

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

XV National Conference on Women's Studies

Sub-theme:10

Climate Change and Women – Impact and Issues of Adaptation

Climate change is transforming countries the world over. The nature of risks confronting people's lives and livelihoods are becoming more unpredictable. In India, the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) highlights that the impacts of climate change could prove particularly severe for women. Increasing scarcity of water and reduction in yields of forest biomass, are likely to affect women more, as they are traditionally responsible both for water collection and use, and biomass collection for cooking, in rural households. With the possibility of decline in yields and availability of foodgrains, on account of rainfall variability as well as changes in temperatures, the threat of malnutrition, and related health risks, may also increase. While this is likely to affect all poor households, especially those dependent on farming, women's workloads for ensuring household reproduction may be higher, with additional risks to their health. Adapting to climate change then requires a better understanding of the mechanisms for access and control over natural resources that can ensure climate sensitive resource management, attention to gender relations, including male contributions to adaptation, whether through migration, other productive contributions or support with reproductive work, governance, especially in the provisioning of basic services and infrastructure, and the enhancement of basic capabilities, including appropriate knowledge and technology.

The scientific evidence of climate change for example in decline in agriculture production, repeated disasters occurrence and temperature rise, forest depletion etc needs to be understood from the social and gender lens.

This subtheme seeks to discuss the impacts of climate change on health, socio economic conditions particularly on women. The risks and vulnerabilities that women face in the context of climate change is to be understood so that the national and state specific climate change action plans address these risks. Policies on livelihoods, resource management , agriculture, social protection are inter linked to climate change. Women's participation in policy making as well as gender sensitivity of the action plans and policies is crucial, which need to be analysed. Adaptation strategies, coping mechanisms and approaches of mitigation will be discussed. The cross cutting aspects of scientific and social knowledge will be the basis of discussion.

Fields such as women's studies, sociology, political science, economics and anthropology are central to understanding how people and societies comprehend and respond to climate change along with environmental, ecology and other scientific disciplines.

This subtheme seeks papers to discuss the following:

- Gender dimensions of climate change impact - health, social, economic
- Risk and vulnerabilities in the context of climate change
- Gender analysis of policies (climate change, resource management and social protection, in particular) and legal framework : International, National
- State initiatives on climate change, governance and women's participation
- Adaptation strategies and coping mechanisms
- Migration and climate change
- Linking the evidence of climate change to the social indicators

Convenors:

Amrita Patel,
Sansristi,
Bhubaneswar

Nitya Rao
University of East Anglia,
UK

Email: iawscclimatechange@gmail.com