

‘Do donor agencies address the question of the empowerment and sustainable development of poor black women?’

Abstract

Women globally are faced with many challenges and obstacles which include poverty, disease, violence and inequality. Over the years, women through their own initiative, have organised themselves nationally and internationally to have their agendas taken seriously by governments. Donor agencies did not come to supporting women due to their own conscientiousness – rather it was because of the concerted will and commitment of the international women’s movement that brought attention to the need for assistance for women. In South Africa there are many donor agencies that provide funding for programmes and initiatives that address the challenges faced by women of lower socio-economic groupings. The arising question is how effective these initiatives have been in addressing poverty and inequality of women. This pilot study attempted to investigate how select donors and non-governmental organisations have fared in relation to their target group – ‘poor black women’. The study addressed the issues of empowerment and sustainable development of ‘poor black women’ through an analysis of the work of non-governmental organisations supported by donor agencies. The findings were that donors do attempt to address the empowerment and sustainable development of ‘poor black women’ through the funding that they provide.

References

Afshar, H. Ed. 1998. *Women and Empowerment-Illustrations from the Third World*. USA: St. Martin’s Press Inc.

Allen, T. & Thomas, A. Ed. 2000. *Poverty and development into the 21st Century*. Oxford: The Open University in association with Oxford University Press.

Babbie, E. & Mouton, J. 2004. *The Practice of Social Research*. Cape Town: Oxford University Press Southern Africa.

Boserup, E. 1989. *Woman's Role in Economic Development*. London: Earthscan Publications Limited.

Bhorat, H. & Kanbur, R. 2006. *Poverty and Policy in Post-Apartheid South Africa*. Cape Town: HSRC Press.

Braidotti, R., Charkiewicz, E., Häusler, S. & Wieringa, S. 1995. *Women, the Environment and Sustainable Development: Towards a Theoretical Synthesis*. London: Zed Books Ltd.

Donor Network on Women. Available at <http://www.womensnet.org.za/DNW>. [2007, August].

De Vos, A.S. Ed. 2005. *Research at Grassroots: For Social Sciences and Human Service Professions*. Pretoria: Van Schaik.

Elson, D. Ed. 1991. *Male bias in the development process*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

European Commission. 2003. *Gender Equality in Development Co-operation: From Policy to Practice- The Role of the European Commission*. European Commission Directorate-General for Development.

Gelb, S. 2003. *Inequality in South Africa: Nature, causes and responses*. Johannesburg: The EDGE Institute.

Gianotten, V., Groverman, V., van Walsum, E & Zuidberg, L. 1994. *Assessing the gender impact of development projects-Case studies from Burkina Faso*. United Kingdom: Intermediate Technology Publications.

Harcourt, W. Ed. 1997. *Feminist Perspectives on Sustainable Development*. London: Zed Books Ltd.

Hemson, D. & Owusu-Ampomah. 2005. *A Better Life for All?* In Daniel, J et al. Eds. **State of the Nation 2004-2005**. Pretoria: HSRC Press.

Hirsch, A. 2005. *A Season of Hope*. Scottsville: UKZN Press.

Iiping, E. & Williams, M. (Eds.). 2000. *Gender and Development*. Namibia: Pollination Publishers.

Jackson, C & Pearson, R Eds. 1998. *Feminist Visions of development; gender analysis and policy*. London: Routledge.

James, V.U. 1995. *Women and sustainable development in Africa*. London: Westport.

Jones, N.S.C. & Perry, T.E. 2003. Women and Social Development: Global Opportunities for Gender-Conscious Transformation in the new Millennium. *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk*. Vol. 39, No. 2. Pp.95-105.

Kabeer, N. 2003. *Gender Mainstreaming in Poverty Eradication and the Millennium Development Goals: A handbook for policy-makers and other stakeholders*. Commonwealth Secretariat.

Kabeer, N. 1994. *Reversed Realities-Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought*. London: Verso.

Macdonald, M. Ed. 1994. *Gender Planning in Development Agencies: Meeting the Challenge*. UK: Oxfam.

Mohanty, C.T., Russo A., Torres, L. Eds. 1991. *Third World Women & the Politics of Feminism*. Indianapolis- Indiana University Press,

Molyneux, M. 1998. Analysing Women's Movements. *Development and Change*. Vol. 29, pp.219-245.

Momsen, J.H. 1991. *Women and Development in the Third World*. London: Routledge.

Moser, Caroline O. N. 1993. *Gender planning and development: theory, practice and training*. London: Routledge.

Nussbaum, M. & Glover, J. Eds. 1995. *Women, Culture and Development: A Study of Human Capabilities*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Østergaard, L. Ed. 1992. *Gender and Development: A practical guide*. London: Routledge.

Oxfam. Available at: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/gender/poverty.htm. [2007, August].

Parpart, J.L., Connelly, M.P., Barribeau, V.E. Eds. 2000. *Theoretical Perspectives on Gender and Development*. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre.

Presser, H.B & Sen, G. Eds. 2000. *Women's Empowerment and Demographic Processes: Moving Beyond Cairo*. New York: Oxford University Press Inc.

Roberts, B. 2005. *Empty Stomachs, empty Pockets*. In Daniel, J et al. Eds. **State of the Nation 2004-2005**. Pretoria: HSRC Press.

SADC. Declaration on Gender and Development.

Available at: http://www.sadc.int/key_documents/declarations/gender.php[2007, August].

Scott, C.V. 1995. *Gender and Development-Rethinking Modernization and Dependency Theory*. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Sen, A. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Seekings, J. & Nattrass, N. 2005. *Class, race, and inequality in South Africa*.
New Haven: Yale University Press.

Stiegler, B. 2004. *Gender Powers Policy: Ten Questions & Answers on the concept of Gender Mainstreaming*. Bonn: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

Sweetman, C. Ed. 2002. *Gender, Development and Poverty*. Great Britain: Oxfam.

Swilling, M. & Russell, B. 2002. *The Size and Scope of the Non-profit Sector in South Africa*. South Africa: Graduate School of Public and Development Management, University of Witwatersrand and The Centre for Civil Society.

United Nations. *Beijing Declaration*.

Available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/declar.htm>.

[2007, August].

Visvanathan, N., Duggan, L., Nisonoff, L., Wiegersma, N. 1997. *The Women, Gender and Development Reader*. South Africa: David Phillip Publishers.

Women's Feature Service. 1992. *The Power to Change-Women in the third world redefine their environment*. India: Kali for Women.