

Gender impact assessment of urban projects in Iran

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Abstract

One of the indicators of social development, the role of women and their participation in social structures. In the past few years in the design, implementation and evaluation of development projects has been increasing attention to gender issues. As a consequence, urban projects at different levels (individual and social) that can be positive, negative, expected or unexpected, the study of the consequences of urban projects because of household supplies that must be implementation of these projects will be considered. Social impact assessment is an attempt to assess the consequences of which could have a role in improving the urban impacts of the project. The aim of the present study is to evaluate the method of gender impact assessment and its principles; Because of gender-based urban development projects in Iran, Construction and operation of its consequences can be numerous and substantial effect on the main body of society that This type of assessment can be used to improve its effects.

Keywords: social impact assessment, gender, urban projects, Iran

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1. Introduction

At the beginning of the development process, assessments of different projects have more focus on technical and economic aspects of that. Experts with knowledge about different aspects of community work closely together, nowadays accepted this fact that each technical and developmental project can followed other social and cultural consequences; that affected on the performance and operation of the project. The necessity for Doing SIA in a lifetime of developing initiatives, Caused Since the Changes are not always predictable and linear nature, Thus according to all aspects of an urban developmental project determines the Sectors and areas of social impact projects. This method (SIA), ways that deals with the study of developmental impact of actions on individuals, organizations or the general society. On the other hand, "SIA" to marginalized groups¹ is very importance. Women, on the marginalized are obvious examples. Although eta is sensitive to all the marginalized, But its sensitivity is very high in the eta for women's voices are not heard in the developmental actions. (Fazeli, 2012).

According to effects and social consequences by focusing on the impact of gender in the form of social impact assessment Represents the capacity of this type of study. For gender analysis of urban projects in order to study and predict the positive and negative effects of it, this study is Gender impact assessment (GIA). For this purpose, This study tries to by examining the principles and objectives of social impact assessment of urban projects, Specifically consider the introducing the "social impact assessment that will be done with focusing on the effect of gender". For this purpose, To examine the role of gender impact assessment of urban projects and will review the principles and objectives of that.

1- The order of "marginalized groups", Those who have not representatives in the society and considered weaker groups traditionally. Value systems and social norms against them and in consideration of the developmental action are not considered or do not pay attention to their resources and conditions.

1. The require to assessment consequences of gender-based urban planning

Understand the consequences and impact of "planning" both in planning policies and development policies become increasingly important. Questions relating to planning are multifaceted; If each developmental action considering as a series of purposeful human action, Based on Merton 's model of functional analysis and terminology used in, can be said that each developmental action in addition to the pre-determined desired goals of planners and suppliers, may have unexpected consequences. Consequences that Merton names that, as Consequences of non-intentional or concealed. In studies of (SIA) referred to as possible Consequences. More importantly, these possible concealed consequences may be having the bad Function or in other words the negative Function.

SIA done for the purpose of answering five questions:

1. Why, what time, what place and what impact occur due to done developmental action planned?
2. Who is influenced by these events?
3. Who will benefit from these events and who will lose?
4. By applying different action options and different choices ahead, what will change?
5. How can the negative impacts resulting from developmental actions to remove or dampen and increase the positive impact of them? (Fazeli, 1391: 89).

If we can involved the Gender impact assessment of the project to the decision-making process brokers projects of the development of urban gender-based; In this way, We have better management and decisions. In addition to predicting and managing the effects of the project, The social benefits, economic and environmental; People and the local community will benefit. Gender sensitive in projects is a way that neglected of the unforeseen consequences in developmental projects can be reduce benefits and advantages of these projects drastically, For this reason, Gender impact assessment of projects is important.

In the following expression and introduced the principles and guidelines in the social impact assessment (SIA) and gender impact assessment (GIA):

2.Introduction and guidelines of social impact assessment (SIA)

Definition of “Inter- organizational Committee on guidelines and principles for social impact assessment” (1994) of the SIA, deals to many aspects of this concept: “efforts to assess or estimate, in advance, the social consequences that are likely to follow from specific policy actions (including programs, and the adoption of new policies), and specific government actions (including buildings, large projects and leasing large tracts of land for resource extraction)”, Overall, social impact assessment only as supervisory role to predict the consequences of negative projects is not limited; but tries to identify and evaluate the positive and negative impacts of the Project; SIA studies have been done in different ways and different authors according to the specific requirements of each project and specific theoretical and methodological perspectives that have the different steps and techniques have been introduced for the studies of SIA. The important point that in the issue of methodological studies of SIA in the Most researchers in this field have agreed is importance of using multiple methods and techniques appropriate to the study of developmental action, to evaluate, assessment and predict the best possible outcomes and impacts.

One of the primary functions of an SIA is to anticipate the effects of defined types of change on the human community and to provide these anticipated effects to decision makers able to use them to evaluate the ‘goodness’ of alternative interventions (Turnley, 2002); For this reason, we see that Vanclay stated that :” Social Impact Assessment is the process of analyzing (predicting, estimating and reflection), and the management wanted and unwanted consequences of planned interventions (policies, programs, plans and projects) for the environment for human and any process of social change resulting from the interventions. So that creates human

environment and Biological- Physical that more sustainable and equitable“ (Becker and Vanclay, 2009: 18-19).

The acknowledgment of the need for SIAs stems from an evolving recognition of the complexity of human communities, and the realization that the negative, unintended consequences of policy interventions may outweigh positive effects (Western and Lynch 2000). Since the if ignored the gender sensitive in project, will be ignored many affect and consequences; For this reason, In the following the principles and guidelines for gender impacts assessment in urban projects introduced and expressed:

3.Introduction and guidelines of Gender impact assessment (GIA)

Gender refers to the socially constructed roles and relationships between women and men. These are learned, change over time, and vary within and between countries and cultures according to social, religious, historical and economic factors. Gender contrasts with sex, which describes a set of biological differences between men and women. Gender roles and responsibilities affect women’s and men’s ability and incentive to participate in development activities, and lead to different project impacts for men and women (Hill & Newell, 2009). Overall, The Gender Analysis & Forestry Framework is a step by step tool for carrying out gender analysis. Gender analysis training familiarizes the trainees with this tool. There are four Profiles or Steps in the Framework which help trainees to raise questions, analysis information, and develop strategies to increase women’s and men’s participation in and benefits from forestry programmes.

These are concerned with:

- 1.the development context or patterns in an area, answering the questions What is getting better? and What is getting worse?
- 2.women’s and men’s activities and roles, answering the question Who does what?
- 3.women’s and men’s access to and control over resources, answering the questions Who has what? and

Who needs what?, and the forestry programme actions needed, answering the question What should be done to close the gaps between what women and men need? and What development delivers? Wilde and Vainio – Mattila, 1995).

The objective of GIA is to ensure that projects avoid negative impacts on women and other members of their communities, and to promote women's empowerment and participation. A GIA should be undertaken as part of or alongside social, human rights and economic impact assessments. GIA allows project planners to consider the impact that a project may have on women, men, boys and girls, and on the economic and social relations between them. Gender analysis can ensure that neither women nor men are overlooked or disadvantaged by development projects; increase the effectiveness of projects; help project staff to identify barriers to women and men participating in and benefiting from a project; and help project planners and implementers to identify appropriate strategies for involving women and men and meeting their needs (Hill & Newell, 2009).

Derbyshire (2002), In this context suggests that "gender analytical information and sex disaggregated data on men's and women's concerns and experiences can inform national or sector-wide policy and planning processes

- the importance of gender-aware consultation processes
- national policy commitments to gender equality should be backed up with budgets, effective processes of monitoring, and capacity-building
- the long-term time frame of the complex processes of change involved. However, the potential of national policy.

This information is necessary to identify gender difference and inequality; to make the case for taking gender issues seriously; to design policies and plans that meet women's and men's needs; to monitor the differential impact of policy, project and budget commitments on women and men".

The goal of any impact assessment is to analyze the

potential effects of new policy plans or programs before they are implemented. Impact assessment studies have mainly been developed in the field of environmental problems (verloo & Roggeband, 1996). They are identified 5 steps of gender impact assessment studies:

1. "Description of current gender relations
2. Description of probable development without new policy
3. Description and analysis of the new policy plan
4. Description of potential effects on gender relations
5. Evaluating the positive and negative potential effects on gender relations" (verloo & Roggeband, 1996: 5).

Understanding the way a project has approached gender is a good starting point in designing an impact assessment and a number of questions can be asked in order to establish this:

- What analysis has the project made of gender relations in the specific context in which it is working? What approach does it take as a result of this analysis?
- Who has the project targeted- women only, women and men, men only- and why?
- What positive impact does the project expect to have on (i) women for themselves; (ii) women in the context of their families/households; (iii) women in the context of their communities? How are these impacts expected to come about? Have any potential obstacles to achieving these impacts been identified? How was it anticipated that they would be overcome?
- What impact does the project anticipate for other members of the household/family? What does this assume about the way gender relations operate?
- Does the project anticipate negative impacts on gender relations?
- What indicators were identified to measure the project's progress? How do these indicators relate to gender relations?
- What steps has the project taken to evaluate its impact on women and on gender relations?
- What steps has the project taken as an institution

itself to implement a gender policy in its staffing, organization, and management? Even where women have been targeted, projects may show no further gender awareness in the way in which they are designed, implemented, and monitored. Indeed, a project with a policy to ensure that women are equally represented in positions of authority on decision-making executive committees at the village level can be argued to be addressing gender relations more overtly than one which is a 'women only' programme since, in the former, wider social expectations about the position of women may be directly challenged (Johnson, 2000: 89-92).

In a general classification, A gender impact assessment must consider and provide:

- sex-disaggregated household, workplace and community data relevant to the project;
- an understanding of gender relations and their implications including an understanding of:
 - The gender division of labour and different responsibilities of women and men including their productive and reproductive roles;
 - The experiences of women as distinct from, and in relation to, the experiences of men;
 - who has access to and control over resources, assets and the benefits from the project; and the ways in which women may be subordinate to men ; for example if women have less access to resources such as land, income and political influence; and through what mechanisms this inequality is maintained and reinforced.
- an understanding of women's and men's different needs, priorities and strengths. This includes identifying:
 - women's practical gender needs; and
 - women's strategic gender interests.
- an understanding of the barriers to meeting women's and men's needs and interests and the risks related to gender equality issues, including resistance to change from various quarters and possible backlash;
- the identification of opportunities for greater equality and empowerment for women; and

● recommendations to address women's practical needs and strategic interests. In particular, a gender impact assessment should provide answers to the following questions:

1. What are the likely impacts of this project on women, their needs and their interests?
2. How will addressing the concerns of women and improving gender equality contribute towards a more sustainable project?
3. How can women's practical needs and strategic interests best be supported and advanced by the project? (Hill & Newell, 2009:8).

The impact assessment work might then be approached as follows:

1. Establish a gender baseline:

that is, establish the nature of gender relations in spheres relevant to the project's operations, for instance in areas such as the control of individual and household incomes; responsibilities for different types of family/household/individual expenditure; access and control of resources required for income generation, etc. It is these gender relations that are most likely to affect the impact of the project. Techniques such as the Harvard Framework help to collect this type of information systematically (see, for example, March et al. 1999). If the project did not carry out its own baseline study then it may be possible to construct one using secondary sources as well as using 'now' and 'before' techniques see below.

2. Consider the potential impacts of the project on gender relations:

while evaluation is about establishing whether the positive objectives planned by the project have been achieved, impact assessment has to look both to the positive and negative impact, expected and unexpected. 'What you don't look out for you don't see' and this is especially the case with gender. Impacts may be 'unexpected' as far as one particular project's planning is concerned. This may also throw up ideas about how negative impacts might be addressed in

the future through changing the design of the programme or putting different strategies and policies in place.

3. Establish the information and indicators required:

- First, disaggregate all data collected to consider how the situation may have changed differently for women compared with men.
- Second, consider the impact on gender relations (both expected and unexpected).

4. Collect and analysis the data using tools and techniques appropriate to the task:

this means using both quantitative and qualitative tools to collect gender-related information. Data on the nature of women's employment might best be collected through a quantitative survey but information about underlying relationships is probably best collected using a range of qualitative tools, especially those from the Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) tool kit. Nevertheless, in the context of gender relations there remains much ground which can often not be openly discussed. Carry out the impact in gender-sensitive ways: that is, in using male and female researchers appropriately; finding a location for the interview can a location be found where women feel comfortable but are not likely to be interrupted; and when is an appropriate time of day between tasks? The dynamics of group discussions have to be carefully handled and it is probably best to separate men and women, depending on the types of questions being asked, even if the groups are usually mixed. Finally, is the composition and dynamics of the research team itself. Considering the skills needed to properly incorporate gender does it require a 'gender specialist' or is gender the responsibility of the whole team? How can sufficient female researchers be recruited and what special arrangements need to be made (especially, for example, in Islamic communities) to enable this to happen smoothly? (Johnson, 2000: 89-93).

For this purpose, it is necessary to gendered understanding; the results and conclusions of the understanding provide in the creation single-gender urban spaces. It can be noted this results:

- A gendered understanding of spatial planning highlights issues of safety and security, and ensures that the quality of places and spaces reflects everyone's needs.
- A gendered understanding of how people use space and places improves our ability to achieve economic, social and environmental goals.
- A gendered understanding of how people see their environment is important in developing policies to combat climate change.
- A gendered understanding of design ensures that places and spaces work well for everyone.
- A gendered understanding of what local facilities people need ensures that we create places that are useable by everyone.
- A gendered understanding of how people want to live their lives ensures that places and spaces incorporate the facilities everyone needs (Commission on the Status of Women, 2012).

Based on this review and resolve their needs is one of the necessities. Social and cultural officials and planners must take attention to them. So should be looking for the patterns and design appropriate strategies for promoting social, cultural and economic conditions of women in the society. Hence, it can be pointed to a building Shahrbanoo complexes, parks for Women, homes of Tasnim, specifically related to women's associations; that all can cause some of them to come back in different areas.

5. results

Nowadays widespread presence of women in society and their role in society is undeniable. Women are half of the human population and obviously, attention to this group have Significant role in the development and progress of the country; As a result, urban policy makers are trying to provide the best solutions for the equitable distribution of facilities and spaces.

But with regard to the gender division of population in the society one problem is a delicate; that in the different (personal/ social) areas have different effects. On the other hand, may be the Social consequences (positive and negative) or (unforeseen) to be followed of that. For this purpose, According to the Tehran Municipality's policy on urban projects, for going beyond economic measures and urban development and the social, cultural and gender impact of projects is required to investigate and focus on these projects. This reviews, Nowadays with this title "The gender impact assessment of urban projects" Known and seems necessary.

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