



Disaster & Gender Concerns

Objectives of the Course:

Disaster studies rests on the social fact of gender being a primary organizing principle of societies and the conviction that gender must be addressed if we are to claim knowledge about all people living in risky environments. Theoretically, researchers in the area are moving toward a more nuanced, as well as a comparative approach that examines gender relations in the context of other categories of social difference and power such as race, ethnicity, nationality, and social class.

Disaster studies bring to surface richer appreciation of inequalities and differences based on sex and gender. As the world learns from each fresh tragedy, gender relations are part of the human experience of disasters and may under some conditions lead to the denial of the fundamental human rights of women and girls in crisis. In various phases of disaster occurrences as well as post-disaster rehabilitation, women can act as engines of recovery not only in terms of disaster responses but also as ones who can help to keep the fabric of society intact. Since crises present an opportunity to break-down gender barriers and as coping prompts men and women to step out of their traditional places, unequal pre-disaster gender roles can be changed. Despite such potentially positive roles, much of the policy interventions exclude women. The course proposes to systematically highlight gendered inclusions/exclusions at various stages of disasters, their occurrences, disaster preparedness and pre and post relief management.

Learning Outcome of the Course:

The course would acquaint the students with gendered vulnerabilities and gendered exclusions happening in disaster studies. The students would be exposed to the coping and managerial capabilities and potentials of women in dealing with various aspects of disasters. Select case studies would be introduced, highlighting proactive inclusion of women and the successful outcomes thereof as pointers to framing of appropriate policy and implementation. The course will inculcate clarity to improve application of the legal framework to support issues of gender equity and to help in rebuilding lives of devastated regions.

Course Contents

Unit 1: Gendered Vulnerability in Disasters

Understanding nature and scope of the social construct of Gendered Vulnerability in Disasters

Unit 2: Gender dimensions in Relief and Rehabilitation

Inclusion of Gender into post disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction of devastated regions. Capacity building measures in terms of confidence building, self-respect, self-esteem, selfdependency, mutual support and trust and the rebuilding of communities. Community Participation, altering the gender stereo type images during post-disaster rehabilitation.

Unit 3: Best practices of gender in disaster policies

Learning gender relations as a part of human experience of disasters and leads to a blending together the fundamental human rights of women and girls during a crisis.

Unit 4: Disaster, Women's Work & livelihood Issues

Basic understanding into women's work around the household, formal work on the job and within their neighborhood, contribution to the social construction of daily life under extreme and routine conditions. Capturing women's work dimensions and magnitude in terms of their contribution in daily lives.

Unit 5: Psycho-social health care for victims of disasters

Provision of psycho social counselling, and health care facilities for women and children, training of skills and other health care access for the victims

Reading List

Essential Readings:

- Ariyabandu Madhavi Malalgoda, Maithree Wickramasinghe (2005) *Gender Dimensions in Disaster Management: A Guide for South Asia*, Colombo: ITDG South Asia Publication.
- Dutta Mondira (2010), *Capturing Women's Work*, Pentagon Press, New Delhi, Jan 2010
- Enarson E. (1998) 'Through Women's Eyes: A Gendered Research Agenda for Disaster Social Science' *Disasters*, [Volume 22, Issue 2](#), pages 157–173, June 1998
- Enarson E. and Dhar Chakraborty 2009, 'Women, Gender and Disaster: Global Issues and Initiatives', Sage New Delhi.
- Fordham, M. (1998). Making women visible in disasters: Problematizing the private domain. *International Journal of Mass Emergencies Disasters*. Vol. 22, No 2, pp. 126–143.

Suggested Readings:

- Ariyabandu Madhavi M. (2006) Gender Issues in Recovery from the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami: The Case of Sri Lanka. *Earthquake Spectra*: Vol. 22, No. S3, pp. 759-775.
- Bradshaw, S. (2002). Exploring the gender dimensions of reconstruction process post Hurricane Mitch. *Journal of International Development*, Vol 14.
- ----- (2001) "We Want Work": Rural Women in the Gujarat Drought and Earthquake, Quick Response Report #135 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center University of Colorado 482 UCB Boulder, CO 80309-0482
- Fothergill, A., 1996. Gender, risk and disaster. *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*. Vol. 14, pp. 33–56.
- Reddy, S. 2013. 'Clash of Waves: Post Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands' Indos Books, New Delhi).
- World Bank 2013. 'Making Women's Voices Count: Integrating Gender Issues in Disaster Risk Management in East Asia and Pacific'. <http://go.worldbank.org/HA7P1NF0Q0>