

Gender and adaptation to climate change

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Who are affected by climate change?

1. Economic and livelihood systems, access to physical infrastructure, socio-political institutions all influence **who** will be affected by climate change and **how** they will be affected.
2. **Gender** (together with class, ethnicity, age, caste) positions who will be most disadvantaged, and how
 - Women are **not** automatically or deliberately hardest hit by climate change – certain TYPES of women and men are most affected
 - Women and men experience climate change impacts in **different** and often **unequal** ways

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Women are not automatically hardest hit – particular TYPES of women are – poor, rural, marginalized culturally; and possibly certain TYPES of men/boys

Who can respond?

1. People adapt to climate change
 - To adjust to impacts
 - To moderate harm
 - To exploit benefits
2. Adaptation strategies are gender-differentiated: (from the video)
 - E.g., men out-migrate, farm mainstays are women
 - E.g., women multi-crop, take loans for irrigation, care for the sick
3. Constraints to adaptation:
 - Gender-specific lack of access to or control over productive resources (land, water, credit, information, infrastructure, technologies, insurance and forms of social security)
 - Gender-specific exclusions in decision making: in households, communities and other governance scales

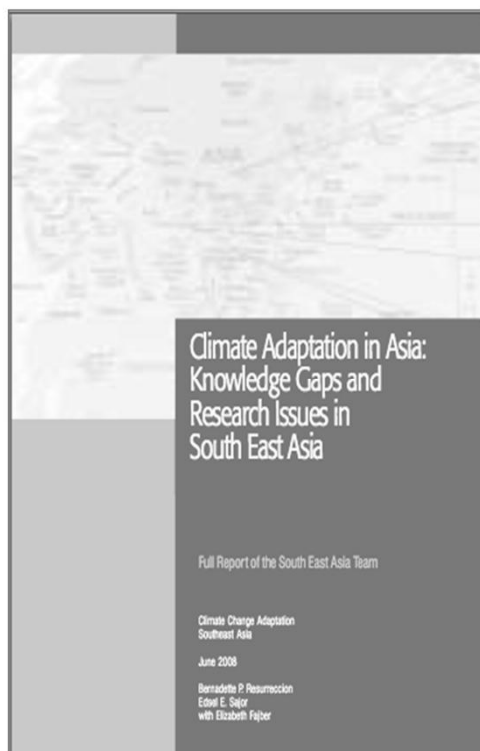
*“there are no generalized opportunities and risks in nature, but instead there are sets of **unequal access** to opportunities and **unequal exposures** to risks which are a consequence of the socio-economic system” (Cannon, 2004)*

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A number of definitions on climate change, but I’ve simplified it today; in the social sciences, adaptation essentially means ‘living with change’ or to alter a situation to make it livable / tolerable

IPCC: actions that people take in response to, or in anticipation of, projected or actual changes in climate to adjust to and cope with impacts, moderate damages, and take advantage of opportunities.

Ineffective adaptation – maladaptation – do harm in the long term; worsens marginality and vulnerability



Gaps Analysis Study on Climate Change Adaptation for DFID-IDRC

***What are the major gaps in
knowledge regarding climate
adaptation?***

- 76 Interviews in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam, Lao PDR
- 3 Roundtable Consultations (Hanoi, Manila, Bangkok)
- Literature Review
- Collaborative effort with two other teams in South Asia and China

What more do we need to know about adaptation and gender?

1. **Migration** as an adaptation strategy – who is doing it? Are there specific social protection measures for female and male migrants? Or is migration instead the new climate change ‘scarecrow’?
2. **Social security** mechanisms for adaptation – do they exist? can they be created? Who has access? (credit, insurance?)
3. **Livelihood security** – whose livelihoods are most disadvantaged? Are there trade-offs between mitigation efforts (e.g., agro-fuel cultivation) and the cultivation of women’s food crops to boost household food security as an adaptation strategy?
4. Factors that lead to **resilience to health**-related impacts – are services responding to increased vector diseases? Or is care being increasingly passed on to women due to weak health services?
5. **Governance** of adaptation – what are the priorities for programming? What are the scales of influence and who are excluded? Whose voice(s) matters?
6. Adaptation **technologies** – who can adopt? Who has knowledge for their use and adoption? Who benefits?
7. The **outcomes** of adaptation – are women and men better off? Or are there new chains of social vulnerability created?

Thank you.



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