SSE, Gender, and Sustainable Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Envisioning a different path

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Feminist PE/peacebuilding + SSE
Women-centered cooperative organizations in post-conflict contexts of South Asia

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SDG 5
Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

SDG 16
Peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development

Feminist PE/peacebuilding + SSE
Rationale: Gendering peace and the WPS agenda

  - Security needs of women in post-conflict settings
  - Recognition of gendered economic inequities
    essential condition for just peacebuilding.

Current situation
Rationale: Gendering peace and the WPS agenda

• Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda (2000)
  • Security needs of women in post-conflict settings
  • Recognition of gendered economic inequities essential condition for just peacebuilding.

• Dominance of a neoliberal policy framework in post-conflict reconstruction
  • Focus on privatization, profit, and growth.
  • Cuts in social spending.
  • Inattention to structural violence.

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Need for an alternative economic model

Opportunity for assessing the role and potential of SSE in engendering post-conflict reconstruction.

Current situation
Two specific contributions of SSE

Supports social provisioning

Photo Courtesy: CGIAR and AME Foundation
Two specific contributions of SSE

Supports social provisioning

Supports economic + physical security

Photo Courtesy: CGIAR and AME Foundation

Photo Courtesy: WOREC
Fieldwork and methods – 2010-11

Gujarat, India

Communal riots 2002
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SEWA Federation
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Eight cooperatives (producers, artisans, sellers) [out of 105]

5 focus group discussions (8-12 participants each)

24 in-depth interviews
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Fieldwork and methods – 2010-11

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Nepal
- Maoist conflict

Women’s SACCOs
Fieldwork and methods – 2010-11

Gujarat, India

Communal riots 2002

SEWA Federation

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24 in-depth interviews

Nepal


Women’s SACCOs

12 cooperatives [out of 50]

6 focus group discussions (8-12 participants each)

32 in-depth interviews
SACCOs in Nepal

• Women’s access to financial services – remittances.
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• Pooling of resources for income-generating activities, key services, and community needs – ran health camps, procured educational materials, pooled childcare so that women could engage in their livelihoods-related activities.
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• Linking security and livelihoods:
  • awareness campaigns and community mobilization
  • paralegal teams
  • brokered reconciliation conversations between partisan groups
  • emphasized social inclusion in their membership practices
  • Human trafficking and domestic violence.
SEWA in India

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- Organized women into groups:
  - community meetings to address violence and security issues.
  - pool resources in women’s groups for advocacy of their interests.
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• Role of cooperatives should not be to fill the social cracks of neoliberal peacebuilding.
Upshot: an alternative vision

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