

Gender and Climate Change: What Are the links

Dr. Auður H. Ingólfsdóttir

Zonta International District 13 Conference, Akureyri, Iceland August 31st. - September 2nd. 2023



 Temperature: up <u>0.74°C</u> general arguments in last 100 years that women were

Average global contribute
 temperature up by 1.1 °C problem
 since pre industrial levels

- In 2011 gender had only recently been identified as a relevant issue in climate change
- There were some

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 communties

- 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 the 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:

24.8.2023 7



Example 2:

24.8.2023

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?



24.8.2023 9

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?

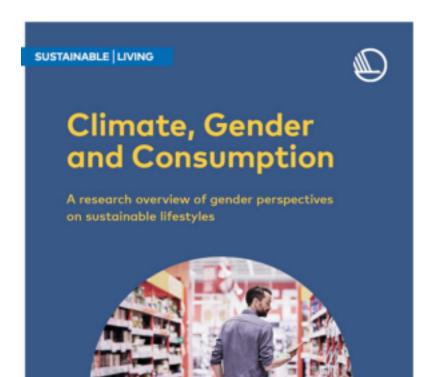


Women's Groups

- 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

Feminine Values Support Sustainable Lifestyle

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

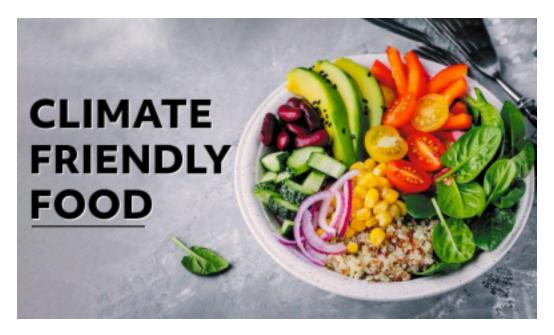
- General results:
- Women as a group more likely to emphasize environmentally friendly behavior than men as a group
- Men as a group have larger carbon footprint than women as group (food/transport)
- The more emphasis an individual puts on feminine values such as

24.8.2023 14

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

environmental awareness and

24.8.2023 15



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

Example 2 - Transport

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



24.8.2023 16

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)

24.8.2023 17

Who Will Solve the Problem?

- Women as negotiators and public decision makers
- Women as entreprenaurs & 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