

## **THEMATIC CLUSTER – E: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUE**

### **Session 1: Gender and Disaster**

#### **A. Introduction**

In the recent years, the upsurge of knowledge and research on ‘Gender and Disaster’, has highlighted the way in which a significant proportion of disaster planning, management and research overlooks gender, despite recognition within the social sciences that there exists a ‘gendered dimension’ to the responses to any social event. Failure to acknowledge this not only runs the risk of overlooking obvious and more subtle needs and priorities that can make all the difference between life and death, but can also diminish the efficiency of disaster responses.

Disasters and their aftermaths mirror the preexisting social inequalities of caste, class, ethnicity, sexualities, disability and age with gender cutting across in all of them. In wake of a disaster, gender relations and issues are generally considered to be irreverent or as a luxury. The differential impact of disasters on men/boys and women/girls and transgender community is not taken into account while responding to the disaster. Resource distribution in a post disaster scenario, which are intended for the entire population of a disaster-affected area, rely on the existing structures of distribution that reflect the patriarchal structure of society, and hence women/girls are marginalized in their access to such resources. Meanwhile, the potential contributions that women can offer to disaster risk reduction around the world are often overlooked and their leadership in building community resilience to disasters is hardly highlighted. This is reflected in the lack of a platform for women in formal disaster management organizations for sharing their needs, experiences and priorities. Gender stereotypes also places stress on men to assume greater responsibilities on account of gendered norms and expectations. Masculinity norms may encourage risky and heroic action during the search and rescue period, debris removal, and reconstruction, and deter men from approaching agencies for assistance and or seeking counseling later. Hence, the differential needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of men/boys and women/girls need to be taken into account while designing any intervention in the pre as well as post disaster scenario.

#### **B. Context**

For the past one decade, research on gender dimensions of disasters, has pointed out the need for looking into the root causes of gender based vulnerabilities of women and men, especially of women, because they are more disadvantaged due to patriarchal social structures, which affects them adversely in both development and disaster contexts. Research has also pointed out the significant gap in integrating gender perspectives in planning, implementation and evaluation of the disaster management processes. Mainstreaming gender in disaster management allows for a more accurate understanding of the post disaster scenario ensuring that the disaster survivors are acknowledged, their needs and capacities are taken into account, thereby, facilitating the

design of more appropriate and effective disaster response and mitigation. The attention has also been drawn to the silence on women's capacities and resourcefulness beyond her traditional role in the domestic domain. It is now recognized that the shift from the concept of vulnerability of women, to the causes which make women vulnerable and focus on their capacities offers opportunities to integrate gender perspectives in disaster management policies and practices at both macro and micro levels.

The Second India Disaster Management Congress is providing a platform where researchers and practitioners shall discuss gender related issues and challenges, deliberate on the gap between theory and practice, illustrate gender mainstreaming strategies and lay a road map for the future.

### **C. Objectives**

The broad objectives of the session are as follows:

1. To illustrate case studies of differential impact of disasters on men//boys, women/girls and transgender community,
2. To highlight the role of women in disaster response and mitigation,
3. To provide an overview of the role that can be played by men in mainstreaming gender sensitivity in disaster management,
4. To discuss the challenge posed by gender stereotyping in pre as well as post disaster scenario, and;
5. To provide a framework for gender sensitive disaster management.

### **D. Sub themes**

The sub themes of thematic session on "Gender and Disaster" are as follows:

1. Differential impact of Disasters
2. Transgender community in Disasters: Issues and Challenges
3. Gender Stereotyping and Disasters
4. Role of men in Gender Sensitive Disaster Management
5. Role of women in building Disaster Resilience
6. Framework for Gender Sensitive Disaster Management

### **E. Expected Outcome**

The session is expected to deliberate and collate knowledge on varied aspects of gender and disasters including the differential impact of disasters on men/boys, women/girls & transgender community, challenges faced due to gender stereotyping in disaster management, role played by women in disaster response and mitigation, role that can be played by men in mainstreaming gender in disaster management and developing a framework for gender sensitive disaster management. The outcome of this session would include compilation of papers on the subject and to chalk out concrete recommendations on how to effectively integrate gender concerns in the policies and practices of disaster management.

## Session Plan: Gender and Disaster

5<sup>th</sup> November, 2009

10:00am-1:00pm

Time	Session	Resource Person	Topic
10:00- 10: 05am	Welcome	Ajinder Walia	Welcome address
10:05: 10:10 am	Introduction	Chaman Pincha	Introducing Key speakers
10:10-10:20 am	Key Speech/Talk (International Invited Speaker 1 )	Susanna Hoffman	From Victim to Victor: Gender and Disaster around the Globe: Accomplishments and Challenges
10:20:10:30 am	Key Speech/talk (International Invited Speaker 2)	Sarah Bradshaw	Man, Masculinities and Disasters: A Global Overview
10:30- 10: 40am	Key Speech/Talk (National Invited Speaker)	N Hari Krishna,	Gender Mainstreaming: Humane Gaps in Humanitarian Assistance
10:40-10:50 am	Discussion	Participants	
10: 50 -10:55 am	Structure of Presentations	Ajinder Walia	
<b>Theme 1 : Global Perspective</b>			
10:55 -11: 05am	Paper 1	Yoko Saito	Gendered CBDRM in the context of Regional Development
11:05 -11:10 am		Participants	Discussion
<b>Theme 2: Case Studies</b>			
11: 10:11:20am	Paper 2	Simin Saedi	Bam Earthquake through the gender lens
11: 20-11: 30am	Paper 3	Shalini Mitra	Role of Caste and Gender in the Context of a Natural Disaster: A Case Study of Super Cyclone in Jagatapada, Orissa
11:30-11:40 am	Paper 4	Minakshi and P.C Joshi	The Ideal Vs. Actual Of Domestic Violence in Post-Disaster Situation: The Efficacy Of Questionnaire As A Tool

11:40-11:50 pm	Paper 5	Jorge Caravotta	Reproductive Health Rights of Women: A Case for Maternity huts for Pregnant Women in Relief Camps
11:50 -12:00 noon		Participants	Discussion
<b>Theme 3: Gender Mainstreaming in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)</b>			
12:00-12:10pm	Paper 6	Ancila Bere & Tanty S Thamin,	Gender mainstreaming in DRR: Approaches towards building resilient communities
12:10-12:20 pm	Paper 7	Smita Kadam,	Empowering and Mainstreaming Women for reducing risks from disasters and climate change: : A Case Study of Mumbai Slums
12:20-12:30 pm	Paper 8	Samir Das Gupta	Gendered ways of Combating Disasters: Role of Grassroots Women
12:30-12:40 pm	Paper 9	Nibedita Ray-Bennet	Gender & Disaster: Towards a feminist Approach
12:40 -12:50 pm	Discussion	Participants	
12:50 – 1:00 pm	Key Recommendations	Chaman Pincha	