
UNIT 11 CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENDER

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11.1 INTRODUCTION

Climate change will create an adverse impact on vulnerable. Women are vulnerable due to many reasons like unequal access to resources, lack of land ownership, lack of access to health care, education, information and majority of the women are poor. They are more susceptible to climate change. At the same time, women can contribute to cope with climate change because they are visibly and invisibly contributing to the society as a care giver, organizer, educator, innovator, etc. Incorporating gender dimensions into the climate change policies is crucial and need of an hour. Several researches confirmed and acknowledged that climate change will affect the poorest region and vulnerable groups severely. It is also known that majority of world's women are poor and they are vulnerable due to the social construction of gender. But they are adopting the coping and survival strategy in the changing environmental conditions. The climate change dialogue started from 1970s onwards does not include gender aspect into it. Only the recent researches highlighted the relevance of gender in climate change issues. This unit deals with social dimensions of gender; how gender is constructed in the society; gender identity and inequity in the society; climate change and gender inequity; vulnerability of women and children to climate change; and the reasons for women's vulnerability to climate change than men. This unit also analyses the gender implications due to adoption of gender-blind approach in the climate change policy. Let us start with social dimensions of gender.

11.2 OBJECTIVES

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- define the social dimensions of gender;
- explain the nature of gender inequality in climate change;
- analyse the impact of climate change on women and children; and
- elucidate the strategies to address issues in climate change.

11.3 SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF GENDER

Understanding of social construction of gender starts with explaining two concepts i.e., “gender” and “sex”. These two concepts have different meanings. Gender refers to differences, hierarchies, rankings which exist between two sexes. Gender explains cultural construction of various roles that are played by women and men in the society. Further, gender analyses the aspect of shaping women’s behaviour according to the normative order of the society. Gender as a conceptual tool is used to analyse the structural inequality that exists between women and men as it reflected in various aspects of life such as household, labour market, education and political institutions. Thus gender can be defined as socially constructed and expected differences between men and women. Sex on the other hand refers to the biological differences between female and male. Gender roles are socially constructed and defined activities for men and women. Such roles can change over a time and vary according to geographical location and social context. Gender constructions operate both at micro- and macro-level which is embedded in the institutional arrangements of the society. The social construction of gender shaped the society and it is dominated by the interest of particular group or class in the society. Based on culture, norms, ideologies and values, society justifies construction of gender roles. All institutions in the society internalise two concepts such as socialization and gender roles. This process starts once when child is born. Mother or primary care taker responds to child on sex categorization of child.

Gender equality is essential. Gender equality refers to a condition where in both men and women possess equal access to socially valued goods, opportunities, and resources as well. When gender inequality exists, then the women are at loss with respect to the role in decision making, and access to socio-economic resources. It can be stated that women empowerment can lead to gender equality. Further, gender equality brings in changes for both men and women.

11.4 CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENDER INEQUALITY

This section deals with gender inequality in the climate change discourse. Studies have shown that managing, accessing and utilizing natural resources are based on gender roles. Women are closer to the natural resources and environment even though they do not have control over them. The issue of property and ownership made men to have control over the resources. But climate change have affected women’s livelihood which are dependent on the environment and nature. Even though they know the coping strategy, their ideas and knowledge are often ignored and not taken into consideration. So, International agencies

and Governments which are preparing adaptation strategies and mitigation measures should have gender sensitive planning process and should involve both men and women. Under representation of women in climate change policy related making bodies resulted in the formulation of policies that concentrate on male economy and male livelihoods and completely ignore women's need and necessity which are more environment friendly.

Lack of gender disaggregated data related to the carbon dioxide production and its impact is a serious concern. According to a study conducted by Finucane et.al 2002, women are sensitive to risk perception and they recognize climate change as a serious problem than men. Studies also confirmed that men depend on technical solution for climate change and women emphasis life style change and reduced energy consumption. While the whole world is looking for technical solution, women's thrust for life style change is again ignored.

11.4.1 Climate Change Related Gender Inequality in Different Sectors

Climate change affects sectors which are traditionally associated with women like agriculture, fishing, etc. For example, impact of climate change on fishing results sea-level rise, entry of saline water into fresh water system, low production of fishing and these will affect women's livelihood. Secondly, extreme and sudden changes in the weather result the loss of women's lives. For example, lack of women's ability to swim or run due to the sudden increase in tide, storm, and flood can take away their life. In the agricultural sector, low production and harvesting will lead to food insecurity. Water scarcity increases the burden on women to search for water. Natural disaster make the land inundated and damage infrastructure and force people to migrate in large number to other areas especially urban areas. Climate change with regard to health brings more diseases like vector borne and other contagious diseases. Women again held responsibility of taking care of the ailing family members. Women ended up in doing more stereotyping gender roles and bearing more burden than usual.

11.5 GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE DIALOGUE

United Nations is actively involved in pursuing gender equality in its policies and programmes and its member countries policies and programmes. According to gender mainstreaming policy of UN in 1997, UN and its member countries committed to incorporate gender aspect in their entire endeavour. But this process started in UN earlier itself. In 1992 the UN Conference on Environment and Development produced Agenda 21 which recognized women as one of nine major groups whose active participation is essential to sustainable development. Sustainable development is prerequisite for the advance of women. UN and its member states agreed to implement gender mainstreaming strategy in Beijing Platform for Action 1995. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also recognized gender equality as one of the development goals and gender is incorporated in all other goals also. Sustainable Development Goal 5 categorically calls for gender equality which is construed as an essential foundation for a sustainable world. Gender has been designated as a cross cutting theme for work of the commission on sustainable development 2002-2017. UN Conference on Environment and Development (1992) led to the formation of United Nations Framework on the Convention on Climate change. Since then

the climate change convention is held regularly but it failed to incorporate gender aspects into the climate change dialogue.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change way back in its 2007 assessment report confirmed that “the impacts of climate change will vary depending on gender, age and class with poor most likely to suffer. Because of gender inequalities, women and girls are vulnerable and they are very poor. Women are responsible for household food production and family health”. Due to the adverse impact of climate change the household food production and family health are affected. Being a caretaker of the family, this increases women’s burden doubling.

Check Your Progress 1

- Note:** 1) Use the space given below for your answers.
2) Check your answers with those given at the end of this unit.

1. Distinguish between sex and gender.

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2. Give one example to understand how climate change can impact women’s life.

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11.6 GENDER DIMENSION IN ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Adaptation and mitigation are the two important strategies evolved at international and national level to address climate change. In this section we will discuss the gender dimensions of adaptation and mitigation.

Adaptation

The fundamental goal of adaptation strategies is the reduction of the vulnerabilities to climate induced change in order to protect and enhance the livelihoods of poor people. Experience shows that vulnerability is differentiated by gender. Adaptation to climate change or indeed climate variability is dependent on issues such as wealth, technological power, access to information, all of which are major problem areas for women. However, women can be key agents of adaptation and mitigation to climate change. Their responsibilities in households, communities and as stewards of natural resources position them well to develop strategies for adapting to changing environmental realities (UNFPA and WEDO, 2009).

Mitigation

Women also have a role deriving from their own strength. Women are engaged in a number of activities such as brick-making, charcoal-making, waste

management and agro-processing where energy efficiency can lead to CO₂ mitigation and their role in mitigation in these areas can be vital. The development of Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM), through carbon sequestration from afforestation and reforestation can also be done by poor rural women (Jyoti Parikh 2007). Women in urban areas can implement energy efficiency programmes at the household level lighting, the use of appliances, etc., while women in rural areas may be encouraged to use biomass and biogas (for fuel generation), and switch to solar energy. Poor women, without access to modern energy fuels are faced with problems relating to indoor air pollution and bear huge health burdens as a result, there is a high incidence of bronchitis, asthma and other health problems. While women should not be denied the use of fossil fuels like LPG or Kerosene, yet at the same time appropriate technologies that take into account the specific socio-economic realities of different rural areas, reduce women's workload, free-up time and enable them to pursue income generating activities.

11.7 VULNERABILITY OF CHILDREN TO CLIMATE CHANGE THREATS

From the above discussion, it is clear that women are affected by climate change. In this section, you will learn how children are also affected by climate change both directly and indirectly.

- Children are easily affected by climate change related disaster and their lives are under threat.
- Children are prone to diseases induced by climate change.
- Food scarcity will increase the rate of under-nourished children which will lead to stunted growth, wasted growth and hence country lack healthy citizens.
- Climate change induced displacement will affect children's education, freedom and ultimately will lead to loss of childhood. This will also increase forced child labour.
- The rate of child development index will come down.

Box 11.1: According to British Red Cross Relief Web

- Women and children are 14 times more likely to die than men during natural disaster.
- The 1991 cyclone in Bangladesh killed one lakh forty thousand people. The mortality rate of women over forty was 31%.
- More than 70 % of the dead from the 2004 Asian Tsunami were women and children.
- Hurricane Katrina which struck New Orleans, USA in 2005 affected more African-American women who are already poor and marginalized.
- The cyclone Nargis which hit Myanmar in 2008 affected 87 % of unmarried women and 100 of married women. They also lost their main sources of livelihood.

11.8 WHY WOMEN CARRY MORE BURDENS OF CLIMATE CHANGE THREATS THAN MEN?

Gender is one of the numerous important socio-cultural dimension included in climate change vulnerability assessment but it is rarely incorporated in adaptation research and planning. Due to climate change, drought is a common phenomenon. Untimely and insufficient rainfall in the monsoon dependent area for agriculture, food security becomes catastrophic. Poor farmer's vulnerability to drought leads to starvation, loss of health, etc. To ensure the food security, small farmers migrate as labourers leading to the family burden as well as finding livelihoods for women at the migrated places is difficult. Increasing temperature due to climate change combined with increasing pollution, decline of soil fertility and decreasing genetic diversity of varieties of crops lead to the reduction in crop production.

Changes in climate have different impacts on men and women and these differences are linked to their gender roles. The result is that increase in emotional stress or anxiety was highly ranked issue for men more so than women is somewhat surprising as women are typically considered to be nurtures and care givers and would thus be expected to be more likely than men to report an increase in emotional stress. The increase in emotional stress among men was likely due to the pressure to mobilize loans. The climate change also led to the scarcity of water which brings socio-cultural changes in India which added more burdens on women. For example traditional washer community no longer is responsible for washing clothes resulted in increased household work for women.

According to the study carried out by FAO titled "Farmers in a Changing Climate. Does Gender matter?" in Andhra Pradesh, India found that majority of farmers due to climate change turned to wage labourers for income in construction work. As compared to men, 70 % of women undertook wage labour as a coping strategy in response to crop loss which could be indicative of women's role as farmers being less socially determined in terms of roles and expectation than men's. Women supplementing family's income through wage labour migrate to cities for income as a construction worker. In the construction work, they work in a hazardous condition including exploitation of labourers from labour contractors. Employment of women and children in waste collection without providing proper living condition is also apparent in many metropolitan cities in India. Migration also affected the family stability and brings change in the demography which leads to the deterioration of natural resources. Climate change affects the income of the farmers which in turn affect the food security of the family. In that case, women eat less which will affect their health. In the process, children also affected. Gender based distribution of food is traditional coping strategy. Due to lack of decision making power among women, the availability of food in farmers' house depends upon men's decision viz. how much to store and how much to sell – but women are responsible for ensuring food supplies among family members. Table 11.1 shows the direct and indirect impact of climate change on women.

Table 11.1 : Direct and Indirect Impacts of Climate Change on Women

Issue	Impacts of Climate Change	Direct and Indirect Impacts on Women
Natural resources: Food, water, fuel and land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drought and/or flooding from temperature changes and erratic weather. ● Decreased soil fertility. ● Decreased crop yields or crop failure. ● Resource scarcity. ● Shortage of clean, potable water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased household work burden and time spent on gathering water, food and fuel such as firewood (sometimes leading to lower school enrolment rates, decreased literacy rates, or early marriage). ● Increased hunger and calorie reduction for women. ● Exposure to contaminated water sources. ● In regions with restricted land rights, women potentially forced off/without access to fertile land. ● Loss of traditional land tenure.
Natural disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Warming oceans. ● Changing weather patterns/seasons ● Erratic and more intense weather events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of access to education/information about weather. ● Restricted ability to respond (e.g., women often unable to leave house without male companion) ● Lack of survival skills regularly taught to boys, such as swimming or tree climbing. ● Women regularly excluded from disaster recovery decision-making.

Socio-economic Dimensions

Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in infectious, water-borne or vector-borne diseases, e.g., malaria, due to increased temperatures and intensified storms. • Heat-related illness. • Malnutrition. • Increased air pollution, allergies and asthma. • Mental disorders such as anxiety and depression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant and lactating women, along with the very young and very old, are most vulnerable to health threats. • Increased lack of health-care services, immunizations, family planning, and reproductive health care in disaster zones. • Potential increase in maternal and infant mortality rates due to lack of care. • Lack of services and hygienic supplies in relief shelters for pregnant, lactating or menstruating women.
Population growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth expected in areas at risk to severe climatic changes and where people rely on natural resources for survival. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition for increasingly scarce government and natural resources. • Most vulnerable populations (e.g., women) continue to be under threat. • High fertility rates impact women's health.
Urbanization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural-to-urban migration increases due to environmental degradation, reduced productivity and conflict over resources. • Informal shelters and communities expand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlements—sometimes informal—may be unhealthy and dangerous, lack water and sanitation and be built on vulnerable land. • Urban formal markets tend to benefit men. • Poor urban women lack health services. • Urban poverty projected to increase.
Migration and displacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster events can lead to displacement, temporary and permanent, internal and international 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women comprise at least half of world migrant populations, but their needs are not prioritized in migration policies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental degradation and competition for resources prompts women and men to move. • Forced migration due to regional vulnerability possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women often lack resources to move, but post-disaster may lack resources to cope at home. • Forced migration could exacerbate women's vulnerability and lack of access to resources and livelihood options.
Household composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/change in family composition due to migration/displacement and/or fatalities from natural disasters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise in female-headed households (FHH). • Limited resources for FHH in recovery/insurance programmes or funds that prioritize access for men. • Lack of land rights jeopardizing women's food and livelihood security. • Gendered divisions of labour reinforced. • Decreased numbers of women in some households due to female disaster mortality.
Conflict and violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition over limited resources can trigger conflict or displacement. • Shortages in regular rainfall and overall scarcity of natural resources can increase civil war by 50 per cent. • Increased anxiety and distress over livelihood insecurity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict amplifies existing gender inequalities. • While men are more likely to be killed or injured in fighting, women suffer greatly from other consequences of conflict, such as rape, violence, anxiety and depression. • Higher levels of violence in the home and in post-disaster relief shelters.

Conflict and violence

- Competition over resources can trigger conflict or displacement.
- Shortages in regular rainfall and overall scarcity of natural resources can increase civil war by 50 per cent.
- Increased anxiety and distress over livelihood insecurity.
- Conflict amplifies existing gender inequalities.
- While men are more likely to be killed or injured in fighting, women suffer greatly from other consequences of conflict, such as rape, violence, anxiety and depression.
- Higher levels of violence in the home and in post-disaster relief shelters.

(Source: UNFPA and WEDO, 2009; <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4adc31192.pdf>)

Check Your Progress 2

Note: 1) Use the space given below for your answers.
2) Check your answers with those given at the end of this unit.

1. How natural disasters affect women directly and indirectly?

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11.9 ROLE OF WOMEN IN CLIMATE CHANGE

Women being the nurturer, have an important role in protecting the nature as well. In the present context of climate change, their role becomes more significant. Women's health and safety should be safeguarded from the impact of climate change by adopting the following:

1. Energy Efficiency

Access to non-polluting sources that does not damage women's health should have an important part in climate adaptation programmes.

Box 11.2: Women Leading the Way

In Mali, where 90 per cent of energy comes from burning wood and charcoal, rural women have developed sustainable alternatives to the wood trade. Cutting trees for fuel has contributed to widespread deforestation and desertification, and subsequent soil erosion and erratic flooding further impacts agriculture and infrastructure. To reduce dependence on wood, the Sinsibere Project has been educating women about alternative livelihood activities and engaging them in micro-lending programmes, literacy and mathematics training. Since the project's implementation in 2001, 80 per cent of the women have stopped or significantly reduced wood usage. The women have taught their families about preserving the environment, and their increased income allows them to send their children to school.

Source: www.malifolkcenter.org/

2. Renewable Energy

Empowering women to convert them from user of energy to producer of energy through self-help groups, micro enterprises making women entrepreneurs.

Box 11.3: Women as Managers of the Environment

In Pintadas, a district in the poorest region of Brazil, people rely primarily on agriculture for their livelihoods. Yet, with no dependable irrigation system and a scarcity of water, tackling poverty is a challenge. To address these problems, a collaborative partnership of organizations developed a small-scale irrigation project piloted by the SouthSouthNorth network. The project was designed to help women and men work together to learn better

water management and irrigation techniques harnessing solar power. Through the Association of Women of Pintadas, a woman was selected to spearhead the initiative, changing the face of decision-making. Today, women are empowered by the technical know-how to manage and adapt new agricultural systems. Both women and men in Pintadas are better able to deal with climate change and drought, while food security, water management and income generation have improved.

Source: www.pintadas-solar.org

3. Recycling and Waste Management

Within households and outside, women have an opportunity to act as an important agent in resource conservation. Self-help group women also can set up profitable recycling company from municipal solid waste management. Women in rural areas can have some new energy sources as gas from waste. Women from urban areas can contribute recycling waste at home as they are most of the times in charge of home cooking and housekeeping. Capacity building demonstration can increase replication and impact.

4. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects

CDM is not a panacea for solving either climate problems or gender inclusion but it can offer alternative approach of integrating gender issues into climate change.

5. Early Warning System

Early warning system should be installed in all the locations of disaster prone area, so that women can act themselves timely. Technical supports and guidance can be given to women in this regard. Women, fishermen and farmers can be trained to understand the early warning messages.

6. Risk and Insurance

Crop insurance and other insurance for farmers, fishermen can address their need. Women should be given special assistance in this regard.

11.10 STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS GENDER ISSUES IN CLIMATE CHANGE

By studying the following section, you will be able to list some of the strategies to address gender issues in climate change.

1. Research

Collecting gender segregated data and analysis are the most important to fill the existing gap to understand the relationship between gender and climate change. Studies could also be taken on climate change in relation to women's resilience and coping strategy and their ownership and control of resources. There are number of local strategies documented to understand women's coping strategies. This local efforts and strategies can be linked with national polices to reduce poverty and increase food security.

2. Policies and Political Support

Gender mainstreaming ensures to address gender issues in all policies and programmes. Gender related data has to be made available to the policy

makers to integrate gender into the climate change policy. This can be done through policy advocacy, cross sectoral coalition building. National institutions must understand the link between the sustainable management of natural resources, food security and poverty reduction as an efficient way of providing the rural population to respond to climate change processes. Capacity building to rural development institutions and extension staffs to understand women's needs alongside men's in the areas of energy, water, agriculture and disaster management through gender sensitive participatory approach. Equal access to and control over natural resources is also important.

Box 11.4: A success story

According to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development ICIMOD (2006), the majority of rural mountain people do not have regular sources of cash income. Climate change coupled with market forces is reducing women's ability to diversify their income. However, there are some successful projects that show it is possible to improve mountain people income and being sustainable at the same time. ICIMOD and its partners have been implementing the Himalayan Honeybee Management Project as a means to diversify incomes in rural mountain areas and maintain essential pollination services. The project has resulted in measurable socio-economic, environmental, and ecological benefits. Another direct benefit is pollination services provided by the bees to horticultural plants especially in China's Sichuan province and India's Himachal Pradesh. This project has helped Himalayan women to increase their incomes. ICIMOD (2006) has also implemented the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme in Asia (MAPPA), which develops and promotes methods, strategies, technologies and other sustainable solutions for conserving, growing, and using medicinal and aromatic herbs-based niche products. The programme directly helps to raise incomes of mountain people while also assisting the conservation of rare, endangered, and threatened medicinal plants. MAPPA has set up networks – including community groups and national level stakeholders – for helping farmers to build supply value chains to link them with markets.

3. Broaden the Movement

Women have to create a movement to address the gender issues in climate change and they have to host regular women caucus and they have to disseminate the information. Creating coordination among different women's groups all over the world will also be fruitful. Women have to hold global meeting to develop a strategy and discuss the latest research from gender perspective in climate change negotiations.

Box 11.5: Women against Environmental Destruction

The Dasholi Gram Samaj Mandal women-led environmental movement in India, which began as a protest against deforestation, has been successfully protecting and managing the environment for 32 years. Many village women depend on the local forest for essential needs like water, fodder and firewood, all of which are threatened by climate change and natural disasters. Establishing that natural resource conservation was a matter for community concern, the women involved men as partners. The women's initiative

resulted in reduced damage from floods and landslides, extensive reforestation and less drudgery for the women. The movement has also challenged government policies and traditional assumptions about gender roles, as women effectively demonstrate their leadership abilities and improve the sustainability of their environment.

Source: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4adc31192.pdf>

Box 11.6: Women's Movement in Kenya

The Noble prize committee acknowledged the green belt movement's ecological work and awarded the Noble prize for Wangari Maathai in 2004. The Norwegian Noble committee stated that peace on earth depends on our ability to secure our living environment. Maathai stands at front of the fight to promote ecologically viable, social, economic and cultural development in Kenya and in Africa. She has taken a holistic approach to sustainable development that embraces democracy, human rights and women's rights in particular. In Kenya by the late 1980s, starvation and malnutrition has become endemic. Farmers focus on export cash crops meant removing land, water and labour from locally defined farming. It also meant more deforestation, agro chemical inputs, soil combating tractors, land clearances and depletion and pollution of water systems. Kenya's chronic hunger problem deeply intervened with ecological crisis. As chronic hunger and climate change competed to devastate East Africa in 1990s, farmers acted to defend and extend local food production and marketing by strengthening women's groups focus on farming and local food trade. Farm women's efforts were strengthened by the activities of greenbelt movement. When women planted trees they also strengthened their claims to the land. The green belt benches renewed women's group power that power healed the eroded, combated and chemically damaged soil. Tree planting and associated activities were adopted by hundreds of women's groups many of which continued to engage in other types of activities such as collective savings groups, meeting women, shared work on each other's farms and collective care for women's common resources. The green belt movement engaged hundreds of thousands of rural Kenyan women in expanding and defending their rights to control and protect land by the new millennium. They have planted some twenty million trees. As Kenyan women engage in reforestation, they shift agriculture practice towards indigenous, bio-diverse and mixed farming system. Women's reforestation practices and subsistence food production demonstrate an ecological positive agriculture capable of reversing local climate change and serving the needs of all. (Leigh Brown Hill, 2009).

1. Information and sensitization

UNFCCC negotiations should be disseminated to all stakeholders to involve everyone and bringing gender concerns in the climate change as a movement.

2. Creating a Coordinating Body

In south, many organizations are specialized in particular areas like energy, water, agriculture and bio-diversity. But these organizations' existing knowledge and work was not integrated. Establishing link and strengthening gender perspective in all organizational activity is necessary. All organizations

should create coordinating body to address gender issues in climate change to the government and international bodies.

11.11 LET US SUM UP

It is clear that gender differences are prevailing in the climate change dialogue, adaptation and mitigation strategies. This has to be rectified and we should recognize that women are more vulnerable to climate change driven scenarios and addressing their needs and providing capacity building and enhancing their participation in climate change dialogue are important. Climate change is a long-term issue so we have to focus on short, medium and long-term measures. Gender consideration has to be integrated in local, national and international climate actions in the areas of adaptation, mitigation etc. National and international governments should ensure the budget allocation for climate change projects with gender perspective.

11.12 KEYWORDS

Disadvantaged Populations : Sectors of a society that are marginalized, often because of low socioeconomic status, low income, lack of access to basic services such as health or education, lack of power, race, gender, religion, or poor access to communication technologies.

11.13 SUGGESTED FURTHER READING/ REFERENCES

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Web Links

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<https://www.globalchange.gov/climate-change/glossary>

11.14 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress 1

1. Sex is the biological differences between a man and a woman. Gender is socially and culturally constructed and expected difference between men and women.
2. The impact of climate change will vary depending on gender, age and class with poor most likely to suffer. Because of gender inequalities, women and girls are vulnerable and they are very poor. Women are responsible for household food production and family health. Due to the adverse impact of climate change, the household food production and family health are affected. Being a caretaker of the family, this increases women's burden doubling.

Check Your Progress 2

- Women are regularly excluded from disaster recovery decision-making.
- Lack of access to education/information about weather.
- Restricted ability to respond (e.g., women often unable to leave house without male companion).
- Lack of survival skills regularly taught to boys, such as swimming or tree climbing.