



**LEARNING  
FROM  
FEMINISTS  
TO MEASURE  
WHAT COUNTS**



Farida Fleming and  
Menka Goundan

AES Conference,  
17 September  
2019



---

Surge in feminist action globally  
(fourth wave)

---

Huge global increase in funding for  
women's empowerment

---

Funding from many new sources

---

Economic empowerment is the  
most common theme of new  
initiatives

# WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Three challenges to new the funding:

1. a focus on the individual
2. a narrow issue-focus, and
3. blindness to women's rights organizations.



1

Need to take a feminist approach to monitoring and evaluation of women's economic empowerment

2

Understanding what characterises a feminist evaluation approach

**HOW CAN  
EVALUATION  
THEORY  
HELP?**





# HOW CAN FEMINIST PRACTICE LITERATURE HELP?

Three frameworks:

- International Centre for Research on Women's (or ICRW) economic empowerment framework and indicators
- Market Development Facility (or MDF) Women's economic empowerment radar measurement tool
- Oxfam's Women's Empowerment Index



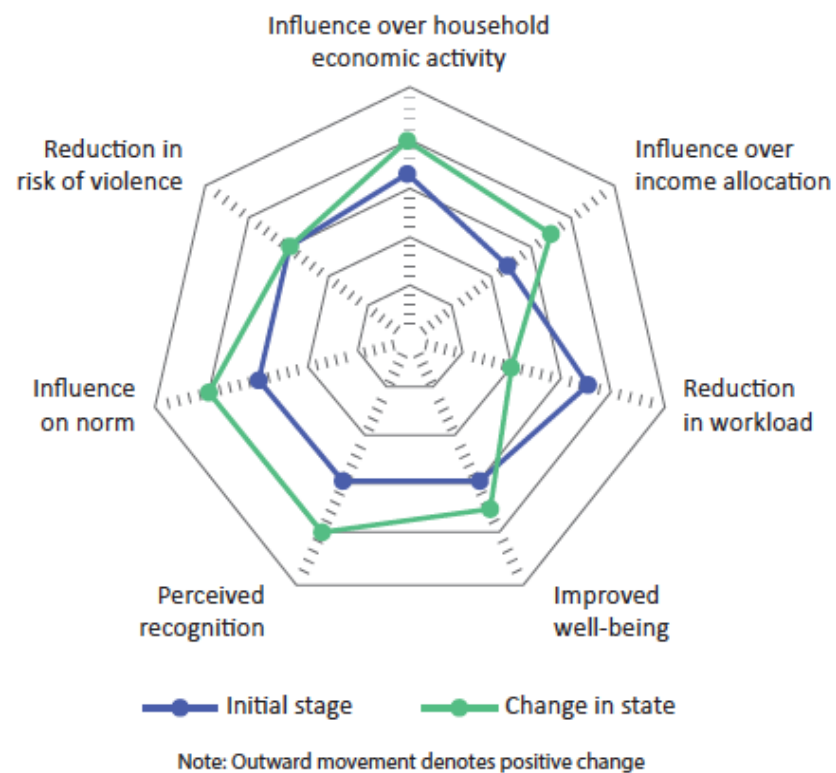


# ICRW'S WEE FRAMEWORK

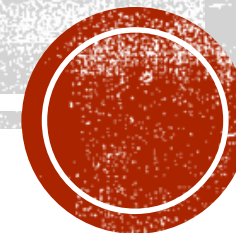
Figure 1: Women's Economic Empowerment: Two Necessary, Interrelated Components



MDF examines seven dimensions to evaluate how program implementation impacts women's economic empower



# MDF'S WEER RADAR DIAGRAM



## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT INDEX

### PERSONAL

- Self-confidence
- Individual knowledge
- Opinions and attitudes on women's economic role
- Non-acceptance of GBV
- Personal autonomy

### RELATIONAL

- Influencing and community
- Control over household assets
- Involvement in household decision making
- Independent income
- Experience of GBV
- Control over time

### ENVIRONMENTAL

- Access to services and resources
- Ability to influence at political level

# OXFAM'S WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT INDEX



# WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM OUR PRACTICE

- Understanding the importance of collectives, in contrast to a focus on individual women
- Analysing differences in the household
- Examining the situation of both women and men

# CONCLUSION

The main findings from practice are:

- Monitor and evaluate women's collectives, not just individuals
- Increased income is not empowerment; empowerment is increased ability to negotiate or direct spending.
- Include men in the scope of evaluation

These also flow from feminist theory, in which:

- Liberation is a collective, not individual program
- Women's choice is the issue, not women's income.
- Oppression is through a system which includes men

These perspectives are largely missing from the three frameworks and can usefully be developed.

