Presentation

Haiti

JICA SEMINAR: GENDER MAINSTREAMING POLICIES FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

Prepared by

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Capital : Port-Au- Prince.
Surface : 27 750 km2.
Diaspora: 1 to 2 million people
Population: 9,776, 000 people.

Currency: gourd.
Mode: semi presidential, semi member of parliament

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Head of the state
Chief of the government
Political system: democratic. A lot of political parties
Life expectancy for the women: 53 ans.
Life expectancy for the men : 47 ans.
Rate of illiteracy : 47 %.
Official languages: the Creole (since 1979) and French (spoken per 10 % about the population).
National festival: January 1

Haiti is in the Caribbean Sea, on the Western part of the island of Haiti, whose east is occupied by Dominican Republic. It faces Cuba and Jamaica, which is to 190km of its coasts.

The country offers a mountainous landscape. Its climate is tropical wet. There is a strong intense deforestation practiced by the population, which heats itself by the charcoal fault of electricity. The forest field is tiny room to 3% to 5% of the surface of the country.

The Haitian population is very young: more than 40% of the Haitians have less than 15 years. Only 6% have more than 60 years, and the life expectancy is weak: 47 years for the men, 53 for the women. The population remains rural (nearly 70% live in the countryside) but poverty pushes people towards the Capital and its shantytowns. Port-au-Prince counts now more than 2,4 million persons.

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MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of feminine condition and women rights has for mission to formulate, apply, and to make the government's politic been respected in the parietal gender matter. The Ministry has two essential functions:

• Promotion and protection of women Rights: This function has to aim at to correct injustices and historical discrimination women have been object for ages. This task of promotion has been assured by the direction of promotion and protection of women Rights. This direction has implanted a program to aim at to sensitize the population to adopt non sexist behaviors.

• Generalization of the Gender approach: this function aim at that all state institutions considered the specifics needs and the strategic interests of men and women in their

Since 1994, date of his creation, the Ministry has deployed a lot of efforts to promote sexes equality. Some great progresses have been realized. But the questions referring to gender aren’t integrated so as systematic in the public politics.

Since 2004, the Ministry has implanted a new direction: the “Analysis Gender Direction”. The Direction is the main section charging for the generalization of the social gender’s relations analysis in the all the actions of the Government.

-Documentation service and data management
- Orientation and monitoring service.
I work as a technician at the orientation and monitoring service. My tasks consist of doing promotion of gender equality, to accompany other structures to integrate gender in their projects.

WOMEN SITUATION

The women are especially confronted with some problem referring at their subordination position in the Haitian society. In fact, in spite of the different commitments taken by the Haitian State as for example his membership at the action plan of Beijing in 1995 and also the ratification of the CEDAW without forgetting the efforts deployed by the ministry so that the Haitian legislation delete all trace of discrimination. As salaries equality between men and women, the rape criminalization, the women are still in a vulnerable situation.

In Haiti, about 50% families have been managed by a woman. Most of them work in the informal economic sector. When we know the disadvantages that present this sector, we understand well their precarious situation.

We saw while this ten last years, to develop a phenomenon setting fire to the public markets. This is the women who are the main victims, and then they aren’t compensated.

In the crisis period, they are subjects physical and sexual aggressions. This affects not only women but also the children.

A few years ago, Haiti comes to be confronted at a lot of problems in order social, economic and politic. And this moment, the country is still difficult situation. For fighting against the poverty the Haitian government has chosen the national strategic document for growth and reduction of the poverty (DSNCRP). In this document, a whole recommendation has been given by the Ministry of feminine condition and women Rights for fighting against the feminization poverty and to reduce maternal mortality. Gender budgeting aims the major way we have to follow in the public administration (ministries).

Problems

- Poverty
- High maternal mortality rate
- Low female participation in politic

The challenges/Obstacles

- Traditional Gender Bias still remain
- Lack of resources (human& budget)
- Weak mechanism of gender mainstreaming

Objectives of my participating in the seminar

I would like to have a largest vision of the equality men and women problematic. The objective of equality is to eliminate the gates which prevent the access at the same opportunities: economic, politic, educational and legal. I’m persuaded that the development of countries will happen essentially by an equality report between sexes.

Objectives of my participating in the seminar

- In the seminar, the subjects which most interest me are: gender budgeting, women‘s participation in politics and their leadership, gender sensitive
- I think that the women’s politic participation aims major problem to resolve in Haiti. We count only 4 women deputies on 99 at the parliament.
- I hope that at the end of the seminar I ‘ill be able to work at the development in the progress of the gender problematic in my organization.

Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming

Project Title : Gender mainstreaming and political participation

Overall Goal:

Get a better representation of women in the Haitian parliament

Specific objectives

- Educate the parties to choose women as candidates.
- Support structures feminist parties so that they form groups that may drive the change in parties
- Improve media information

Give a better visibility of women politicians

Activities

- Setting up a monitoring committee for the implementation of the Action Plan
- Conducting workshop on gender awareness with party leaders.
- Advocacy on the grounds of temporary special measures and structures of women in party with political leaders
- Disseminating information on the commitment made by the state ratifying conventions such as CEDAW and the International Covenant on Civil and Political through the media by targeting the general population

Activities

- Develop and disseminate spots advertising through radio and TV
- Prepare the meeting between women politicians and girls at senior high schools in the metropolitan air
- Do celebration of women on the political scene during the past 20 years
- 4 training sessions in female leadership

Expected outcomes

- The committee is composed and functional
- Commitment of parties elaboration of the plan for a clear policy on the political advancement of women.
- Parties are convinced of the necessity of the special measures
- Substantial portion of the population is informed.
- More women interested in politic
- Women capacity in leadership are increased

Thank you for your pay attention