

# Equity and empowerment

## Theme 1

# Faces of marginalisation

- Marginalization needs to be looked at and analyzed under various categories, e.g., tribal communities, dalit groups, mentally and physically challenged, sexual minorities, religious minorities, people traumatized by natural and man-made disaster/conflicts, displaced people, street children, women affected by sexual and physical violence, people in sex industry, HIV positive women and men, landless and wage labourers, and a host of others.

# Gendered face

- Within these categories, women and children are the most affected.
- Every form of marginalisation impacts women differently and adversely.
- Thus marginalisation has a gendered face.

# Gendered face

- Marginalised people, and in particular, women internalise and reproduce their marginalisation, therefore play an active role in their own subordination.

# Reasons for marginalisation

- Despite good intentions, exclusion takes place; the causes have to be addressed
- Very often it is the prejudice and privileged position of the powerful that creates and maintains exclusion
- In fact, we are part of the problem.

# Impact of Marginalisation

- This leads to inferiorisation, voicelessness, powerlessness, subordination, loss of dignity and further increases dispossession and vulnerabilities.
- Marginalised people live at great risk to their lives and livelihoods.
- Formal systems of education reinforce exclusion and render people's own knowledge systems, languages, cultures, technologies inferior and valueless.

# Impact of Marginalisation

- Every conflict, displacement, carnage, war, natural disaster affects women in multiple ways, particularly they face sexual violence and sexual abuse.
- Within the family, women are subjected to multiple forms of violence, and deprivation – sex selective abortion, infanticide, torture, neglect, dowry murders, honor killings and so on

# Location of marginalisation

Marginalisation is commonplace in every situation, and in particular severe in urban slums, rural, in the remote areas

# Access and entitlement

- Marginalised groups of people are systematically deprived of a range of entitlements
  - access to basic services, opportunities
  - decision making and participation in socio-economic political processes that affect them.
  - knowledge and information relevant to their own situation
  - Relevant knowhow and skill development possibilities

# Access & control

- Autonomy and self determination
- Access and control over the benefits of development
- Devaluation of labour power and product of labour
- Compromised negotiation and bargaining power
- Access to mechanisms for freedom of expression – voicelessness