

The next steps towards Rural Women Resource Zone in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh India.



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Executive Summary :

The draft land policy talks about rural land use plan that should be made with gender equal resource distribution. This can be done by planning livelihoods for different communities in an alternate way with the involvement of local and district authorities to make a gender equal village plan. Dalit and tribal community marginalization can be addressed through a village development plan component funded by the Schedule Caste Plan and The Tribal Development Plan funds to demonstrate inclusion mentioned in the 12th plan document. The district office should then include the implementation of the gender equal village plan in the monthly action taken report. This report provides a framework of what can be done and planned as projects in the village punchayat as next steps. Specific Natural Resource Management (NRM) and livelihood projects need input from the framework suggested in this feasibility report. The detail projects that have social forestry, fodder planting and vegetable and fruit patch with buildings and water conservation design that will get SET to the next level of work in time will also set the pattern of group approach to land mentioned in the draft land policy. Additionally agriculture based work will need to be planned with clear indicators on how women resource increase can be planned and monitored at the village level for the two different communities. This task should be done along with women groups, small and marginal farmers and entrepreneurs in the district as part of village punchayat plan and district gender, tribal using allocation from schedule caste plan, tribal sub plan, and other livelihood and NRM schemes.

Background : Swiss Aid supported SET team (SAFP, EqualSaree and TAAL) with a grant of Rs 1 lakh to develop an inclusive resource zone within which a Women Resource Zone can be planned in rural Madhya Pradesh. The task was to understand how village planning can be done with a women and resource increase perspective. Pilot research was conducted in two villages in Pichhore block of Shivpuri district in Madhya Pradesh. The villages had women Self Help Groups(SHGs) organized by state livelihood programme called DPIIP who choose village Muhar near Pichhore where a dalit hamlet existed and village Chandawni near Bhairagarh that was a near forest range and had Saharia tribal habitation. This research concludes at an appropriate time just before state and national elections. The ruling parties are announcing populist bills that have made right to food a justiciable right, the draft water and land policy promises hope and there is sustainable development policy. India's shame on the eroded dignity of women is nudging authorities at all levels to do work our models yet women face resource gaps that have not yet become focus of attention. The root cause analysis done by SAFP explains that in addressing the gender resource gap the planning at each local area level will choose a path of development that may lead to greater peace within families as well as outside. (access the following link at for an article, Land Rights For Women: Planning gender inclusion to address gender resource gap <ftp://ftp.solutionexchange-un.net.in/public/gen/cr/res20081305.pdf>) The crux of the article is that many forms of resources at different levels are divided unequally between women and men; this can change peacefully through virtuous planning. The article provides a method to compute gender resource gap, plan for inclusive development and ask that the district authorities monthly action taken report records how gap reduction is addressed each month in each ward and panchayat.

The draft land policy of India 2013 mentions women's land rights besides stating use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping to ascertain current land use to set aside land redistribution for the landless. The policy asks that for all future land allocation made by the government, 50% of community forest rights should be in the name of women. It further mentions that group approach to land rights will be implemented in rural so as to help women from dalit and tribal communities to retain their land rights.

This report provides an example of the benefits that could accrue to the tribal and dalit communities as a result of the policy implementation. Since land use development is linked to many other local and national resource systems in practice, identifying areas to address critical gaps will be required. Three levels of agencies intersect with each other while a village land use plan is to be envisaged the local, the district/state level and national levels. Therefore coordinated action and response from non state stakeholders, state agencies as well as central government missions to create sustainable development through: water plan; climate adaption plans; MNREGA and livelihood initiatives needs to be planned within a convergence mode with village councils. The first integrated district planning was done in Kerela in 2009 which expected state agencies to respond to proposals sent by local elected village councils. In 2010 the district gender plans were moved with technical help from UNDP. These resulted in creation of women accessed infrastructure in the district but the pilots did not inform over all change in land use policy of the village based on specific gender resource and natural resource management needs gaps, thereafter. With the draft land policy it is important to clarify how the policy and existing provisions can strengthen resource base for women through local area planning in a rural setting. The evaluations and lessons learned from pilots and government schemes on "what works"

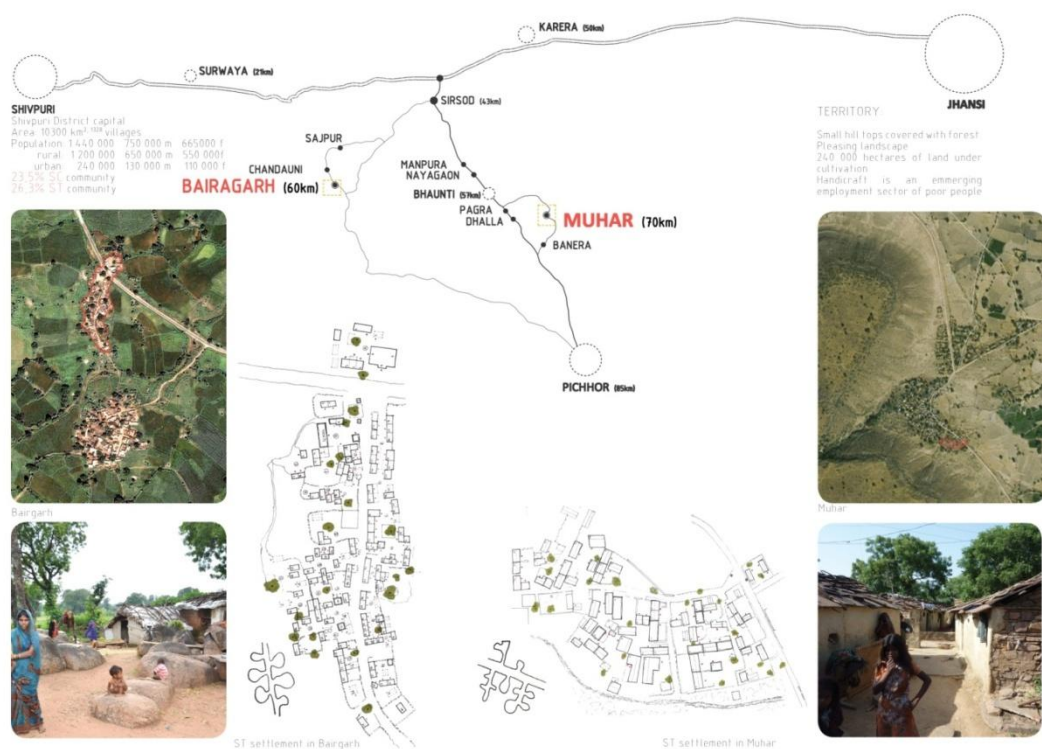
approaches should be used to draw out possibilities for a gender equal village plan. The tribal and dalit village habitations selected for this paper are located far from each other but within the district Shivpuri. Thus each village plan should first address internal gender and natural resource access and regeneration gaps before linking to district wide plan. The needs of women in village planning should be understood to plan for them separately.

Situation in the two villages The tribal village showed that there were no built structures or forest produce that tribal community could access. Denuded forest requires urgent nursery plantation so that forest produce could be extracted to service daily needs of the community as well rejuvenate forest. The forest department and the district authorities are aware that they need to carry out programmes for the Tribal and Dalit communities and for that they offer fruit and vegetable patch improvement support. Besides home stead as well as common land needs to be identified for vegetable and fruit cultivation.

The livelihood mapping showed that women had negligible land rights; forest access right meant nothing as deforestation left them with no resources and due to poor quality fodder animal husbandry as a livelihood was not profitable. Water shed planning had taken place in the area and feasibility reports on increasing dairy as an activity indicated that first steps was to grow fodder in the area and increase social forestry, soil and water conservation activities. Since basic activity to conserve human and financial resource is not being undertaken, current land holding yields less food for the families, PDS and midday meals do not reduce food security gaps and families need to migrate from these villages.

The Dalit village land use map shows that the dalit hamlet is segregated to the point where water shed gives least ground water recharge options to its inhabitants. Additionally it is against a rocky crater, making it difficult for social forestry however the area could sustain fodder plantation options that may support stall feeding cattle for self use or for dairy business and fuel wood plantation to work towards setting up of a community kitchen to make hot cooked food once a day. The latter option will free women and men for labor and provide more opportunities for the children and elder to engage in nurturing each other effectively. There is a possibility for the establishment of a wood, Non Timbre Forest Produce (NTFP) and food bank as a community development project for the dalit hamlet in addition to the dairy training and fodder growing livelihood support mentioned earlier. A community water point that dalit households could access near their homes is also required.

The SET team found that DPIP program was getting over and the district authorities were looking for an agency to work on convergence. However there were no funds to support the same. A long term project was needed to set this action as a state sponsored initiative but existing program and schemes did not cater to convergence of action at local level between ministries. **The district authorities and forest department were willing to begin dalit and tribal women inclusion in the existing schemes but needed further discussion on what is possible.**



From village map to water and vegetation mapping to district gender livelihood plan that links to national inclusion plans is a way forward to suggest to district administration. They need to be informed about the work done so far in different states on gender and planning.

Gender Plan for the local area and the district: Women support centre, ananganwadi and community centre/punchayat bhawan are spaces that have worked well in different state sponsored projects. RDI along with Odisha state government (http://www.landesa.org/wp-content/uploads/WomenSupportCenters_FactSheet_2013.pdf) has established a model that has been replicated as a level district providing women land literacy as well as assist single women to gain land. Such centres could be the hub of programmes like mission convergence in Delhi, Kudamshree in Kerala <http://www.isca.in/IJSS/Archive/v1i2/1.ISCA-JSS-2012-024.pdf>, Mahila Samakhya in UP, AP and Bihar to provide livelihood as well as organizing support for women to transform their economic as well as social position by increasing their worth within existing sphere of influence. The women will need support to ask grampunchayat for their gender equal plans for their village and district.

The 12th National Planning document of India plans inclusive development. SET team worked village development plan framework that includes women's access to land and infrastructure built as a Women's Resource Zone (WRZ). This plan aims at increasing role of women in SME (Small and Marginal Enterprise), land based production and natural resource protection through local governance to regenerate natural and human resource as a model to adopt and promote in rural as well as urban development plans. However the work requires more research and linking

local groups to district and national planning and development mechanism to make gender plans work for sustainability of each local area.

This experience will assist the national government in planning socio- economic growth of each district that can be made sustainable with gender equality and poverty reduction. SET needs support for a two year period to work on making details of the program work. The work will involve desk research to find out what has worked around Indian states as well as in MP to make rural hamlets increase resource base of women within communities. Making business plans with women to begin asking for training, budget and infrastructure for their enterprises from the local and district authorities in year one. The details will be worked out in year two where professional consulting firms working with state and central government departments will be enrolled to contract high level consultants to make detail feasibility studies and projects reports to make this dream a reality.

Inclusive Resource Zone :

Women can participate in SME when they have access to land, forest, water, credit, training and infrastructure that services reproductive and community roles as well as productive roles of all people in an area. Sex disaggregated data for gender resource gap in each sector needs to be calculated and addressed to get gender equality in each sector. Monitoring of each gap could be led by Dalit and tribal women SHG leaders.

Infrastructure in local areas needs to be planned for the information centre that will provide women and men access to information through the e connectivity. Can this infrastructure be a facility and instrument that women group in a local area, manage use and control to then let benefit from its access and benefits to all? If yes this can be a multipurpose space that can house not only the information centre but a computer centre for adolescent girls who learn computer and life skills at the centre, where women can come with these girls to also learn about managing businesses, applying for schemes and getting trained through government programmes for livelihood augmentation. This could also be a space for the municipality and the panchayat to plan local area in a sustainable way where women participate equally in conducting surveys and preparing base line for all issues including developing locally relevant development and equality indicators that can monitor change and progress towards how each individual in the governance area can be a happier contributor to self and area development through local enterprise development. From experience of working with women groups, it is known that women lack skills of managing resources as they have not accessed networks and resources the way men have accessed them. Therefore, special measures need to be executed to build a protective and promotive environment for including women in infrastructural development.

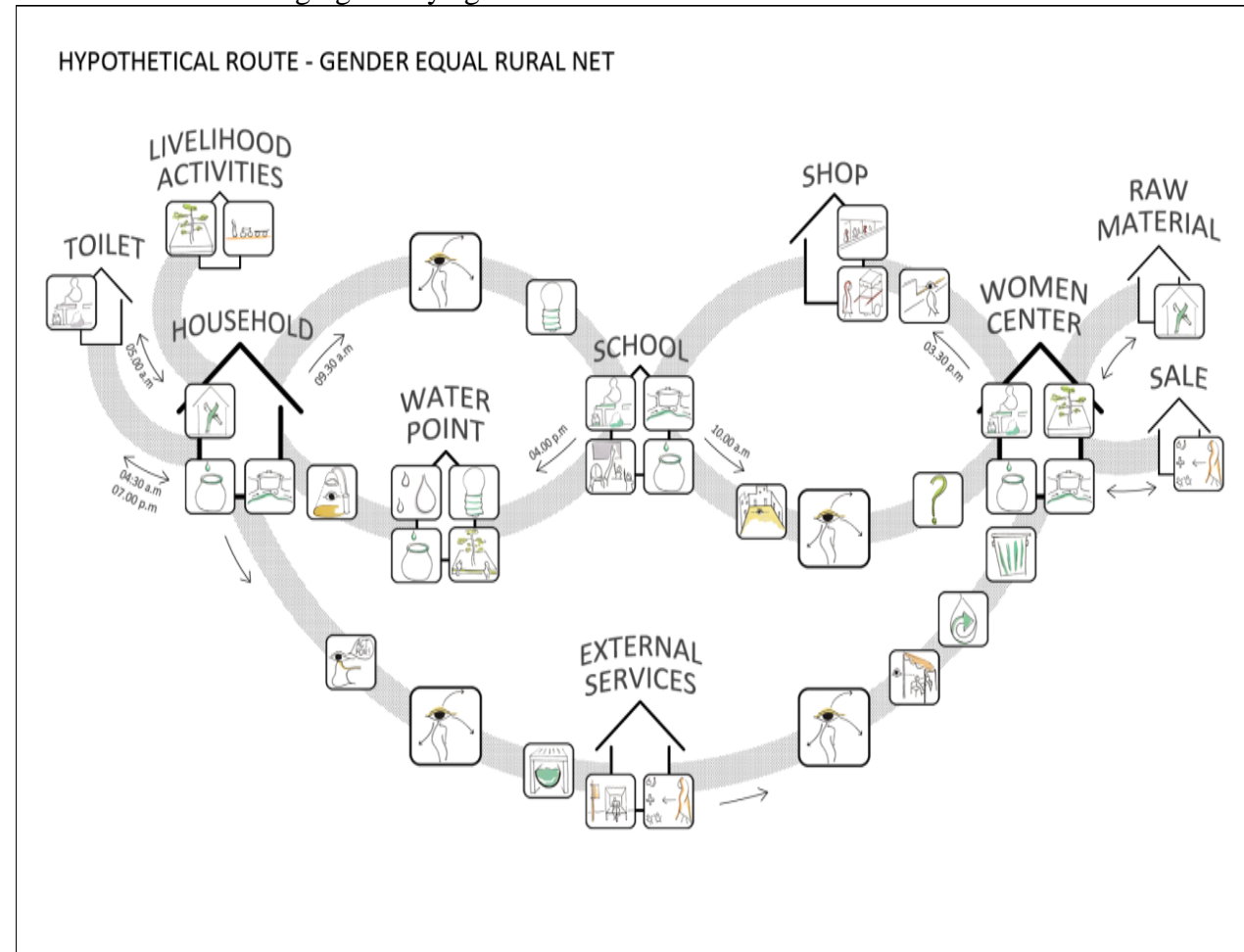
Woman Resource Zone (WRZ) within an inclusive planning of a local area redefines conventional planning address inclusion of all in a way that involves men and women equally. The WRZ plan offers networked that help combining the care needs of families and their productive tasks with an offer of better access to community services. This plan provides access to natural resources and the necessary infrastructures to offer alternate social networks. In particular, in a rural area where the dairy routine is based on livelihood activities and the poverty ratio is high, the WRZ is applied through a plan that incorporates a productive project without meaning an increase of the burden for women and with the benefit of allowing economic independence for women.

The **basic requirements** of a WRZ project will be the same in all cases which on one hand provides for care service facilities such as crèche, old age space with hygienic restful space with shade, food, rest and sanitation with drinking water services. On the other hand, the **specific requirements** are related with the productive part, decided in each case depend on the requirements of the place and the skills of the users. The diagrammatic representation of this is provided in the Annex which gives the rural network of services that should be planned together in a convergence mode involving different agencies to work collaboratively. The WRZ can be developed as one equipment or various equipments - existing ones and/or proposals - unified with a net of roads, services, group or individual enterprises and safe public spaces. These equipments should be managed by local organizations of women to ensure that the function of the centres and decisions are made by them.

A proposed project plan based on initial search on gender and natural resource access gap

One of the first tasks in preparing a village land use plan is to look at existing social-economic web to understand current resource flow through existing access to resources and livelihoods. Here ownerships and roles between the habitants are important to map and this determines the space a person gets designated within the ecology of an area. A joint livelihood and resources mapping with the community clarifies which community stays where and why (see map of the villages in Annex 2). Any development plan with local stakeholders needs an involvement from a set of promoters who along with the targeted focus population must be made aware of the gender resource gap in access to land, forest, water, services and spaces. This resource gaps need to documented for women and men in a village and this should be shared with the local target groups and their governing systems such as the village punchayat, the caste or the tribe governing council such that they understand why women may work in groups perhaps away from their own field and homestead in order to address the inequality within. The data that is

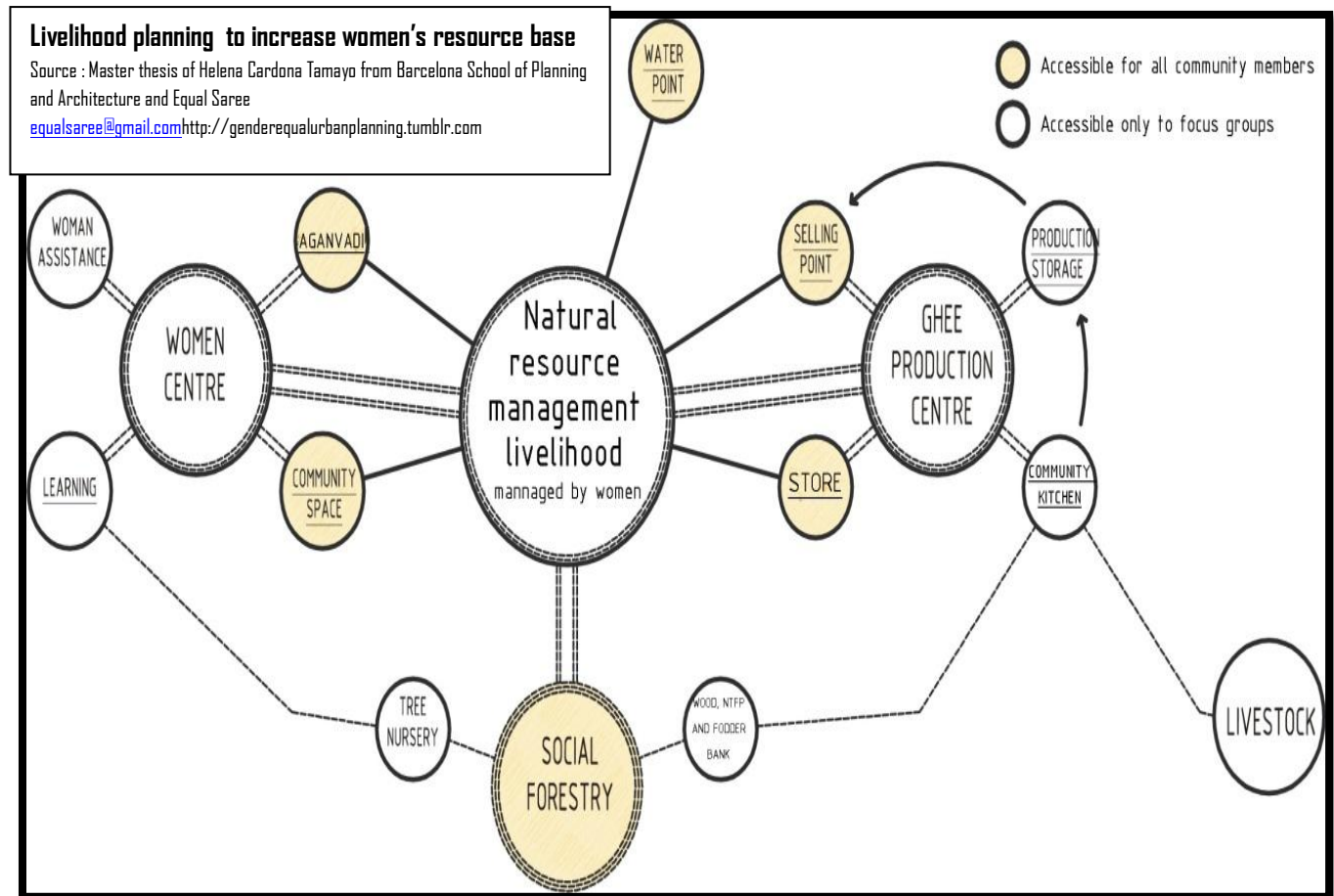
collected should be segregated by age to determine care needs of those who do not earn.



Source : Master thesis of Helena Cardona Tamayo from Barcelona School of Planning and Architecture and Equal Saree equalsaree@gmail.com <http://genderequalurbanplanning.tumblr.com>

The first set of tasks was done in the two villages and it was found that even as many children and elderly work to support themselves and the family, only the able bodied adult are legally entitled to work and they are the ones who migrate out of the area often. Those who stay in the village require set of services to maintain their productive role, the care or reproductive role while fulfilling their community roles. The propose framework of planning as shown in figure above shows the hypothetical route of a person who is balancing the three roles during the course of a day . It suggests the gender equal net that Equal saree has graphically worked out and this needs to be shared with local, district and state authorities for further action on who can do what to such a dream a reality in the two villages. The livelihood map below shows how resource in the area are generated and are engendered into social relationship networks. This social relationship then determines the economic networks in the local area and how social instruments lack its relevance to the poor in general and women in particular.

The livelihood mapping shown in figure below describes a possibility that looks at planning spaces for community members in the village while planning livelihood, education and wellness of the village. This requires that group livelihood schemes are planned and supported for women and men separately with spaces designated for women and men to access jointly, collectively and reserve some for exclusive gender and age groups segregated use.



The infrastructure need expressed by the women that Equal Saree gave a design to was for a Cattle Forestry Community program as part of Natural Resource Management scheme that is managed by women. The existing community spaces accessed by women and men will be utilized first to understand the existing can support the establishment of :

1. Woman assistance Centre including feeding and care support as well as space for stay and training
2. Production spaces such as Ghee making and selling Centre including store and marketing space.
3. Social Forestry including a plantation with the purpose of reforestation, and a bank for land, wood, NTFP, fodder and seeds.

A combination of two programs i.e production of ghee and social forestry has its advantages. It may strengthen the woman SHG through the increased economic opportunity of attempting collective ghee production and also work on benefits of restoring the natural habitat of the area i.e the forest. In this way they will have more resources available for subsistence as recollecting fruits, fodder and firewood. This long-term project has to be supported as a district development plan that is linked to climate change adaption and other development plans sanctioned by the state and district authorities. It is therefore, designed in phases, according to the priorities set at the women groups at the village council and to allow for long term plans to allow for the growth of the trees and vegetation along with watershed projects in the area. SAFP and TAAL can follow up the long term process but involvement of Equal Saree needs specific time bound work to plan and design infrastructure that have been listed below;

Phase 1. PRIORITY : wood collection before start up the GHEE MAKING CENTRE.

Starting tree nursery for the reforestation and building the necessary infrastructure for a water point (collecting water while monsoon period), the toilets for women (ecosan system)* and a crèche.

Phase 2. PRIORITY: building the GHEE MAKING CENTRE.

Phase 3. Building the necessary **infrastructure for providing women** the support proposed in the WRZ, training and community spaces.

1. **Woman assistance Centre.** Hosting 100 women of SHG
 - Medical and Legal woman assistance.
 - Crèche for children from 1 to 6 years.
 - Learning and training rooms. It is important to explain in what consist the dairy trainings that are taking place nowadays in Muhar, and how it can be improved.
 - Community space
 - Toilets for women
2. **Ghee making and selling Centre.** Working 15 women of SHG
 - Selling Point
 - Storage
 - Ovens
 - Livestock
3. **Social Forestry (including a plantation with the purpose of reforestation).** Working 150 people in the village, both women and men.
 - Wood, fodder, seeds and land bank
 - Tree , NTFP and shrubs nursery

There are some requirements of the different parts of the center that are shared for the community as water points, anganwadis, community spaces, shops, stores which should be accessible to all year round.

1. REFORESTATION AND MAKING GHEE

Ghee making in India is mostly a home industry. Substantial amounts come from villages where it is usually prepared by the local or desi method consists of churning curdled whole milk (dahi) with an indigenous corrugated wooden beater, separating the butter, and clarifying it into ghee by direct open pan heating. Earthenware vessels are used to boil milk and ferment it with a typical culture to convert it to dahi which in turn is churned to separate the butter.

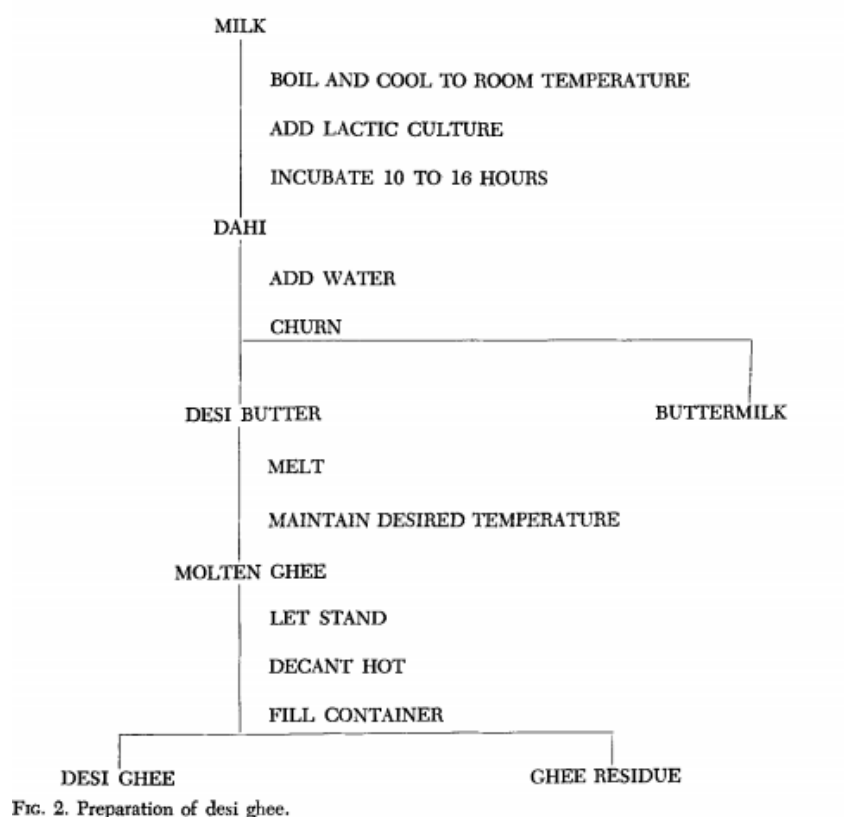


FIG. 2. Preparation of desi ghee.

(<http://www.murple.net/recipes/ghee.pdf>)

Working space for the village woman.

Each woman will produce each day an average of 12-15 litres of ghee. During a week it means about 80 litres. The center may be operational from Monday to Friday for 6 hours a day. About 12 ovens will be operational. This will require space that is considered by women and men “safe” from the cultural context.

Packaging ghee

Packaging and marketing of ghee is permitted ordinarily in 17, 4, 2 and 1 kg tinned cans. Permission is also given to pack ghee in 1 kg and half kg returnable glass bottles. In Muhar Ghee Production Centre, the packing will be done in returnable glass bottle because of its sustainability. The glasses bottle will be washed at the water point.

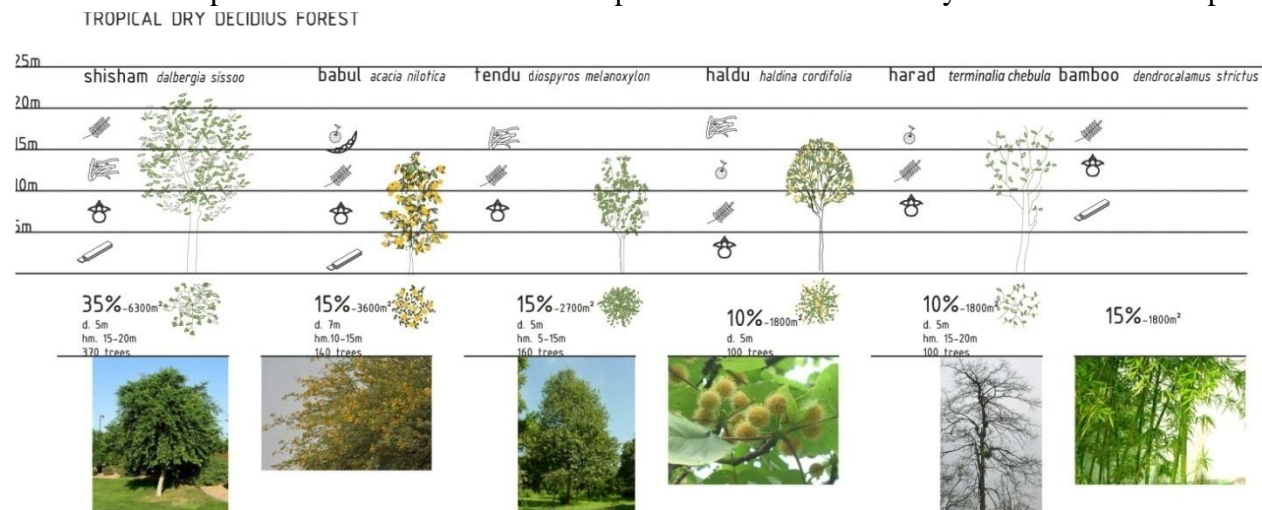
Buffaloes

Buffaloes produce an average of 10 liters of milk per day, with peaks of 13-14 liters / day. Lactation lasts about 300 days, with 2-3 month dry period. The mechanical milking is made twice a day.

Having an average of **18 buffalos** it can be done more or less 150 Kg of ghee by day.

Firewood and Forest plantation

For the Forest plantation it is chosen 6 tree species from the moist dry deciduous in Shivpuri



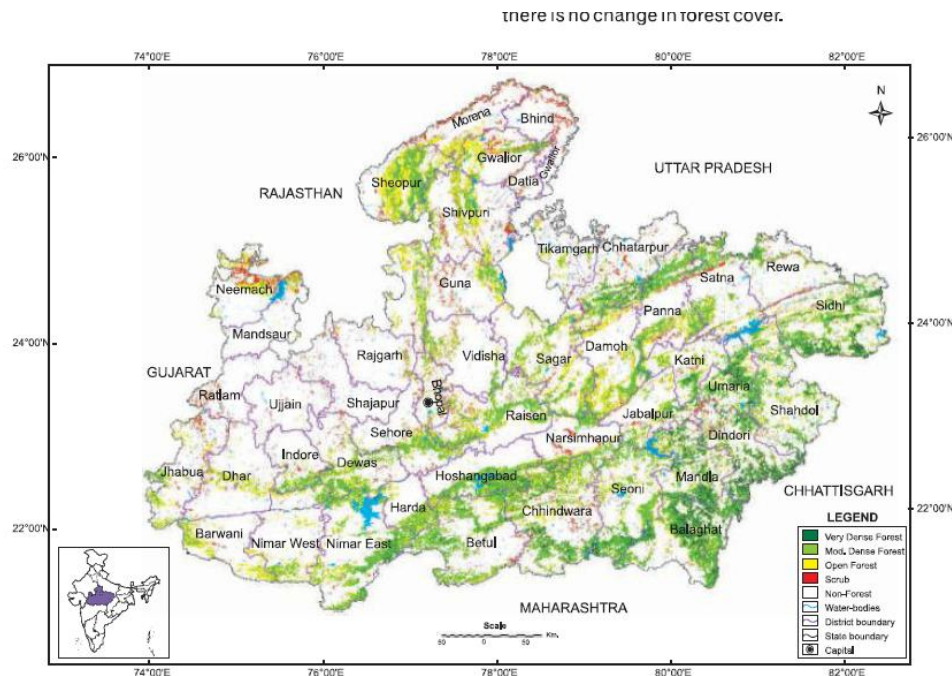


Fig 9.15 Forest cover map of Madhya Pradesh

Approximatly, 1 Kg of firewood is consumed in one hour. So, per day it an average of 6kg of firewood for each working woman household is requied. The forest department should let the women is the SHG know which forest patch land can be reserved for a social forestry nursery that the women could get wage rate employment to develop it a participatoryand sustainable way

The Shivpuri WRZ project is the result of three years of research in architecture, urban planning and gender developed in communities of rural India. The aim is to empower women through conciliation of personal development, family responsibilities and productive work, and the sustainable exploitation of local capacities from a process that a person negotiate with a family and a community. Participatory process of design and construction can increase women's decision making capacity and ensures their possibilities for management of economic resources and knowledge. With this their social visibility increases, they dignify themselves and they gain the respect of the community.

The WRZ Projects in each village

The WRZ project could be myriad with in a village depending upon the context of community, resources that can be accessed and existing village plan. Yet each village will have an over all commonality such that the WRZ project components within any village can be referred within the district development plan for livelihood, water, energy, agriculture, education training and livestock nurturing efforts. WRZ aims to change women situation in the district through the implementation of WRZ projects. The idea of WRZ is to think, propose and plan structures that enable and facilitate women the conciliation of personal, family and work-productive activities as from local capacities (social, environmental, urban, morphological and physical). In this case

it is implanted through a women group that is already organized in the village but has lack of space, services and infrastructure. Existing work done by women and land groups and sectoral work on maternal mortality and woman's health, work on livelihoods and alternate energy as well as work on legal literacy has shown that good pilots needs to be replicated within local area development plan. A second phase of work is required to be done in the two villages to suggest the land use plan to address gender land and resource gaps. For this detailed project report will need to be developed by a local organization for at least four projects in each village and a transport and marketing link established from the village to the town to complete the story of rural production for urban needs.

Each project will develop in seven stages that implement the gender perspective in planning to combines the work of the different partners involved, integrating both women and men participation in order to have an equitable intervention. The stages will go from participatory fieldwork in the villages to construction and further evaluation and dissemination of the experience.

SET team methodology

To ensure the proper development of the project we have established a work methodology based on work of the different partners. This will include coordination meetings along the different stages, application of indicators to evaluate the project and a report with the memory of the activities developed throughout the project.

For communication purpose it is expected to try to involve media, such as newspaper or local radio, to make the project more visible in the community. Moreover, communication and dissemination will take place in different web platforms and/or blogs of the participating partners. In terms of sensitization, it is important to link the project with educational field such as schools and universities, by including this group in participatory processes or inviting students to exhibition events.

Sustaining gender equality in development plans

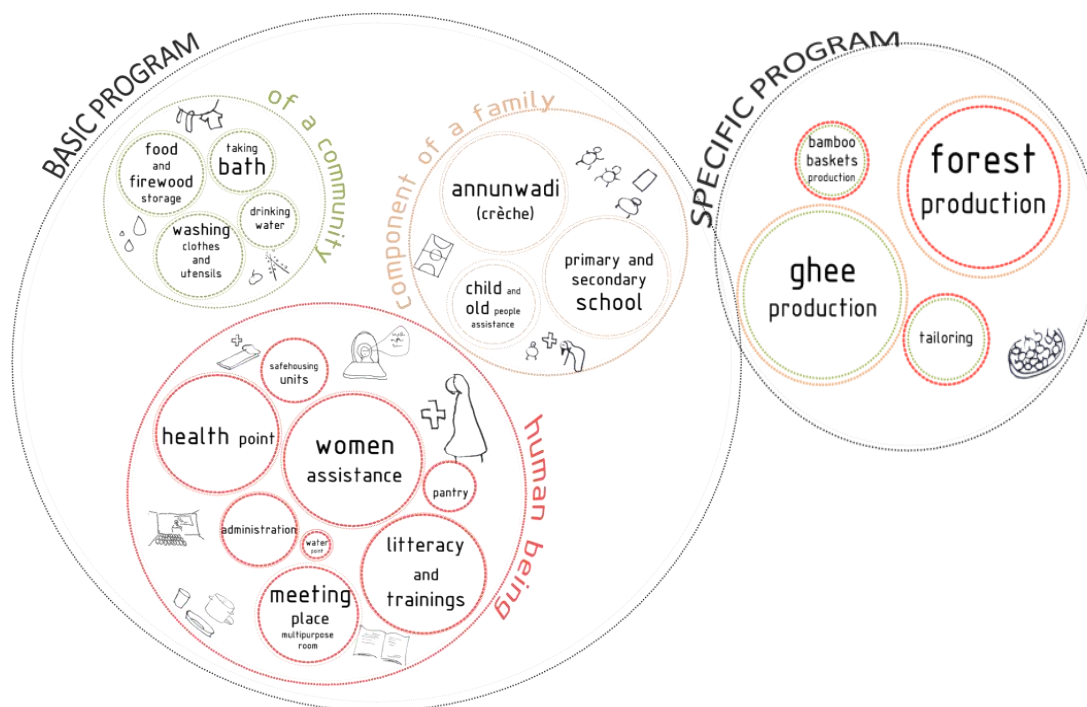
Take into account the gender perspective in the design of rural communities, we need to understand that most rural based people also travel to the urban centre for work, health issues and kinship ties. To increase sustainability, the design of rural WRZ needs to also relate to what inclusion mechanism is designed in the urban area that links to the needs and networks of the rural people the WRZ is focusing on. Thus the design will address gaps in pedestrian walk ways that network with public transportation systems to facilitate daily routes while minimizing the use of private transport. The project will consider designing self-sufficiency resources and waste management at the local level through neighborhood networking and increasing self-management capacity.

Expected Outcome

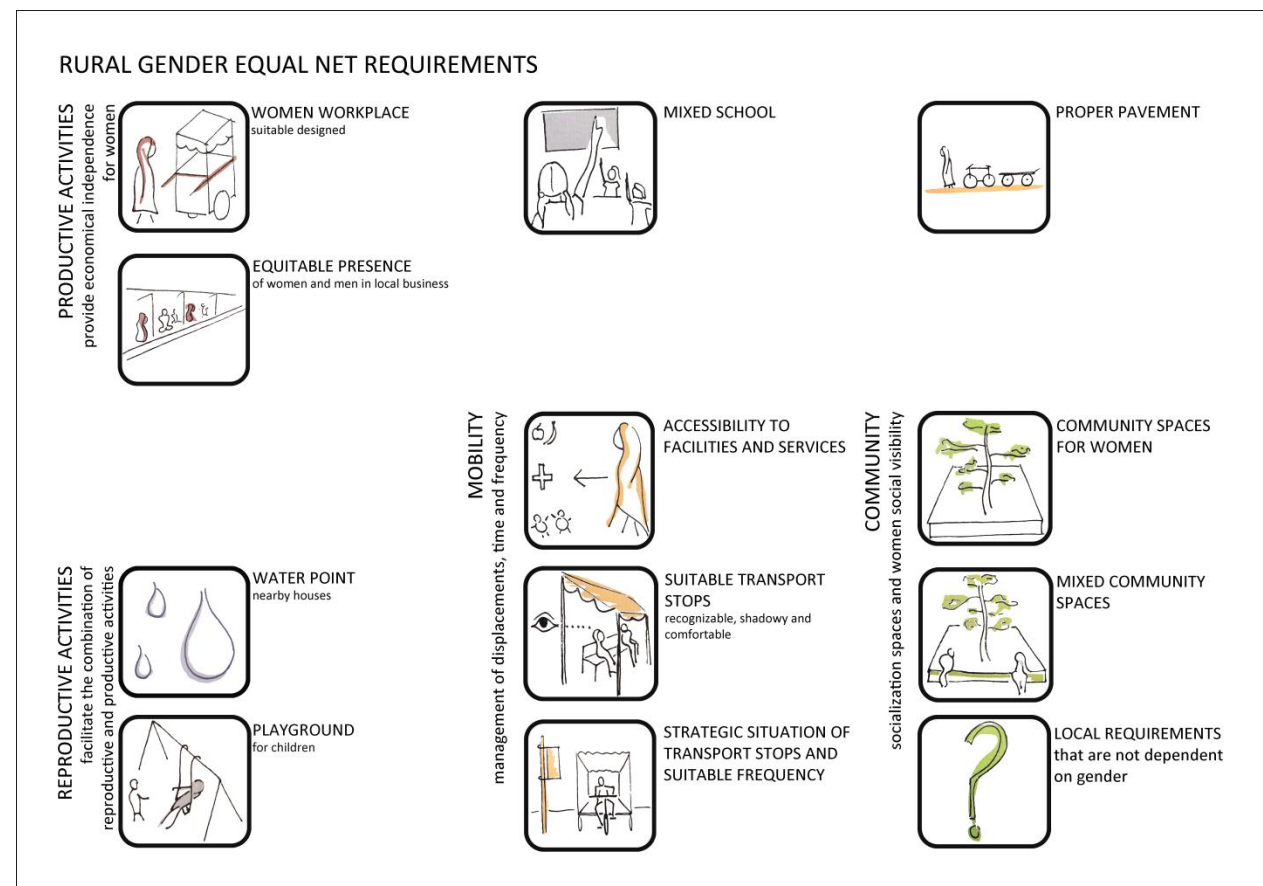
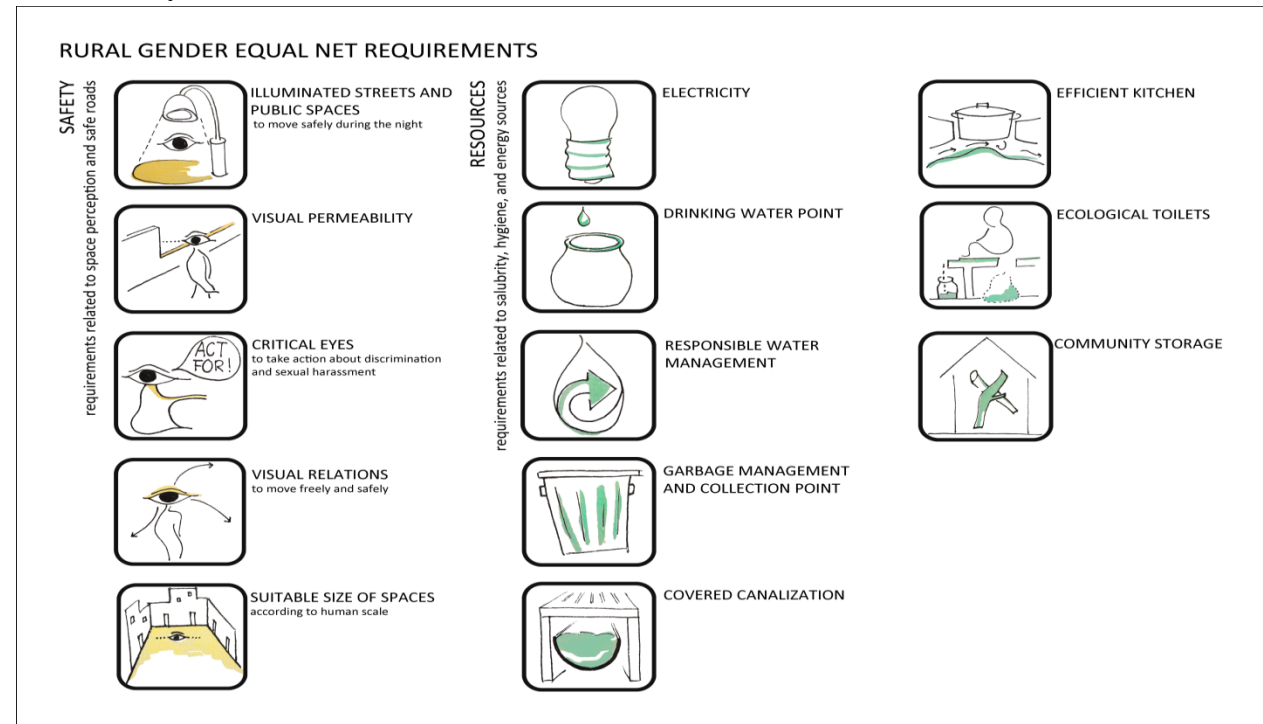
1. Involving women and stakeholders in the improvement in local environment . This will be done by women and men analyzing the use of existing spaces, SET by participating in the analysis, would create designs that should stand the evaluation of women and stakeholders. The evaluators will see if the project designs strengthen the psychological empowerment of women and does it increase visibility of women in the community and increase their participation in decision-making.
2. Knowledge transfer between the partners of the partnership implies the optimization of resources, using the experience and knowledge gained in future interventions.
3. Strengthen a cooperative means of production for women, increasing the local production.
4. To apply new mechanisms for citizen participation in local area transformation processes. Encourage citizenship, capable of organizing the natural environment by increase in mutual support networks.
5. Produce plan for district and central government authorities which offers solutions to clarify the sustainable planning with a gender lens, creating proximity daily routes, enhancing use of spaces and prioritizing energy saving solutions in architectural and natural resource regeneration design.

Annex 1:

Each livelihood and NRM project as two components of a basic and a specific program



There are many different projects required to make different components of inclusion and sustainability work.



Annex 2: Village map Muhar with the dalit community hamlet



Bhairgarh , Chandawni the home for Saharia Tribe



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