

Gender and Climate Change: Why It Makes a Difference



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The climate change debate needs to be set firmly into the context of sustainable development. Its three pillars - environmental, social and economic - and the Principles of the Rio Declaration should serve as the overall framework for developing fair and effective policies for mitigation and adaptation.

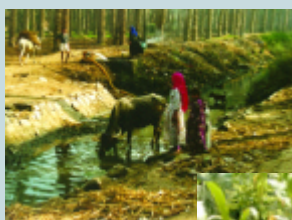




Differences in energy use between women and men: in terms of purposes (caring work, income generating work, leisure) and amounts (men driving cars, and bigger ones).

Transport systems: designed with a view to middle-aged full-time working men, and neglecting women's higher dependency on public transport and their specific needs when they look after children and elderly.



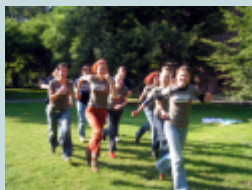


Vulnerability and adaptation are largely social issues.

Gender aspects include:

- ? The **feminization of poverty**: mostly affected will be the poor.
- ? Gender **inequalities in education**: girls will drop out of school to fetch water and firewood.
- ? Gender **injustice in power and decision-making**: women are often not included in planning and community development.
- ? The **gendered division of labour**: women care for children, elderly and sick.

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Recommendations

Take gender differences into account when developing and implementing mitigation and adaptation policies!

For example :

? Gender analysis: what do climate policies mean for women and men? Are there differences? And how can they be addressed to ensure gender and climate justice?

? Vulnerability: In what ways are women and men vulnerable to climate change? What are the strengths and skills of women and men that policies need to build on?



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We need to address Climate Change with the utmost urgency – in solidarity, and doing justice to all people.

We can only achieve this bold goal if we come together as a global community, under the core principles of the United Nations – peace, justice and sustainable development.



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