

Introduction to Gender and Development

Introduction to Gender and Development (GAD)

Key concepts, historical evolution, theoretical frameworks, and practical implications

1. What Is Gender and Development?

Term	Definition
Gender	The socially constructed roles, behaviors, expectations, and power relations associated with being male, female, or non?binary in a given cultural context.
Development	A process of improving the economic, social, political, and environmental well?being of people and societies, measured by indicators such as income, health, education, and empowerment.
Gender and Development (GAD)	An approach that integrates gender analysis into all stages of development planning, implementation, and evaluation to ensure that policies and programs benefit women, men, and gender?diverse groups equitably.

2. Historical Evolution

Period	Dominant Paradigm	Main Features
1960s? 1970s	Women in Development (WID)	• Treated women as a “special group” needing assistance. • Focused on adding women to existing projects without challenging underlying power structures.
1980s? 1990s	Gender and Development (GAD)	• Shifted from women?only to gender?relations analysis. • Emphasized the social construction of gender and power dynamics. • Introduced concepts of <i>empowerment</i> and <i>participation</i>.

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Period	Dominant Paradigm	Main Features
2000s? present	Intersectional & Rights? Based GAD	• Recognizes intersecting identities (class, ethnicity, sexuality, disability). • Aligns with human?rights frameworks (CEDAW, SDGs). • Uses gender?responsive budgeting and monitoring.

3. Core Concepts

Concept	Explanation	Practical Example
Gender Roles & Norms	Expectations about appropriate behavior for men, women, and non?binary persons.	In many societies, caregiving is seen as a woman's duty, affecting labor?force participation.
Power Relations	The ways in which authority, resources, and decision?making are distributed across genders.	Men often dominate local governance councils, limiting women's voice in community planning.
Empowerment	Process by which individuals/groups gain control over resources, decisions, and their own lives.	Micro?credit programs that give women ownership of assets.
Intersectionality	Overlapping systems of oppression (e.g., gender + ethnicity + class).	Rural Indigenous women may face barriers distinct from urban women.
Gender? Responsive Planning	Designing policies that address differentiated needs and promote equality.	Building schools with separate sanitation facilities for girls to reduce dropout rates.

4. Theoretical Frameworks

1. **Liberal Feminism** – Focus on legal equality and access to education/employment.
2. **Marxist/Socialist Feminism** – Links gender inequality to capitalist exploitation and class struggle.
3. **Radical Feminism** – Emphasizes patriarchy as the root cause of gender oppression.

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- 4. **Postcolonial Feminism** – Highlights how colonial histories shape gender hierarchies in the Global South.
 - 5. **Intersectionality Theory (Crenshaw, 1989)** – Analyzes how multiple identities intersect to produce unique experiences of oppression or privilege.
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5. Gender Analysis Tools

Tool	Purpose	Typical Steps
Gender-Sensitive Indicators	Track gender-specific	