DEVELOPMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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Recap (and reflections) on day 1

Thinking and Working Politically Community of Practice
Bangkok, Tuesday 16 June 2015

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Developmental Leadership Program
Common principles

Power is at the core of both and both informal and formal types of power are common to both

- Both should include consideration of your own power
- Both operate in private & public spheres
- Both acknowledge and recognize the multi-dimensional nature of power (e.g., race, class, etc)
- 'Almost consensus':
- Gender gives us the strategic/normative focus, gender equality is the goal and TWP is the means
- Common objective/strategic clarity; whose politics? Transcend a dichotomy
- Inclusivity and voice: understanding the politics of marginal groups is a means of understanding how to TWP
- Importance of engagement of different stakeholders as a part of the process as a common principle; needs different interaction modes
- Both would need to look at how to harness common interests to bring about positive change
- Focus on power & changing power relations; need to be strategic, opportunistic and changeable
- Needs innovative ways of reporting
- Being responsive to local context, flexible, iterative, questioning assumptions, seizing opportunities
- Keep our eye on the long-term vision whilst being willing to adapt and be tactical; need to use each other instrumentally to get to the same goals; let's get down in the dirt
- Do no harm, or at least as little as we can
- TWP is not gender-neutral; it has values. Gender is not value-neutral; not all women are the same
- Thinking about power requires you to think about gender
- Analysis absolutely has to inform practice
- Small interventions can generate gains if you have your eye on the prize
- Watch out! We can reinforce discriminatory gender norms even without realizing it
- We matter: don't leave ourselves out of the equation
Gender and TWP reflections

1. General reflections
2. What does a gender-sensitive approach offer TWP?
3. What does TWP offer gender-sensitive programming and analysis?
4. Where is the TWP Narrative?
5. Is TWP just the means, and therefore not normative per se
Gender and TWP

• A bold and galloping start yesterday
  • By 10am we’d had Karl Marx and intersectionality
• Alan’s Ask
  • “let’s not stop thinking about gender or governance when we go our separate ways”
• Resources for gender and TWP
What does gender analysis offer TWP?

• If we want to do TWP better we need to address gender relations. It will sharpen our political analysis
  • Gender relations are embedded in institutions, shape interests, and mediate structures
  • Gender is a power relation
    • Role of informal institutions and norms
    • Both the public / private spheres
    • Not just power ‘over’, but ‘to’, ‘with’ and ‘within’ as well

• A challenge: “the pervasive slippage” between women and gender
  • How to build upon or nudge Julie Bishop’s and Justine Greening’s leadership on women and girls into gender
What does TWP offer gender analysis?

• Re-politicise gender analysis
  • Sharper analysis of interests, institutions, incentives, and ideas
  • Better political tactics
  • “you don’t always work on gender by working on gender”

• …
Visions of TWP

• Presenting to others
  • The TWP Narrative
  • Raises question of where are we in the influencing strategy

• For ourselves
The strategic space

Political
Communicating, branding, public diplomacy

Where our energy has been thus far

Programming
TWP, flexible, iterative & adaptive

Bureaucratic
Results, M&E, log frame, accountability

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Visions of TWP

• Presenting to others
  • The TWP Narrative
  • Raises question of where are we in the influencing strategy

• For ourselves
  • It’s the assumptions column, stupid! (GT)
  • It’s strategic vision + tactical flexibility (TP)
  • Raised the “is TWP normative discussion?” … gender catalysed
Good governance, just normative
Just normative doesn’t get you far, or success

“I think you should be more explicit here in step two.”

Source: Duncan Green, http://www.oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/?p=11181
Let’s add a dose of political analysis & realism
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Gender analysis is normative & analytical
Just tell me what you want and I’ll tell you if it’s possible and maybe how to do it.
But I want to be adaptive, iterative & flexible … so back to Sally?
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Do the means justify the ends? Does working with the grain potentially strengthen patriarchal structures?
But I want to be adaptive, iterative & flexible … so back to Sally?

Do the means justify the ends? Does working with the grain potentially strengthen patriarchal structures?

Whose politics are we talking about? Do I like them?
But I want to be adaptive, iterative & flexible ... so back to Sally?

Do the means justify the ends? Does working with the grain potentially strengthen patriarchal structures?

Whose politics are we talking about? Do I like them?
Is TWP normative?