



Voice, Agency and Participation
Consultation at the UNDP, Human Development Report Office, New York
September 20, 2013

Jeni Klugman presented an overview of the report to a group of around 70 people. Saras Menon of UN Women was a discussant. Broad support for the work was received, with more specific comments as follows:

Intrinsic Value: the recognition of this is very welcome and good to see.

The five expressions: need to be clear about the criteria for how these were chosen. Questioned whether land and family formation should be areas of emphasis. Although land is often the source of conflict within families – new study on this – so this is relevant in terms of intra-household bargaining etc. In this context it would be good to link to broader struggles and openings for shaping opportunities.

Gender Based Violence: Would be useful to explore issues around stigma and under-reporting; intergenerational transmission and exposure at young ages; and access to services. On this front it would be useful to refer to the CSW 2013 work on GBV related to access to services etc. UNW and UNFPA are also now working on minimal standards for GBV services.

It was suggested also that the report include a discussion around the public health aspects of GBV and the links to mental health and substance abuse. Need to also recognize that the links of GBV with economic opportunities can go both ways.

In Nigeria detailed DHS analysis showed significant inter-state variation in prevalence of GBV, which highlights the importance of community level and structural factors. In this context it will be important to look at temporal changes over time.

Power and political participation: Would be interesting to explore how women perceive other women in power; violence against boys; valuing women's work. Rwanda could be a good case study to see what difference political representation makes to perceptions. On the collective agency side it would be interesting to explore what impacts collective agency has on individual agency.