



Gender into Urban Climate Change Initiative



What is Climate Change?

Climate change, , refers to the rise in average surface temperature on Earth. There is scientific consensus that anthropogenic activities such as the use of fossil fuels which releases carbon dioxide and other Greenhouse Gases into the air are prime reasons for the changing pattern in Earth's average climate variation. The gasses trapped on the surface of Earth can have a wide range of effect on ecosystems including rising sea levels due to melting of glaciers, severe weather events, drought, , urban flooding etc. The international community has recognized the dangers of climate change and at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris, there were 194 signatories and 117 parties to ratify the Paris Treaty agreeing to reduce the Greenhouse Gases emission. Indian government is committed to address the climate challenge through the 8 missions established under the National Action Plan initiated in 2008. All the States and Union Territories have also been directed to prepare the State Action plan to combat the local climate issues.

Importance of Gender integration into climate policies)

The term gender is generally used to conceptualize the socially and culturally constructed roles and relationships as discriminated by sexes. Mostly due to the lack of access to resources and pre-determined socio-economic situation, there has been a general tendency to treat and recognize women as weaker than men. While this is more prevalent in the rural areas or areas which lag behind in education, inequality exists in urban areas too despite continuing efforts of promoting equality of sexes by the government and other organizations. There is also dearth of women taking leading roles in formulations of any social policies due to pre-determined roles by the society, lack of access to resources and other factors impeding gender inequality. While Gender Mainstreaming is a globally accepted approach, initiated by the UN and adopted by most of the countries, significant gaps exist in climate change policies to cater to the different needs of women and men with respect of mitigation as well as adaptation. The situation is still worse at the State level since the gender mandates are not adequately filtering down in the form of stringent policies or implementation plans.

. Frequent variation in climate patterns, floating population due to migration, inadequate knowledge about climate change and lack of effective resilience capacity have made number of cities in India face various climate challenges. Urban areas have therefore, become crucial for implementation of climate related action plans. Gender integration into such action plan is also critical to meet the global commitment as well as to have an effective climate policy in place. . A number of studies have also documented that gender-sensitive urban climate policies can result in enhanced effectiveness; acceptance and a range of co-benefits. Towards this end, it is therefore, imperative that capacity of women leaders and actors need to be enhanced to take meaningful roles at the policy formulation and decision making level.

Introduction: Gender into Urban Climate Change Initiative

In an attempt to close the gender gaps and explore options for integrating gender and social issues into urban climate policies, All India Women's Conference (India), Alankuselaulndah (AKSI) Perkumpulan (Association) for gender, social and ecological justice (Indonesia) and Gender CC (South Africa) in collaboration with Gender CC, Germany, has initiated GUCCI (Gender into Urban Climate Change Initiative) in pilot cities in Indonesia, South Africa and India. Mumbai and Delhi have been chosen as the pilot cities for this project. Through capacity building and development of policy recommendations, the project seeks to strengthen citizens' capacity to get involved in local government planning process and implementation, inclusiveness and acceptability of local mitigation and adaptation policies. This is a three year project by Gender CC as a part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) supported by German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Natural Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

Current Status of the Project

The project has already been implemented in Delhi and a Status quo report on the existing policies, situation, challenges and government schemes is currently under preparation. The data collected for now are based on information from the internet and websites of stakeholders. Meetings have also been held with officials at Central as well as State Environment Ministry, other stake holders and agencies introducing the project. This will be followed up with personal interview with the officials concerned at the government departments/agencies, detailed analysis of the existing policy and then a strategic action plan.



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