

Mountain Partnership Partenariat de la montagne Alianza para las Montañas



Leadership of rural women in Kyrgyzstan: changing the stereotype The case of the Kyrgyz Republic

Women of the Mountains 8-9 March, 2011

Chinara Saparova

Public Foundation "Mountain Societies Development Support Programme in the Kyrgyz Republic" (initiative of the Aga Khan Foundation)

Key words:

- Women leadership
- Local governance,
- Decision making,
- Women empowerment,
- Rural community,
- Customary practice/stereotype





Women leadership in the context of Kyrgyzstan

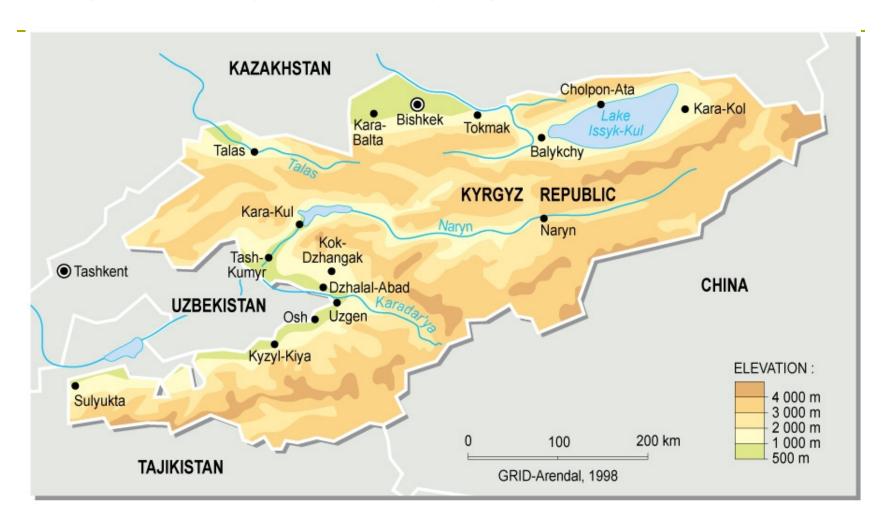
- Women in decision making positions
 - Roza Otunbaeva (current period)
- Women serving as a role model for leadership
 - Kurmanjan Datka (XIX century)







Kyrgyzstan: gender segregated statistics



Total population -5.4 million: Rural population is 65.9%:

out of them women - 50.7% out of them women -49.6%

Regulatory framework integrating gender approach

- Most of regulation policies developed with support of international expertise:
 - ADB;
 - UN agencies;
 - AKDN agencies;
 - WB;
 - USAID etc
- About 30 regulations and laws ratified since 1990:
 - The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995);
 - CEDAW;
 - The Convention of International Labour;
 - The European Social Charter;

National Action Plan on Achieving Gender Equity

- the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- National Programme on 'Human Rights' (2002-2010),
- National policy on public employment till 2010;
- National Plan of Education for All (2002-2015);
- Government Programme on Action of Social Partners to Decrease Underage Employment for 2007-2011 and others.

Laws and Government Decrees supporting GI:

- Law on Citizenship (2007);
- Family and Labor Code;
- Law on State Guarantee of Equal Rights and opportunities for Men and Women (2008); Code of Elections in KR (2007);
- Law on Reproductive Rights of Citizens and its realization guarantee;
- President's Decree on Gender Policy Enhancement (2006)
- Gender Expertise Procedure (2007).

Country example

- Local NGOs focused on women:
 - Women Entrepreneurship Support Association;
 - Congress of Women;
 - Forum of Women NGOs in KR;
 - Women's Initiative Support Center; etc
- Self-help groups leaded by women;
- Village Health Committees;
- Women committees;

MSDSP KG's practice to empower women

- Women entrepreneurship through interest groups and handicraft cooperatives;
- Promoting women and child healthcare through Village Health Committees;
- Capacity building for kindergarten teachers and providing early childhood development facilities at village level;
- Broaden access for vulnerable families in-kind credits on livestock and poultry;



Government: Obstacles to fill gender gap:

- Limited financial resources;
- Low capacity of the government and municipal servants in gender policy;
- Community ignorance about gender equity
- Customary practice

Changing of women's social status

- Before Soviet regime:
 - Traditional governance and customs
- Soviet regime
 - Strong social and political equality
- Independence vs market economy
 - Women unemployment

Women in a decision making position

National level:

Local level:

Women in Parliament -33.6%

Women in District Council -10%

Women in Government- 0.19%

Heads of Village government-0.9%



Opportunities to improve women's political empowerment in rural areas

- To enhance local community to support and promote women's leadership within the territory through:
 - capacity building;
 - mass campaigns;
 - focus group meetings



Opportunities to improve women's political empowerment in rural areas

- 2) To lobby local standards, charter, or by-laws on gender quorum for local council membership and sub-district administration positions through:
- Women groups;
- Women committees;
- Women council members;



Opportunities to improve women's political empowerment in rural areas

- 3) To prepare and promote some active and experienced women to put their candidacy for council member position/election
- Focus groups out of experienced and respectful women and train them on
 - social accountability;
 - social partnership

Bibliography

- Gender Assessment in Central Asian countries, USAID, 2010;
- Microfinance and Gender Empowerment in Kyrgyzstan, World Bank, 2008
- The Global Gender Gap Report, 2010
- Женщины в современном Кыргызстане. Результаты опроса агентства "M-Vector", 2010
- Kyrgyz National Report on Human Rights, 2010
- Article by Alima Toktomergenova "New position of women in Kyrgyzstan's politics", 2010
- Tekebaev O.Ch. 2010. Speech at National Gender Conference, Bishkek: httt://www.open.kg
- Orozaliev E.C. 2009. Social aspects of mountain development, Bishkek: Bishkek State University
- Bekbasarova G. 2010. List of municipal servants of the Kyrgyz Republic. Bishkek: Association of Municipalities
- Bekturganova K.A.2009. Historical role of women in socio-economic and cultural life of Kyrgyzstan (XX-century). Bishkek.
- Population and Housing Census. 2010. Population of the Kyrgyz Republic. Bishkek. National Statistic Committee
- Decentralization in action.2007. LGI Policy Fellowship Programme. Kiev. International Center of perspective researches

Thank you!

Чон рахмат!

Спасибо!