

SAFP and Equal Saree

Understanding Interstitial Spaces to fill gender resource gaps

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Understanding Interstitial Spaces to fill gender resource gaps

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Abstract :

Women in Okhla unlike men are more excluded from an official planning process because their worth is invisible. The research finding shows that women access 31% less space and avail 3% less services in Okhla resulting in their lesser worth at the familial and the governance level. Married men have 130% more income. A 14% asset gap shows that women can control fewer assets as they inherit less than men. Gender gap favored men by 10% more in access to resources outside the house, who had 30% more access to livelihood opportunity and 7% more control of equipment as resources. As gender resource gap was found most in spousal income, livelihood opportunities and space, a spatial plan was proposed to make gender resource centers with livelihood interventions connected through safe roads with many public infrastructure for care and production spaces that women may access more. This design called the Okhla gender plan is a collaborative effort of youth and women groups who aspire for a sustainable urban environment which has space for all residents as well as migrants in the area.

Outcome of this exploration are micro and macro plans with a set of next steps in form of recommendations for stakeholders at different levels. This research shows that inclusive planning can be manifested at a local area level to develop resource increase options within a local area level plan that is linked to district planning.

Introduction

This exploration towards knowing the resource gap between women and men with a premise that if the gap is known, planning can ensure to reduce it. Resource is a source that increases capability and capacity. For the purpose of this study resources are natural, built infrastructure, financial resources, human, intellectual and skills. Gender Resource Gap (GRG) is a gap existing between men and women in access to, control of and ownership of resource at different level due to their roles and interrelationships.

Policy interventions are too often designed without taking into account the role of discriminatory social institutions in driving unequal outcomes for women and girls (OECD 2012). Policies do not alter development plans and translate into changing daily life options based on equity as the state is willing to offer.

If a policy and legal basis did not increase the resource base for women then it needed to be planned for.

The issue of economic disparity and the pursuit of happiness engage different people at a national and international level to compute gaps in the form of economic disparity and gross national happiness quotients. The transformations witnessed by the present generation makes us acutely aware that the way resources are consumed, distributed and control is proving to be a disaster for humanity as well as the natural resource base that support life on earth. Efficient use of resource is essential and it should be managed by people who can nurture its re growth or regeneration. The unequal distribution begins at the household level where resources are demarcated between primary relationship as well as relationships set within matrimony and other alliances. Most national planning does not devolve beyond a household level. Planning for members within a household is thus a gap in at least the context of Indian planning systems. Thus it was imperative that a micro study links gender resource differentials with local planning such that planning at macro level can be informed about how to reduce the gender resource gap.

The 12th Plan has emphasized inclusion of all marginalized and vulnerable. The attainment of gender equality is assumed to be implicit in the mention of *inclusion* but gender equality as policy objective has the possibility of being ignored unless mentioned specifically in indicators and monitoring. The 12th FYP has no mention of gender resource gaps to make space for allocations. Therefore, spatial planning base line studies need to be set aside for the work of institutionalizing gender in the current planning period and this needed to be located at city and village level planning. The gap to fill is a planning for women's work and access to spaces through workers' housing support within the city.

Quantifying Gender Gaps

The Karnataka Household Asset Survey or KHAS (IIM 2011) recommended collecting incidence-based and valuation data. Through this research it is proven that 16% gender disparities exist in asset base within households as the opportunities for asset accumulation between women and men are unequal. This study proves

that quantification of a gender resource gap is possible. It details housing land and household assets like TV fridge, production assets such as phone, computers, implements and consumer products to reach the percentage of gap. For e.g. it detailed that agricultural land in rural areas, 71% was owned by individual men, 14% owned by individual women and 2% held by couples living in a household This work is path breaking for it refutes the work of some other theorists like Naila Kabeer who conclude that computing gender resource gaps is more evidence based if it is done through a qualitative analysis (Kabeer 2012). The research work done in Okhla linked household assets with gender resource gap in different forms and levels.

Gender Resource Gaps: Multiple Forms and Manifold Levels

Gender resource gaps: Multiple forms

Gender Resource Gaps (GRG) across Space and Services

GRG across space : The concept of gender and spatial planning was understood across physical, emotional and mental spaces.

Quantum of Gender gap in space

	Rural			Urban			
Space	Female	Male	Gap	Female	Male	Gap	Average Gap
Private	10%	54%	44%	27%	63%	37%	40%
Work	21%	53%	32%	58%	72%	13%	23%
Public	44%	68%	23%	47%	86%	39%	31%
	25%	58%	33%	44%	74%	30%	31%

A Kerala Christian woman professional married to Meo Muslim from Haryana explained “I did not respond to the cultural difference as nuns taught me to prosper as a seed to flower and remain happy anywhere”. This woman did buy a plot in her own name in Okhla and aspired to design it like a Kerala home but was told by male architects that dust in Delhi settles in open spaces and this was not practical. Women wanted more spaces to experience ownership, to have access to a garden or a space just to relax or to acquire skills to earn more or manage and sustain property. “I will like to design our centre in shape of a mosque” said Jahanara as women are not allowed in the mosque. Through case studies and FGD, aspirations for space

were mapped. GRG across physical space was computed at 31 %, more in rural Chilla (33%) than Urban Okhla (30%) as explained in the table above.

GRG across services : During the study neighborhood walks were organized to find out what services women and men found lacking and it was found that men wanted toilets in public spaces more than women even as Delhi has less women's public toilets. Instead women prioritize local drains and access to all services to work better as they are more in the neighborhood. Access to transport and mobility emerged as a key area for intervention as women and men travel and need access to different spaces differently. Priorities of women as well as of men who are not in centrally located, formal sector employment (Beall 1996) tend to be overlooked. The gender gap for education and health services was computed to be 3% as shown in the table below.

	Gender gaps in service (-sign for female favor)	Rural gap	Urban gap	Average Gap
Education	Average	5%	2%	3%
Services	Illiteracy	9%	4%	7%
	School education	3%	17%	10%
	Graduation	3%	0%	2%
	Professional degree	4%	-13%	-5%
Access to healthcare services	Average	1%	4%	3%
	Quack	2%	9%	6%
	Community Health Centre	2%	2%	2%
	Government Hospital	4%	-7%	-2%
	Private Doctor/ Hospital	-5%	13%	4%

More women were illiterate but when they got into the system more women could achieve professional education.

GRG in income generation and economic worth

Spousal income favored men by 130%. This gap got addressed by women accessing NGO and government schemes more by 11%

Income gap and economic worth GRG	Rural gap	Urban gap	Average Gap
1. Spousal income gap	71%	262%	130%
	Women	Men	Gap
2. Access to resources within the house	10%	20%	10%
3. Access to schemes	17%	6%	-11%
4. Access to institutions			7%

Gender gaps in access to social networks

The social network is influenced by familial ties and economic worth. The women respondents had 7% less access to institutions as shown ahead in the economic worth gender resource gap.

Gender resource gaps: Manifold levels

Gender resource gaps at familial level:

The familial worth is transacted and transferred by sustaining the resources within the family and within the economy with a balance between economic and emotional capital. Emotional value is the worth of feelings that has as much value as worth of a family or an organization but economists have not quantified this worth. Some care roles may lead to getting property in inheritance which increases economic worth of the individual. The economic worth of a person is usually derived from income, assets and skill base to increase personal and family wealth for economic security. Income when not consumed in basic needs can lead to investment in asset. The gender gap in assets was computed at 14 %.

Gender resource gaps in division of labor, occupation and components of work

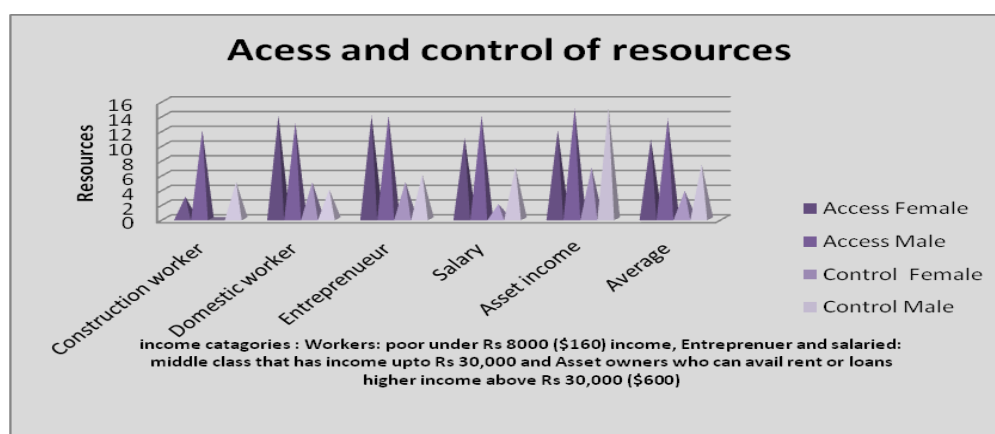
Gender gap in division of labor was computed by applying Harvard Analysis Framework (HAF) in Okhla just before the Common Wealth Games and during Ramzan 2010. This was a very high activity period for construction companies who were racing against time to complete projects before this international event. Male workers at construction site worked round the clock even during rain and floods at the construction sites. The homes in Okhla area too were full of socializing and community activity as it was Ramzan. During this festival every Muslim household cooks and eats in early morning hours and the men assemble to understand the holy books and pray. The domestic workers thus have triple duty during those days. These are days of fasting for most so most workers run out of energy by afternoon or evening.

Table : Activity profile and roles – summing up

Activity	Roles performed in a month	Women	Men	Gap
Productive	8 to12 hrs a day* 22 to 28 days a month	14	23.25	-9.5
Reproductive	6-14 hours a day *30 days a month	27.5	12.5	15
Community	2-6 hours a day	6.5	21.25	-14.5

Gender resource gaps in access, control and decision making:

When it came to control of resources women had a much lower score of 3.8 in comparison to males who had a score of 7.8 as shown in the figure below.



Gender resource gaps: Locating quantum and interventions

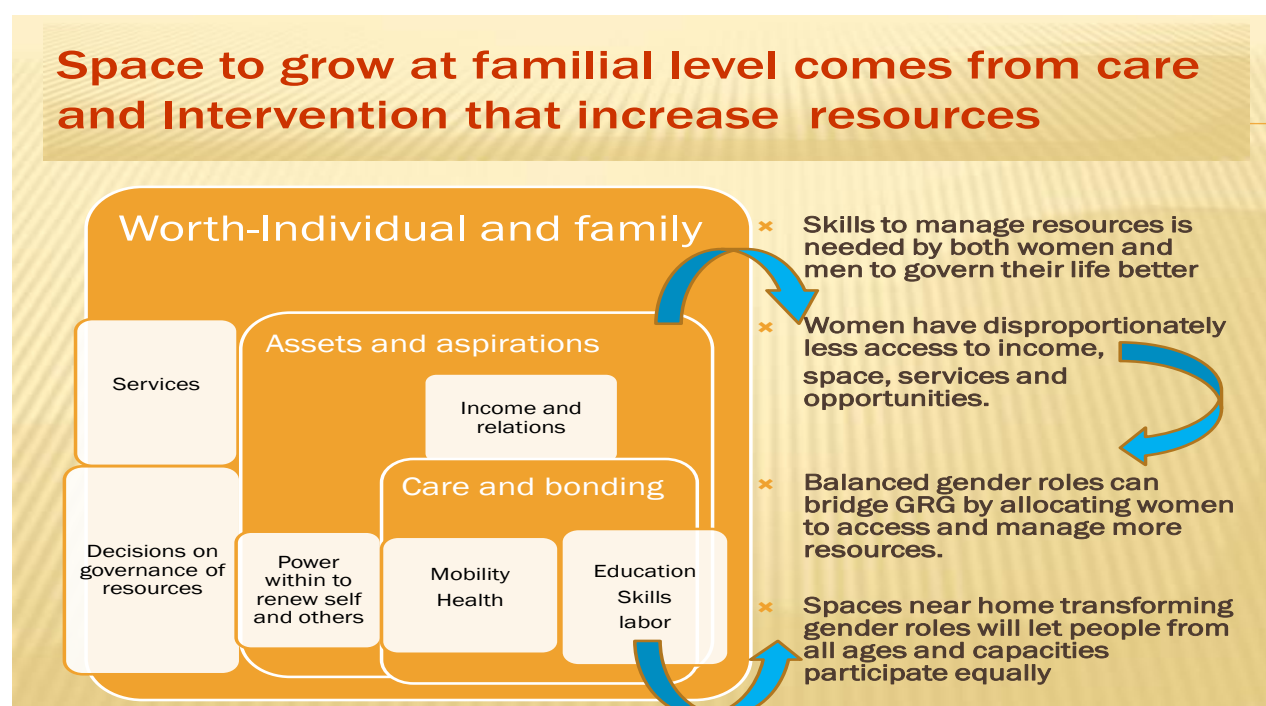
The quantification of resources within the household, as well as the services within the area where the household resides shows that women have a very strong disadvantage in access to resources. This violates constitutional provisions of gender equality namely Articles 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 39(c) and 42 of the Constitution of India. The gender discrimination in resource base however has not been listed as a high priority in the 12th Five Year Plan that promises to promote inclusive planning. Therefore if interventions are planned locally to cover the smallest unit of district planning, the steps for planning for inclusion can have ramifications nationally.

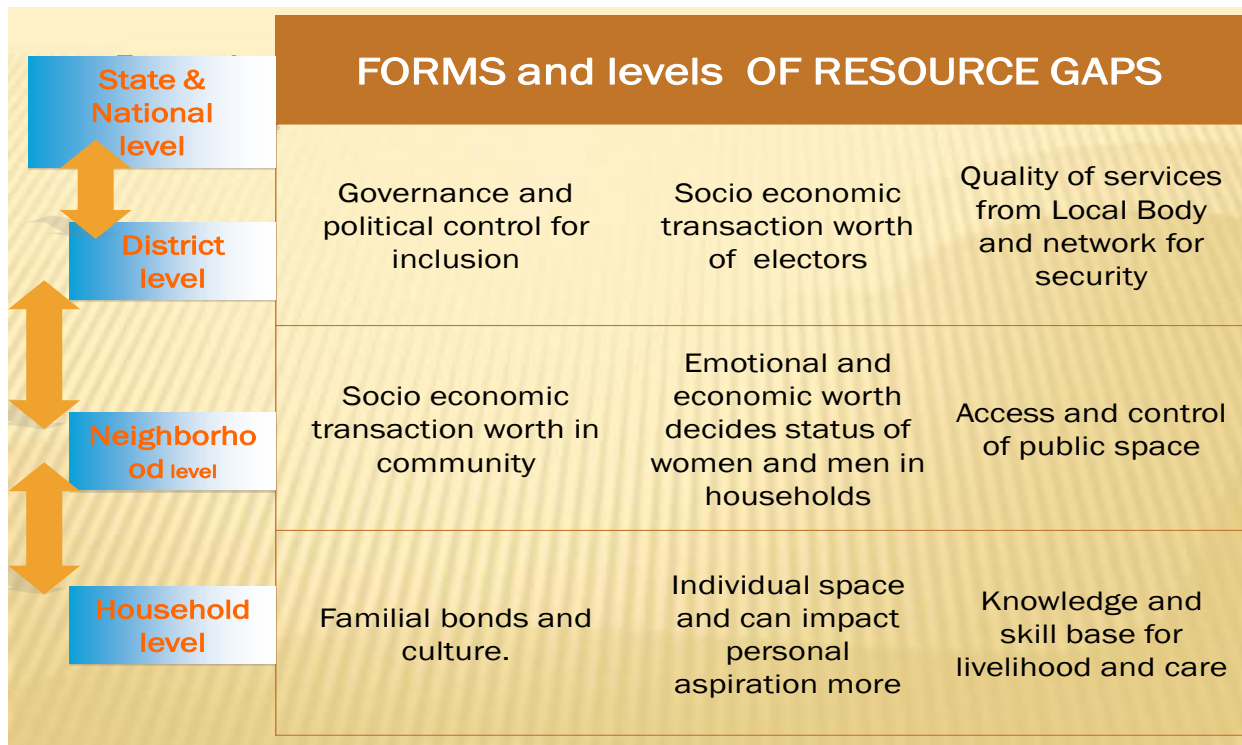
This planning for inclusion has to be initiated at different levels. Thus capacity building to compute GRG is needed to plan interventions.

Conclusion & Way Forward

Gender resource gaps exist in multiple forms and are interrelated at manifold levels

In exploring gender resource gap across class, the multiple forms of gender resource gaps emerged across space, access to services and the socio-economic worth of women and men at the familial and at the economic level as summerized in tables below.





The diagrams above present an understanding that at the house-hold levels and levels above many forms of gender gaps exist and are correlated with each other.

Relation between gender resource gaps and spaces

Women have less worth in terms of assets and income so they get to build and design fewer spaces. Spaces if co-created with men and women's participation in neighborhoods could provide a visual scenario of better living. Participation in a project from its inception builds web of relationships that can influence utility, usage and design. A simple solution to closing the gender gap in space is to provide spaces that women can access more or even access exclusively. Changes can be brought at the level of public visibility to transform patriarchal attitudes.

Relation between gender resource gaps and services

One of the outcomes of the research was articulation of people in the locales who co created options after knowing about gender gaps in services through FGDs on cluster planning This was developed into the Okhla Gender plan by Equal Saree from Barcelona with help of Faculty of Jamia University, Architecture students of Jamai Millia Islamia and SAFFP.

The Solution : Inclusive Development Zone : Towards this inclusive spatial planning was developed (Bhardwaj and Ghosh 2012) that included a Women Resource Zone (WRZ)

Sustainable inclusive development zone was a reformulation that was recommended to stakeholders at different levels within the locales and institutional systems responsible for decreasing GRG.

Gender resource gaps at different levels can be addressed by planning

To reduce gender gaps at household levels a macro plan was required that provided care services and training and employment to women near their housing. An example of this kind of a plan was developed within the Okhla gender plan. The diagram below shows that a gender resource centre provides training and production space to women, while the vending space provides market avenues for women locally. Different groups of women and men could manage the labor centers and rickshaw pullers parking and wet kitchen to have access to labor and financial resource. The space could also work itself as a green project by developing horticulture options around the campus and many such projects need to be planned in different parts of the district to make a macro plan.

Diagrams by Equal saree

<http://equalsaree.tumblr.com/>

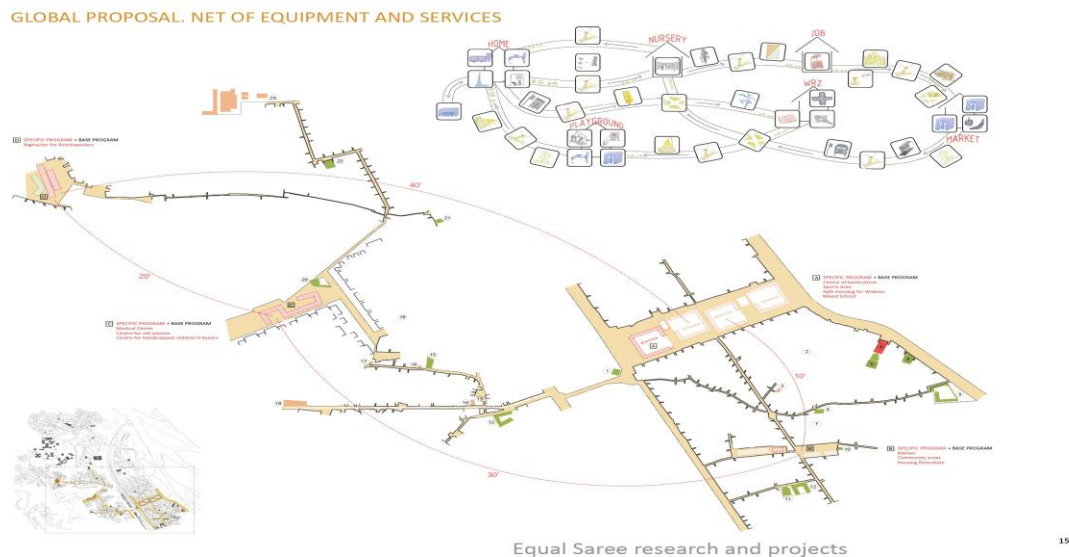
Green Pilot in Okhla gender plan in Haji Colony: Gender resource centre, Jamia haat, rickshaw stand and night shelter



Many local level discussions led to recording aspirations of different people in the locales to make a Macro Plan with myriad projects that links local development with a district plan. Urban local bodies, city level leaders, academia and national planners were informed about the research results. Discourse thus has been generated from local to higher levels.

The macro plan link for way ahead

The macro plans need to be linked to planning process of the city and village development. Therefore a GRG lessening agenda should become a part of an ongoing development project that is truly aimed at inclusion.



In Okhla, the ‘Metro’ is being introduced and transport systems will be reviewed for it. This opportunity could be used by the socio economic actors to carry forward proposals that have emerged as a result of the research process. In Okhla an elderly women and children centre, a vending area, Yamuna river bank revival, women resource zone, multipurpose halls, health and education centres are proposed as macro plan. The diagram on global proposal depicts this visually.

Conclusion: The existence of a Gender Resource Gap is a violation of constitutional obligation of the state. The research process offered ways in which a local area plan can impact gender resource gaps at local level. This local level can easily inform the district and the national level planning.

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