

Abstract

Gender Mainstreaming ODA Policies of the Korea International Cooperation Agency

As Korea has become a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) from 2010, much attention is being paid at the national and international levels to the ODA activities of Korea. In particular, peer reviews conducted by the OECD/DAC in 2008 recommended gender-mainstreaming of all ODA policies, among other things. Thus, gender as a cross-cutting issue needs to be integrated into the ODA policies of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

In this context, this study aims to create gendered ODA policy principles for KOICA and to develop practical gender-sensitive guidelines and policy tools utilized by KOICA. To carry out the study, massive literature on international development cooperation and ODA policy papers are reviewed. In addition, workshops and seminars with various stakeholders and policy makers are held in order to formulate and develop gender-mainstreamed policies.

The study is largely composed of three sections. In the first section, we analyzed trends and issues raised nationally and internationally regarding international development cooperation. The analysis helped us to understand major gender issues of international development cooperation and the result became the basis for developing gendered policy principles. Secondly, a gender-sensitive analysis of KOICA's ODA was conducted. Comparing the state of international ODA with that of KOICA's ODA brought out what should be improved to make KOICA's

ODA more gender-sensitive. In the final section, gendered ODA policy principles, country assistance strategy (CAS), policy guidelines and tools are developed. The gender equity policy principles of ODA guide gender-mainstreamed policies and the policy principles are integrated into every step of a country assistance strategy. We also suggested policy guidelines, practical policy tools and checkpoints in project procedures, seven project areas (Education, Health, Governance, Rural Development, Information & Communication Technology, Industry & Energy and Environment) and four project types (Invitation of Trainees, Projects, Dispatching Professionals and Supporting NGOs). In addition, to realize gender-mainstreamed ODA policies in KOICA, recommendations for organizational changes and the educational system are suggested.

The newly-created gendered ODA of KOICA needs to be improved in the future by actually applying the guidelines and policy tools. To bring about substantial changes in gender-mainstreamed ODA, the betterment of the organizational culture and system, and the implementation of education for all are essential.