

Asian Regional GRB Conference, Penang,
24./25.02.2014

Interlinking gender responsiveness and participation in public budgeting processes: Limits and opportunities

Session 2: Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting: Narratives of Change

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Agenda:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Participatory Budgeting through a gender-lens**
- 3. Gender Budgeting through a participation lens**
- 4. Conclusion**

Questions for introduction

- I. If in participatory approaches gender issues are not considered
-> What can actors involved in Participatory Budgeting learn from Gender Budgeting?

- II. If Gender Budgeting is not participatory
-> What can actors involved in Gender Budgeting learn from Participatory Budgeting?

Background

- Gender Budgeting and Participatory Budgeting in Germany
 - Two main examples:
 - a) Berlin (Federal State & boroughs)
 - b) City of Freiburg
 - both have Gender Budgeting as well as Participatory Budgeting
- > Not (necessarily) transferable to an Asian context (but maybe stimulating?)

I. Gender in Participatory Budgeting

Diagnosis:

- Participatory Processes: “gender-naïve”? (Guijt/Shah 1998)
= Not dealing well with complex differences and power relations *within* communities
-> may even *reinforce* inequalities
- Germany: “middle-aged, well-educated men” or “grassroot-elites” may dominate Participatory Budgeting (Massner 2013)

I. Gender in Participatory Budgeting

Three components:

1. Gender Equality in *access to* Participatory Budgeting (Representation of different socials groups of women and different socials groups of men in PB)
2. Gender Equality in *control over* the Budget decided upon (Empowerment of women - and also specific groups of men)
3. *Mainstreaming Gender* in Participatory Budgeting

I. Gender in Participatory Budgeting

Mainstreaming Gender in PB in the City of Freiburg

Differences in:

- a) ...involvement of women and men
- b) ...priorities set by women, men, single parents

What to do? Gender sensitive monitoring by:

- gender sensitive planning of process (not only online, female & male facilitators, ...)
- training for politicians, administration & citizens,
- Material for the public addressing gender equality
- Monitoring by continuously looking at differentiated data

I. Gender in Participatory Budgeting

Interim Conclusion on Participatory Budgeting with a gender lens:

- *Opportunities:*
Empowerment of marginalised groups, accountability & transparency (= good governance)...
- *Limits:*
It needs awareness, knowledge, time and funds to deal with existing dynamics of power

II. Participation in Gender Budgeting

Diagnosis:

- Gender Budgeting Experts ignoring participatory approaches
- Gender Budgeting as technical/technocratic approach?

To a certain extend yes, but:

- a) GB originally comes from macro-economics
- b) It has participatory elements

II. Participation in Gender Budgeting

Levels of Participation in G(R)B?

1. Gender Experts/Researchers:
providing disaggregated data, studies
2. Advocacy groups/NGOs:
steering of budget policies
3. Citizens (Beneficiaries)/ grassroots
organisations:
Articulate their needs/interests/priorities

GB Cycle – Entry Points

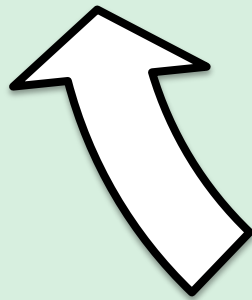
Phase C) Auditing:

- information for next budget
- Impact Analysis (ex-post)



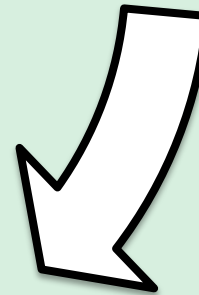
Phase A) Planning:

- Analysis of needs and interests
- Defining Gender Equality objectives



Phase B) Implementation:

- Gender-Analysis: Beneficiaries Incidents Analysis, Analysis of time use, of job opportunities, ... (others)



II. Entry points for Participation in Gender Budgeting

Example: Berlin

- Advocacy groups being represented in steering committee on Gender Mainstreaming
 - Member of NGO in working group on Gender Budgeting
- > For the whole cycle

GB Cycle – Entry Points

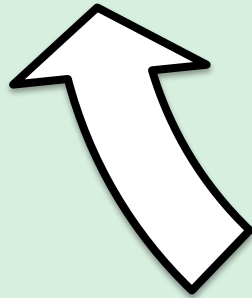
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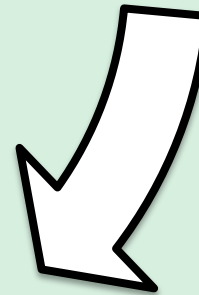
Phase A) Planning:

- Analysis of needs and interests
- **Defining Gender Equality objectives**



Phase B) Implementation:

- Gender-Analysis: Beneficiaries Incidents Analysis, Analysis of time use, of job opportunities, ... (others)



II. Entry points

Phase A) Planning of the Budget –
Defining Gender Equality objectives

Example: Berlin 's Gender Equality
Framework (GPR): Setting precise
objectives for different thematic areas

For example the objective on Sports
were:

Promotion of sports for women,
- esp. elderly women and single mothers

GB Cycle – Entry Points

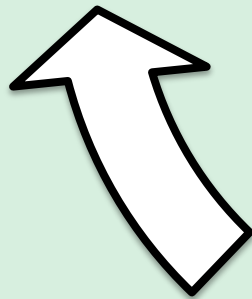
Phase C) Auditing:

- information for next budget
- Impact Analysis (ex-post)



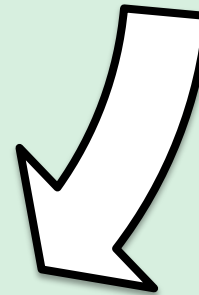
Phase A) Planning:

- Analysis of needs and interests
- Defining Gender Equality objectives



Phase B) Implementation:

- Gender-Analysis:
Beneficiaries
Incidents Analysis,
Analysis of time use,
of job opportunities,
...(others)



II. Entry points

Phase B) Implementation

- Research Study on the sports activities of Berlin citizens, differentiated by categories:
female/male - age groups
- Overall gender gap: less than 4 %
(however changing within age groups)

Not participatory - but representative

GB Cycle – Entry Points

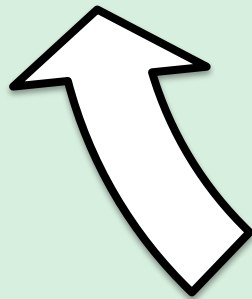
Phase C) Auditing:

- information for next budget
- **Impact Analysis (ex-post)**



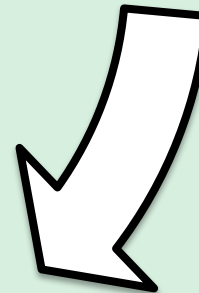
Phase A) Planning:

- Analysis of needs and interests
- Defining Gender Equality objectives



Phase B) Implementation:

- Gender-Analysis: Beneficiaries Incidents Analysis, Analysis of time use, of job opportunities, ... (others)



II. Entry points

Phase C) - Auditing

- Comparison between
 - a) objective: Higher involvement of (specific groups of) women and
 - b) sports activities (4 % gap) and
 - c) subsidies for sports grounds (20% gap)
- > Need to react/reallocate budget
- > Participatory sports project addressing women in one Berlin borough

III. Conclusions

- *Opportunities:* Participatory Gender Budgeting has the potential for change
-> transparency & good governance
- *Limits:*
 - Preconditions not to underestimate
 - Gender Budgeting and Participatory Budgeting are located on different political levels
- Conclusion:
GB and PB can *and should* be complementary - but not synergised

**Thank you
for your attention!**