

United Nations
Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
Expert Group Meeting on
“Empowerment of women throughout the life cycle
as a transformative strategy for poverty eradication”
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Topic 1: Poverty in a globalizing world at different stages of women’s life cycle

“Poverty, globalization and being gender-sensitive: focusing on reproductive health”

**Prepared by*
Kusum Gopal
The Gender Institute
London School of Economics**

*** The views expressed in this paper, which has been reproduced as received, are those of the author and do not necessary represent those of the United Nations.**

Introduction

While adopting the concept 'human poverty' as defined by the 1997 Human Development Report, an appraisal of current official literature clearly suggests that there continues to exist inherent ambiguities in both, th

Current

...of 'woman' or 'man'
...ception of the universal subordination
...women: an individual is constructed and constructs
...representations of what is male and female which is invested
...and, that can change over time and space. Thus, what the category 'woman'
...in a given context even within a culture, has to be investigated and not assumed.¹ Gender, is
...women and men are socially constructed in different societies and cultures. Gender needs to be
...understood as a process rather than a category, of "doing gender" rather than the "being" of it. For example,
...how do women and men, girls and boys experience and boy

this field-work, it was possible to get insights into how knowledge about women and men is constructed with regard to sexuality, personhood, kinship, customs, religion and the household; property rights and the law; land tenure reforms, land re-distribution, and, how indigenous cosmological readings, notions of time and space defined the environment and landscape. Cosmology is not an abstract set of relations but has been defined as a social arena where efforts and strategies are expended and employed in relation to specific cultural and other resources in an endeavour to gain access to them. The potential for social transformation is bound up with the imperative of social continuity.

In general, in ancient cultural traditions, it is deemed that the human microcosm and all form

pills, intrauterine devices, condoms and diaphragms were polluting, and could lead to sterility and diseases caused by the curse of the evil eye; indigenous fertility regulating methods were much more preferable to these women.

Most villagers believe that the riabl

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