

## Walk the Talk: Do Gendered Evaluations Promote Human Rights?

The United Nations 2030 Agenda has often been cited as a 'victory for gender equality', with its promise 'to leave no one behind' - a powerful apogee for gender mainstreaming with the 17 SDGs. With special emphasis on the need to strengthen accountability frameworks, the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development is a call to the evaluation community to introspect on how best to use gender-based evaluations to achieve development targets for women.



**Dr. Kala Peiris**

Director,  
Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR)

*I believe we are at a stage of gender responsive evaluations, to say that gendered evaluations do promote human rights. We need to use the tools at our disposal – including Logical Frameworks, Power Mapping, Resource Mapping and adjust it according to the Theory of Change.*

- Before initiating dialogue on gendered evaluations, we need to ask ourselves as evaluators – who are we? What are we trying to evaluate? Are we addressing women's rights in our recommendations? Are we able to go one step forward to assess the kind of change we are trying to create?
- We need to capture the voices of women and assess them under the paradigm of human rights as evaluators.
- Gender Responsive Evaluations lead to Feminist Evaluations. They are fluid and dynamic and go beyond standard approaches. They focus on addressing the inequities that lead to social injustice. It emphasizes the larger picture through participatory approaches and social justice agendas. There is a need to explore Feminist Evaluations more deeply.

*If we incorporate a gender perspective in evaluations, we would actually be promoting human rights.*

- By definition, gendered evaluations integrate gender equality concerns into the evaluation objective, methodology, approaches, and use.
- Gender is a human rights issue. So incorporating gender in evaluations does promote human rights.
- Feminist Evaluations and Human Rights share certain values in common – including Equality, Non-Discrimination, Compassion, Interdependence, Bodily Integrity. Participation, Reflexivity, Power Sharing and Collective Leadership are additional feminist principles.
- All human rights evaluations are not feminist evaluations; but gendered evaluations do promote human rights. They would ensure that the voices of those being evaluated are included at all stages of the evaluation process, and focus on how policies can be designed to address strategic gender interests



**Renu Khanna**

Founder Trustee,  
SAHAJ - Society for Health Alternatives

*Power Matters. Gender inequality isn't just about redistributive inequality, but also relational inequality and power imbalances. It is important to design evaluations that can address it.*

- Evaluation is often seen as the last arm, but it is as good as policy design and policy execution. Especially as evaluations look at who gets how much of what - whether it is across classes, social groups etc and who is left out
- A good-gendered evaluation needs to keep in mind a gender lens throughout the design. The method, approach and design, including who's asking the questions - need to incorporate a gender lens.
- While conducting evaluations, it is important that we don't forget the stakeholders – they are the ones who have the stake. It is important to include the people being evaluated in the design phase, to avoid any unintended negative externalities.



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