



Development and Disaster: a gender perspective

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Development-Disaster Linkage

- ⇒ People are the primary linkage
- ⇒ Community, society, culture, economy and polity are other sites where development and disaster converge
- ⇒ Gender as a category of social analysis and action is common both to development and disaster

Development-Disaster Linkage

- ⇒ In order to reduce disaster risk and ensure sustainable development, a gender sensitive risk reduction strategy needs to be built in into all the on-going development initiatives.(such as Indira Awas Yojana, SGSY, NURM)
- ⇒ Both women and men in communities at risk need to be involved in risk assessment and identification of capacity needs. (using participatory tools such as mapping, focus group discussions etc.)

Gender Sensitive Risk Reduction

- ⇒ Even while living in the same communities, risks of men and women very often vary as per their differential roles and responsibilities, their differential access to and control over resources.
- ⇒ An informed understanding of the differential risks of women and men is the primary precondition of a gender sensitive risk reduction strategy.

What needs to be done ?

- ⇒ Collection of gender disaggregated data on men and women from communities at risk: occupation, health, resources and skills. (at all levels including Census of India and NSS)
- ⇒ Making involvement of groups of women such as SHGs in participatory risk assessment a mandatory precondition for disaster management planning; getting women organised in groups, where not already done.

What needs to be done ?

- ⇒ Involvement of these groups in preparation of disaster management plans including decisions regarding risk transfer/sharing mechanisms at the community level.
- ⇒ Using some kind of a gender audit before finalising and approving disaster management plans at the community, block, district, state and national levels.
(Have women been involved in the planning exercise ? If yes, in what manner ? If not, plan is referred back to them)

What needs to be done ?

- ⇒ Creating a culture of safety as a concern in planning about one's lives and livelihoods at the community level. (starting with non-monetary measures or/and affordable monetary measures for safety)
- ⇒ Creating early warning systems (tsunami, cyclone, floods etc.) with sound community level dissemination plans.

What needs to be done ?

- ⇒ Ensuring active involvement of Panchayati Raj institutions (ZPs/NPs/GPs) in building risk reduction elements into the development work being undertaken by them.
- ⇒ Undertaking policy measures to give priority to SHGs and their federations for outsourcing work related to development work being carried out by GPs.
- ⇒ Building local capacity, particularly of women groups, to access and use information to have more secure lives and livelihoods.