GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN TRANSPORT AND TRADE FACILITATION

Kyoko Kusakabe, Asian Institute of Technology
ESCAP/UNDP/ARTNet Workshop on Trade and Gender Linkages
15-17 September 2010, Bangkok, Thailand

Gender differentiated effects of trade

- Caused by
  - Rights and responsibilities
  - Motherhood and reproductive work
  - Social norms
  - Labor market segregation
  - Type of sector, size of enterprise
  - Consumption patterns
  - Time poverty


THE QUESTION

- WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE THROUGH TRADE FACILITATION?

TRADE FACILITATION AND IMPACT ON INFORMAL SECTOR

CASE 1  FISH BORDER TRADE

How change in border policy affects small traders.
What is the problem?

What research would you suggest?

What intervention would you suggest?

### CASE 2

**Border trade of hand-woven materials**

How lack of state support can lead to collapse of trade

### History of Leu weaving

- Demand increase
  - Thai Leus subcontract to Lao Leus
  - Lao Leus weave and sell by themselves
- Lao Lum women who quitted weaving started weaving
  - spread to Lao Theung
- Price dropped from 900 baht to 300 baht.

### Deskilling of weaving in the Lao side

- With drop in price,
  - Old weavers became merchants.
  - New weavers reduced the number of times they go to the border → lack of exposure to new design and market.
  - Weavers go for mass production of simple design → deskilling.
- Introduction of export tax
Employment creation?
Casualization of labor and footloose companies
Labor shortage and sustainable production

CASE 3
Border industrialization between Thailand and Myanmar
Footloose factories and accountability to workers

Context
- Decentralization of labor intensive industries, esp. garment industries
- Around 210 establishments in Mae Sot. Around 124,000 registered workers and equal or more number of unregistered workers.

- Most of the garment factory workers are women migrant workers.
- Low wage (lower than minimum wage)
- Delayed payment and unpaid wages
- Limited mobility and threat of arrest and deportation
- Fear of loss of jobs
- Low access to health care services and education/training opportunities.
Women losing out because of lack of access to finance, information and technology?

**CASE 4**  
**Women in aquaculture in Thailand**  
Trade standards and small-scale producers

- Women are in charge of backyard ponds – both for home consumptions and commercial.
- Women also play a large role in cage culture.
- Women in charge of marketing and contacting Dept of Fisheries officers for fingerlings and technical assistance, while private companies target men for technical assistance and marketing.
- Productivity not low, but production process difficult to meet export standard.

**Tariff**

**CASE 5**  
**CORN PRODUCTION IN THE PHILIPPINES**  
Effect of free trade

- Corn import tripled between 1995 to 2003.  
- drop in price
- Corn farmers abandoned farm and migrated
- Women bear brunt of finding other livelihood and feed the family
- Majority of 7.3 million migrants overseas are women

(source: Randriamaro 2006)
Improvement of trade through infrastructure development
Who are using roads for what purpose?

CASE 6 ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN LAOS
Who benefits from cross-border road development?

Attapeu: Study area
- Had Sang Village
  - Lawe
  - Old village
- Praham Village
  - Lawe
  - Newly relocated village
- Fan Deng Village
  - Lao
  - Old village with market in the village

Livelihood change after road construction
- Fan Deng
  - Income increased.
  - Diversified income sources.
  - Women now more into rice production (before only men) as well as trade.
  - Buying cooked food.
  - Benefit of road perceived to be able to do trade better.
  - Not much change in mobility.

Livelihood change after road construction
- Had Sang Village
  - Better income from Kisi (resin)
  - Before, rice production and kisi collection done by men. Now by both women and men.
  - Before, poultry done by women. Now by both women and men.
  - Buying cooked food.
  - Benefit of roads perceived to be able to travel easier, but mainly for visiting relatives.
  - Need to stay at home for security reason.
Livelihood change after road construction
- Praham village
  - Decrease in income.
  - Women’s involvement in collecting kisi more than Had Sang. (before and now)
  - Children drop out from school to collect kisi.
  - Road’s benefit perceived to be for access to hospital.
  - Bought motorbikes but women do not ride motorbikes.

Trade and urbanization
- Employment creation and urbanization
- Migration and families left behind
- Are women able to capture the opportunity?
  - Reproductive responsibilities
  - Case of Lao-Thai border

What next?
- More research needed on the linkages between trade and development
  - Labor protection, food security, urbanization, migration
  - Gender, ethnicity, race, class, caste
- How to monitor change
  - Need to improve statistics
  - Need more case studies → interdisciplinary
- Is there a win-win situation?

Some strategies to promote gender equity in regional trade
- Support women’s MSEs access and control over assets and services
- Support shift to produce exports where quality matters.
- Make FDI less mobile.