

Annex J

Notes on the Open Forum after the Presentation on Developing Indices for Monitoring Social Development (QLI/BCI)

Following are the points raised during the open forum:

1. The difference between the GEI (Gender Equity Index) and BCI (Basic Capability Index), lies in the indicators used for maternal mortality rate, the infant mortality rate, and live birth. The Philippines has low level maternal mortality rate and live birth attended by field health personnel and thus, registered low ranking on these indices. The countries with high-ranking GEI and BCI have 100% live birth attended by field health personnel.
2. Doing the research on gender would be difficult if we put tentative indicators in measuring gender equity and disparity. In the Philippines, there was an indicator measuring the number of years a woman President stayed in power and the maternal mortality rate.
3. The discussion on indicators will be really useful for the SW meeting in India by December. One of the concerns in India is how to simplify the indicators while at the same time capturing the complexity of the situation in their country and being able to measure gender and equity. It is important that the indicators are simple so as to be able to involve a lot of people at the same time.

India is a huge country and very difficult to cover, which is a second concern. One strategy that India SW is considering is to do research by



region wherein one locality in each region will be chosen. Through this, they would be able to compare one region with another and see how they are faring using the indicators.

A third concern for India is the source of data because the only far reaching study in terms of scope is the National Census. While they can question the data, it is undeniable that the scope of the national census is far reaching. With this, their concern would be how to define the secondary and tertiary data.

4. SW will start at using the concept in the GEI indicators (the survival rate, the attended live birth) to be able to have a common variable. But this should not stop the country from using other indicators that they feel can effectively capture the situation in their country. The Philippines will be using case studies to reflect some situations. This can be the way to incorporate the anecdotal situations.

5. Most of the indicators are about poverty and accessibility. It would it be good to include affordability and accessibility.

6. SW has defined three components in the gender equity index – gap in education, gap in economic participation (how many women in the work force, income gap), and gap in empowerment (women in power position in all levels). It doesn't include health.

The conclusion of the World Bank is that education is very close to equality globally. In the case of the Global Index, education is 90%. Big countries have rich education disparity. In many countries, women are more educated than men. Economic participation is not parallel to education. In Uruguay, there are more women who are educated but women are receiving 25% less in salaries than men.

6. The term work force includes both the organized and the unorganized labor. In economic participation, the gap is still very low at 50%. Political participation is 15% at the global level. Those countries that are doing good are still very far. We are looking at the gap. Looking at health based on mortality rate is very difficult because in most countries women have greater life expectancy than men.

One of the things that can be looked at is the aspect of reproductive health in terms of access of women to



contraceptives. For the purpose of SW index, this doesn't fit in because this does not look at the gap. Therefore, poverty is not correlated with the empowerment of women. Women can have higher empowerment in less developed countries and they can have less empowerment in developed countries.

The indicator used should be sensitive to the country's situation to be able to reflect the real situation of women in a specific country and present the gap in terms of the indicators. Social Watch is the only organization doing this kind of measurement. This still needs to be discussed within the SW.

7. One of the problems of the indices used and done by the WB and the UN was that they are based on surveys. Some surveys, as we know, are unreliable. The disparity cannot be recorded with the questions used in the survey. Another problem is the methodology used. It is easy to criticize these indices in terms of its reliability. SW indices should address these problems.

8. Using the gender gap survey would be able to reflect the real situation of women in each of the countries and would be able to compare the situation in different countries.

9. The use of the healthy life expectancy index wherein maternal mortality rate can be factored in. The healthy life expectancy index might not be able to reflect the situation of men and women, because at certain age, men would have lower life expectancy than women.

10. Countries could be accommodated in the proposal that was submitted in the European Union. The proposal contains both capacity



building and research on indices development. The proposal has only 3 countries as pilot areas. As to what countries these are, is still subject to a collective decision wherein the members can participate in the decision making process. Of course, since the Philippines has already spearheaded this process, they would be in the lead role in this endeavor.

The idea of the project was that everyone could use it. In the Philippines, there are 5000 municipalities that is why we concentrated at the regional level. Five regions were selected to be part of the study. It was suggested that the disparity of the HDI be looked at at the sub country level. They are also thinking of adding indicators that reflect the situation of the country and to be able to disaggregate the data at the regional level.

