

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF DEVELOPMENT TERMINOLOGIES

During the course of our different works we experienced that those who work in development sectors sometimes have difficulties in having appropriate grasp of different terms and concepts that are important to the debates within the sector. As a result, their endeavors to conceptualise their intervention and engage in a constructive dialogues with other participants of the sector remain handicapped. This lack of conceptual clarity thus also adversely impacts their activities in the field.

We have also observed that with the ongoing research and new findings in development sector both in the policy and academic world, the concepts and terms undergo revision, the debates around them acquire new dimensions and enrichment and their policy relevance accordingly change. NGOs, civil society activists, and Organisations, government professionals and even researchers those specially working in backward areas with less opportunities of exposure to the developments of new ideas and concepts in the field are thus additionally handicapped of continuing to work with a knowledge base and level of understanding acquired in the past.

Finally when with these limitations such Organisations and individuals try to engage with each other in sharing their experiences and learning from each other with differing and inadequate understanding of key terms of debate their communication and learning process also suffers. Dialogues sometimes take place at cross purposes, not because there are genuine difference of views, but because of misinterpretations and lack of communication, resulting in inadequate and contradictory understanding of terms and concepts in such dialogues. With these experiences in the background, we thought of putting in some effort to produce a reference document containing the definitions, and the key dimensions of a wide range of terms and concepts that are critical to understanding the debates in development sector and also to shaping policies and programs in actions both in the civil society as well as the government sector. As a result the document prepared by us lists: Gender, Development, Adolescents, Health, Research Methods terms and concepts. Divided under crucial themes of development sector, the different definitions and their key dimensions have been compiled from studying the relevant authentic documents produced by a very wide range of national and international development Organisations. Where the same terms and concepts have varying definitions or definitions with varying nuances, they have been compiled at one place to allow the users to grasp a full range of views and their inherent differences to make most out of them. The objective of this Encyclopedia is to provide in one publication definitions of the most commonly used terms and concepts related to sexuality, gender, and reproductive health, population, and empowerment and simple explanations of some of the most widely used concepts in social science.

We hope that this will prove to be a helpful reference document for those who are involved in furthering the goal of social transformation and are engaged in meeting the complex challenges of development that particularly the developing and relatively backward countries encounter. The terms and concepts included in the encyclopedia have been selected to fulfill the needs of students, researchers and other persons working in these fields to understand the complex English language

terminology they encounter during their work. The terms and concepts contained in the glossary are not exhaustive, with the focus placed on the most commonly used terms. We are happy that in doing so we have been able to further one of the core objectives of our Foundation which aims at extending support to the development practitioners and activists with quality information and an improved knowledge base for sharpening their understanding and practices. It is crucial therefore that we should be able to make this document widely and easily accessible to the large community working within the development sector.

By making this glossary available to wide readership we hope it will become a useful tool for a broad group of activists, policy makers, planners and implementers, local organizations and scholars in the region. The glossary will contribute to understanding terms and concepts within the context in which they are discussed. The glossary is divided into different sections:

- Part 1: Gender
- Part 2: Sexuality
- Part 3: Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Part 4: Research Methods
- Part 5: Gender based violence
- Part 6: Population & Housing
- Part 7: Adolescent and Mental Illness
- Part 8: Education
- Part 9: PRA
- Part 10: Hindi terms

Each section describes some of the key concepts and terminology in the field that it covers. This glossary was compiled by Nina Srivastava using the sources listed at the end of this publication. The glossary is strictly non-profit and it is not intended to be bought or sold.

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