Donor | Number of Projects | Period | Budget | Number of Projects with Gender Conditionality |
|---|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---|
| World bank | 13 | 1997-2012 | 1.950 million USD | 6 |
| FAO | 30 | 2004-2013 | 61.400 million USD | 0 |
| International Fund for Agricultural Development | 11 | 2000-2012 | 376 million USD(*) | 3 |
| European Union | 16 | 2008-2012 | 15 million euro | 9 |
| Asian Development Bank | 67 | 2004-2012 | NA | 1 |
| UN Women | 15 | 2004-2011 | NA | 12 |

(*) Since 1979, IFAD has financed 25 programmes and projects in India, approving loans for a total of approximately 797,3 million USD.

Projects of the Asian Development Bank and of the FAO were focused to other issues than gender ones.

The overview of the project under scrutiny is listed in Table 2. It demonstrates the main thematic focus of the projects which explains key policy aim of the international donors. While the UN Women, the European Union and the World Bank projects are often of micro-societal nature they tend to address gender issues in more cases. On the other hand projects of FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are typically infrastructure-oriented and thus gender neutral.

Table 2: *List of projects and their link to gender conditionality*

| Donor | Title of Project | Period (approval date) | Sector/Themes | Budget (*) | Gender Conditionality |
|-------|--|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| WB | Bihar Rural Livelihood | 2012 | Civic engagement, gender (25%) | \$ 140 mill | Y |
| WB | North East Rural Livelihoods | 2011 | Rural markets | \$ 144,4 mill | N |
| WB | Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation | 2011 | Rural development | NA | N |
| WB | PMGSY Rural Roads | 2010 | Rural development | NA | N |
| WB | Economic Empowerment Project for Women | 2010 | Gender (25%), other | \$ 1,82 mill | Y |
| WB | Maharashtra Agricultural Competitiveness | 2010-2016 | Rural markets | \$ 100 mill | N |
| WB | Andhra Pradesh Rural Water Supply | 2009 | Rural services and infrastructure | \$ 180 mill | N |
| WB | Orissa Rural Livelihoods | 2008 | Rural markets, gender (10%) | \$ 90,50 mill | Y |
| WB | Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction | 2005 | Natural disaster ma infrastructure | \$ 682,8 mill | N |
| WB | Rural Women's | 1997 | Gender (20%) | \$ 53,50 mill | Y |

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| development and Empowerment | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|--|---------------|---|
| WB | Assam Rural Infr. and Agric. Services | 1995 | Rural services, infrastructure, gender (17%) | \$ 146,6 mill | Y |
| WB | Rural Telecommunications Development | NA | Rural services, infrastructure | \$ 60 mill | N |
| WB | Woman and Child Development | 1998 | Nutrition, children gender (22%) | \$ 350 mill | Y |
| FAO | Andhra Pradesh Farmer-managed Groundwater systems | 2004-2009 | Farm management | \$ 6.784.539 | N |
| FAO | Support to Nationally Executed Land and Water Programme | 2004-2013 | Rural services | \$ 4.695.903 | N |
| FAO | Andhra Pradesh Water Management | 2004-2010 | Rural services | \$ 4.646.7565 | N |
| FAO | Livelihood improvements in Dryland farming on the Deccan Plateau | 2004-2008 | Rural management | \$ 3.161.023 | N |
| FAO | Apples production improvement | 2004-2005 | Agriculture | \$ 365.277 | N |
| FAO | Development of technical capacity base for the promotion of organic agriculture | 2005-2007 | Agriculture | \$ 212.140 | N |
| FAO | Support to fisheries sector of the post-Tsunami Recovery framework | 2006-2008 | Fisheries management | \$ 146.849 | N |
| FAO | Developing a national Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information | 2006-2007 | Nutrition | \$ 103.000 | N |
| FAO | Capacity building in support of cleaner fishing harbours | 2007-2009 | Fisheries management | \$ 318.000 | N |
| FAO | Technical assistance to strengthen the control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza | 2008-2011 | Farm services | \$ 1.220.000 | N |
| FAO | TCP Facility | 2008-2009 | NA | \$ 216.601 | N |
| FAO | Fisheries Management and Sustainable livelihoods in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry | 2010-2011 | Fisheries management | \$ 2.125.000 | N |
| FAO | Reversing environmental degradation and rural poverty through adaptation to climate change in Drought Stricken Areas in South India | 2010-2013 | Rural services | \$ 909.090 | N |
| FAO | Improving productivity and quality of litchi in Bihar | 2010-2011 | Agriculture | \$ 396.000 | N |
| FAO | Strategy for an Animal Identification and Traceability System | 2011-2013 | Livestock management | \$ 182.000 | N |
| FAO | Workshop on Policy | 2011-2013 | Agriculture | \$ 273.000 | N |

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|-----|---|-----------|-------------------|---------------|---|
| | Options and Investment Priorities for Accelerating Agricultural Growth | | | | |
| FAO | Improving the Productivity and Quality of Litchi in Bihar | 2012-2013 | Agriculture | \$ 48.000 | N |
| FAO | Complimentary Assistance to the FAO- IFAD Collaborative Programme on Pro-Poor Policy Formulation, Dialogue and Implementation at the Country Level | 2008-2011 | Development | \$ 354.517 | N |
| FAO | Improving post-harvest practices and sustainable market development for long- line fisheries for tuna and other large pelagic fish species | 2010-2013 | Fisheries | \$ 429.000 | N |
| FAO | Re-inventing irrigation and agricultural water governance in the Asia Pacific | 2010-2013 | Agriculture | \$ 487.000 | N |
| FAO | Conservation and management of pollinators for sustainable agriculture through an ecosystem approach | 2009-2013 | Agriculture | \$ 7,810.682 | N |
| FAO | Sustainable Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem | 2009-2014 | Marine | \$ 12,082.107 | N |
| FAO | Biennial sessions of Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission | 2010-2021 | Agriculture | \$ 339.000 | N |
| FAO | Improvement of regional capacities for the prevention, control and eradication of highly pathogenic and emerging diseases | 2009-2013 | Health | \$ 10,939.608 | N |
| FAO | Reversing Environmental Degradation and Rural Poverty through Adaptation to Climate Change in Drought Stricken Areas in South India | 2010-2013 | Rural development | \$ 909.091 | N |
| FAO | Incorporating International Best Practices in the Preparation of Agricultural Outlook and Situation | 2012-2014 | Agriculture | \$ 458.298 | N |
| FAO | Policy and technical support for national contingency planning in countries at direct risk | 2010-2013 | Health | \$ 185.000 | N |

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|------|--|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | of new virulent races of wheat rusts | | | | |
| FAO | Medium-term cooperation Programme with Farmers' Organizations in Asia and the Pacific Region | 2009-2012 | Farm management | \$ 1,083.000 | N |
| FAO | Enhancing Understanding and implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Asia | 2012-2015 | nutrition | \$ 435.000 | N |
| FAO | India's contribution to the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem | 2011-2013 | marine | \$ 84.932 | N |
| IFAD | Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods | 09/2012 | Agriculture development | \$ 51 mill | N |
| IFAD | Integrated Livelihood Support Project | 12/2011 | Agriculture development | \$ 89,9 mill | N |
| IFAD | Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra's Distressed Districts Programme | 04/2009 | Agriculture development | \$ 40,1 mill | N |
| IFAD | Mitigating Poverty in Western Rajasthan Project | 04/2008 | Rural development | \$ 30,4 mill | N |
| IFAD | Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme in the Mid-Gangetic Plains | 12/2006 | Credit and Financial Services | \$ 30,2 mill | Y |
| IFAD | Tejaswini Rural Women's Empowerment | 12/2005 | Credit and Financial Services | \$ 39,4 mill | Y |
| IFAD | Post-Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Programme for the Coastal Communities of Tamil Nadu | 04/2005 | Credit and Financial Services | \$ 15 mill | N |
| IFAD | Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme | 04/2002 | Agriculture development | \$ 20 mill | N |
| IFAD | Livelihoods Improvement Project in the Himalayas | 12/2003 | Credit and Financial Services | \$ 22,9 mill | N |
| IFAD | Livelihood Security Project for Earthquake-Affected Rural Households in Gujarat | 09/2001 | Agriculture development | \$ 15 mill | N |
| IFAD | National Microfinance Support Programme | 05/2000 | Credit and Financial Services | \$ 22 mill | N |
| EU | Support to stop trafficking in women and girls through community action at the Panchayat level | 2011 to 2014 | Human rights | 240.000 € (80% of total) | Y |
| EU | Empowering Women: Access and ownership | 2010 to 2012 | Women's equality organisations and | 475.200 € (88% of total) | Y |

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| | over land and land based activities through education, legal literacy and advocacy in rural India | | institutions | | |
|----|--|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| EU | Synthesising Rural Employment Needs and Poverty Reduction in Backward Regions | 2010 to 2014 | Vocational training | 1.000.000 € (87% of total) | N |
| EU | Revitalising sustainable rural livelihoods among small and marginal dryland farmers and landless poor of Anantapur District | 2008 to 2013 | NA | NA | N |
| EU | Support to Livestock Services | NA | NA | 3.988.121 € (69% of total) | N |
| EU | Promoting older people-led community action to reduce poverty among vulnerable groups in rural Rajasthan | 2008 to 2013 | Rural development | 749.138 € (75% of total) | N |
| EU | Revitalising sustainable rural livelihoods among small and marginal dryland farmers and landless poor of Anantapur District | 2008 to 2012 | Rural development | 749.000 € (69% of total) | N |
| EU | Socio-economic empowerment for marginalized farmer and landless families through integrated watershed development, Dindigul | 2008 to 2012 | Rural development | 491.292 € (75% of total) | N |
| EU | Community empowerment and strengthening of advocacy groups for disadvantaged people in Deoghar District, Jharkhand | 2008 to 2012 | Rural development | 242.250 € (75% of total) | N |
| EU | Project Swavlamban - Empowering poor informal sector women through market relevant capacity building | 2010 to 2014 | Vocational training | 995.896 € (87% of total) | Y |
| EU | Reduction of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV in India: Improving access to Positive Women to Public Health Services | 2009 to 2012 | Infectious disease control | 750.000 € (75% of total) | Y |
| EU | Vocational education and training for vulnerable groups of women in 4 states | 2010 to 2012 | Vocational training | 507.485 € (72.39% of total) | Y |
| EU | Revitalising sustainable rural livelihoods among small and marginal dryland farmers and landless poor of Anantapur District, India | 2008 to 2012 | Rural development | 749.000 € (68.97% of total) | Y |

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|-----|---|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| EU | Promoting Community action led by older people in rural Rajasthan, India | 2008 to 2012 | Health, services, infrastructures | 749 000 € (75 % of total) | Y |
| EU | Helping rural and tribal youth in India HIV prevention and care | 2003 to 2006 | Health | 3 million € (90% of total) | Y |
| EU | Preventing HIV/AIDS amongst women of childbearing age in North East India | 2002 to 2006 | Health | 1,02 million € (90% of total) | Y |
| ADB | Off Grid Pay-As-You-Go Solar Power | Jan 2013 | Energy | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Institutional Strengthening of the Chhattisgarh Public Works Department | Dec 2012 | NA | NA | N |
| ADB | Chhattisgarh State Road Sector Project | Dec 2012 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Livelihood Improvement for River Erosion Victims in Assam | Oct 2012 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Rural Connectivity Investment | Aug 2012 | Communication | NA | |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Updating Load Forecast and Power System Master Plan for Assam | Aug 2012 | | NA | N |
| ADB | Advanced Project Preparedness for Poverty Reduction - SASEC Subregional Road Connectivity Project | Jul 2012 | Communication | NA | N |
| ADB | Rural Connectivity Investment Program | Jul 2012 | Communication | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Capacity Building for North Eastern State Roads Sector | Mar 2012 | | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Gender Inclusive Capacity Development for Electricity Distribution Loss Reduction in Rural Madhya Pradesh | Mar 2012 | Rural services | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Rajasthan Urban Development Program | Dec 2011 | Urban development | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Preparing State Road Projects | Dec 2011 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Preparing the Rajasthan Renewable Energy Transmission Program | Dec 2011 | Energy | NA | N |
| ADB | Skills Development for Inclusive Growth | Dec 2011 | | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Designing and Capacity | Dec 2011 | Finances | NA | N |

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|-----|--|----------|--------------------------|----|---|
| | Building for Strengthening State Finances and Service Delivery in West Bengal | | | | |
| ADB | Madhya Pradesh Energy Efficiency Improvement Investment Program | Dec 2011 | Energy | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - West Bengal North South Road Corridor Project (formerly Haldia Port Connectivity) | Dec 2011 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Karnataka Integrated and Sustainable Water Resources Management Investment Program | Dec 2011 | Services | NA | N |
| ADB | Support to Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission | Nov 2011 | Energy | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Supporting Clean Village Environments for MDGs | Nov 2011 | Environment | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Capacity Building for Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Project | Oct 2011 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction- Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening for the Assam Urban Infrastructure Investment Program | Sep 2011 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Developing the Power System Master Plan for Bihar | Aug 2011 | NA | NA | N |
| ADB | Madhya Pradesh Energy Efficiency Improvement Investment Program | Jul 2011 | Energy | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Gujarat Solar Vocational Training and Livelihoods Project | May 2011 | Energy | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Rajasthan Solar Park Capacity Development Project | May 2011 | Energy | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Capacity Development for Jharkhand State Roads Sector | Dec 2010 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Institutional Development for a Value Chain Approach to Agribusiness in Bihar and Maharashtra | Dec 2010 | Finances, agriculture | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - | Dec 2010 | NA | NA | N |

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|-----|---|----------|-------------------|----|---|
| | Capacity Development for Community-based Flood Risk Management in Assam | | | | |
| ADB | Capacity Development for Project Management of Infrastructure Development for Rural Livelihood Enhancement | Nov 2010 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Meghalaya Public Resource Management Development Program | Nov 2010 | NA | NA | N |
| ADB | MFF - Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program | Oct 2010 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | MFF - Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management Investment Program | Oct 2010 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Agribusiness Infrastructure Development Investment Program | Sep 2010 | Finances | NA | N |
| ADB | Improving Small Farmers' Access to Market in Bihar and Maharashtra | Jul 2010 | Farm management | NA | N |
| ADB | Preparing an Investment Plan for Himachal Pradesh Urban Development | Jul 2010 | Urban development | NA | N |
| ADB | MFF - Rural Roads Investment Program | Jul 2010 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Water Users Association Empowerment for Improved Irrigation Management in Chhattisgarh | Feb 2010 | services | NA | N |
| ADB | Addressing Social and Health Issues Associated with Road Improvement in Selected North Eastern States (Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland) | Dec 2009 | Health | NA | N |
| ADB | Integrated Water Resources Management and Sustainable Water Service Delivery in Karnataka | Dec 2009 | Services | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Capacity Development for Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management | Dec 2009 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Jharkhand State Roads Project | Dec 2009 | Infrastructure | NA | N |

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|-----|---|----------|-------------------|----|---|
| ADB | MFF - Assam Power Sector Enhancement Investment Program | Nov 2009 | NA | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Capacity Development of Bihar Power Sector Entities | Nov 2009 | NA | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Support for the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission | Sep 2009 | Urban development | NA | N |
| ADB | Poverty Reduction - Madhya Pradesh | Sep 2009 | NA | NA | N |
| ADB | Supporting an Initiative for Mainstreaming Public-Private Partnerships for Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas | Sep 2009 | Rural development | NA | N |
| ADB | Chhattisgarh Irrigation Development Project | Aug 2009 | Agriculture | NA | N |
| ADB | MFF - Rural Roads Sector II Investment Program | Aug 2009 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Capacity Building & Livelihood Enhancement of Poor Water Users | Jun 2009 | Services | NA | N |
| ADB | Study on Cross-Sectoral Implications of Biofuel Production and Use | Mar 2009 | Energy | NA | N |
| ADB | Rajasthan Urban Sector Development Investment Program | Jan 2009 | Urban development | NA | N |
| ADB | Agribusiness Infrastructure Development Investment Program | Dec 2008 | Finances | NA | N |
| ADB | Rural Electrification Corporation of India | Nov 2008 | Energy | NA | N |
| ADB | Khadi Reform and Development Program | Oct 2008 | NA | NA | N |
| ADB | Preparing the Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project - Assam Processing and Institutional Strengthening | Sep 2008 | NA | NA | N |
| ADB | MFF - Rural Roads Sector II Investment Program | Sep 2008 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | IND: GTL INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED PHASE-II TELECOMMUNICATION ON INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT | May 2008 | Communicat | NA | N |
| ADB | Mainstreaming Public-Private Partnerships at Central Line Ministries | Nov 2007 | NA | NA | N |

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| of the Government of India | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------|----------------------|----|---|
| ADB | Deploying Innovative Information and Communications Technology for Supporting e-Governance in Assam | Nov 2007 | Comunicati | NA | N |
| ADB | MFF - Madhya Pradesh Power Sector Investment Program | Apr 2007 | NA | NA | N |
| ADB | MFF - Uttarakhand State-Road Investment Program | Dec 2006 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Rural Cooperative Credit Restructuring and Development Program | Dec 2006 | Rural development | NA | N |
| ADB | Kerala Sustainable Urban Development (formerly Urban Infrastructure Development and Environment II) | Dec 2005 | Urban development | NA | N |
| ADB | MFF - Rural Roads Sector II Investment Program | Dec 2005 | Rural infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Multi-sector Project for Infrastructure Rehabilitation in Jammu and Kashmir | Dec 2004 | Infrastructure | NA | N |
| ADB | Assam Power Sector Development Program | Dec 2003 | NA | NA | N |
| UN Women | Strengthening Women's Legal Rights in Aceh, Indonesia | 2009 | Women, gender | NA | Y |
| UN Women | Supporting Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights in Nation-building of Timor-Leste | 2010 | Women, gender | NA | Y |
| UN Women | Mid-Term Evaluation of the Integrated Programme for Women in Politics and Decision-Making in Timor-Leste | 2011 | Women | NA | Y |
| UN Women | Deepening Democracy, Women's Participation in Peace and Politics in South Asia | 2009 | Women | NA | Y |
| UN Women | PROJECT ON PROMOTING WOMEN IN DEMOCRATIC DECISION-MAKING IN CAMBODIA | 2009 | Women | NA | Y |
| UN Women | Regional Programme on Expansion of Employment Opportunities for Women (EEOW), Cambodia Chapter | 2005 | Women | NA | Y |
| UN | Asian Regional | 2004 | Women | NA | Y |

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|---------------|---|------|-------------------|----|---|
| Women | Programme on Expansion on Employment Opportunities for Women VietNam Chapter | | | | |
| UN Women | Decent Employment for Women in India Project | 2005 | Women | NA | Y |
| UN Women | Equality and Decent Work Promotion for Asian Women through Prevention of Human Trafficking, Protection of Domestic Workers and Gender Capacity Building | 2010 | Women | NA | Y |
| UN Women (**) | India: promoting urban social development through self help groups inKarnataka | 2007 | Urban development | NA | Y |
| UN Women | Empowering women through self-help groups INDIA COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION | 2009 | Women | NA | Y |
| UN Women | Evaluation of Gender within the Livelihoods Programme on Nias Island, Indonesia | 2007 | Gender | NA | Y |
| UN Women | Nepal: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Promoting the Rights of Women and the Excluded for Sustained Peace and Inclusive Development | 2011 | Gender | NA | Y |
| UN Women | Country evaluation of the age and gender mainstreaming pilot project India | 2005 | Gender | NA | Y |
| UN Women | Entrepreneurship development programme for women in food processing in central Vietnam | 2007 | Women | NA | Y |

(*) The budget refers to the budgetary implication of the Institution/donor.

(**) This project is co-financed by the ADB and UN Women, therefore it is mentioned twice.

Finally, Table 3 provides an overview of the types of gender conditionality included in the projects under scrutiny. This analysis demonstrates that the range of tools chosen to improve the gender situations varies from the organisational measures at regional or local level, to economical and social instruments.

Once available, the Table indicates also whether actually there are positive gender effects achieved. In majority of the cases, the evaluation is of the qualitative and not of the quantitative nature due to the publicly available information.

The results show that out of 28 evaluated projects with gender conditionality, 22 generated positive results. Three other projects offered moderate positive effects. The moderation came mainly from the delays in the implementation. In one case the gender-impact results are uncertain. Finally, in the case of two projects, no

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positive effects could have been identified due to the implementation delays of the projects or project management issues.

Table 3: *Effects on conditionality on the projects which aim to improve gender situation in rural India and in Asia*

| Donor | Project | Conditionalities | Positive Effects |
|-------|--|--|--|
| WB | Bihar rural livelihoods project | Measures to facilitate favorable climate and efficient delivery of public services. Effectiveness through scaling up federating and build livelihood organizations and vertically federate the Village organizations | YES (Mobilized 515.000 poor women, into 46.000 self help groups and 3.500 village organization. Saved \$5.5 million, positively impacted savings of households, reduced cost indebtedness, increased food security, women empowerment significantly). |
| WB | Economic empowerment project for women | Partnerships initiated with organizations to set up centers in the states concerned. Business plans, support from management, local economic activities to farmers through training, tele-agriculture, demonstration plots, tools libraries, spot and future price information distributed by mobile (Technology tools), linkages to markets through agricultural trading cooperative. | YES (7 Community Resource Centers to be scaled up to Business Resource Centers were identified through a participatory process). |
| WB | Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project | Interventions through partnership with Technical Support Agencies. The project has developed a strategy for forming producer groups to support producers across the production cycle. Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society to provide skills training placement services | MODERATELY (Some progress, many of planned activities behind schedule pending Delays implementation of planned activities impacted the planned expenditures over years. 100 producer groups formed mostly in the farm sector. 75% of the households reduced dependency from high cost from private money lending). |
| WB | Assam rural infrastructure and agricultural services project | Offering better opportunities for poorer farmers and women to contribute to agricultural growth and income generation; induced key policy reform initiatives, better use of ground water, crop diversification and better rural connectivity. | YES (Improve equity and alleviate poverty. Increase productivity of agric, livestock and fisheries by >34%). |
| WB | Woman and child development project | Program Support; Management and Institutional Development, Information, Education and Communication (home visits, nutrition and health education session, social mobilization through door-to door contacts, rallies, gold art, mobile video van, exhibitions, special campaign days). Nutrition Surveys and National Training. Help from the new Bank supervision team: | MODERATELY (Bank performance moderately satisfactory. The direct beneficiaries were increased by 5.3 million children and 1.3 million pregnant and lactating women. Implementation delayed (had not made much progress, falling into a crisis). Implementation progress was rated "satisfactory," and |

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| | | institutional changes on service quality improvement; decentraliza.; targeting and enhance community participation. The central government provides financial assistance. Preventive strategies in malnutrition reduction, providing training in life skills. Infrastr. development: handpumps for safe drinking water and provision of equipments. Free Expression for Quality Improvement (FREQI): powerful tool involving every functionary to have positive impacts. | development objectives "moderately satisfactory"). |
| IFAD | Womens' empowerment and livelihoods programme in the Mid- Gangetic plains | Support structure to evolve into sustainable People's Organizations. Community Institutions Development sub-component provides support services in strengthening existing community organisations and promoting new organisations with training and capacity building using the services of national NGOs. Involving women in enterprises and activities supported by extensive training and orientation. | NO (Large number of women could not be linked with bank credit and affected the livelihood promotion activities, delays in recruitment, high turnover, bureaucratic procedures and insufficient decentralization increases in women's incomes are small, negative high levels of women's participation). |
| IFAD | Tejaswini Rural Women's Empowerment Programme Documents | Sexual harassment policies and redressal mechanisms as per Supreme Court directive developed. Gender strategy prepared by an external consultant that gives a good analysis of position of women and gender concerns in Maharashtra. The National Alliance for Women Organisations developed a manual for conducting mock parliament. Women's access to basic infrastructure and facilities addressed through convergence with Government programmes, improved considerable in terms of achieving physical and financial targets. | MODERATELY (Satisfactory: training on governance issues to 3.030 women who have contested elections in the previous year. 27% and 59% of the respondents are very satisfied with the empowerment related activities. 2% unsatisfied ModeratelySatisfactory on physical and financial assets, as mobilized saving INR 1.794 million Moderately Satisfactory in food security. Moderately Satisfactory in increase in incomes. Moderately satisfactory in policy Impact). |
| EU | To support the Government of Indias efforts to stop trafficking in women and girls through community action at the Panchayat level | Creating institutionalized prevention mechanisms to stop trafficking at the source districts get supported and enhanced through community action | YES (Community actions enhanced). |
| EU | Empowering Women: Access | Literacy including functional and legal literacy among dalit and tribal | YES (100 villages from the states of |

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| | and ownership over land and land based activities through education, legal literacy and advocacy in rural India | women; Access to and control over property , income and natural resources | Jharkhand, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh.Target Groups: 3,300 tribal, dalit and socially disadvantaged women). |
| EU | Project Swavlamban - Empowering poor informal sector women through market relevant capacity building | Will build skills among self-employed women, in textile, garment and other economic fields such as agro processing and renewable energy | YES (States Gujarat and Rajasthan covering 25.000 women). |
| EU | Reduction of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV in India: Improving access to Positive Women to Public Health Services | Reversing the HIV epidemic in India. Through access to, equality, services & information | YES (Vulnerable populations in 2 high prevalence& 1 highly vulnerable States). |
| EU | Vocational education and training for vulnerable groups of women in 4 states | Building on existing Rural business hubs for skills development in the supply chain (vegetables, honey, non-timber forest products and bamboo) for women. Training in quality segregation, value addition and packaging; enterprise management. Get support for infrastructure, capital, insurance | YES (Covering 5.200 women in 4 states Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan). |
| EU | Revitalising sustainable rural livelihoods among small and marginal dryland farmers and landless poor | Promote a sustainable use of natural resources in a drought prone area in India. Through the involvement and strengthening of women's cooperatives aims to contribute to gender equality | YES (Anantpur District and Andhra Pradesh). |
| EU | Promoting Community action led by older people in rural Rajasthan, India | The construction of a Rain Water Harvesting Structure (Taanka). Using saved money and spending on buying livestock. | YES (Improving economic situation of women). |
| EU | Helping rural and tribal youth in India, HIV prevention and care | Through access to information and services on HIV and reproductive health for young people (especially girls). To promote a supportive environment to meet the reproductive, sexual and HIV related health-needs of rural and tribal youths. | YES (400 young women/men's support groups formed health services for STI testing and treatment support). |

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| EU | Preventing HIV/AIDS amongst women of childbearing age in North East India | Establishment of previously non-existent Maternal and Child Health services. Providing information and raise awareness amongst women in the reproductive age group of HIV. Providing integrated health services opening of health centres and mobile clinics. | YES (Improving social and health situation of women). |
| UN Women | Strengthening Women's Legal Rights in Aceh, Indonesia | Higher levels of awareness of gender issues, legislators and policy makers, government staff in the province and districts, judges and prosecutors, law enforcement staff. Using law in more districts and pursue a preventive approach, law enforcement training centers and women's studies programs and work toward creating a provincial masterplan for development of women's rights. | YES (Very relevant to the context and effective in contributing to improving women's realization of their rights in Aceh. Some partners needed more capacity to use results based management tools and training is planned). |
| UN Women | Supporting Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights in Nation-building of Timor-Leste | Through quality social welfare and social protection services. Outcome 1: change in laws and plans through establishment of legal frameworks and mechanisms to uphold their rights; national action plans to prevent-combat domestic violence and human trafficking; upgrade the knowledge and skills of government officials, NGOs and CBOs involved in implementing action plans, Information, education and communication strategies. Outcome 2: seeks to improve social services and schemes through improved outreach mechanisms and services and the establishment of a social protection scheme Outcome 3: tools on gender sensitive planning and gender responsive budgeting; civil society trained on gender sensitive planning and gender responsive budgeting. | YES (Stronger democratic institutions and mechanisms for social cohesion are consolidated and vulnerable populations benefit) Outcome 1: improved protection of women and girls. Outcome 2: reduced vulnerability of women and girls Outcome 3: increase the knowledge and skills of senior government officials). |
| UN Women | Mid-Term Evaluation of the Integrated Programme for Women in Politics and Decision-Making (IPWPDMD) in Timor-Leste | Enable greater and more meaningful participation by women in the national parliament and councils. Interventions are building the capacities of women-candidates so they can participate in the electoral processes. Absence of local sustainable institutions and the manner of project execution. Deficiencies in the formulation of the programme results frameworks and its links. Inadequacy of the funds raised compared to the projected total | NO (Only minimal changes in the number of women elected as chiefs and council members over the last two electoral cycles. NGOs which supported the women did not have the technical competence required for the tasks. There was no uniform method for the allocation of resources. Inefficiencies being incurred in the centralized management system of |

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| | | programme budget. | UNIFEM/UN Women. Inefficiencies in the programme implementation). |
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| UN Women | Deepening Democracy, Women's Participation in Peace and Politics in South Asia | Inclusion of gender concerns and women's rights in the New Constitution of Nepal. UNIFEM Nepal's ability to jointly mobilize Nepali women activists. Through a good communication between and among related stakeholders. Timely mobilize the activists on appropriate issues. | YES (Contribution significantly important to influence the decision-makers in the Nepali politics to increase participation of women in political and peace processes. Some of the planned activities completed with a very tight budget). |
| UN Women | Project on promoting women in democratic decision-making in Cambodia | Through promoting women in decision in the 2007 and 2008 elections. Through the collaboration among the CPWP member organizations and NGOs. Mobilizing financial resources to support their own campaigns and women's greater participation in development. Organizing a women's group at the village level to facilitate the work of commune level women leaders. | YES (The project has effectively contributed to greater visibility of women in elected offices at the commune, provincial and national levels). |
| UN Women | Regional Programme on Expansion of Employment Opportunities for Women (EEOW), Cambodia Chapter | Providing various training workshops, gender equality promotion in enterprise development and workers' rights. Implementing Partners and other organizations working in the related fields. Providing direct assistance to beneficiaries in the areas of gender awareness raising, technical training on agriculture, handicrafts, animal raising and micro-finance. Integrating gender issues in the Local authorities programmes and men sharing reproductive work. Combination of institutional capacity building, direct assistance to women and networking | YES (progress in improving the socio-economic status of women in the target areas. Beneficiaries raised awareness on gender issues and gained new skills and knowledge together with credit to earn additional income. Women gained self-confidence with new skills, they are more involved in community activities and decision-making). |
| UN Women | Decent Employment for Women in India Project (DEW) | Thought public vocational training institutes in India: formal-training. The Government would launch, expand and institutionalize non-formal training in its training institutions, providing vocational and soft skills to poor women, technical staff, monitoring of activities, cross sharing of experiences between implementing partners, traditional and non-traditional vocational skills. | YES (Workable to provide employable training for poor women in the informal sector. 70% of the women trained have found employment) |
| UN | Equality and | Institutional interventions facilitated, | YES |

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| Women | Decent Work Promotion for Asian Women through Prevention of Human Trafficking, Protection of Domestic Workers and Gender Capacity Building | networks built, local legislation strengthened, skills imparted, and locally adapted materials distributed to Regional outcomes. Introducing a new funding modality, Investment in adaptation and translation of materials, training and application of gender mainstreaming tools. | (Constructive balance between responsiveness to the constituents and bridge-building most involved in anti-trafficking and domestic worker protection issues. For the Asia Pacific there is a clear disadvantage to earmarked funds). |
| UN Women | India: promoting urban social development through self help groups in Karnataka | NGOs with women empowerment have continued to support the groups, are keen on sustaining the groups | UNCERTAIN (For the NGOs, the operational cost of maintaining the SHGs is high). Groups have contributed to the NGOs' survival). |
| UN Women | Nepal: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Promoting the Rights of Women and the Excluded for | Supported participatory and inclusive constitutional processes to further peace. International standards on human rights have been ratified or signed. Consent of formal political institutions once in place. Hardening of boundaries between groups, and a heavy focus on rights as entitlements. Enforcement mechanisms to the success of legislation in reducing inequalities and in promoting more inclusive development. | YES (In spite of the uncertain political situation and the absence of local government bodies the mission observes that substantial progress has been made). |
| UN Women | Country evaluation of the age and gender mainstreaming pilot project India | Mainstreaming of age and gender by representatives essential to success. The participatory tool should be applied thoroughly and in a structured manner in order to guarantee the continuity of the benefits identified by the pilot scheme. | YES (Methodology project had enthusiastic acceptance by UNHCR). |
| UN Women | - Entrepreneurship development programme for women in food processing in central Vietnam | Ownership and interest by key partners in project activities. Continuity in the approach (use of expertise, materials from previous projects). Consideration for socio-cultural aspects through series of awareness building events. Intensity of cooperation between the project and counterparts at the provincial, district and commune levels. | YES (Awareness and cooperation gains). |

4. Conclusions

The paper analyzed 152 projects of six international donors to rural India and some other Asian countries.

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The gender-conditionally was contained in 31 projects, a minority of the total number. However, gender-conditionality focus varied according to the donors priority. UN Women had the highest gender focus (86 percent of the project contained women-related conditionality), followed by the European Union (56 percent), the World Bank (46 percent) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (27 percent). Other two donors had different than gender focus.

In terms of efficiency of the conditionality, the analysis shows a relatively high positive effect with 22 out of 28 projects having a positive impact on gender situation. The reservation should be kept concerning the quantitative effect of project on the real improvement of the women situation in rural India and Asia.

In conclusion, the international donors under the scrutiny focus on gender issues was not in the centre of the policy orientation. However, once a women- related conditionality was part of the project, it generally helped in improving women situation. Nevertheless, the international aid should be seen only as a complement to the systemic change driven by structural changes in the society, economy and trade.

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