

Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
Regional Workshop: Gender and Sustainable Development
with focus on Economic Empowerment

Programme Information

Introduction

Moving on to the last phase of our Quadrennial Programme Plan, we are organising a workshop on Gender and Sustainable Development with focus on Economic Empowerment. This serves as a follow-up programme on YMCA actions to poverty alleviation, development works, migration, and gender related issues and women empowerment.

Economic globalisation increasingly created many disparities among the people. Seventy percent of the poor in the world are women, which is aggravated by discrimination faced by women in regard to access to resources and property. Despite of being responsible for half of the world's food production, women are starving. Poor people could not meaningfully participate in socio-political processes that establish development goals for the people including those that affect them. In effect, they have less opportunity to participate towards a more sustainable society.

Many studies have recognised the importance of economic empowerment in improving the status of women and has a key role in gender strategies. Economic empowerment projects lead to employment creation, entrepreneurship development, poverty reduction, and promotes economic self-reliance.

Several YMCAs have been responding to the well-being of poor women and men especially at the grassroots level engaging them in enterprise development and income generation. Among the most prominent are micro credit and micro enterprises. We continue to be engaged in productive economic activities as an essential component of pro-poor growth. Some development organisations promote economic activities as a re-integration and socio-economic empowerment programme of marginalised groups including migrant workers. But, we need to understand that during this process, we have to critically look at ensuring women's rights, equality and dignity.

With this workshop, the YMCA development workers, involved in this processes will be able to effectively facilitate women's development and gender equitable enterprise development.

Objectives

The participants will be able to:

1. Study and explore the emerging trends, issues and relevant action strategies on microenterprise development towards economic empowerment and sustainable communities.
2. Understand the relationship of providing equal opportunities to women and men in enterprise development, and the processes of promoting women's economic empowerment among the resource poor and vulnerable groups.
3. Enhance knowledge and skills for creative and participatory development process, learning modules and education tools towards gender sensitivity and awareness raising.

The Programme

The workshop is designed to have interactive sessions, case studies and exposure visit that would provide real life stories from the ground (grassroots). By this experiential learning process, we will be able to highlight enterprise development, its context and challenges and gender relations. The programme will be participatory and action-oriented that would be translating ideas towards formulation of strategies and actions with the facilitation provided by the resource persons/facilitators.

As we strengthen our existing commitment to gender concerns, we have integrated a gender sensitisation programme

Target Participants : 20 ~ 25

- Volunteers and staff (women and men) of YMCAs engaged in economic empowerment programmes, community development works especially on women's issues and gender-related issues, or those intending to begin such programmes. (*Gender balance and younger participants will receive due consideration*)
- Men are highly encouraged to join and actively participate in partnership with women.

Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced capacity of staff and equipped with the current challenges and opportunities of enterprise development as an strategy for economic empowerment towards sustainable development.
2. Enhanced understanding on gender sensitivity in relationship to enterprise development
3. Acquired methods of creating gender awareness and sensitivity through module design/curriculum.

Date/Venue **24-28 September 2010**
YMCA Pune, India

Hosts **YMCA Pune in coordination with the National Council of YMCAs of India**

Registration Fee **US\$50** (*Mandatory payment by all participants*)

Participation Fee **US\$150** that covers full board and lodging (5days/4nights) in a twin-share standard room.

Closing Date for Registration

Duly completed registration form, duly endorsed by the National Council should reach APAY Secretariat by **10 September 2010**.

Contact Persons

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