

Woman and Water

Agent of Change for a New Culture

Water for Our Future - Post WWF7

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Zelina Z. Ibrahim

Universiti Putra Malaysia

Task Force on Water Security and Sustainable Growth Findings

- that **water resources can play a defining role in economic development.**
 - Water insecurity acts as a drag on global economic growth, and the scale of the challenge that can be monetised is estimated to be in the order of **US\$500 billion annually (excluding environmental risks).**

The Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development, 1992

4 Guiding Principles

1. Fresh water is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment
2. Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels
3. **Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water**
4. Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good

Principle 3

Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water

- This pivotal role of women as providers and users of water and guardians of the living environment has seldom been reflected in institutional arrangements for the development and management of water resources.
- Acceptance and implementation of this principle requires positive policies to address women's specific needs and to equip and empower women to participate at all levels in water resources programmes, including decision-making and implementation, in ways defined by them.

WWF7 Programmes

- Gender Equity for a Water-secure Future – Citizen's Forum. (Pre-conference)
- Women for Water: Agents of change for a new culture of water. (Thematic Process)
- Women for a Water Secure World: Past, Present and Future (Special Thematic Session)

Overall

Low Point

- The little attention paid to women or gender and the low visibility of women and women's perspectives.

High Point

- The quality of a set of recommendations on gender and women, as the main outcome of the preconference .

Citizen's Forum: Enough Safe Water for All

- Business is an important partner for safe water
 - Unilever, WaterAid et al. report “Every woman counts, every second counts”. 200 million hours/day spent by women and children to supply households with the minimum amount of water are lost hours of productivity taken for granted.
 - Armenian NGO & Coca-Cola, women activists implements water safety plans and health related projects.
- Capacity development for women is crucial
 - Cultural and traditional roles of women make them comfortable if they need to lobby or negotiate. These perceptions and preferences turn into barriers for the involvement and participation of women in decision-making at various levels.

Citizen's Forum:

Water for Food

- Water is a key component for food production, processing and access to water at household level fuels women's engagement in diverse food production activities
- Enhance the capacity of the women to cope with unpredictable weather patterns and climate change through supporting women to use water conservatory approaches as well as enhancing their capacity to contribute to conserving water in food production.
- Acknowledge women as equal partners and agents of change in the water sector; strengthen women's participation in policy design, implementation in order to be able to develop effective policies for equity and involvement of major groups; women, youth at all levels.

Citizen's Forum:

Women Leadership in Water

- Capacity building of leadership skills in women can increase their participation in decision making at all levels of the water chain.
- Have affirmation action for girls especially those from rural areas and increase their access to education.

Citizen's Forum:

Adaptation to Change: managing risk and uncertainty for resilience and disaster preparedness

- Support for women is the key in responding to building resilience to disaster and uncertainty
 - community-based owner-driven reconstruction

Citizen's Forum: **Integrated Water Management for Sustainable Development**

- Women should be trained to participate at managerial, scientific and advisory level to ensure integration of women friendly water supply systems

Concluding Message

Not only talk at international conferences but take action in your own country, municipality or village to implement the recommendations

Women for Water: Agents of change for a new culture of water.

Thematic Process

- This High-Level session involved women leaders and representatives from UN bodies, regional political bodies, governments, NGOs and academics.
- They shared their experience and vision on water policies and programs for equitable involvement of women in decision-making and management on water for healthier and more prosperous communities, in view of the agenda post-2015 and the UN objective of gender equality in all sectors of society.
- In a second part of the session, leading scientists, activists and practitioners exchanged ongoing and future actions to improve the role of women in water management and governance.

Global Reality (WEF Nexus)

Inequality of women : longstanding inequalities silence their voices and neglect their needs

1. women fetch for water -> women accumulate knowledge about the location, water quality, preserving method.
2. land ownership: Poverty level of women family head serious due to the lack of ownership of land (World Bank, Blackden & Bhanu, 1999)/ Only 2 % of global private land owned by women(Deda & Rubian, 2004)
3. Energy: more working hours and labour saving
4. Capacity-building opportunity not offered : knowledge and skills that are critical to finding local solutions to environmental challenges.

Sustainable Development Goals 2015 to 2030

- SDG Target 6.2: by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Messages

- We need to foster the involvement of women at all levels in the management and implementation of water policies and programs;
- We need to highlight functioning programmes and tools for women water professionals and civil society actors empowerment for gender equality in water;
- We must confirm commitments, including at the highest level, for involving women for better water governance;
- We must foster women cooperation to build platforms for sustainable growth and social stability for healthier and prosperous communities.

Other Discussions specifically incorporating Women and Gender Issues

- Global Dialogue for Water Security and Sustainable Growth
- Asia-Pacific Water Forum

Global Dialogue for Water Security and Sustainable Growth

Policy Message

- Invest in knowledge, people and partnerships
 - Take special account of social and environmental values associated with water security, such as dignity, equity, environmental integrity, cultural values, and aesthetics.
 - Enable gender balanced decision making processes.
 - Recognise and invest in the value and resilience of ecosystems and the services they provide.

Asia-Pacific Water Forum

Discussion

- Key stakeholders and how to involve them in implementation of solutions
 - **Reshaping social structures** in Asia-Pacific will involve devising gender-sensitive social protections and policies, particularly in rural populations, such as: peeling back the limits girls and women face with regards to their access to education and employment opportunities; and, supporting their vital roles in food production, preparation, processing, distribution, and marketing activities, through for instance easing their access to land and credit.

SMART Implementation of IWRM / Future IWRM in Asia-Pacific

- Seeing Asia-Pacific region, there are issues of 'Too much water' and 'Too little water' due to the geographical situation.
- The economic growth in the region has resulted in issues of 'Too dirty water' emerging in these decades.
- Also, there are issues of transboundary rivers and aquifers and genders in the region.
- To mitigate and solve these complex situations, IWRM approach is well recognized as a useful tool also in Asia-Pacific region, and many players on IWRM are working very well.

IWRM Approach for Gender and Women

- We must devise gender-sensitive social protections and policies, particularly in rural populations, related to water management
- We must support women's vital roles in food production, preparation, processing, distribution, and marketing activities
- The IWRM approach is well recognized as a useful tool for managing gender issues in Asia-Pacific region

The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world

THANK YOU