Mainstreaming Gender in Tuvalu

What?
Faculties of GM
Global vs Tuvalu perceptions

Why?
Misconception
Misfit
Implication for Policy
Research Development

How?
Auto-ethnography
Qualitative
Secondary data
Interviews & peer review
What is Gender

• Main faculties of GM
  • Sex – biological construct
  • Gender – Social Construct – attributed to relations, roles identities. Unique
  • “…the social, behavioural, and cultural attributes, expectations, and norms associated with being a woman or a man” (World Bank 2011:4)
  • “gender combines both men and women” (Mwije, S. 2014) Gender roles, identities, relations, discrimination is acquired through social processes (West et al. 1987)
  • Gender is socially constructed influenced by societal or organizational roles – ‘situated identities’ (West et al. 1987) Gender construction differ across different cultures and situations (Aoyagi, et.al 2010: Sinha, M 2013)

Gender Mainstreaming

• Is intergrating a gender perception across all areas of governance (True, et. Al 2001)
Gender Mainstreaming since 1990’s

• Globally
  • 1995 Fourth Beijing World Conference
  • CEDAW, ILO, CBD, UNFCCC, UNESCO urged their members to mainstream gender in all initiatives
  • MDGs and SDG 5
  • Main agenda of funding programs, GCF, GEF, EU, WB, ADB, DFAT, MFAT

• Pacific
  • 1994 Pacific Platform for Action –
  • 2012 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED)
  • Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action - S.A.M.O.A Pathway 2014
  • The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (2017)
Gender Mainstreaming in Tuvalu

• 1999 Tuvalu ratified CEDAW and strive to fulfill obligations under the convention

• Set up institutional arrangements
  • Established a Women Department later on changed to Gender Department
  • Developed a national policy in 2005. Reviewed 2011 and 2014

(Kofe & Taomia 2007: Government of Tuvalu 2014)

• Other sectors took lead in integrating gender into their activities – eg. climate change policy satisfying international agreements.
Gender mainstreaming Processes

- Budget allocations
- Training Workshops, training courses, seminars to influence the local context
- Gender audit/analysis, gender disaggregated statics
- National Policy
- Awareness Program
Key constraints to gender mainstreaming in the Pacific:

- Important gaps still exists between international, regional and national legislations;
- Customary law and gender stereotypes tend to affect the application of informal laws;
- Lack of government awareness of the legal and policy framework for gender equality and women’s human rights issues;
- The gender dimension is not properly reflected in strategic development plans and gender equity is no mainstreamed across sectors;
- Gender issues are rarely discussed as part of the development issues amongst government agencies;
- Inadequate financial resources allocated for gender mainstreaming;
- Limited production and use of sex disaggregated data;
- No guidelines and systems in place for gender mainstreaming;
- Little has been done to translate gender commitments into actions despite political level recognition of gender equality;
- Weak performance management and reporting systems in most PICs making mainstreaming across sector difficult as well holding institutions accountable.

Adopted from SPC (2016)
Strengths of a Tuvalu Girl/Woman

• Pula teu ote fale – flowers are treasures/virtues of the house
• Unumua – “plucked out” first/forefront
• Pouloto vs Poletito – flexible decision making structure
• Tuagane Tapu - Cross cousin
Proposing a bottom Up Approach

• Change the narratives of gender mainstreaming

• Use Tuvalu cultural values that are core to society as a basis of gender mainstreaming policies, legislations, and to influence the processes (awareness materials)

• Tuvalu New Foreign Policy – adhere to Tuvaluan values.

• Use local experts to mainstream gender. Funding should not influence discourses

• Develop proper indicators to trace GM and inform policy. Proper Monitoring and evaluation in place.
Methodologies

• Behavior theories, socialization theories, gender socialization theories, groupthink theories

• Auto-ethnography
  • Researcher bias – Peer Review supported by critical discourse analysis on literature

• Qualitative Analysis
  • Past & Present policies, in depth interviews government officials and experts to evaluate personal experiences and suggestions of participant researcher
Fakafetai Lasi
ke ola te fale tatou !