

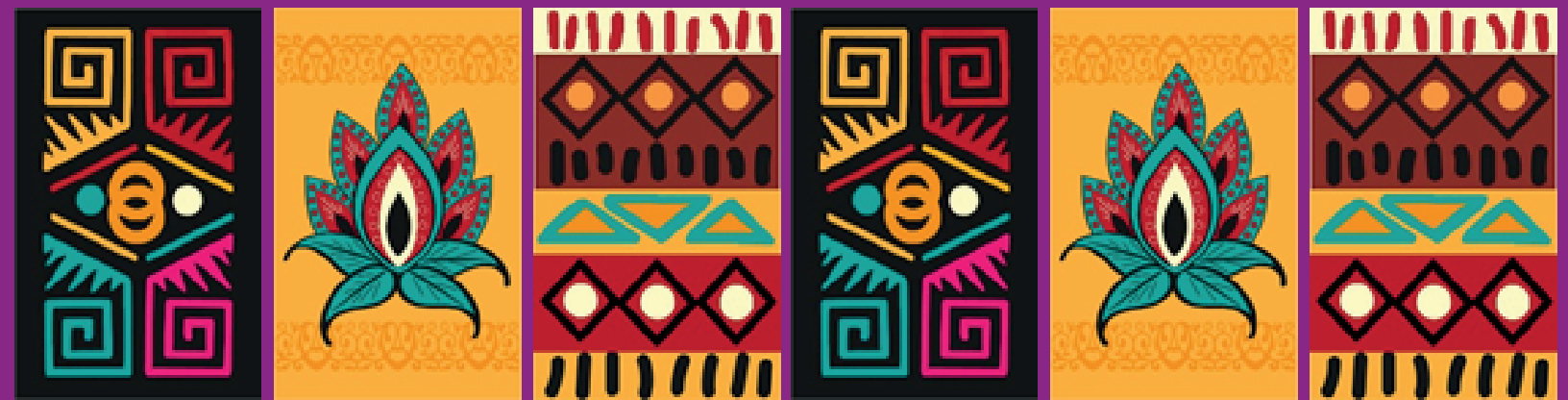


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Gender Responsive
Resilience and Intersectionality in
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ENHANCING PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY FOR GENDER INCLUSION IN RESPONSE TO NATURAL HAZARD INDUCED DISASTERS AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DURYOG NIVARAN

INDIA and NEPAL

Context

Following the declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic by the WHO in March 2020, the Governments of India and Nepal imposed nationwide lockdowns. These lockdowns affected national economies and the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable and marginalised sections of society, including women. In response, several measures were taken by governments to protect the poor. However, systemic governance failures have been observed and reported widely in emergency relief, the provision of WASH services, protection against domestic violence, and employment opportunities for women. In addition, most federal governments decisions to arrest the spread of COVID-19 have been perceived as top-down, with little or no say from the local government, local institutions, and communities.

This project aimed to analyse the national disaster risk reduction landscape and engage with local governments and community-based disaster risk management institutions to gather their perspectives on how resilience can be strengthened by better integrating gender considerations in policies and practices and improving transparency and accountability.

In addition, the research analysed the effectiveness of existing governance mechanisms to deal with frequent disasters such as floods and cyclones during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how disaster management policies were used or applied to limit the spread of the pandemic. Finally, the research also diagnosed the successes and failures of governance in managing COVID-19 and disasters during the pandemic.

Objectives

1. Review and document the impacts of the COVID-19 and natural hazard induced disasters on women in South Asia, with a focus on India and Nepal during the last two years.
2. Review preparedness, relief, and recovery measures from the viewpoints of gender, employment, governance, and intersectionality.
3. Identify and recommend short, medium, and long-term measures for appropriate gender-responsive measures during future disasters and COVID-19 waves for policymakers and practitioners at the local government level.

Focus group discussion with community members in the Jyamire village of the Manhari Rural Municipality of Nepal.

Credit: Duryog Nivaran



Findings

Key impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and natural hazard induced disasters on women in South Asia are as below:

1) Livelihoods

- Women's livelihoods in South Asia are predominantly in the informal sector and in small and micro enterprises.
- Workers in the informal sector in South Asia were hit hardest.
- Domestic workers (who are mostly female) lost their jobs during the pandemic.

2) Health

- Line of work, lack of knowledge, and lack of access to healthcare or vaccination programmes resulted in a higher risk of COVID-19 infection.
- The pandemic reduced women's access to essential healthcare services.
- Loss of income has also resulted in negative health impacts.
- Increases in mental health issues and cases of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and related injuries were evident.

3) Security and Gender Based Violence & Intimate Partner Violence (GBV/IPV)

- Women who were already in abusive family relationships were trapped in homes.
- Uncertainty regarding future livelihoods, led to an increase in domestic violence and marital rape.

4) Changing household roles and responsibilities

- Women's household workload increased significantly.
- The roles of men and other members of the family showed some change.

Recommendations

- Gender transformative action in a community in ordinary times can be helpful during emergencies.
- The Government, as the lead authority, needs to ensure the documentation of gender and disability disaggregated data/information - for women/girls, with disability/senior citizens/ marginalised and other at-risk groups.
- Mechanisms should be in place to respond to increases in violence effectively. The state police as well as the local police should ensure that people report domestic violence and abuse during emergencies.
- There may be vaccine-hesitation in rural areas, so completion of vaccination doses needs to be ensured.
- The National and State governments need to prioritise maternal and child health issues during emergencies.
- Governments need to prioritise sexual and reproductive health needs during emergencies
- Social protection nets have to be strengthened by the government for the informal workers.

Interview with Saru B.K from Mahila tatha Balbalika Sarokar Kendra, in makwanpur District of Nepal. The district-based NGO works on girls' education.

Credit: Duryog Nivaran



Enhancing public sector accountability and transparency for gender inclusion in response to natural hazard induced disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic in South Asia

Duryog Nivaran

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UTILISATION OF MATERNAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN DISASTER-PRONE AREAS OF BANGLADESH

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS OF UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Satkhira, BANGLADESH

Context

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused devastating impacts on the lives and livelihood of millions of people across the globe, with severe impacts on reproductive health in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC).

Relying on the intersectional perspective, this study aimed to examine the resiliency of maternal healthcare services (MCS) in Bangladesh—an LMIC with a population of more than 165 million—during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also sought to identify effective strategies for ensuring adequate access to MCS during the pandemic, focusing on disaster-prone areas.

Using a parallel mixed-method approach, researchers collected quantitative and qualitative data from respondents in two disaster-prone sub-districts (Ashashuni and Shyamnagar) of Bangladesh.

Objectives

The broader objective of the project was to examine the access of poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged women to maternal healthcare services (MCS) during the COVID-19 pandemic in disaster-prone areas of Bangladesh. Specific objectives were as follows:

- To identify the effects of COVID-19 on the factors that influence MCS utilisation for poor and vulnerable women
- To evaluate changes in utilisation of MCS during the pandemic
- To detect underlying causes of lower access to MCS during the pandemic
- To identify gender-specific vulnerabilities related to MCSs experienced by mothers, mothers-to-be, and health workers during the pandemic

Water logging nearby the respondent's household in Satkhira

Credit: U. of Dhaka



- To generate effective strategies for tackling lower access to MCSs for poor and vulnerable women during the pandemic.
- To identify gaps and necessary reforms in the existing institutional and regulatory frameworks for improving access to MCS during the pandemic
- To delineate strategies for ensuring and synthesising improved MCS for poor and vulnerable women of Bangladesh, and wider South Asia

Findings

Study findings have provided valuable insight into changes in maternal health trends, causes for lower access to MCS, gender-specific vulnerabilities experienced by healthcare workers and caregivers, and limitations of current institutional and regulatory frameworks.

Findings have also identified effective policy interventions and implementation strategies.

Recommendations

- Develop a disaster risk reduction framework for health under the sectoral plan of health, integrating a provision to deliver minimum essential sexual and reproductive health services during an emergency.
- Create more employment opportunities for all, focusing on women, and sustained income opportunities for all, with a greater emphasis on rural areas in which people were disproportionately affected by the pandemic.
- Recruit adequate healthcare providers and provide adequate support services to prevent decreased home visits of healthcare providers due to the pandemic.
- Strengthen disaster-related coping strategies and provide adequate financial support to households for a quick return to disaster conditions.
- Promote public-private partnerships to ensure better access to healthcare services during disasters and pandemics.
- Increase mental health support to people during the pandemic by ensuring adequate counsellors/mental health care providers.



Respondent in front of a household structure in disaster-prone coastal areas in Bangladesh.

Credit: U. of Dhaka.

Utilisation of maternal healthcare services during COVID-19 pandemic in disaster-prone areas of Bangladesh

Individual researchers of the University of Dhaka



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DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM ON “DRR, HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND INTERSECTIONALITY”

BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF PROFESSIONALS

Dhaka, BANGLADESH

Context

Curriculum development on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is an important way to impart relevant knowledge about disasters and crises and contribute to the development of innovative programmes and interventions that respond to the needs of affected communities. DRR curriculums are particularly relevant and appropriate for countries like Bangladesh and regions like South Asia, where the prevalence of disasters is felt strongly every year. With growing and new issues like climate change and the Rohingya refugee crisis, it is imperative that we undertake DRR and humanitarian interventions and understand the challenges and scope of working on the issue of intersectionality within affected communities.

This project aimed to develop a curriculum on “Disaster Risk Reduction, Humanitarian Response and Intersectionality.”

Objectives

1. To prepare two curriculums on “DRR, Humanitarian Response and Intersectionality” for post-graduate students, different professional groups, and development practitioners (1 year and 15-day certification programme).

2. To make both the curriculums part of OER (open educational resources), and accessible to any university or training institute at free of cost.

This work required reviewing existing curriculums and programmes on DRR. The new curriculum was then prepared with the research team’s initial groundwork followed by collecting and analysing experts’ opinions and remarks from relevant disciplines via a feedback workshop.

The outputs were disseminated among universities and training institutes to support the updating of their existing curriculums and also to offer new programmes on humanitarian responses, with a focus on intersectionality. This curriculum project was converted into an academic programme and is expected to impart cutting-edge DRR knowledge and professional skills to students, as well as creating a pool of effective professionals to serve this arena.



Certificate Programme on “DRR, Humanitarian Response, and Intersectionality” in April 2022. Facilitated by the trainers of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) Bangladesh.

Credit: Md. Awfa Islam

Project outcomes

Two curricula were developed on "DRR, Humanitarian Response, and Intersectionality".

The first one is a Certificate programme for professional and development practitioners, designed to be delivered over the course of 15 days and piloted in 2022 in Dhaka. The class contents of the programme were developed under four main themes:

- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Humanitarian Response
- Public Health
- Intersectionality

A total of 60 applications were received; 30 were selected and finally 21 students enrolled in the certificate program (8 women and 13 men). The programme incorporated both online and offline methods for conducting classes in the evening and weekends to accommodate working professionals

The second curriculum is a one-year drafted Postgraduate Programme on DRR, Humanitarian Response, and Intersectionality. This was developed based on the certificate programme participants' feedback and thorough literature reviews. The outline of the curriculum included: Understanding Gender and Intersectionality: Theory,

Policy, and Practices; Public Health and DRR; Social Inclusion in DRR; and other courses.

Participants' Recommendations on the Certificate Programme

- Humanitarian Development Nexus and Humanitarian Programme Cycle Management should be included in the curriculum.
- Fewer numbers of topics should be selected, and at least two sessions on them should be arranged.
- Additional lecture sessions on intersectionality should be added.
- Inclusion of more professional individuals besides the experienced faculty members can contribute to the improvement of the programme.
- Inter-related Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) can be included.
- Videos from disaster shelters, and interviews with first responders and community members should be analysed as case studies.
- A few more topics on gender sensitivity can be included – for instance: safeguarding in humanitarian responses by relevant professionals.
- WASH (water, sanitation & hygiene), and MHPSS (mental health and psychosocial support) with DRR should be used more broadly.

On 17th December 2022, the GRRIPP South Asia Curriculum Development Team organised a validation workshop on 'Integrating Intersectionality in Theory and Practice' at University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Credit: Ashish Sarker



Development of curriculum on “DRR, humanitarian response and intersectionality”

Bangladesh University of Professionals
@BUP

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TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS AND ITS VIOLATION EXPULSION

INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (IEDS)

Netrokona, BANGLADESH

Context

Discrimination against women and girls starts from birth. In rural Bangladesh, the birth of a girl child is often not welcomed by the parents, as many hope to have a boy child. Recent studies reveal that boys have better access to food, clothing, education and other basic rights compared to girl children. Many parents in rural areas view their boy child as an asset and a girl child as a liability. The boy child is supposed to take care of his parents in old age; girls are to be married-off as early as possible and their ultimate destination is a husband's home.

As a result, parents prepare girls to be brides from a young age. At home, girls are mostly taught skills needed at the household level (e.g. cooking, sewing, etc.). Boys enter formal education and are supported to develop skills required for economic independence.

Against this backdrop, this project aimed to bring about a positive change in women's rights and opportunities in the target area through the following interventions.

Objectives

- To raise awareness among women and men regarding responsibilities, legal rights, and protection against abuse and violence, particularly for women and children.
- To raise parents' awareness about the negative impact of child abuse on the physical and mental development of children.
- To raise awareness among local village leaders about women and children's rights in relation to abuse and violence.
- To educate high school students on human rights and their violation.
- To raise community awareness about women and child rights and to reduce violation of these rights through the installation of colourful billboards containing pictorial messages on the subjects. These were to be placed in strategic places within the project area.

Mrs. Basonti Rani Saha-Headmistress of Gujirkona Girls High School, Durgapur, Netrokona and Mohammad Asaduzzaman- Monitoring Office IEDS distributing leaflets to introduce the project to pupils. 7 March 2022.

Credit: Shamim Kabir, IEDS



Activities

The project focused on raising awareness in the project area about women and men's rights and responsibilities in general, as well as women and children's specific legal rights and protection from abuse and violence. This was to be achieved through a 3-day long training as well as extending institutional support.

Activities also targeted parents to raise their awareness regarding the negative impact of child abuse on the physical and mental development of children.

A workshop was conducted at local level for village leaders on "Women and children's rights in relation to abuse and violence". And training sessions were organised for local teachers to provide them with education materials developed following a meeting between the project team and school authority.

Lastly, awareness campaigns also targeted high school students based in the project area, informing them about human rights and their violations using 60,000 leaflets, 7,000 posters & 5 billboards.

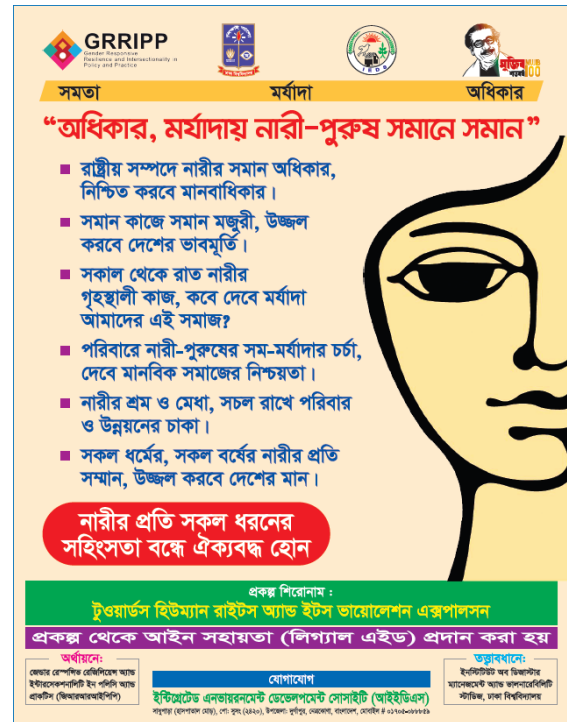
Impact

Awareness has been raised through conducting training, workshops, a video show programme, leaflet distribution, and putting up posters and billboards displays. These trainings and education tools contained information on women and child rights, and issues of domestic violence, sexual harassment, child protection, dowry, child labour, and early marriage.

Programme participants and the wider community now talk about their learning and practice it in their own families, with neighbours, community leaders, friends and IEDS staff.

With wider community participation, the impacts of the implemented programmes are spreading both inside and outside of the local project area.

Through observation and interaction with pupils at a school in the project area, as well as at home – and in cooperation with teachers and parents – IEDS also increased project knowledge about pupils' attitudes and behaviours to human rights after they attended the training or watched the video. IEDS conducted 'Sewing Training' as 2-months course with 25 vulnerable women in the project areas. Most of the participants are now able to do sewing commercially as an income generating activity to earn money for their family maintenance. This financial independence contributes to enhanced dignity.



A poster created to raise awareness on women and girls' human rights, and displayed in schools in Durgarpur, Bangladesh.

Towards Human Rights and its Violation Expulsion

Intergrated Environment and Development Society (IEDS)

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INFUSING GENDER CONSCIOUSNESS IN DISASTER PEDAGOGIES

JAMSETJI TATA SCHOOL OF DISASTER STUDIES (JTSDS), TATA
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (TISS)

Mumbai, INDIA

Context

This project aimed to infuse gender consciousness in disaster pedagogies, education and research. Through this project, JTSDS intended to strengthen gender perspectives in disaster education through a robust pedagogical approach. The primary aim was to produce a robust guideline to integrate gender consciousness into disaster management curriculums.

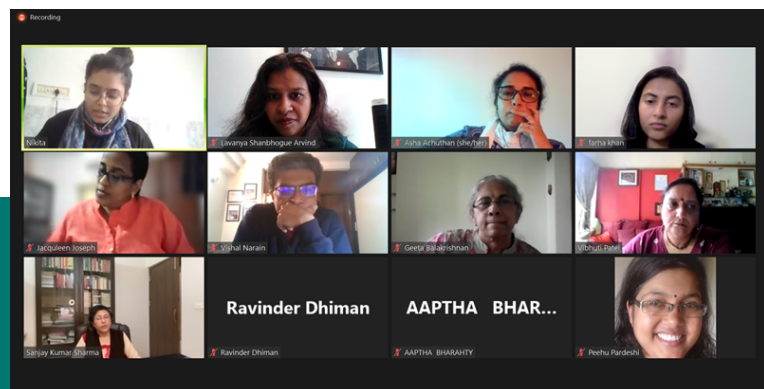
For this purpose, the awardees began with a gender audit of their own curriculum with an aim to strengthen gender cognizance and awareness. Currently, gender is integrated into the JTSDS curriculum and is a cross-cutting theme across several courses. However, JTSDS believed that a more systematic and organised process that audits gender consciousness across all courses – including those that view disasters from a vantage point of science and technology – would be a valuable contribution to the development of the guidelines.

This exercise led to the creation of the guidelines for systematically integrating gender consciousness within social science and natural science curriculums, complete with sample session-wise lecture plans, evaluation procedures, and an up-to-date list of reading materials.

Project Objectives

- To infuse gender consciousness in disaster pedagogies, education, and research.
- To develop a detailed guideline to integrate gender consciousness into the disaster management curriculum.
- To conduct a gender audit and a systematic review of the existing DM curriculum of the JTSDS to strengthen gender perspectives in disaster education.
- To facilitate regional and national level workshops to highlight the importance and need for gender-inclusive disaster risk reduction and resilience-building efforts.
- To enable the dissemination of practical field experiences of women, girl children & gender minorities in disaster contexts through a planned and comprehensive training programme.
- To create a robust gender-aware, intersectional disaster management curriculum that will set precedence as a robust programme in India.

*Online consultation to inform curriculum
development through this project.*



Outcomes of the project

National and Regional consultations enabled to document the perspectives of grassroots voices and civil society organizations about lived and felt experiences of disasters from people across the gender spectrum and range of marginalities.

One of the core activities was an expert curriculum consultation to review the existing Disaster Management curriculum to strengthen gender sensitivity, social inclusion perspectives, as well as intersectionality within modules on preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, differential exposure to hazards and building resilience of women, girl children and gender minorities.

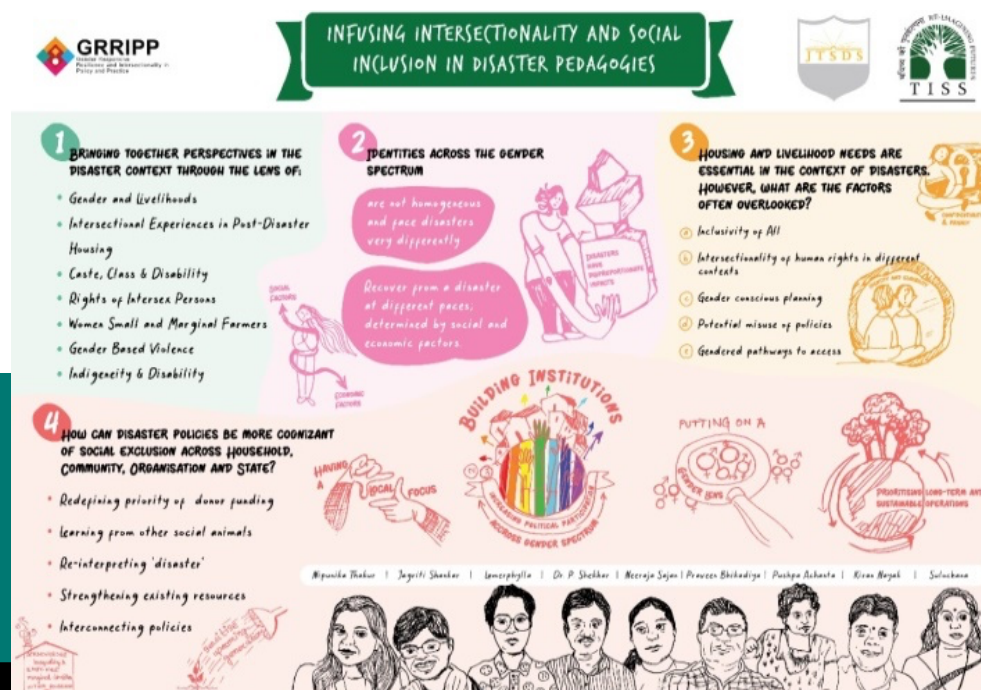
To integrate these knowledges into higher education, five (5) sample modules were created as prototypes to provide guidance and assist Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) teaching Disaster Management, Climate Change & Sustainability Studies. These modules integrate gender, social inclusion, intersectionality perspectives into their syllabus:

1. Gender, Social Inclusion & Perspectives on Intersectionality in Disaster Settings
2. Infusing Feminist Methodological Consciousness in Research Methodology.
3. Gendering Technical Education: Rethinking Science from the Vantage Point of Social Inclusion
4. Gendering Disaster Management – Concepts, Theories & Framework
5. Rethinking Social Inclusion in CBRN (chemical, biological, radial or nuclear) Events: Challenges, Deliberations & Contestations

The guidelines produced by the project aim to facilitate knowledge transfer, with respect to pedagogical processes, to other higher education institutions in India that seek to integrate gender, social inclusion and intersectional perspectives into Disaster Management, Climate Change and Sustainability Studies curricula. They were shared at a national workshop to collectively deliberate upon any further improvements.

Illustration created to synthesize key messages from the regional consultation that took place in September 2021.

Credit: TISS



Infusing Gender Consciousness in Disaster Pedagogies

Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies
@JTSDS

www.grippp.net

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REIMAGINING THE WORLD OF WOMEN'S WORK POST CRISES

SEWA BHARAT

Jharkhand and West Bengal, INDIA

Context

SEWA Bharat is a federation of State-level member-based organisations, that aims to achieve full employment and self-reliance for all its members. SEWA West Bengal and SEWA Jharkhand work towards the economic empowerment of women workers primarily employed in the informal economy.

This project looked at the impact of an unending cascade of crises faced by women workers primarily employed in the informal sector in two Indian states (Jharkhand and West Bengal). The aim was to better understand how to support women workers, particularly rural and tribal women, in adjusting to a post-pandemic world, and expand the potential for both alternate livelihoods and increased access to a social security net.

Therefore, the project looked at the specific challenges these women faced to co-design strategies for local advocacy that are rooted in a combination of data and collective mobilisation. This project was co-designed and developed with community members to increase impact and relevance, building on decades of mobilising work by the SEWA movement.

Research questions

The study explored the type of livelihoods that supports women workers in achieving full and dignified employment, as well as increasing their social and political capital. What bundle of services would best support women and their needs? And what role does digital literacy play in livelihoods in post-COVID19 world?

Approach & Methodology

A survey was undertaken with 1500 women in West Bengal and 600 women in Jharkhand. 54% of the total sample size is a member of SEWA. Data collection was carried out by young women of SEWA Sarvekshan, a collective of grassroots data collectors. They had been trained through online training sessions to carry out interviews while simultaneously entering data into KoBo Toolbox, a software for digital data collection and management.

A mapping tool was also designed to ascertain the accessibility of key locations such as the vegetable market or the university from a central point in women's town. Accessibility was assessed through multiple indicators such as availability and cost of transportation or incidence of harassment.

Questionnaires have been designed to not only understand SEWA's informal workers communities in West Bengal and Jharkhand but also to gain clarity on the struggles and aspirations of the data collectors themselves who are the next generation of women from the communities with a desire to achieve a different future for themselves.



Stakeholder consultation in West Bengal on the 19th May 2022.
Credits: SEWA Bharat

Key findings

in West Bengal, beedi rollers and weavers were particularly impacted by the pandemic and ensuing lockdown. Beedi rollers were unable to bring in raw materials or go out and sell what they had made. A halt in beedi production led to loss of work/income, financial distress and loss of community due to isolation.

Husbands of most women in the sample from West Bengal are migrant laborers leaving the responsibility to provide for the household on a daily basis to women. 58% of the women depended on banks for access to capital, using debt from savings as a source of relief. Meanwhile, 35% of respondents depended on Self Help Groups, mainly handicraft/weavers, construction workers, domestic workers, yarn weavers, tailors, sewers and small shop owners.

In Jharkhand, seasonal unemployment is a major issue particularly for construction workers. This is due to the lack of availability of work during monsoons, the preference of contractors for young girls and external factors like sand strikes which had rendered workers unemployed for about one and a half month.

Moonlighting (i.e. holding two or more jobs, so as to supplement income) is a common occurrence. Construction work is one of the most common forms of subsidiary work with agriculture being the principal status work. Social security benefits and job security is available only for a very small percentage of regular salaried workers and even amongst those, all do not have access to it.

Recommendations

The study highlights a number of recommendations to support women's access to full employment (economic security, food security and social security) and self-reliance (both economically and in terms of their decision-making ability).

For women who do not want to / cannot shift to alternative sources of livelihood, interventions need to be designed to improve conditions associated with their existing trades. This is particularly the case in West Bengal where any diversification tends to be pursued along with beedi rolling and never as a substitute because of low profitability.

In Jharkhand, since most agricultural workers would like to remain in the trade, motivating women (and their families) to implement innovative farming methods, establishing and harnessing SEWA's model of "collective bargaining power" to get better prices as well as access to credit, digital tools and digital literacy would benefit them immensely.

Other recommendations include the registration of all workers with the construction workers welfare boards so that they have BOCW cards that they can use for relief during times of crises. It is also important to keep in mind the gender and class inequalities that decide whether a person owns digital assets or has access to the internet or not. Skill building on its own without asset creation would prevent long-term impact from taking place.

The Next Generation of Women

All data collectors were from the surveyed communities and as a part of the study, a short inquiry was done with them too to understand their aspirations and struggles. All of them reported how patriarchal attitudes, early marriage and lack of opportunities are significant barriers.

The pay they received from conducting the survey helped them cover tuition fees and support their family financially. They enjoyed the mobility and social interactions resulting from this work. All of them aspire to qualified jobs: becoming nurse, teacher and policy officer.

Reimagining the World of Women's Work Post-Crises

SEWA Bharat
@SEWA

www.gripp.net

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GENDER, DISABILITY AND PANDEMIC: **Understanding intersectional effects on the health and wellbeing of women with disabilities and the role of local government to build a more resilient society**

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY, INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

Kathmandu, NEPAL

Context

Women with disabilities often face double discrimination because of the intersection of multiple marginalised identities, particularly gender and disability. Literature shows that the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities and discrimination experienced by women and girls with disabilities, putting them more at risk. Nepal ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2010, and included disability in the country policy agenda, however it is not known how effectively the health policy is implemented and practiced.

This project sought to assess the role of local government in reducing disparities and creating a resilient environment for the affected. The project collected qualitative data by conducting interviews and group discussions to understand the experience of women with disabilities. It also conducted a participatory policy review through workshops with relevant stakeholders at the local level and a forum for dialogue between local government and other stakeholders. The project was implemented in two disaster-hit districts (Lamjung & Gorkha) outside Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project was to assess the impact of the COVID – 19 pandemic (and other disasters) on the health and wellbeing of people with multiple and intersecting identities, and examine the role of local government in reducing multidimensional vulnerabilities for populations at risk. Moreover, to examine how effectively support and regulatory mechanisms function and the role of Municipalities and Rural Municipalities in the delivery of support services to populations at risk.

Participants

Women with disabilities were the primary participants of the project. However, government officials, political leaders and other stakeholders at local level also benefitted from participating in project activities such as training, workshops and interaction meetings. Moreover, the academics and researchers working in this project also benefited from working together and learning/sharing from each other.

This participant shared their lived experience with living with disability and intersecting effects of gender, disability, and disaster.

Credit: Tribhuvan University



Research findings

The study found that women with disabilities experienced various challenges during the pandemic and other disasters. Due to limited mobility or severe disabilities they needed someone to accompany them to health facilities, leading to greater transport costs that negatively affected their access to health services. Health facilities offered limited services and the layout and equipment were disability-unfriendly.

Negative stereotypes against women with disabilities in society led to their exclusion from public participation forums thereby limiting their awareness of available services. Intersectionality of gender, poverty, and disability has affected the experiences of women with disabilities living in rural municipalities of Nepal.

This study recognised that women with disabilities faced additional challenges in humanitarian crises. These were:

- Everyday intersectional discrimination as a result of gender and disability(ies), which was then exacerbated by disaster and Covid-19 related crises.
- The breakdown of economic structures, health care services, family and community support, educational opportunities, housing, transportation, and other infrastructures.
- The loss of assistive devices, caregivers, and supportive networks as a result of disaster made them more dependent on others and at greater risk of exploitation.
- Increased levels of sexual and gender-based violence in and out of the home, especially against people with

intellectual and mental disabilities. This was also due to factors such as stigma and discrimination, being seen as 'easy' targets, social exclusion and isolation, loss of protective supportive mechanisms, and limited mobility.

- Inadequate access to shelter, and goods to fulfill basic needs including menstrual hygiene in humanitarian contexts.
- Loss of livelihoods, which increases their poverty and makes them vulnerable to exploitation.

Recommendations

- Family, society, and community must take responsibility. Vulnerable groups must be prioritised during disasters, and the government especially local government, must plan ahead and build an inclusive infrastructure.
- Service providers must address the unique barriers that people, especially women, with disabilities face when accessing services.
- Policy makers must incorporate an intersectional and gender lens to service systems to enhance understanding of the varying degrees of vulnerability.



Disability and gender-related policy dialogue. Participants of the workshops were the policy makers, implementers and consumers at the local level. Credit: Tribhuvan University

Gender, Disability, and Pandemic:

Understanding intersectional effects on the health and wellbeing of women with disabilities and the role of local government to build a more resilient society

Tribhuvan University, Institute of Medicine

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Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Disaster Risk Reduction: Developing theoretical model for gender responsive resilience and intersectionality

Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)

Bangladesh, South Asia

Abstract

Specific actions were recommended in Dhaka declaration 2015+ for ensuring the meaningful participation, inclusion and leadership of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities in DRM at local, national, regional and global levels through enhancing collaboration among Government, development agencies, UN, NGOs, CBOs, persons with disabilities, DPOs, professionals, active citizens, academic institutions, private sector and other key stakeholders to work together and ensure the effective implementation of inclusion within the Sendai Framework at all levels to reduce vulnerabilities and prevent and reduce the consequences of disasters for persons with disabilities. This action project is designed to Prepare a theoretical model of “Meaningful participation and engagement of persons with disabilities in DRR” in the practice level for ensuring peoples centred approaches to integrate gender responsive resilience and intersectionality for future programming interventions. It will find out and document good practices of Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) in the selected areas of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and prepare a set of recommendations for future programming.

Objectives of the Project

To develop a people-centred model through an effective DiDRR practice for integrating persons with disabilities in Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality.

- 1) To develop and document an Inclusive CRA (Community Risk Assessment) and URA (Urban Risk Assessment) Guidelines:
- 2) To ensure effective participation and engagement of persons with disabilities and women members in different level disaster Management Committees in rural and urban areas.
- 3) To assist selected WDMCs for the development and practice of “Contingency Plan” involving most at risk community focusing intersectionality in the community.
- 4) To document the good practices of DiDRR.



On 25 March, 2023, GRRIPP South Asia signed the contract with the Centre for Disability in Development

Findings:

1. The MoDMR and the DDM were found very much motivated to achieve the goals and targets of the Dhaka Declaration 15+;
2. The women CPP volunteers, who were able to join the response team in an event of a disaster, are making a difference as they are more gender friendly;
3. The elected representatives and the government officials displayed their kin interests for the inclusion of marginalized groups including persons with disabilities;
4. Advocacy efforts of the Self Help Groups of persons with disabilities is making a difference in terms of budget allocation and promotion of disability inclusion on the development programmes of the local government.
5. Use of the CRA/URA and RRAP Guidelines in the field alarmingly low;
6. The existence of contingency plan can be expected but the regular updating was not observed;
7. Effective participation of women is not at the desired level yet;
8. Most of the women elected representative were found having very limited understanding on their role in the disaster risk management;
9. Participation of other marginalized groups were found very low in the disaster risk management process;
10. It was observed that women are being selected and trained to become CPP volunteers, but many of them can't join the response team, when the real situation arises due to non-cooperation of the family members;
11. The CRA/URA and RRAP Guidelines and the contingency plan related issues are not discussed the community level, so most people are not aware about the existence of these tools;
12. It was found that the process review of the CRA/URA and Contingency Plan Guidelines have already initiated by the MoDMR with the technical support of NAHAB. Hence, CDD has taken the initiative to review the revised version and prepare recommendation for making it more inclusive from the lens of gender equality and intersectionality.



The Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) Bangladesh organized a Local Level Validation Workshop at Southkhali Union Parishad and Sharankhola Upazila Parishad, Bagerhat in June under the awarded project.

Recommendations:

- a) To this end, the existing CRA and URA guidelines need to be updated by incorporating relevant instructions, recommendations, and issues related to gender and intersectionality based on the following crucial steps:
- Present gender and intersectionality in the introductory section;
 - Emphasize the significance and relevance of gender and intersectionality in CRA/URA conduction and development of Contingency plan;
 - Define the requisite competencies of facilitators to conduct inclusive CRA/URA and developing contingency plan;
 - Revise participant selection criteria and offer facilitator tips for participant selection to include also transgender, third gender, sex workers ;
 - Highlight measures to ensure physical and environmental accessibility of the vulnerable groups i.e., women, children, elderly, and those with disabilities for active engagement;
 - Update the CRA/URA and Contingency Plan Guidelines execution plan with incorporation of gender and intersectionality;
 - Suggest effective participatory methodologies and tools for collecting and analyzing gender and intersectionality related data;
 - Include a discussion checklist inclusive of gender and intersectionality issues;
 - Provide facilitators with instructions for adapting specific participatory methodology tools;
 - Integrate need-based recommendations into the sequential steps of CRA and URA;
 - Include data processing and analysis issues;
 - Revise the structure of the CRA and URA planning template to align with the Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction.
- b) There should be a regular process to keep the Self Help Groups of persons with Disabilities to remain functional and provide capacity enhancement support;
- c) Intensive efforts must be given to enhance the capacity of the elected women representatives;
- d) Family counseling should be conducted at the family level, so that women CPP volunteers are able to participate in the disaster response activities;
- e) Concerned officials should take initiatives to discuss about the CRA/URA and Contingency Plan Guidelines at community level at least two times a year.

Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Disaster Risk Reduction: Developing theoretical model for gender responsive resilience and intersectionality

Centre for Disability in Development

A project funded by 'Gender Responsive Resilience & Intersectionality in Policy & Practice' (GRRIPP) - Networking Plus Partnering for Resilience' a UKRI Collective Fund award



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Reimagining Disaster Pedagogies: Towards Gender-Transformative, Socially Inclusive & Intersectional South Asian Didactics

Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP)

Bangladesh, South Asia

Abstract

In the first phase, a certificate program on disaster risk reduction, humanitarian response and intersectionality was offered alongside preparing a master's curriculum on the aforementioned topics. To this effect, several national & regional level consultative activities were organized.

In the second phase, we wish to strengthen perspectives on gender, social inclusion and intersectionality in Disaster Management HE curriculum in Bangladesh. These will be completed through one national and four local (at university level) workshops and a development of a module to infuse gender pedagogy in curriculums of technical and social science disciplines across four universities from Bangladesh. The project also intends to organize a knowledge sharing workshop in Nepal to not only validate the tools and techniques used in the process but also to ensure a mutual exchange of knowledge. This symposium would enable knowledge transfers as well as facilitate critical discussions on integrating gender, intersectionality, and social inclusion perspectives in regional DM curriculum across universities situated in different parts of the country.

As a culmination of learnings, the proposers of the module so developed would take into account the regional learnings on gender and disaster experiences; this would include one robust module on gendering DM technologies; it will be supported by contemporary regional literature on disaster and climate change as well as pedagogical approaches to impart such critical perspectives on gender, social inclusion and intersectionality. Finally, and in order to strengthen institutional and regional bonds, the chosen knowledge partners will jointly develop a plan to integrate gender and intersectionality in their curriculums.

Objectives of the Project

Infusing gender consciousness in disaster pedagogies, education, and research in the South Asian region through a robust training module for enabling top-tier universities from Bangladesh to revisit their curriculums taking into account regional learnings and experiences on Disaster Management.



A two-day workshop was organized in Nepal in 18th and 19th August 2023 as a project activity.

Project Activities

Prepared a comprehensive Training Module



In consultation and validation from the Subject Experts



Trained **11** Faculty members from **04** reputed public universities of Bangladesh



The trained faculty members, consulted/trained **100+** students/practitioners, faculties across the 4 university regions



04 universities implemented a range of activities



The **4** universities organized **04** separate dissemination events



5 Products produced as Project Outcome

1. Curriculum Development Team

Reimagining Disaster Pedagogies: Towards Gender-Transformative, Socially Inclusive and Intersectional South Asian Didactics

2. Bangladesh Open University

Certificate Program on Gender, Intersectionality and Disaster Risk Management

3. Barishal University

Curriculum Development on Introduction to Humanitarian Response Management and Intersectionality

4. Begum Rokeya University

Certificate Program on Gender, Intersectionality and Disaster Risk Management

5. Jashore University of Science & Technology

Certificate Program on Climate Change and Intersectionality

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