

Women involvement and Participation in Developing Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness

FINDINGS FROM APEC STUDY "WOMEN IN TIMES OF DISASTER (WITOD) 2008-2009

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Photo credit: http://www.philippinecountry.com/philippine_news/year2006/milenyo_09-29-06.html

Why gender matters?

Vulnerable groups:

- 49.6 % FEMALE
- 11.4 % MALE UNDER 15
- 13 % ELDERLY MALE

74 % of population

(TFEP)

Some statistics figures

- Neumayer and Plumper (Analysis of disaster in 141 countries(2007)):
 - Same number of deaths among in societies where men and women enjoyed equal rights;
 - Discrepancies were the result of existing inequalities
- Studies show women, boys and girls are 14 times more likely than man to die (Peterson, 2007)
- In Bangladesh, 1991, among 140,000 people died, 90% were women
- During emergency caused by hurricane Katrina, most of the victims trapped in New Orleans were AfroAmerican women with their children, the poorest demographic group
- In Srilanka during tsunami, men were easier to survive because knowing how to swim (Oxfam, 2005)

- **Gender is a core factor in disaster risk and in the implementation of DRR (disaster risk reduction).**
- **Gender is a central organizing principle in all societies, and therefore women and men are differently at risk from disasters. In all settings – at home, at work or in the neighborhood – gender shapes the capacities and resources of individuals to minimize harm, adapt to hazards and respond to disasters.**
- **Gender Mainstreaming – is a strategy to integrate gender consideration as an integral dimension of the designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluation of the policies and programs in all fields, so that they benefit women and men equally.**

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Background

Gender issue
is not concerned
in disaster management



Women, children
Elderly, disabled
neglected

Methods to integrate gender
into DM exist, available



Gender is not
integrated

Why ?

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Methodology



Japan, earth quake



Indonesia, volcano eruption

The study:

- Policy analysis
- Field studies
- FGDs:
 - Officials
 - Survivors
 - Community
 - NGOs



Thailand, tsunami



Philippines, typhoon

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The findings of the study show situation in the areas of:

- Disaster management policy and institution
- Policy implementation
- Factor for gender integration
- Gender issues in phases of disaster

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Disaster management(DM) policy and institution:

- DM : shift from emergency response only to disaster risk reduction;
- DM institutions: across vertical and horizontal, Government and Non Govt;
- Gender integration in DM: varies in extent and effectiveness;
- Gender/gender integration is a relatively new concept;
- The lack of knowledge is the main reason for not integrating gender in DM;
- Though there are policies on gender mainstreaming and on disaster management, there is no effective link between them

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Policy implementation:

- In Indonesia and Japan, where gender has been integrated into DM law, however the implementation is not yet consistent.
- The Philippines and Thailand, where there are distinct policies and agencies on DM and on women concerns there are still gaps in integration.
- However, in the Philippines, despite the gaps in policy, the Philippines is cited as best practice in gender integration in the work of departments as well as local governments.

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Factors for gender integration:

- **Knowledge on gender**, different impact of disaster on men, women, children, elderly, disabled can make implementation of DM responsive to gender concerns;
- **Gender mainstreaming policy** has a strong pushing factor to integrate gender into DM;
- **Representation of women** in decision making process is crucial, particularly to integrate gender into DM;
- **Involvement of Non Government Organizations** on disaster management and decision making can facilitate gender integration into DM.

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Gender issues in phases of disaster identified by the study

- some cases have brought about positive effects like the understanding that the roles and needs of women have to be addressed.
- Gender concerns in various DM phases are similar in all four economies.

Pre-disaster:

gender concerns range from

- minimal involvement of women in planning and decision-making process
- to the lack of appreciation for gender training by key players to the lack information dissemination

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Emergency phase of disaster:

- women's health, hygiene and security needs are not effectively addressed
- Psychological trauma
- Capital loss
- Job loss
- Inadequate or poor shelter

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Post disaster:

- **lack of access** to livelihood/employment, financial resources and other social services.
- **The participation of women in policy and decision making institutions** are imperative to effective gender integration in disaster management.
- **Capacity building** to integrate gender concerns in disaster management is a necessary measure to an effective DM

Changing situation in disaster

Women's role
During normal
situation



Women's role
During disaster
situation



Impact to life

Care giving
Reproductive roles
Household task
Working/earn living
Social roles



Remain, but
With much lower
quality



Lower quality of life
Vulnerable to risks
Less strength



Impact to:
Children, Elderly,
Disabled and
FAMILY

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Gender related issues in disaster

Women's role in daily life:

- Domestic sphere
- Care giver for children, elderly, sick person
- Household care
- Extended domestic roles in the community
- Income earner
- Maintain social and cultural value

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Situation of women(Vulnerability)

- More at home
- Physically weaker(can not swim etc.)
- Children, elderly, disabled to take care and protect
- Household amenities to care
- Less access to information
- Less involved in formal community event
- Marginalized in public matters
- Sub-ordinated in decision making
- Income earners

Situation affecting women

- Lack of data on women, children, elderly, disabled
- Administrative concept of head of household
- Risks following disaster(violence, trafficking)
- No recognition and protection for household jobs and its

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Situation of women(Capacity)

- Have wider social network with other women
- Women's association has strong bound with members
- Know better social situation of the community/neighborhood
- Know better surrounding situation
- Sense of care
- Roles in educating family members
- Institutionalizing values

Roles of women in preparedness building

VCA= vulnerability and capacity assessment

Identification of:

- What issues to address
- What and how women can play role

vulnerability

→ neglect

→ Impact reduction



Gender integration into DM

capacity

→ Proper care

→
• Risk Reduction
• Preparedness



Women's role in preparedness building

Individual in activities:

- Source of information on vulnerability and capacity
- contributor for individual skill(first aid, cooking, child care etc.)
- peer information channel
- educator for the family
- disaster watch, early warning chain

Individual in decision making:

- Member of committee, board, coordinating body for DM
- Expert

Women's role in preparedness building

In group/organization:

- Dissemination of information
- Training provider
- Network of information
- Network of education
- Decision making process(*)
- Representing vulnerable groups in planning
- pressure group
- gender mainstreaming process

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How to increase women's involvement?

- Should be part of gender mainstreaming strategy
- Recommendation of the study:
 - Building knowledge toward commitment
 - Creating gender machinery within disaster management
 - Capacity building
 - Strengthening data system
 - Policy formulation
 - Implementation of gender integration
- Women's involvement is integral part of gender integration

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Indonesian experience:

Law on disaster management:

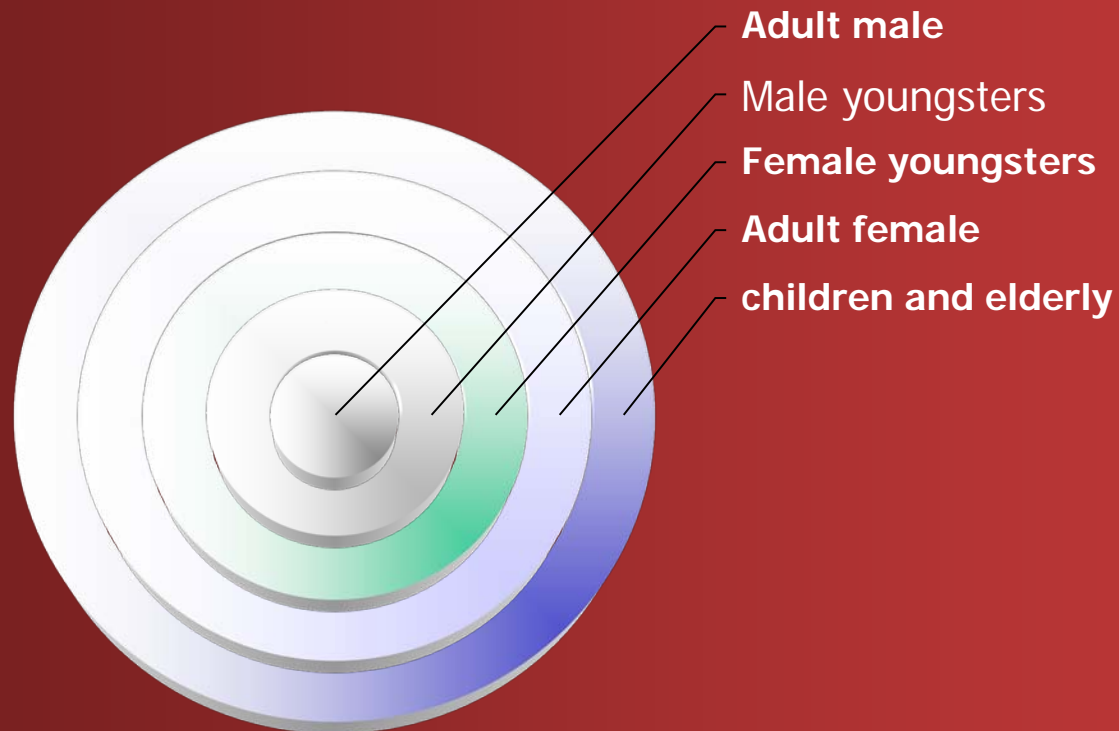
- gender as principle
- vulnerable groups
- humanitarian

Gender mainstreaming strategy across sectors

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Indonesian experience:

Access to information



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Indonesian experience:

Coping mechanism with continue threat:



- Readiness to evacuate
- Disaster watch
- Early warning system
- Community developed evacuation mechanism
- Non polyester clothing
- Data at hazard area by sex, age

Women involve in building mechanism

Japan experience:

Involvement of women in decision making process has changed the policy:

- Improved knowledge on the impact of disaster on men and women
- gender issues are recognized
- Increased number of women fire fighter volunteers

Philippines experience:

Knowledge on gender has influenced the integration of gender into practical works in disaster management

Conclusion

Vulnerable groups have their specific vulnerability and capacity

Integration of these groups into Disaster Management means considering human being, to whom all the works are dedicated

Thank you