

Theme: Education and other important tools for women empowerment and gender equality: experiences and solutions

RESO-Femmes International is both an NGO and expertise centre in Anthropology of Globalization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and has been in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2011. Since its establishment in 2005, in Mopti, Mali, it is active in providing gender empowerment tools to female leaders and renders urban and rural women groups professional via the preventive “train the trainer” method at the local level in Mali, Burkina Faso and internationally. We believe poor people more commonly known as “minorities” need justice, empowerment through adapted training and academic tools and need to be supported by global anthropological approaches, such as consensual partnerships as shared in our water, sanitation and alimentation programme (called EAA) in Burkina Faso.

Our training programmes focus on prevention techniques and on the production of reports of the sanitary, social and economic conditions, in political situations at the local level, which are all together scientifically dealt from our headquarters office. Our approaches in line with the Millennium Development Goals, include conflict prevention, focus on empowerment and autonomy of women groups, and reinforce our leaders against those who attempt to pressure them or try to re-appropriate their resources or take institutional advantages of their visibility already valued through our website and international programmes.

In the form of workshops, our training programmes teach women negotiation, support and mobilization skills in response to the different exterior resources mentioned and pointed out by the international community. In that way we teach them, during the last stage of our programmes how to be aware of violence on local/global issues and using that same violence, by turning it into a tool that advances their own structure, changes their environment and traditional behaviour about their conditions as women and leaders (integrated in our approaches).

As a result, our trained women leaders become essential intermediaries between the population and the local authorities and thereby allow their professionalism to be recognized. This also helps them better integrate their participation in local governance and appropriate themselves the human rights background tools against violence and discriminations. Examples of this deal with transgressing the lack of equality between men and women by learning well about global issues and international measures taken by the international community, or reinforcing their empowerment by knowing well or learning how to take advantage of the powers coming from other political and local groups (local authorities, civil local societies and also religion local groups).

### Solutions

Our approaches inside our water, sanitation, alimentation project in Burkina Faso contributed to the structure of women trainings, as well as their participation in them. It also added to holding institutions accountable for the women’s status and their socio economic preoccupations. An example of that occurred during elections in Burkina Faso: well aware of the intentional institutional tensions created, the women took the opportunity to reverse the situation to create greater solidarity between women leaders and elected women, especially as they were in the last context of humanity in need of help from international organizations to

find the right local support for their population and their security. Hence, the political experience, obstacles and violence encountered all together in Mopti, Mali structure the tools and methods of our education trainings as well as bypass strategies to achieve sustainable empowerment and efficient actions. Our holistic and *multi-sited* approach not only benefits the women, but also political local authorities, national and international institutions, to help them better orient their development activities and local know-how in support of the real needs of the population.

There is a lack of dialogue between the North and the South, which creates tensions and misunderstandings. Therefore, there is a crucial need to train intermediaries that are professionally formed at the MDGs level drawn from local groups and academic teams who are both experts of the challenges on global issues and on realities in the South. Intermediaries will be trained to have a critical eye on the MDGs in terms of local realities. This lack of dialogue comes from the absence of information, participation and from the lack of rights training and integration of poorer populations in decision-making processes.

By creating the Institute of Anthropology of Globalization, RESO-Femmes responds to those gaps by training intermediaries following the “bottom up approach” on how to create future centres as an answer towards a more effective dialogue between local populations and political authorities in the world. Indeed, the goals of the international community in terms of women empowerment, better education and more leadership to end all violence against them at local, national and international level, all together will be reached with difficulty if there are no services that associate the local, national, and international levels around anthropological and scientific programmes allowing for a remedy of the institutional gaps.

We urge the key role of international NGOs with background expertise, to structure and point out how multipartnerships with institutions should work and welcome the institute, as our qualitative analysis and our specific tools drawn from our anthropology of globalization, provide precious data on the needs of local demand as well as the cultural social challenges, at the national and global level.

Nadège proposes to expose in the panel how our education tools structured by scales and *multi-sited* approaches, are organized to empower women and help gender equality in respect to economic, social and political needs and leaders’ strategies.

Please find below three points to structure her presentation to the panel:

- 1- How our work fits into international issues (UN Women) that address the importance of education, training, the empowerment of women and give new solutions for gender equality.
- 2- How RESO-Femmes relies on *multi-sited* anthropological approaches and give education coherence to our leaders’ groups, by for instance being attentive to the different scales locally, nationally and internationally and develop multi-sectorial services (our EAA project in Water, Sanitation and Alimentation)
- 3- How specific education and appropriate local leaders’ tools really develop important tools for women empowerment and gender equality.

In conclusion, Nadège will give a few words on the creation process of the Institute of Anthropology of Globalization (IAG) and on how it can remedy to all gaps and constraints preventing women development and gender equality. Some of our solutions are to create:

- 1- Training centres around the world to empower female leaders by teaching them our specific anthropological tools and approaches developed and structured since 2001.
- 2- Grassroots technical projects and expertise based on a holistic view which can train correctly our female political leaders to become the right intermediaries between populations, local authorities and global issues concentrated on MDGs and sustainable development together.