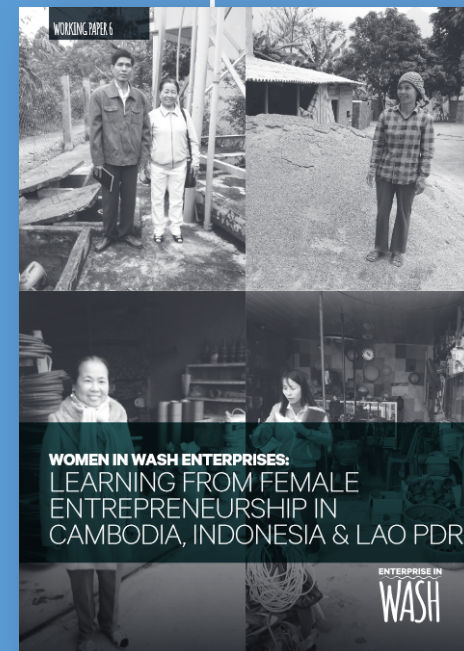


Women in WASH Enterprises: Reflections on doing gender-related research in Cambodia and Indonesia

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From the literature: summary of barriers to female entrepreneurship



Empirical research (December 2017-January 2018)



Reflections on research process

- Importance of partnership-based research
- Questioning with sufficient space for participants' values to be understood
- Safe spaces for honest views
- Women's perspectives *and* others' views
- Careful analysis to look beyond the surface of what is said (and what is not said!)

Preliminary findings: Thematic challenges faced by women in Cambodian piped water enterprises

Financial issues

- lack of financing options for enterprises or customers
- high interest rates
- customers not paying on time
- challenges to reach economies of scale especially in remote areas

Government and regulation issues

- includes government requirements to pay fees or taxes
- policies that make it hard to run a water enterprise
- lack of government support, inconsistent approaches to subsidies

Operational issues

- includes high expenses such as electricity, rental etc.
- insufficient or irregular access to water resources all year round
- equipment that breaks down

Most responses

Least responses

Preliminary findings: Enablers and motivators reported by female water entrepreneurs in Cambodia

Support and encouragement from family (brothers, husbands and family in general) and friends (n= 7)

Family and friends already having a water business – so supporting by example and encouragement (n=3)

Witnessing another female water business owner working in this field inspired her to start her own business (n= 1)

Motivator: Profit and a desire to earn income (n= 3)

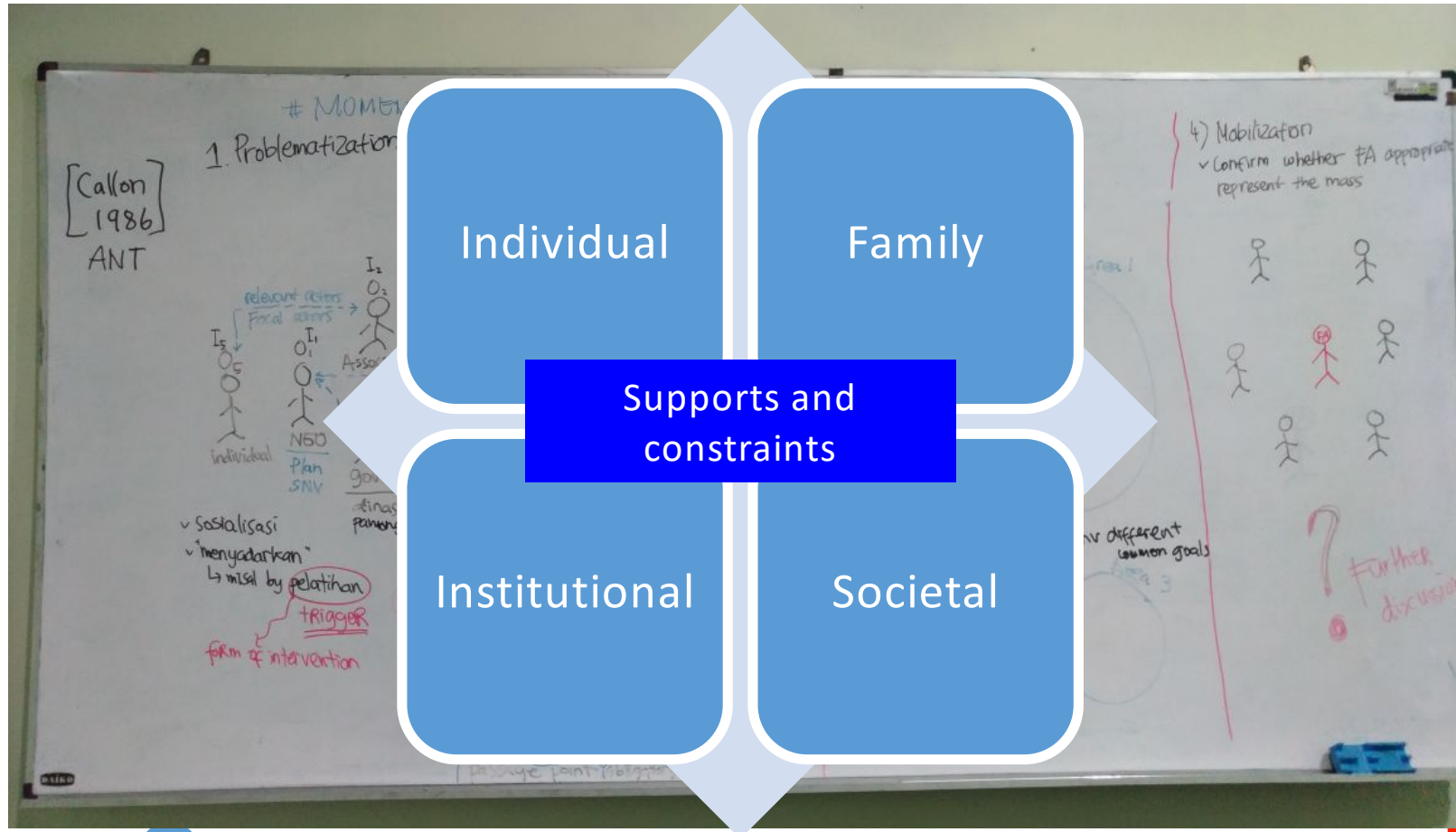
Motivator: supporting the community to access clean and reliable water sources (n=6)

Motivator: needing a good water source for other business needs (ice and soy sauce) (n=2)

Preliminary findings: How would Cambodian female piped water entrepreneurs like to be supported?

1. **Technical support** - including training and support related to water management and water quality (n= 11 of 15)
2. **Financial support** (n= 10 of 15)
3. **Dissemination of information to the community** on the importance of clean water (n= 2 of 15)
4. **Support for water entrepreneurs to share experiences** and understanding related to water businesses (n= 2 of 15)

Preliminary findings: Female-led enterprises in Indonesia- Motivations and pathways



Reflections on research findings (to date)

1. **Do no harm:** Potential issues arising from an instrumentalist approach to involving women in enterprises:
 - Household duties may not be reduced
 - Social, altruistic motivations were present (potentially putting women at risk of added work without financial benefit)
 - Deeper understanding of economic empowerment required
2. **Diversity:** Female entrepreneurs were of diverse backgrounds (single, widowed etc.) and may need tailored support
3. **Family:** Support from husbands and family support was very important
4. **Replication:** Examples of other female entrepreneurs motivates other women to also join in such activity

THANK YOU

Further findings to be shared in April/May 2018

Let us know if you'd like to receive them!