

# BUILDING INTEGRATED MOVEMENT OF WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDONESIA THROUGH PRACTICAL SESSION OF DISTANCE LEARNING

*(Sample Case of self-study in Basic Concepts for Gender Mainstreaming via Website and CDROM)*

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## Abstracts:

### *Key words:*

*Integrated movements, women empowerment, communication networks, distance learning, alliances, practical session, socialization, community participation*

The movement of women empowerment has been announced for decades. World has noted history of International Women's Day which celebrated on March every year by many countries in the world to show how women' progress in a certain country to reach the advancement. Since Beijing conference 1995, the platform for action, namely BPFA, then all countries in the world would following the platform to evaluate the progress using the BPFA such as 12 area of interest.

One of the areas that showed very important is women machinery. One of six missions of women empowerment in Indonesia is to increase the self-development and progress of women organization in Indonesia. There are more than 1300 organizations distributed over provinces, islands and regions. To create integrated movements that becoming greater driving forces to communities, we need to do advocacy, consolidation, coordination and facilitation.

On the other hand, limitation of resources, such as financial, personnel, material as well as time has made the movements run slowly, sporadic and less powerful to change the communities into gender perspectives. These organizations are distributed over 32 provinces, 425 districts in Indonesia that consist of 5 big islands and about 14513 small islands.

To achieve all progress of every issue in women empowerment that are addressed in the BPFA, the government sectors cannot work alone without community participation – that is the involvement of women organizations and non-government organizations (NGOs). That's why, the public participation to create favorable conditions along with the role of women organizations is very important in working together with government officials within ministries and private institutions.

The open and distance learning for women organizations over provinces, districts up to grass root level would give benefits towards the simultaneous growing of those

organizations. The user, in this case any women organizations could easily explore the material of knowledge for building their capability thru Internet facility. The Website created for Ministry of Women Empowerment is URL: <http://www.menegpp.go.id>, which hopefully would be extended arms of the MOWE in performing the coordination and consolidation. Development of material for self-study thru website and CD ROM have been started on year 2001/2002. The sample case of material was Basic concepts of gender mainstreaming that was attached to the web site.

In fact, material for building the integrated movement of women organizations is not merely the basic concepts of gender mainstreaming – there are many issues exploded lately that related to the BPFAs, such as: trafficking in persons, human rights, domestic violence, HIV/Aids, sexual exploitation in commercial, local economic for women etc.

The utilization of distance learning is not simply put and uses the sources. It needs a careful design and systematic presentation for specific content. The long textual and ‘high language’ would be pushed away by the users that mostly come from grassroots and middle to low education. While the mission of building women machinery would become a distance target, ever.

This paper is exposing the material that has been started years before and underline some ideas needed for supporting the distance learning over the communication networks, such as: Women media online based on the principles of utilizing some practical session for the learning material. The existence of Post Office Box 10000 is considered useful for the purposes.

It is hoped that here after the knowledge and consolidation is becoming more and more growing for the integrated movements to give expected empowerment and protection needed by the community.

## **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Gender equity and equality in family, community, nation and country life is become the vision of women empowerment in Indonesia. It was announced since year 2000 to becoming a share purpose among ministries, organizations and institutions that are related to women empowerment. The Ministry of Women Empowerment (MOWE) Republic of Indonesia is holding the mandate of coordination of this effort from the President of Republic of Indonesia.

The situations of women and children in the country that covered from 32 provinces, 365 districts and about 14513 islands are vary among social, economic and culture. The realization of many aspect of living involved to women empowerment, such as: health, education, labor, environment, human rights etc, make this effort is a bit complicated. The condition of societies is also varying in unfavorable conditions to women and children, such as: patriarchy, marginalize, sub-ordinance, violence, young married, children labor, trafficking etc.

The government is working together with private sectors to empower women and develop the efforts towards children welfare and protection in Indonesia. The character of more or less static organizations within the government sectors could be harmonize with the non-government organizations, which are more dynamic one. These last parties are directly diluted to societies

The variety of conditions, vary resources of those community organizations would interfere the movement; moreover the perceptions in gender mainstreaming to achieve gender equality and equity in the community.

Concerning to the wide area of geographical - from west to east part of Indonesia, role of women organizations in relation to expected contributions to the women empowerment, children welfare & protection seems quite slow, sporadic and less powerful to change social perceptions into the gender favorable-communities.

In the other hand, government is working also to establish the same missions of women empowerment, children welfare and protection – that rationally is supposed to be synergic to each other. The coordination of these movements could not be made one by one or independently for achieving the faster results. Thus, the integrated movements of public participation throughout non government organizations (NGO) is needed, so that they could grow together in synergism towards the achievement of gender equity and equality in Indonesia as well as children welfare and protection.

It is hoped that public participation could be stimulated in more effective and efficient way. One alternative solution to this matter is the utilization of open and distance learning for women organizations through practical sessions by using the Internet facility. The existing material of Basic Concepts for gender mainstreaming need to be expanded to wider sources that could support the capacity building and contribute to the integrated movements for women empowerment in Indonesia.

## **INCREASING MOVEMENTS THRU OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING**

In order to build self-development and supporting to the movement of women organizations for women empowerment, child welfare and protection, a growing knowledge and consolidation is needed. The inter learning among organizations in related to grow alternative solution for several women and children issues could become faster by the facilitation of open and distance learning that provided by the MOWE.

The MOWE has created facility of communication networks ([url: http://www.menegpp.go.id](http://www.menegpp.go.id)). The creation of Basic concepts of Gender mainstreaming – gender training as self study in the web and CD ROM is actually built to facilitate the growing knowledge and here after to the movements of women and child organizations. User could search the topic by read and answer some questions. There are mapping of the topics that make user easily choose the subject of learning. The evaluation is also provided for wrong or right answer.

a Computer Based Training Program.

This material has been designed so that more than one user can use the same learning package. Each learner is able to use the material and to keep track of their individual progress confidentially.

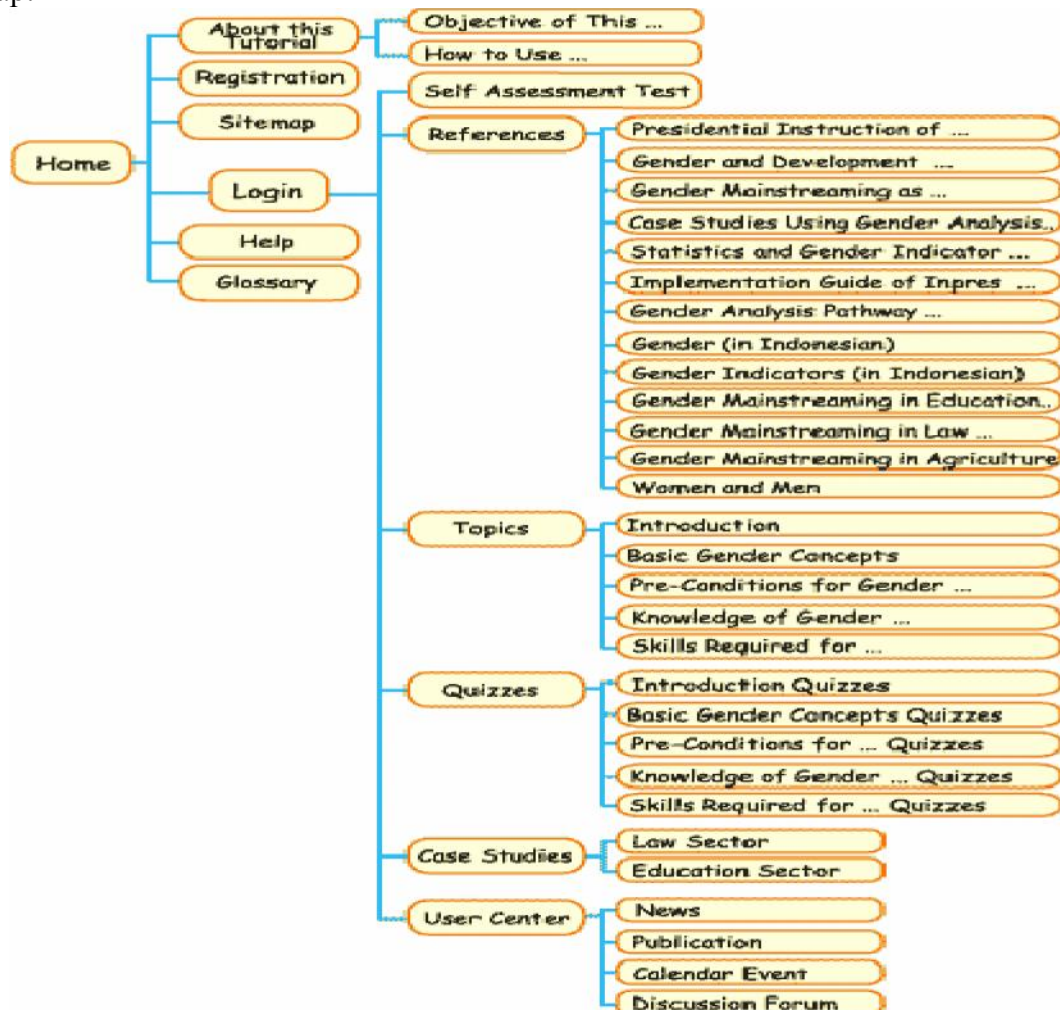
In order to track your learning progress, please click the **Registration** on the left side of the screen to submit your user identification. Otherwise, you can login as an anonymous user by clicking the **Submit** button on the login box at the right side of the screen.

For a returning user, simply enter your login name and password at the login box and then click the **Submit** button.

This gender learning session has been attached to the web – that hopefully could be used for distance learning by many personnel in many organizations in Indonesia.

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- The government of the developing countries use the development interventions to improve their people's life and future. The concept of Development Interventions covering the following areas: Why interventions are needed; How to distribute and use the development results equally; What components necessary to ensure the development being responsive to the society diversity.
- The Basic Gender concept is used as a tool to analyze gender inequity within the environment and is required to be understood fully by the policy makers and planners.
- A certain condition or environment is required to be set up by the government in implementing gender mainstreaming. Under this topic, you will be given explanations on the importance of gender mainstreaming and way to use it.
- This topic will cover the indepth knowledge about gender mainstreaming that is required for the policy makers and planners.
- The concept of gender planning is essential for the policy makers and planners. Meanwhile, they have to acquire the skill to use the Gender Analysis Pathway (GAP) tool. All the detailed information is given in this topic.

Besides the interactive communication displayed above, users could have posted their suggestion and questions that would be managed by administrator daily.

All facilitations has been created and announced. However, interaction or intense communications among organizations have just created lines among the users while the 'silver lining' is not coming yet. Many organizations have their own programs without much sharing information what are really happening to women in Indonesia. We admitted that for such a huge communities this is not an easy job.

The organizations need to learn to grow in practical way in understanding women's problem in Indonesia. Learning over distances for community organizations is

actually not for only textual knowledge, such as put it into screen and read. Those organizations need live learning sessions, which are cases, and issues that experienced by other parties. The practical session is found in the content of Post Office Box 10000. This facility was created by MOWE to give chances for women and any party to expose the problem related to women and children issues.

## **POST OFFICE BOX 10000**

Since the last four years since gender mainstreaming introduced and announced all over the countries, many issues have been handled by the MOWE. One of tools for monitoring and creating better networking to women organizations is building the Post Office Box (PO BOX) 10000.

Women Organizations or Non Government Organizations which give services for community or personal could write their problems and or ask for support to the MOWE related to women empowerment and protection for women.

Lately during the past three years, as more people have known about the PO BOX, some of them write directly to MOWE office. The target function is still the same as previous mission – media for complaining and asking support related to women and children issues. The MOWE would give response for the support needed such as: forwarding letter to certain government sectors, letter for asking clarification of the case that experienced by women organization in defending their clients etc.

Some cases are written below:

*A government officer has affairs with other woman, and his wife has to taken care of the children. Letter to the institution has no response, or even show their unawareness to the problem.*

*The woman is asking to government: how the country gives protection to women related to her problem or similar case? She knows that according PP no 10, she's not supposed to be neglected.*

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*A woman has been rapes by several guys that managing migrant workers. The evidence was performed under gun pointing held by army officials. The procedures for put the perpetrators into trials have been neglected, she's been desperate - while one law officer tried to give sympathy by giving 3000 rupiahs to her.*

*One women organization brought up this case to the MOWE.*

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The above cases showed pretty much alive of women's suffering and powerless to fight for better condition. There are many women organizations would like to assist those women in the fields; some of them are facing the same difficulties – bureaucracy,

'silence' characters, patriarchy system performed in the community etc. Those situations are valuable to be analyzed and discussed. Solution could be made not to one by one case but to the typical model of situations – here after alliances could be created. That's why using material of PO BOX 10000 could be positively contributing in building the integrated movements of women organization in Indonesia.

The need to reach and interact, to share knowledge and act in dynamic and distributed environments creates a challenge on the nature of human collaboration. Meetings are not necessarily a direct face to face that need traveling from place to place. The role of open and distance learning are obvious.

The concept of sharing knowledge would direct the picture of issues to let other organizations learn about women problems and issues – as frequency shows, and also all procedures surrounding it. Here after the alliance of integrating movements would come as response to the networking as coordinated by the MOWE.

### **PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT:**

The feasibility of project was started in year 2003 by arranging data of letter from women organizations and or personal based on codification of such topography and topic of subjects:

1. Codification for location of province, district/ city
2. Type of subjects for women and children issues: marriage affairs, rapes, sexual harassment, violence, migrant workers, religion, women's right, neglected by law, poverty, economic problems, health issues etc
3. Related sectors involvement, institutions
4. Picture of problems and issues: recapitulation of obstacles, modes etc
5. Frequency/ volume that are vary among sources
6. Etc

The material would be part of some contents for *Women Media Online* that could be attached on the MOWE website. The Basic concepts for gender mainstreaming is still needed for new comers in women organizations, so this topics should be maintained in more systematic ways, namely in comprehensive Women Media Online – picture of community participation in women empowerment, children welfare and protection.

Due to some limitation of sources, such as personnel and financial, the project is delayed to confirming. Program interface is on progress and job specification to bring up the material for distance learning is still under construction. The utilization of Visual Basic and Java are considered. Hopefully it is going to be finished this year.

In brief, we just hope the ' *silver lining* ' of alliances among women organizations due to integrated movements would be shown obviously and exposed to all parties who are concern to the achievement of gender equality and equity in Indonesia.

This becomes more practical way to faster learning for organizational growing for supporting the women empowerment within the integrated movements.

### **REMARKS:**

This paper is trying to bring up one case of utilization of distance learning in the matter of utilization of PO BOX 10000 into practical learning session for women organizations to supporting the integrating movement of women empowerment and child welfare and protection in Indonesia. The development is on progress following the basic idea of sample case of basic concepts for gender mainstreaming that has already been attached on the website. For the past two years using distance learning is not just merely put the material in the web site and uses the sources – some more considerations are needed. The material is considered practical examples of women problems and issues, so it is estimated would be born in the acceptable grassroots.

The existence of web site at MOWE is actually facilitated by gender training. However this basic concept is just a starting point – still needed for new comers, but need to be completed with more practical issues. The women media online would be used as integrating tools for such purposes. For the preparation, some classification has been made. Some interface for technical development is still reviewed. Any suggestion and input is sincerely being respected.

Jakarta, August 2004

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