

Women in South Africa's development trajectory: Disjuncture between Voice, Participation and integrated Development Planning

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to explore the involvement of women and the audibility of their voices in the planning and implementation of Integrated Development Plan (IDP). Integrated development planning is legislatively mandated which unfold within a participatory approach to promote sustainable growth, equity and as a result empower the poor and marginalized group within the society. Thus, local municipalities are mandated to consult all development beneficiaries during integrated development planning to establish thorough understanding as a planning base and foster the deepening of democracy. However, gender inequality and the marginalization of women remains a dominant obstacle during planning in rural areas. Thus encumbering the robust and meaningful participation of women in the IDP. Furthermore, the realization of democracy and the notion that "The People Shall Govern" is rooted on pragmatic evidence felt by the ordinary, particularly the poor and marginalized citizens in rural areas. The paper sets out the following questions: How has the municipality incorporated women's voices in the IDP as a participatory mechanism? How have the interest of women been mainstreamed in the IDP? What are the effective and efficient measures has municipalities employed to promote women's participation in the planning and implementation of IDP? The paper concludes that women empowerment as a social phenomenon, requires a social movement that promotes effective measures to improve the involvement of women in the society. Furthermore, the voice and the needs of women should be inculcated in planning if the societal problems like poverty are to be resolved. The paper recommends measures to enhance women's involvement in the developing and adopting of IDP so that it could be inclusive of all affected stakeholders and thus reflect the actual needs of communities.

Keywords: Gender, Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Developmental Local Government.

Introduction and background

The advent of new dispensation of local government in South Africa, led to the shift in the development continuum from macro to micro development thinking (Todes, Sithole & Williamson, 2010). This shift ensured that South African development discourse is more participatory or agenda-setting mainstreaming which is a set of

tools and processes designed to integrate a gender perspective into policies (Todes *et al.*, 2010). The inception of Integrated Development Plan (IDP) unfolds within a participatory-approach which aims to establish and facilitate equal representation of all groups within the society. The aspiration of all members of the society are realized through institutionalizing consultation, strengthening women's organization and empowering women's representatives to participate in policy making (Squires, 2007). This is in spite of the fact that women were previously marginalized and suppressed in terms of influencing decisions in development planning processes.

Worth noting is the fact that a vast amount of scholars are still concerned with the role and the gravity of women's contribution in development planning practices, in which participation of women becomes pragmatically elusive (Sihlogonyane, 2015). The Constitutions of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 104 of 1996) also attest towards a holistic participation of all affected stakeholders in the IDP processes. However, regardless of the participatory avenues afforded by the Constitution, the gravity of women involvement in IDP remains the largest part unknown (Todes *et al.*, 2010). Watson (2011:206) asserts that, "despite numerous national policy statements calling for integrated, holistic and inclusivity of all affected stakeholders and individuals and despite the promulgation of Development Facilitation Act, 62 of 1995 which sets out a process for replacing apartheid planning", women remains in the shadow of effective involvement in planning within local government. Position of women is still glaringly marginalized in the planning systems of the country, despite adopting inclusive participatory systems through legislation (Williams, 2006; Du Toit and Neves, 2007).

Given the current development trajectory, it is blatantly clear that IDPs are expected to provide a context within which a wide range of marginalized groups, predominately women to take a stand to participate in formulating municipal plans and exercising their voices in development practices (Sihlogonyane, 2015). Various scholars criticized the pragmatic use of IDP which is more of a centralized, prescriptive application and lacking meaningful participation more especially of women (Squires, 2007; Toit and Neves, 2007; Asha, 2014). Thus, Beyers (2015) also argues that municipal IDPs in most instances are serving largely as instruments for exerting political and bureaucratic control, rather than as institutional spaces for democratic participation. Therefore, the contemporary IDP planning practices failed on the other side to provide a pragmatic experience in the expediting the aspiration of women in planning and that calls for a paradigm shift from blue-print planning to a more collaborative planning. In South Africa, a study conducted by Ballard (2007) at eThekweni Municipality revealed the nuanced findings about the inclusionary and democratic potentials of IDPs. The study concluded that inclusionary and contemporary IDP planning practices should provide the basis for more reflexive engagement among citizens, their advocates and state. There is an obtrusive long history of initiatives to incorporate women's and to inculcate gender into development processes. In the 1970s, Women in Development (WID) approach made an assumption that increasing women's involvement, access and participation to institutions, resources and socio-economic opportunities would address injustices of the past and lead to transition of overall municipal planning (Sihlogonyane, 2015). Thus, this paper therefore, sought to explore the magnitude to

which municipalities incorporates women's voices in their IDPs, how have women's interests been mainstreamed in the IDP, what are effective and efficient measures has municipalities employed to promote women's participation in the planning and implementation of the IDPs.

Conceptualization of idp as a participatory approach

In South Africa, the IDP concept was introduced into the local government ambit to improve municipal capacity for planning and implementing services and development to local service delivery beneficiaries (Asha, 2014). According to section 152 of the Constitution, 1996 the IDP became prevalent in South African municipal in 1996 as a form of strategic document for local government to guide all planning and decision making in a municipality. The IDP is a legal document which is guided by various pieces of legislation which guarantees its formulation, adoption and implementation by local government. Inter alia, Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 section 25(1) makes a determination for local council within the prescribed period to adopt a single, inclusive and strategic plan for the development of the municipality (Municipal Systems Act, 2000).

Since the promulgation of the IDP, various local municipalities experienced a shift from macro-level development thinking towards a micro-level people-centered development approach (David, Theron and Maphunye, 2009; Asha, 2014). The IDP is conspicuously at the core of South Africa's post-apartheid municipal planning system which is more of an inclusive participatory approach where all affected individuals must be consulted, particularly women (Cash and Swatuk, 2010). The IDP is adopted to facilitate active participation of all stakeholders or groups of people in the process of planning and implementation (Asha, 2014).

Important to realise is this paper is the different between integrated development planning and integrated development plan (IDP). The former refers to the municipal planning process whereas the latter refers to the output or product of the process. Therefore, this means that IDP is a document produced through integrated development planning process. IDP is a vital strategic document that must be produced by all municipalities as a super plan which provides the overall framework for services and development (Municipal Systems Act, 2000). It also aims to co-ordinate the work of local and other spheres of government in a coherent plan to improve the quality of live for all people living in the area (Mautjana and Mtapuri, 2014). White Paper on Developmental Local Government, 1998 gives a determination and the roots of developmental local government which in turn devotes considerable attention to participatory governance system (Asha, 2014). Therefore developmental local government according to the White Paper refers to a local government that must be committed to work with citizens and groups within the community to find the sustainable ways to meet their social, economic and material needs and improve the quality of their lives. It should target especially those members and groups within the community that are marginalized or excluded such as women, disabled people or very poor people (White Paper on Developmental Local Government, 1998). Parallel to this notion is that South Africa emerged under the auspices of discrimination,

marginalization and disempowerment of women within the households, and therefore has cascaded down within the society. Moreover, it is important to interrogate various legislative prescripts that promote gender equality and the involvement of women in development, politics and labour market in the expedition to empower them.

Legislative framework that promote gender equality

Gender inequality has been a character of South African culture for many centuries (Cash and Swatuk, 2010). Culture and traditional patriarchies have conditioned the marginalization of women and perpetual actuality gender inequality in South Africa, particularly in rural areas (Asha, 2014). On the other hand, the apartheid regime complicated the commitment to eradicate gender inequality. The Constitution affords all South African citizenry with equal rights in order to dismantle the deep entrenched gender disparities confronting local government during planning. The adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 was to correct and heal the discriminatory structures to establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. Section 7(1) of the constitution 1996 states that “that the bill of rights is the cornerstone of South African democracy. The incorporation of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution, 1996 is perceived to protect the rights of all South African citizens against discrimination, marginalization and oppression (Mafunisa, 2006).

The Bill of Rights enshrines the rights of all the people in South Africa and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. Furthermore, section 9(1) state that everyone is equal before the law. The main purpose of human rights in the Bill of Rights ideals is to protect the rights, freedoms and competencies of all the citizens of South Africa in order to preserve their dignity and worth of an individual (Mafunisa, 2006). Due to the fact that the Bill of Rights promotes human rights, the African feminist examines the struggle of African women to create a space of independence and dignity out of the triple layer of oppression namely: “the oppression brought by the colonial Western patriarchal cultures, African patriarchal culture, and the attempt on the part of Western and European feminist to speak on behalf of African women, thereby denying women to voice out their thoughts that might be helpful to them” (Higgs *et al.*, 2004: 275). The Constitution provided the potentiality to heal the deep rooted painful discriminative stereotypes that marginalized women in decision making. However, the question is, regardless of all the legislative efforts to promote equality, to what extent do these pieces of policies and laws effect or change the perceptions entrenched within rural households which are characterized by cultural and traditional patriarchies? The inclusion of men and women in the equality jurisprudence has broadened, but it has not yet dislodged the underlining framework that disadvantages women than men (Mafunisa, 2006; Albertyn, 2007).

Stier and Mandel (2009) quantified that the amount of income an individual put within the households has the potentiality to influence decision making within the households. This connotes that the manifestation of gender inequality in decision making within households derail the commitment to involve women within IDP.

Therefore, South African government promulgated the Employment Equity Act 1998. The act aims to aggregate the representation of women in the labour market to advance their voice in decision making. It was stated in Sebola (2009: 1106) that the purpose of the Affirmative Action policy was to ensure that suitably “qualified” people from the designated groups (women, African people and people with disabilities) have equal opportunities and are equally represented in all occupational categories and levels in the workplace of a designated employer. The assertion is entrenched on the notion that the women in labour market have the potentiality to influence decision making than those who are not working. In the expedition to improve women involvement within local government, women empowerment should be perceived as the remedy to the challenge (McGregor, 2006; Sebola 2009; Sebola and Khalo, 2010).

The cultural and traditional patriarchies and hierarchies were manifested by the maintenance of masculinity by men within the households. The inability of the men to perform their cultural rooted obligation to provide for their households, relegated them into alcoholism, depression and violence (Martins, 2006). Violence within the households continues to play important factors that condition the manifestation of gender inequality (Jewkes, Dunkle, Nduna and Shai, 2010). Regardless of the rights afforded to all South African citizens, domestic violence continue to characterize most rural societies, and thus constitute violation of human rights. Martins (2006) alluded that women who experience domestic violence do not volunteer to give information about their abusive relationships and lack confidence to participate within the community development project. With the increasing domestic violence within households, the democratic government promulgated the Domestic Violence Act. This act afforded the victim with the opportunity to report any violence activity within the households. In order to protect victims of abuse, the government has the responsibility to issue protection order and provide the victim with a safe house to avoid further victimization. The marginalization of women is exacerbated by the abuse of patriarchal and hierarchical structures of the households and unequal power relations continue to propel women outside the auspices of local government planning (Martins, 2006). The perpetuation of domestic violence even in the 21st century shows that the acts of apartheid era of discrimination, marginalization in decision making and cultural stereotypes that remain visible within the democratic South Africa (Martins, 2006). Parallel to this notion is that the proliferation of gender inequality within the households has a deleterious effect in the capacity to include them within IDP. Therefore, regardless of the plethora of legislative framework that promotes gender equality, the fragments of discrimination of women in planning continue characterized democratic South Africa. Regardless of the surfeit of legislative prescripts to promote gender equality, local government as a sphere of government closer to its constituents fails to dismantle the deep rooted inequality to enable rural women in planning. Male domination and maintenance of masculinity by men conditions the manifestation of gender inequality, thus poverty will remain a pipe dream that will never be realized. The inability of the legislative prescripts to dislodge the perpetual actuality of gender inequality within households, require the shifting in paradigm.

The role of women in planning within local government

For the past three decades, the notion of the state has been relatively neglected in political studies (Staudt, 2014). Weberian defined the state as the sovereign authority within a particular context and boundaries (Staudt, 2014). Due to the previous domination of male gender in politics, women's contribution in decision making were nullified by this dominant character. In most developing countries such as India, the marginalization of women remains serious factor, but a societal character. Furthermore, South Africa as a country emerging from the painful past of discrimination, oppression and marginalization (Goetz, 1998) which was male dominated; rural women remain under the shadow of planning within local government. The previous government never embraced an important role that women can play within planning and development. However, the conception of gender inequality is not a phenomenon that its etymological origin during the apartheid administration, but it is entrenched on the cultural and traditional patriarchies and hierarchies in South Africa (Keevy, 2009; Jewkes *et al.*, 2010). The discriminative character of South African society then cascaded into political arenas. The representation of women in politics and local government was very minimal Stier and Mandel (2009) argued that the loudness of women's voice in decision making was very low. Therefore, their contribution of in planning within local government was then scrutinized by various scholars (Stier and Mandel, 2009, Jewkes *et al.*, Staudt, 2014). Many competing theorist refuted that prevailing conception of state as a neutral empire between conflicting interests and acting as an instrument of the dominant economic class which is a Marxist view (Staudt, 2014). This is due to the fact that it perpetuates institutionalization which is dominated by the perusal of male interest.

Due to the centralization of decision making in South Africa before 1994, the democratic government then facilitated the decentralization of governance from the national to local government in order to deepen democracy. However, post 1994; South Africa was now pushing for promoting equal right for both man and women. Goetz (1998) stated that South Africa and Uganda have made a significant progress in inculcating women in politics. The engagements of women in politics have the potentiality to improve significantly women's voice in planning and most importantly within local government. Post-apartheid era, the young democracy was immediately confronted with a mammoth challenge to correct the deep rooted cultural and traditional stereotypes that marginalized women in decision making (Mafunisa, 2006). The democratic government was not only confronted with discrimination in planning, but provision of services, poverty and gender inequality. Jewkes *et al.*, (2010) stated that poverty is much gendered. The notion that poverty affects women more than man provokes a deeper sensation that women should be inculcated into local government and decision making in the expedition to solve the perpetual and deep entrenched social ills.

According to Mautjana and Mtapuri (2014), local government plays an importance role in the reduction of poverty in rural areas. Therefore, due to the gendered nature of poverty, the amalgamation of women within the IDP becomes profound in the expedition to address societal needs. In Cape Town, there was a creation of various

forums and Unicity municipality, was done solely to facilitate the participation of women into IDP within local government (McEwan, 2003). As stated before, local government has the Constitutional mandate to promote participation of both women and men in decision making. McEwan (2003) stated that regardless of the perpetual consultation within local government, the discrimination of women in decision making remain a South African character, particularly in rural areas. This confirms what Staudt (2014) said that, democracy and institution that support good governance, most times does not translate to effective women participation. The notion of participation remains at the core of most daunting local government challenges. Contrary to the perpetual predicament of promoting community participation, the amalgamation of women in decision making holds the potentiality to resolve the deep rooted problems of poverty and discrimination. Many scholars have argued that due to cultural and tradition stereotype, man are the head of the households and are responsible for all the decision making most in particular during planning or IDP. Contrary to this deep-rooted notion of male domination, there is an emergence of scholars that argue that the major of women in decision making is high and they continue to contribute a lot within the households. It can be argued that if the important role of women in decision can be effectively translated into planning within local government, the development problems can be addressed effectively. This was echoed by the former president of South Africa Nelson Mandela that until women are fully emancipated, the expedition to resolve development problems will remain a pipe dream. Therefore, if the views of women can effectively harness within local government through the IDP, it will enhance the potentiality to improve the effectiveness of addressing the development fissures. The involvement of women should not be exercised during election only, but even during planning and decision making within local government. The views of women must be mainstreamed into planning in the quest to deepen democracy in South Africa. Therefore, it is important to probe the gender discrimination and women's voice during the Integrated Development Planning.

Gender mainstreaming and woman voices in the idp

According to Todes *et al.*, (2010) gender mainstreaming is a set of processes designed to integrate gender perspective into policies. It seeks to engage with and transform the conventional planning structure that embraces male interest by inculcating gender representation within the IDP (Squires, 2007). Gender mainstreaming aims to facilitate the inculcate women's interests through institutionalizing consultation, empowerment and participation in policy making (Squires, 2007). For tenacity of this article gender mainstreaming and the women voices in the IDP will be used to ascertain the magnitude to which women's views and their ideas are incorporated within the municipal planning fraternity. This paper is based on the insinuation of the empirical study conducted by Akinboade, Mokwena, and Kinpack (2013), in which the results reveals that the overall 51 % of the gender representative within the municipal planning are found to be men. Therefore, this signals a shift from the municipalities as the sphere of government that ties closer people at the ground to revamp the way in which a well-balanced gender representation can be achieved

in the municipal IDPs. It is therefore, evident that the unsurpassed concerted and planning exertion of the past, culminated by the outcry of apartheid planning in the 1980s followed a segregationist, fragmented and suppressive movement to the black South Africans, especially women in particular (Sihlogonyane, 2015).

According, to Watson (2011), the copious national policy statements in the expedition for integrated, sustainable, and inclusive development planning, women's position in the public eyes remains glaringly and marginalized in the planning systems of the country, particularly in predominately rural municipalities. As an illustration of the latter, Constitution has given a salient weight and autonomy to municipalities to transform the relatively limited and technocratic planning to indulge to that of providing a wide range of space for marginalized group. For that reason, it includes and requires women to participate in formulating municipal plan and influence their development practices (Todes *et al.*, 2010). Marie, Budlender, Fortuin, Gysman, and Serote, (2004) found that local government had limited awareness on gender issues and dynamics in their planning tribunal. This is because women are comparatively poorly represented in local government as contrary to other spheres. Therefore, it is palpably clear that municipalities have not on the whole paid much attention to gender. Mathye (2000) echoes similar sentiments on the study conducted using IDPs of nine municipalities. The study revealed that limited attention had been given to inclusion of women in local government planning. Parallel to the study by Mathy (2000), Beall (2005), revealed that women's voices in the local government sphere have been silenced and muted due to the presence of the unequal social relations and informal institutional practices such as patterns of male dominance. Therefore, the question that can still be asked is how does the IDP mainstreamed or incorporated women's voices? Some studies revealed the plethora of reason behind the negligence of women's voices in which it includes the anecdotal facts that women are characterized by isolated operations, lack of capacity and resources and limited understanding of the local government related matters.

Planning and implementation of the idp

The successful planning and implementation of the IDP is largely attributed and dependent on the ability of the municipality to incorporate the views and opinions of different groups of people in the community. Municipalities are legally bound to involve groups of people and civil organization in their planning and development priorities of communities (Nzimakwe and Reddy, 2008). Therefore, community participation is found to be one of the planning processes and mechanism for successful implementation of the municipal IDPs. Inter alia, the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 is quite clear and deemed imperative to articulate on the need for community participation (Municipal Systems Act, 2000). The Act mandates the municipality to have structures and culture of community participation.

Reddy and Maharaj (2008) alluded that community participation is the integral part of, and critical processes of local democracy. It is then that in order for fulfillment of the planning objectives of the IDPs, municipalities have to encourage and create conducive platforms for the local community to participate in the municipal affairs.

This includes the following:

- Preparing, implementation and reviewing of the municipal IDPs,
- Establishing, implementing and reviewing the performance management systems of the municipality,
- Monitoring and reviewing the performance, including the outcomes and impact of such performance,
- Preparing the municipal budget and implementing strategic decision relating to the provision of municipal services (Madzhivandila and Asha, 2012).

Therefore, it is evident that the proposal and adoption of the community participation policy is a significant milestone for vast amount of municipalities to Honour the freedom charters provision that *"The people shall govern"*. This is attributed and parallel to the notion that many local municipalities in South Africa are confronted by various challenges pertaining to effective implementation of IDP (Madzhivandila and Asha, 2012). Asha (2014) further demonstrated that the poor implementation of IDP is largely attributed to lack of meaningful participation of the public in the decision making processes. The study further indicated that the contemporary form of participation that municipalities are elusive and are found not to be authentic enough in relation to effective implementation of the municipal IDPs. Valeta and Walton (2008) alluded that in Buffalo city municipality the implementation of the IDP is inadequate because of keeping the budget in isolation from the planning processes. Beyers (2015) share the same sentiments that budget is the most important mechanism in giving effect to the implementation of municipal IDPs. Moreover, for effective implementation of the IDPs there is a need to integrate budget with the planning processes. The question remains that to what extend does the municipality budget for the facilitation of women involvement within the municipal affairs? The latter is an alarming issue that many municipalities are still unobtrusively far from it (Sihlogonyane, 2015).

Discriminatory planning under the auspices of democracy in South Africa

The Constitution, 1996 afford every citizen with the opportunity to participate and influence decision making with local government. Local government as a sphere of government closest to the people is constitutionally mandated to promote participation, gender equality and deepen democracy in South Africa. The promotion of democracy took South African local government with a huge wave to ensure involvement of both man and women. However, according to Boye (1998), the conception of democracy differs from people to people, and thus, it require to be contextualize. The concept of democracy is understood in its context as *"distanced and dissociated from the socio-economic system in which it operates"* (Boye, 1998: 37). The notion of democracy is engrained on the basis that the rights of the population to engage within planning, governance and during election become an important factor. Therefore, Boye (1998) affirms that active participation in the local and national election and decision making constitute *"hard core democracy"*. Since the inception of democracy in South Africa, the democratic government have committed to ensure that the ordinary citizens to realize this fundamental right. Regardless of

this commitment, Staudt (2014) posits that the achievement of democracy does not automatically translate to active involvement of women into decision making and planning within local government. Beazley and Desai (2014) alluded that women are still discriminated and underrepresented within municipal planning. In countries like India and Indonesia, unmarried women are not allowed mobility and they are expected to act as “good girls”. The discrimination against women remains a serious developmental paradigm in most African countries, India and Indonesia.

The cultural patriarchies remain entrenched within our societies and therefore, continue to manifest under the auspices of democracy. Married women continue to the pressure to combine both unremunerated and remunerated work while men are doing less to help with the households (Jewkes *et al.*, 2001, Mafunisa, 2006, Jewkes *et al.*, 2010, Beazley and Desai, 2014). Furthermore, as men are unable to fulfill their gender ascribed role within the households, they are relegated to alcoholism, depression and violence (Beazley and Desai, 2014). The violence behavior that married women face, reduce their self-esteem and impede their ability to contribute meaningfully within local government. The traditional and cultural patriarchies in rural areas have cascaded to underrepresentation of women into political landscape. Thus, the political participation of women is very important in the expedition to improve their voices in the decision making. Politics play an important role in contributing to development and policy making. According to Rai (2014: 420-421), “the political nature of these politics is frequently made behind close door of bureaucracy or among tiny groups of men in a non-transparent political structure”. The underrepresentation of women in to politic made it difficult to influence decision making within local government. This inability of women to deeply influence decision making within local government provokes a deep and unraveled reality of faltering undemocratic state. Contrary to the notion of underrepresentation, there is a changing landscape in an urban context. In the globalizing world, there has been a growing media influence and women changing their lifestyle (Beazley and Desai, 2014).

However, regardless of the changing lifestyle of women in urban areas, rural population rooted under cultural and traditional hierarchies that continue to be discriminative. Despite the trajectory traversed through in the expedition to deepen democracy, the hierarchical structure within the political scenery continues to demonstrate the domination of male gender. The legitimate mandate of local government to deepen democracy has been confronted with the cultural and traditional stereotypes. The inability of the local government to inculcate the people’s views into planning derails the much celebrated achievement of democracy. Boye (1998) and Villoro (1998) stated democracy is rooted on the notion of the power to decide lays of the people. It has been argued that South Africa’s legislative framework a good and progress. Therefore, Tsheola, Ramonyai and Segage (2014) argued that the notion of “goodness” is rooted on the pragmatic evidence felt on the on the ordinary citizens. The underrepresentation of women in decision making continues to demonstrate the discriminative nature of rural areas. The cultural and traditional patriarchies have marginalized women within local government. Regardless of the progress made to deepen democracy within local government, majority of rural women remain on the boundary in planning and decision making.

Concluding remarks

It is blatantly clear that in the municipal IDP planning women's needs are still largely unmet which means there is a lack of explicit attention that has been paid to gender in the IDP. The latter can in turn culminate and question the truthfulness and the legitimacy of planning at the local level. However, it is pragmatically evident that women's participation, their leadership, hard-working shown to have shaped and contribute significantly in different organizations. This is in line with the frequently and contemporary rhetorical say that "women's performance is better and they are more committed than men". But however, women's representation in the IDP has been partial and uneven and further showing the disjuncture between their voices and participation in the IDP planning and implementation. This paper therefore, suggest that the IDP should be inclusionary which is to inculcate the robust and meaningful participation of all affected individuals and stakeholders rather than imposing models of participation from the central level. Thus, if the meaningful participation is to be taken and understood as a contingent it will assist to transform and take into cognizance gender-redistributive form and demolish the unprecedented and predominately male dominance.

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