

Key Directions for mainstreaming Gender, Disaster Risk Reduction and Intersectionality in Bangladesh: *Through Validating the Strategic Framework developed by GRRIPP South Asia*

Introduction: Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP) South Asia organized the Strategy Validation Workshop on the 'Strategic Framework for Gender, Disaster, and Intersectionality in South Asia (2024-30)' on January 17th, 2024, at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building, University of Dhaka. Through a series of research projects, stakeholder consultations, seminars, webinars of home and abroad; strategy development workshop at the GRRIPP South Asia September Seminar 2023; GRRIPP South Asia team has developed a DRAFT 'Strategic Framework for Gender, Disaster, and Intersectionality in South Asia (2024-30)'. To ensure the robustness and effectiveness of this framework the workshop aimed to validate and strengthen the document. One of the objectives of the workshop was to generate some recommendations for Bangladesh with regard to mainstreaming Gender, Disaster and Intersectionality. It has brought together experts, stakeholders along with participants from diverse backgrounds to share insights, provide feedback and make recommendations for refining the strategic framework.



Caption 1: Group Photo with stakeholders (Credit: Ashish Sarkar, IDMVS)

Notable attendees at the workshop for the validation; represented a mix of both international and national organizations. Among the international entities present Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), German Red Cross, Maltesor International, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and Terre des Hommes (TDH) provided remarkable contributions.

On the national front, prominent organizations consisting the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS), Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center (BDPC), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), BRAC University, Center for Disability in Development (CDD), Department of Women and Gender Studies (DWGS), Dhaka University (DU), Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) have contributed profoundly. The participation of these national organizations highlighted the local context and the collaborative efforts with a special focus on Bangladesh's

perspective to address gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and intersectional policies and practices.

Welcome Speech and Objectives of the workshop:

GRRIPP's four-year commitment to enhancing gender-responsive disaster risk reduction in South Asia was highlighted in the welcoming speech given by Zawad ibn Farid, Lecturer at the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka. By exchanging experiences and acquiring knowledge for the strategy's successful application in Bangladesh, the workshop sought to validate and strengthen it with the following objectives:

- To share and validate the key features of the strategy with the stakeholders in Bangladesh;
- Explain the context of and the processes followed to prepare the South Asian strategy;
- Share the responses received from West Bengal, India, on the strategy and the Network;
- Receive feed-back on the strategic framework and learn how we may adapt it for implementation in Bangladesh, including how to mainstream Gender, Disaster and Intersectionality in the country?

Special Guest: Dilruba Haider, UN Women

GRRIPP's successful global initiative spanning four years was praised by Dilruba Haider, a member of the regional advisor board and specialist in climate change and disaster risk reduction for UN Women. Ms. Haider highlighted the noteworthy significance and enduring influence of tiny projects, despite the conventional belief that they receive meager funding. Moving forward, she recognized the difficulties in securing funds and support for gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation. She acknowledged that attaining gender equality will require tackling deeply embedded social norms, which is a difficult challenge.



Caption 2: Dilruba Haider, Regional Advisory Board Member of GRRIPP South Asia is delivering speech as the special guest, Credit: Ashish Sarkar, IDMVS

Ms. Haider praised GRRIPP's dedication to addressing difficult problems and stated that UN Women is always willing to work with partners to help them navigate the complexities of gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation, and humanitarian assistance.

Speech Highlights:

- Often we find problem with implementation of our programmes due to lack of appropriate and effective strategies.
- Changing social norms takes a lot of thoughts and efforts.
- We need to go to the depths, address the root issues. We need to implement strategies to tackle the root issues of each thematic area carefully.
- There is difficulty in finding sufficient funding to sustain the program and the activities. This needs to be prioritized, because without it there is no future for this project. The importance of Gender Intersectionality must be sustained with new donors who are aligned with our cause.

Chair: Dr. Mohammad Moniruzzaman Khan, Director, Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies - University of Dhaka

The newly appointed director of the institute, Dr. Moniruzzaman Khan, started by highlighted his prior involvement with GRRIPP activities. The institute purposefully invited a varied range of practitioners for practical application, with a focus on knowledge production. Dr. Khan underlined the necessity of a team effort and the significance of fusing theoretical understanding with real-world application. In order to promote collaboration and close the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application, he urged all participants to contribute.



According to him – *‘Gender Intersectionality is a relatively new concept and dives deep into crucial aspects of gender based discrimination. It needs to be adequately funded and included in the curriculum so that students become fully aware and empowered by it and become part of the change-making process.’*

Caption 3: Dr. Moniruzzaman Khan, Director of IDMVS is deliberating his speech during the inaugural session; Credit: Ashish Sarkar, IDMVS

Technical Session:

Facilitator: Muhammad Taher, Chairperson, Duryog Nivaran

As the workshop facilitator, Mr. Taher gave an overview of the strategic framework and introduced the members of GRRIPP South Asia team who played a key role in compiling the strategy. The presentation covered the following key aspects of the strategy:

- ✚ Background and objectives
- ✚ Vision and Mission of the strategy

- ✚ Thematic Focus
- ✚ Functional scope of the network & Strategy
- ✚ Implementation strategy
- ✚ *The proposed name of the new Network: “GRRIPP South Asia”*

Muhammad Taher, in his role as the facilitator, commenced that an inclusive approach was taken in developing the GRRIPP strategy. GRRIPP South Asia Team, along with project participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, collaborated to produce the planning guide. This guide aims to carry forward key messages and tasks generated by the project into the future. The GRRIPP South Asia projects resulted in various outputs, including reports, stakeholder consultations, seminars, roundtable discussions, and workshops across different countries.

The draft Strategy Paper was introduced and discussed at the "GRRIPP South Asia Seminar 2023" in Dhaka, Bangladesh, involving participants and partner organisations from the region. The



overarching motivation behind this strategy is to sustain the learning and relationships cultivated among people and institutions in the region. According to him, the decision to develop a strategy was a forward-looking initiative.

Caption 4: Md. Taher, Chairperson of Duryog Nivaran while facilitating the technical session; Credit: Ashish Sarkar, IDMVS

Muhammad Taher expressed his appreciation for GRRIPP's idea of leaving behind a positive and sustainable impact beyond the conclusion of the project. He noted that the strategy encompasses seven thematic focuses derived from the nine projects of GRRIPP South Asia that provides a foundation for designing future interventions and projects.

Q/A Session after technical session:

In response to a question during the Q&A session about the broad and ambitious nature of the strategy and framework, the speaker acknowledged the ambitious scope of the initiative. The approach outlined for managing funds involved leveraging research funds available to Universities, particularly IDMVS. He expressed hope that IDMVS, as an experienced and reputed

actor, could effectively facilitate collaborations between the institute and professionals to support the diverse activities outlined in the strategy.

Responding to the query of Prof. Farha Zaman Mr. Taher explained how the objectives of the project aligned with the strategy, its thematic areas, and vision statement.

Moloy Chaki's question about the vision statement prompted a discussion, and it was clarified how the articulation of a broader vision statement for South Asia was helpful in deciding about the strategic Mission for GRRIPP South Asia. This helped the participants to delve into the specifics of the vision and Mission statements, ensuring a shared understanding of the desired outcomes and long-term goals envisioned by the strategy.

Ms. Dilruba Haider emphasized the importance of recognizing the distinct aspects of intersectionality within the gender discourse. She highlighted that the inclusion of LGBTQ++ perspectives is a noteworthy aspect of the strategy, acknowledging the diversity within the gender spectrum. Sanzida Akhtar, taking the floor, further emphasized the historical roots of intersectionality, coined by Kimberly Crenshaw 40 years ago. The importance of participatory research was underscored by the discussants emphasizing that women would identify their vulnerabilities, while academics would integrate these insights into policies and interventions.

In response to these queries and contributions, the facilitator acknowledged the ambitious nature of the strategy, but emphasized the point that it was intended for various (multiple) actors to implement it in different parts of the of South Asian region. Considering the diversity of contexts and stakeholders involved in the region, the wider scope of the strategic framework was explained as deliberate.

Session Chair: Prof. Mahbuba Nasreen, Regional Lead, GRRIPP South Asia.

The session, led by Prof. Mahbuba Nasreen, began with a poignant tribute to the late Professor Saleemul Huq, GRRIPP South Asia's regional Advisor. A minute of silence was observed to honour his memory. She started with sharing the project's journey, initiated in 2019, encountered delays and was officially launched in 2021, primarily due to the challenges posed by the global pandemic. GRRIPP's reach extends across diverse regions, encompassing South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. The selection of Bangladesh as the central hub for GRRIPP South Asia, is intricately tied to our active involvement in the Gender and Disaster Network, facilitated by the Natural Hazard Center at the University of Colorado. She said, “Personally, having received an award in 2016, I joined the network in 2018, paving the way for Bangladesh to become the exclusive member of the network in South Asia. Guided by four dedicated regional advisors, GRRIPP South Asia initially received a total of 27 project proposals. Following extensive consultations with regional board members and the UCL team, the global team selected seven projects for implementation in two distinct phases. The high point of the first phase included crucial projects like Curriculum Development, focusing on identifying diversities and intersectionality and formalizing these approaches.

In the second phase, we identified legacy projects for sustainability, including curriculum development and a project addressing persons with disabilities. The curriculum was shared with esteemed universities in Nepal and India. Our initiatives also included various awareness raising activities such as mime actions for cyclone preparedness, roundtable discussions, and a final dissemination event that effectively showcased the findings of our projects.



Caption 5: GRRIPP South Asia RMT is monitoring group tasks; Credit: Ashish Sarkar, IDMVS

Active participation in international research conferences not only broadened our horizons of knowledge and experience, but also provided valuable feedback on our work that fueled the process of our continuous improvement. To extend our reach within the country, we took the initiative to translate factsheets into Bengali. Today's workshop was strategically designed to gather specific feedback from Bangladesh, which is essential for fortifying the strategy's implementation. Emphasis was placed on the creation of a network for collaborative endeavors, and the session concluded by Prof. Nasreen expressing her sincere gratitude for the active participation of the attendees in the workshop.

“Over the last 4 years in collaboration with many people and institutions, we have successfully introduced the concept of gender intersectionality in different countries. We are proud of the successes achieved by the programme, some of which have been depicted in case stories that we have been able to gather. This indicates that we have been able to create a positive impact in the lives of girls and women in different countries - and the outputs speak for themselves. In Bangladesh, among other stakeholders, seven Universities across the country have been involved with the project, by which each has received the opportunity to learn and work on gender and intersectionality issues in disaster risk reduction” - Prof. Mahbuba Nasreen.

Sessions in Small workgroups

After that participants were organized into three groups (details are in the annex part), each was assigned to reviewing the **four key functional aspects of the Strategy: Policy Advocacy, Partnership and Collaboration, Communication and Awareness Building, and Co-creation of Knowledge**. The groups were tasked to suggest or recommend particular measures to be undertaken to implement the strategy in Bangladesh under each of these headings. Promoting gender-responsive disaster risk reduction through an intersectional perspective was the main goal. The groups spent about an hour brainstorming on the issues and themes in the particular context of Bangladesh, to come out with a set of useful insights and ideas.

Open house Session: Questions and Comments

1. The objectives are too broad and need to be more specific

Reply: It was deliberately so, as we call it a ‘Framework’ to accommodate work of many different stakeholders in South Asia. However, more specific objectives will be set by the ‘project holder’ in different countries/institutional partners in keeping with the Mission of the strategy.

2. Besides seeking collaboration with different local and international institutions, we must actively look for financial support from “Donors”.

Indeed, we need to brainstorm on how to arrange funds for our future work to ensure continuity.

We need to explore different avenues – i.e., potential sources of funding:

- We need further expand and improve our partnerships with NGOs and INGOs
 - Untapped potential: Connecting with former students who are established professionals and those who would gladly provide their support. (E.g. Alumni’s who are currently working in Red Cross, UNDP etc.).
3. There’s a lot of talk about the same issues in different packaging/branding when it comes to gender in general and intersectionality in particular. However, the progress so far has been slow with regards to implementation.
 4. Target groups should be identified, differentiated, and narrowed down to focus on specific needs of people (E.g. Gender and Disability is a broad topic. Disability is multifaceted and has a large variety. It shouldn’t be focused on one group of disabled people while other groups receive little or no assistance)
 5. It is not possible for one organization to meet all the needs. Too ambitious. We need to narrow it down and focus on Bangladesh first and then replicate to other nations of South Asia eventually.

Key Directions from the group work

The following comprise a summary of the key outputs from the deliberations of the three work-groups of the workshop. The participants were tasked to brainstorm on what possible recommendations they could make for Bangladesh under the four functional areas of the Strategy. These included, a) Co-creation of Knowledge, b) Communication and awareness building, c) Partnership and collaboration, and d) Policy Advocacy.



Caption 6: Group lead (team 03) is presenting findings to the larger audience; Credit: Ashish Sarkar, IDMVS

The following was recorded during the feedback session when one representative from each group presented their conclusions (recommendations) with the help of VIPP cards and oral explanations:

Co-creation of Knowledge

- A Baseline survey needs to be conducted first on the thematic areas. Certain indicators can be selected so that progress can be measured overtime and compared.
- Conducting Participatory Action Research: The life of the people and their reality should be better understood from the grass-roots level through active participation with the groups.
- Collaboration between NGOs, stakeholder groups and academicians is desirable.
- Publication: The key findings from different thematic areas should be documented. Success stories, struggles, challenges and hardships should be highlighted. These publications should be shared with researchers at home and abroad.
- Relevant case studies and related policies should be highlighted and reviewed.
- The curriculums must be updated to include changes in the context. Gender and intersectionality must be included in and integrated manner in all different subjects. Primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education in both English and Bangla medium should incorporate gender intersectionality in their text books, so that they can grow up understanding the concepts gradually. Aside from students, teachers must be made aware about “intersectionality” issues. Therefore, training programs should be arranged for teachers as well (school, college and University teachers)

- Production of IEC materials on intersectionality and organizing advocacy workshops
- Youth organizations can be mobilized to promote intersectionality.

Communication and Awareness Building

- Social Media is a great tool/platform. Facebook, YouTube, Instagram should be utilized to highlight the activities and stories.
- Utilizing our own social media pages and those of the partners' to expand online outreach.
- Networking with different organizations working on gender and intersectionality issues.
- Providing training on gender intersectionality; its thematic areas and objectives in different districts through seminars and workshops
- Providing study materials to create/raise awareness about “gender intersectionality” among students.

Partnership and Collaboration

- A need-based implementation plan needs to be formulated with the help of key stakeholders. A comprehensive and detailed need assessment plan should be adopted in view of the gender and intersectionality issues.
- Since there are 7 different thematic areas, with specialized NGO's working on them. An umbrella organization can be created to oversee the progress towards the overarching goals of the thematic areas.
- This will also create opportunities for stakeholders to share knowledge on intersectionality. (i.e. Consortium)
- Stakeholder mapping must be properly executed with members who are genuinely dedicated to the cause
- Involving Ministries relevant to the thematic areas (e.g. The Ministry of Disaster Management, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs etc.)
- Establish linkages with different organizations for promoting gender intersectionality through:
 - *Private Public Partnership (PPP)*
 - *Partnership with INGO's*
 - *Government Departments*
- Identify existing gaps in the Ministry, especially in the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and address those (in the light of gender intersectionality and its 7 thematic areas)
- The plan should then be implemented in a way that no one is left behind and everyone gets the support they need.

Policy Advocacy

- Share evidence based research outcomes with policy makers

- Devising specific policies (on gender and intersectionality) and implementing them.
- Producing a log-frame for each of the thematic areas with focus on gender intersectionality.
- Integrating Gender Intersectionality in SOD (Standing Order of Disasters) by involving Ministries, DMC Committees and other relevant stakeholders.
- A bottom-up approach to policy formulation should be adopted.
- The main focus should be on integrating intersectionality in existing policies to fill in the gaps/shortcomings.
- The process of development of a particular area of “focus” often gets lost in government organizations, Ministries and even in NGO's with the change or relocation of the key person. Therefore, it must be integrated into the policies and frameworks so that despite
- Policies should follow the SMART approach (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound)
- Different Ministries working in different sectors or thematic areas must be made aware about gender intersectionality and integrate it in their policies [e.g., 1) Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. (MODMR), 2) Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs (MOWCA), AND 3) Local Government Engineering Department. (LGED)]

Bangladesh also has a large number of youth organizations that are actively pursuing a range of social objectives. To put the plans created by GRRIPP South Asia into action, collaborations with these groups are crucial. Through youth involvement and collaboration with their organizations, we may effectively utilize their energy, creativity, and dedication to significantly contribute to the successful implementation of the strategies. This will help to build a more comprehensive and impactful approach to disaster risk reduction that is gender-responsive.

Annex:

Group A:

Participants

- (1) Aninda Osman, Student, BIGD- Brac University
- (2) Md. Iftikharul Hasan - DIO – CDD
- (3) Tasneem Chowdhury Fahim - Lecturer – IDMVS, University of Dhaka
- (4) Sanzida Akhter - Professor – DWGS, University of Dhaka
- (5) Md. Mohsin Hossain - Research Officer – DISA
- (6) Tasnim Jabin Jui - Lecturer - Disaster Science, University of Dhaka
- (7) Farah Deba Keya - Assistant Research Associate – CIMMYT

(8) Afrin Akter - Senior Social Protection Focal Point – TDH

During our session on the plans for GRRIPP, we delved into how the program will unfold in key functional aspects:

Co-creation of Knowledge:

In this domain, our strategy involves conducting a thorough situational assessment or baseline survey before initiating any project in a specific location. Following this, we plan to engage in participatory action research aligned with the established GRRIPP framework. The findings from these activities will be consolidated into publications to contribute to the generation of knowledge.

Communication and Awareness Building:

Our approach in this segment revolves around leveraging social media platforms for effective communication. We aim to disseminate case stories and success narratives from our projects. Additionally, a training program is in the works to raise Awareness, and we will establish need-based implementation strategies to ensure impactful communication.

Partnership and Collaboration:

To strengthen Collaboration, we will embark on a stakeholder mapping exercise, identifying academics, institutions, and organizations actively involved in intersectionality. Our partnerships will be built on aligning with these entities to foster meaningful Collaboration.

Policy Advocacy:

In the realm of policy advocacy, we plan to create policy briefs and organize policy dialogues with key decision-makers. The intent is to share evidence-based reports that can inform and influence policy development. This strategic approach aims to actively engage with policymakers and contribute to the formulation of effective disaster risk reduction policies.

Group B:

Participants

- (1) Md. Rofiqul Islam Shohel - F&AO – VSO
- (2) Monishankar Sarker - Assistant Professor, IDMVS, University of Dhaka
- (3) Farhana Zaman – Professor, Sociology, Jagannath University
- (4) Nusrat Jahan - Officer DRR & Program Support - German Red Cross
- (5) Abrar Hasan - Deputy Manager – GBF

- (6) Soroj P Chakma - Senior Program Officer – DM
- (7) Moloy Chaki - Deputy Director – BDPC
- (8) Rehnuma Nawreen - Coordinator of Research – BELA

In our envisioned cycle of the four functional aspects of the strategic framework, we have integrated intersectionality into the existing structure without introducing new elements. Here's how we plan to incorporate intersectionality in each aspect:

Policy Advocacy:

The cycle initiates with a comprehensive review of existing policies in the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. Our focus is on identifying opportunities to infuse the concept of intersectionality. Advocacy efforts will then be directed towards influencing these ministries to incorporate intersectionality into their policies, fostering a more inclusive and nuanced approach.

Partnership and Collaboration:

Stakeholder mapping takes on a crucial role, encompassing both government entities and development partners. We propose arranging consultation meetings, workshops, and seminars to engage these stakeholders in discussions centered around intersectionality. These collaborative efforts are designed to identify potential avenues for integrating intersectionality into policies, creating a shared understanding and commitment among partners.

Communication and Awareness Building:

Communication strategies will be tailored to include intersectionality, encompassing message types, dissemination channels, and curriculum design. We aim to identify opportunities for incorporating intersectionality into educational curricula at various levels, from primary to higher education. The preparation of community-friendly communication tools and their widespread dissemination will contribute to raising Awareness and fostering a more inclusive understanding of intersectionality.

Co-creation of Knowledge:

The cycle concludes with the co-creation of knowledge through the incorporation of intersectionality into training modules. Relevant cases from the field will be collected and integrated into academic training offered to government departments and development agencies. This knowledge transfer will feed back into the policy advocacy aspect, creating a continuous loop that reinforces the incorporation of intersectionality into disaster risk reduction efforts.

Q&A session, Observation, and feedback for Group B:

- While there are disciplines at the tertiary education level in Bangladesh that focus on studying gender and disasters, these efforts often remain confined to specific fields. There

is a crucial need for exploration into diverse academic domains, particularly among students pursuing STEM disciplines, where gender awareness and the concept of intersectionality may not be inherent. In light of this, it is imperative to integrate gender issues into the curricula of STEM courses, ensuring a more comprehensive understanding of gender dynamics. Furthermore, while gender and disaster issues are mentioned in the secondary and higher secondary level curricula, there is a call for deeper exploration. This exploration aims to modernize the curricula, providing students at these educational stages with a nuanced understanding of contemporary concepts related to gender and intersectionality.

- Working within the Bangladesh Water Development Board with a background in civil engineering, I've observed that gender-related issues are not inherently incorporated into the main agendas of the Water Development Board, particularly in areas such as bank protection, salinity protection in coastal zones, and land reclamation. While foreign-aided projects we engage in necessitate specific measures for gender-related issues, there seems to be a gap within the Water Development Board itself.

In projects with external funding, we prioritize gender issues, providing training on gender implementation, fostering gender awareness, and involving women in small income-generating activities. However, the lack of a designated position for gender within the Water Development Board or the Ministry of Water Resources hampers the summarization of these achievements, posing a challenge to achieving sustainable development goals. The absence of a dedicated role limits our ability to focus on gender-related issues.

In my current role, I handle gender-related reports for all projects. However, the lack of continuity in addressing gender issues could be a concern if I were to transfer to another office or get promoted. Therefore, I suggest the creation of specific positions within government organizations tasked with overseeing gender, intersectionality, and equity-related issues. This approach would facilitate a more systematic and sustained focus on gender issues, contributing to the overall advancement of sustainable development goals.

Group C

Members

- (1) Rasadul Hasan - Program Manager – PKSF
- (2) Md. Abdur Rashid - Director – BWDB
- (3) Professor Ishrat Shamim, President, Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS)
- (4) Majharul Islam - Head of Planning Research Development, DISA
- (5) Abu Reza - SPO – CAMPE
- (6) Dr. Mustafizur Tahman - Deputy Director – CAMPE

(7) Arif Dewan - Senior Coordinator - Maltesor International

(8) Nasrin Akter Khan - Executive Engineer – BWDB

We propose that our strategy adheres to the SMART criteria—being Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. While recognizing the potential challenges in immediate integration, our focus is on incorporating the SMART approach gradually, with a prioritized implementation plan.

Policy Advocacy: our priority is sensitization. We advocate for raising Awareness of gender and intersectionality issues in key ministries, including the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. We emphasize the need to sensitize local government, LGRD, and other relevant stakeholders, stressing the importance of integrating gender considerations across all ministries. Our approach involves reviewing policies, identifying gaps, and proposing intersectional solutions.

Partnership and Collaboration: we recommend building partnerships across different government departments. Collaboration is encouraged between ministries and various stakeholders, including NGOs, INGOs, local NGOs, community-based organizations, the private sector, and public-private partnerships. We stress the importance of stakeholder mapping to draw up an action plan and identify gaps, particularly in departments and ministries lacking gender policies.

Communication and Awareness: we underscore the pivotal role of print and electronic media, including social media, aligning with our country's SMART goals. We recognize the significance of networking for strategy implementation, suggesting that the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies can serve as the secretariat. We emphasize the inclusion of diverse stakeholders in the network, acknowledging potential funding insecurities and proposing a collaborative network as a solution.

Co-creation of Knowledge: we suggest Collaboration not only among academics but also involving development and humanitarian workers for knowledge generation. We propose the peer exchange of knowledge, extending beyond national borders to include South Asian countries. We believe that establishing the GRRIPP South Asia Network will facilitate strategy implementation, providing a platform for effective Collaboration and coordination.

Q&A session, Observation, and feedback for Group C:

- Children are among the most vulnerable populations during disasters, making it imperative for them to acquire knowledge on self-protection. Therefore, it is crucial to integrate disaster preparedness and response education into the primary and secondary school curricula and textbooks. To address this, I recommend prioritizing the involvement of the Ministry of Education in policy advocacy efforts. Their active participation will play a pivotal role in incorporating relevant information into educational materials at the primary and secondary levels.

Additionally, advocating for the inclusion of gender, disaster, and intersectionality disciplines in tertiary education is essential. I propose engaging in advocacy efforts with the University Grants Commission to ensure that public and private universities address these disciplines in their curricula. By doing so, we can contribute to a comprehensive and inclusive educational framework that prepares students at all levels to understand and respond effectively to the gender and intersectionality dimensions of disasters.

- The workshop aims to delve into the practical aspects of implementing the strategies. While I appreciate the existing partnerships and collaborations among government organizations, NGOs, and development partners, I believe an essential element is missing – Collaboration with the youth. Many young individuals are actively engaged in initiatives aimed at improving society, and considering that today's youth will be the future leaders, I propose sensitizing them to the concept of intersectionality for more effective implementation of the strategy.



Caption 7 & 8: Q/A and Feedback Session by participants
Credit: Ashish Sarkar, IDMVS