



Gender and Climate Change: What Are the links

Dr. Auður H. Ingólfssdóttir



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- Temperature: up **0.74°C** in last 100 years
 - Average global temperature up by **1.1 °C** since pre industrial levels
 - In 2011 gender had only recently been identified as a relevant issue in climate change
 - There were some
- general arguments that women were more vulnerable and had contributed less to the problem
- In 2023 we have a number reports and research projects that back up these arguments



<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw66-2022>

Gender and Climate

Change

- Will climate change influence the lives of men and women in the same way?
 - Who will suffer the consequences?
- Are men and women contributing to the problem in the same way?
 - Who is responsible for emissions?
- Do men and women have the same opportunities to contribute towards solutions?
 - Who will solve the problem?

Who Suffers the Consequences?

- Although climate change affects everyone its



impacts

are more heavily felt by poor nations and communities

- Can magnify existing inequalities
- Not gender neutral (can affect men and women differently)
- Poor people are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and women are overrepresented among the world's poorest people
- Women's responsibilities in the family make them more vulnerable to environmental change, which is exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.

Example from Available Research

- 25 qualitative studies from climate hotspots (Rao, Nitya et al. 2019)
 - Explore the agency of individuals to respond to climate change
 - Gender as an analytical tool



- Focus on power relations
- Livelihoods: Agriculture, livestock and fishing supplemented by wage labour, trade and income from remittances
- Climate hotspots:
 - semi-arid regions in Africa and parts of South and Central Asia
 - deltas in Africa and South Asia
 - glacier- and snowpack-dependent river basins in the Himalayas
- Environmental risks include droughts, floods, rainfall variability, land erosion and landslides, glacial lake outburst floods, heatwaves, coastal erosion and cyclones, among others

Example 1:



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Example 2:



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Questions

- How can actors in development cooperation integrate gender into the

planning and design of climate related projects and policies?

- How do gender roles shape how men and women experience the consequence of climate change differently?



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Gender & Climate Change in Malawi

- GRÓ-GEST in

cooperation with Luanar
University

- What: Pilot training course
- When: November 2021
- Where: Mchinji district

Participants

- District officers were offered to participate
 - Teachers, representatives from the forestry

sector,
environmental
sector, agricultural
extension workers
etc.

Field trip

- How can fuel efficient stoves be relevant to mitigation or adaptation to climate change?
- How is this action gendered?

Women's Groups

- So much energy that can be harnessed with the right support
- Forestry, cooperatives about growing maize etc.



Nordic Research on Climate, Gender and Consumption (2022)

- 7 themes:
 - Food
 - Housing and energy



- Clothes and consumables
- Transport
- Work and time use
- Culture and tourism
- Activism and influence

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Feminine Values Support Sustainable Lifestyle

- Systematic review of research results about links between gender and consumptions in northern Europe

- General results:
- Women as a group more likely to emphasize environmentally friendly behavior than men as a group
- Men as a group have larger carbon footprint than women as group (food/transport)
- **The more emphasis an individual puts on feminine values such as**

care, regardless of gender, the more change their behavior towards more likely they are to have high sustainable lifestyle.
environmental awareness and

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Example 1 - Food

- Research from the Netherlands, Switzerland and Finland all reached the same conclusion:

Men's food is more carbon intensive than what women eat, mostly due to males eating more meat.

- Surveys looking at attitudes towards meat eating, vegetarianism and veganism show strong association between meat and masculinity

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Example 2 - Transport

- One research showed that men who lived alone used 70% more gas than women that



lived alone

- Big, energy intensive cars often associated with masculinity
- Women more likely to chose energy efficient cars, but men more likely to chose electrical cars (new technology)

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Who Will Solve the Problem?

- Women as negotiators and public decision makers
- Women as entrepreneurs & business leaders



- Women as manager of natural resources
- Women as consumers and managers of households

“There can be no sustainable development without an equitable development; and there can be no equitable development without



gender equality.”

- *Wangari Mathai,*
recipient of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize