
CURRICULUM VITAE



DORJI CHODEN
Minister
Ministry of Works and Human Settlement

Female
Bhutanese
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Motithang, Thimphu
Tel: 975 2 322874/ 17604259
dorjichoden@hotmail.com

COMPETENCY SUMMARY

- I have over ten years of experience working at mid and senior level executive positions in the Royal Civil Service of Bhutan. As the first female engineer in Bhutan, I advocated for new roles and professional standing of women in the country. Although there is no discrimination of women in Bhutan, but the traditional stereotype roles of women have limited their advancement in career growth. Through interviews and meeting forums, I have been able to inspire young women to enter into technical profession.
- The consultancy works that I undertook on gender, combined with extensive gender learning opportunity and practical application in my current position in the UNDP has further strengthened my professional capacity on gender equality and women's empowerment agenda. My core competencies include policy advisory support in the poverty portfolio in particular and the country office in general on gender related mainstreaming as well as gender specific capacity and programme development. I took active part in the Bhutan country office's gender initiatives and I am fully conversant with Gender Equality Seal, Gender Audit, and Gender Responsive Budgeting. I am the thematic task group co-chair in the formulation of the next UNDAF cycle for Bhutan and I have been fully responsible in managing the group members in framing the result matrix for the poverty theme.
- Under the poverty portfolio, I have successfully managed three projects that aimed to promote economic empowerment of rural women (*Food security*

under PTF and Women's Empowerment Project under AGFUND), and youth employment with a special focus on female youth through promotion of entrepreneurial development (the Income Generation Start-up Programme under HSF has successfully established young women entrepreneurs). These projects are monitored using result based sound project management and financial reporting and tracking system in the ATLAS.

- As a co-Chair of the Poverty Theme Group, I have exercised leadership in coordinating, facilitating and implementing joint programmes not only with the resident UN agencies but also with the non resident agencies. I have been able to develop joint programmes with UNCTAD, EIF, and UNIDO in addition to UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO and WFP. In addition to government partners, I have also contributed to bringing civil society organizations as partners in the area of social protection where women, as a vulnerable group is targeted.
- I have contributed to knowledge management by joining team works on unemployment issues, human development reports and extractive industry in addition to CO learning

EDUCATION

- Master of Arts in Public Administration from Maxwell School of Citizenship, Syracuse University, New York (2000 to 2001)
- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi, India (1980 to 1984)

WORK EXPERIENCE

UNDP Bhutan Country Office, Thimphu (August 2009 to February 2013)

- As the Assistant Resident Representative under the Poverty portfolio, I have contributed to:
- providing leadership and strategic programme direction to further enrich and expand the Unit's portfolio in the area of social protection, empowerment of poor, with a particular focus on women and youth through targeted pro-poor interventions. Programme on social protection is initiated in the country for the first time. The Unit also supports dedicated programmes on women and youth.
- leading the Poverty Theme Group (TG) for effective implementation of joint programmes by providing strategic policy direction, effective inter-agency coordination, resource mobilization and knowledge management support. The Poverty TG has joint programmes with several UN (UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, WFP, UNCTAD, UNIDO, EIF) and national counterparts as well as the civil society.
- *participating in the formulation of the next UNDAF for Bhutan in the capacity of the thematic task group co-chair, I have been fully responsible in managing the group members in framing the result matrix for the poverty theme.*

- knowledge management by joining team works on unemployment issues, human development reports and extractive industry in addition to CO learning
- sound project management and financial reporting through mid year and annual reviews and writing of the annual report, the ROAR (Result Oriented Annual Report) pertaining to poverty.

Consultant with Dutch Development Cooperation (SNV), Thimphu, Bhutan (2009)

- Carried out an in-depth study on gender and conducted a gender mainstreaming workshop for the agriculture project managers and extension workers; and the finance managers in the branch offices of the Bhutan Development Finance Corporation in the six eastern districts of Bhutan. This was aimed to:
 - raise general awareness on gender;
 - enhance knowledge, skills and practical insight on gender analysis;
 - introduce the concept of gender mainstreaming; and
 - enable gender mainstreaming at all levels of agriculture programmes.
- Developed and published a Gender Mainstreaming Manual for use in future trainings

Consultant with UNICEF Bhutan (April - May 2009)

- Conducted a baseline assessment of water and sanitation facilities in terms of physical coverage, functionality of the facilities and their adequacy in all schools of Bhutan, and provided recommendations on improving the facilities with focus on operational sustainability and the special needs of female students.

Consultant to UNICEF ROSA (Regional Office for South Asia) Kathmandu, Nepal (March 2009)

- Conducted a research study on the relation between water, sanitation and hygiene practices and discrimination among school children in selected schools in Bhutan as part of regional study launched by UNICEF ROSA; and wrote a thematic paper on gender and water, sanitation and hygiene practices among school children.

Consultant to the National Commission for Women and Children (October 2008 to February 2009)

- While Bhutanese women are considered to have equal status with men and enjoy equal opportunities, however, women lag behind in many development fronts such as in decision making positions and political participation. A pilot study conducted in gender had highlighted gender stereotypes as one of the major causes for gender disparity. Hence, to have deeper understanding and to address the issue provided consultancy services which involved:
 - Conducting a research study on gender stereotypes and women's political participation (Women in Governance) in Bhutan.

- Compiling a study report with recommendations to address gender equality identified in the study

Political participation (2008)

- In Bhutan's first democratic election in 2008, I participated in the election. The election, being the first of its kind, provided me with invaluable experiences of democracy and the challenges of politics.

Anti-Corruption Commission of Bhutan, Thimphu (February 2006 to June 2008)

- Served as one of the first Commissioners for the newly established office, and contributed to:
- drafting anti-corruption policy and strategy; and
- implementing anti-corruption measures, focussing on prevention through education, raising awareness and systemic reviews on procurement, construction procedures, rules and regulations.

Ministry of Works & Human Settlement, Thimphu (January 1985 to January 2005)

- Served in various technical capacities in the field of construction, housing, water and sanitation, with the main responsibilities of project formulation, overseeing implementation, and conducting evaluation;
- Managed national water and sanitation programme, largely supported by UNICEF, WHO and DANIDA. Women's participation was key in planning and managing these facilities;
- Being the first female engineer, I advocated for new roles and professional standing of women in the country. I acted as the gender focal person and participated in gender meetings at national and regional level. I was also the member of the National Women's Association of Bhutan and contributed in their initiatives on providing education on water and sanitation and also designing income generation for rural women.