ENCOUNTERING GENDERED SPACES IN CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DISCOURSE IN INDIA

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Climate change is a global phenomenon affecting all people. It has created enormous challenges in the global negotiations but in spite of an existing precarious political situation and significant challenges between the countries of the north and south, gender is no longer an inconsequential issue but is mainstreamed in most international climate treaties and State policies. In the United Nations, where the dialogue on women's inclusion in climate change takes place, gender has been continuously reconstructed.







The enquiry of this study has been to contextualize gender within the Indian policy discourse on climate change in the backdrop of India's commitment and endorsements to international conventions. The Indian National Communication (NATCOM) to UNFCCC, Intended Nationally Determined Contribution commitment and the statements at the COPs have been analysed along with the Indian policies relating to environment, climate change and disaster management to locate the gender aspects in the policy discourse.



Enquiry: Contextualize gender within the Indian climate change political system.

Bases: Feminist assumption that a policy must be equal, just and environmentally sustainable.

Study: How the international gender discourse has shaped the political aspects of climate change policy in India.

DISTINCTIVE MENTION OF MEN AND WOMEN **EQUALITY WOULD MEAN BETTER COPING MECHANISMS AMONGST WOMEN** TRAJECTORIES 2009: 44TH SESSION OF CEDAW - EXPRESSED ITS CONCERNS ABOU **CLIMATE CHANGE.** IT SUGGESTED THAT POLICIES SUPPORT GENDER EQUAL STRATEGIES IN USE AND CONTROL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING WHICH ENHANCE A NATION'S CAPABILITY IN DISASTER REDUCTION, MITIGATION AND INTERNATIONAL AND INDIA ADAPTATION IN CLIMATE CHANGE BE ADOPTED. 2001: COP 7, MARRAKECH, MOROCCO 2006: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY (NEP) RECOGNIZED INDIA AS A SIGNATORY IS MANDATED TO RESPOND TO CEDAW RESOLUTIONS STATE PARTIES AGREED ON THE **FIRST TEXT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND GENDER CONCERNS:** OUTLINED THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING IN THE BARRIERS THAT LIMIT WOMEN'S CAPACITY AND PROMOTED THE CONCEPT CONVENTION (DECISION 36/CP.7 IN UN FCCC, 2001). INDIA SUPPORTS THE DECISION THAT WOMEN NEED TO BE INCLUDED IN DECISION-MAKING ROLES Gender Index on Environment has ranked 46 of 72 countries in which India fell in the third or weakest section in fulfilling gender demands (IUCN 2013). GENDER 2016 : INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (INDCS) WITH TARGETS AND GOALS TO 2014 : COP 20/ CMP 10, LIMA, PERU - THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT ON GENDER REDUCE EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES (GHGS) THAT CAUSE GLOBAL WARMING "LIMA WORK PROGAMME ON GENDER" . INDIA UNVEILED ITS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE WHICH MENTIONED THE **INDIAN COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT** COMMUNICATED TO J GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT UNFCCC IN ITS INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION FOR THE PERIOD 2021 TO 2030 2012: COP 18/CMP 8, DOHA, QATAR - RESOLUTION AT DOHA ON GENDER BALANCE. CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RESPONDED THAT IT HAD PROMOTED GENDER EQUALITY WITHIN THE COUNTRY THROUGH POLICIES ON GENDER BUDGETING, NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATION AND THE NATIONAL MISSION FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN 2010. THE DOCUMENT IMPLIED THAT IF GENDER EQUALITY WAS INCLUDED IN THE LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRY, THE COMMITMENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL WOULD BE CONVERTED TO GENDER BALANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION AT THE GROUND OF THE TOTAL INDIAN DELEGATES IN CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS FROM 2008 TO 2015 ONLY 13 I.E. 2% WERE WOMEN AND ONLY TWO WOMEN WERE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS. (WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION 2016). 2012 : INDIA'S SECOND REPORT TO UNFCC - PROVIDED MORE SCIENTIFIC DATA AND VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS AND PAID ATTENTION TO ADAPTATION INCLUDING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND WATER. THIS COMMUNICATION IDENTIFIED **VULNERABILITY**, WHICH INCLUDED **FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS** THAT LACK ACCESS TO LAND AND VITAL SOCIAL NETWORKS IN THE COMMUNITY. IT FURTHER RECOGNIZED THAT THE SUBJUGATION OF WOMEN RESULTS IN FEWER OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCESS HEALTH 2015 : COP 21/CMP 11, PARIS, FRANCE - GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE POLICY STILL REQUIRES FURTHER STRENGTHENING IN ALL FACILITIES AND EDUCATION MANIFESTING IN A HIGH LEVEL OF VULNERABILITY AMONG ACTIVITIES CONCERNING ADAPTATION, MITIGATION AND RELATED MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION (FINANCE, TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER AND CAPACITY-BUILDING) AS WELL AS DECISION-MAKING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE POLICIES INDIA ANNOUNCED A COUNTRY FOCAL POINT BUT NO DECISION ON A GENDER FOCAL POINT AS SUGGESTED BY



UNFCCC

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

- INCREASING SCARCITY OF WATER IN SEVERAL PARTS OF ODISHA AND ALSO THE REDUCING YIELD OF BIOMASS, INCREASED RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH ESPECIALLY DURING THE PERIOD OF PREGNANCY THERE IS A ROLE OF WOMEN TO AUGMENT SOCIAL CAPITAL AND MAKE THE COMMUNITY MORE RESILIENT THROUGH THE SERVICES OF THE WOMENS' SELE HELP. GROUPS (SHG).

SECTORAL ISSUES & PROGRAMME OF KEY PRIORITIES

HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON BOTH ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION ASPECTS:

- ADVOCACY AND SENSITIZATION OF POLICY MAKERS, MASSIVE GENERAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS, SENSITIZATION OF THE HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS (ANMS, ASHA, AYUSH, DOCTORS, AWW), STRENGTHENING THE CURRICULUM OF ANMS, HEALTH WORKERS & PARAMEDIC STAFF, RECOGNIZING GENDER ISSUES, PROMOTING HEALTH INSURANCE FOR

STRENGTHENING APPROACHES TO DEAL WITH HEAT WAVE CONDITIONS EXACERBATED DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

- ...HEAT WAVES POSE RISK OF DEATHS, DISEASE AND INJURY. THE RISK TO VULNERABLE GROUPS SUCH AS INFANTS, ELDERLY, PREGNANT WOMEN, DISABLED, FARM LABOURERS AND INDUSTRIAL & CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE VERY HIGH...

CONCLUSION

BY THE TURN OF THE THREE DECADES OF GENDER EQUALITY ADVANCEMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE, A SHIFT HAS BEEN NOTICED IN THE INDIAN POLICY STANCE, THERE IS RECOGNITION THAT THE FAILURE TO LINK POLICY OF CLIMATE CHANGE TO GENDER COULD PUT WOMEN AT HIGH RISK BUT CONSIDERABLE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE IN BOTH CONCEPTUALIZATION AND ALSO ENACTING GENDER SENSITIVE ACTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A BI-DIRECTIONAL APPROACH: A: WOMEN AS EXPERTS AND B: BUILDING THEIR CAPACITY.
- A MONITORING MECHANISM TO STREAMLINE GENDER INTEGRATION FROM THE NATIONAL TO LOCAL LEVEL. INCREASE IN BUDGET ALLOCATION AND BETTER PLANNING TO FOCUS ON GENDER TRANSFORMATION.
- IV. A GENDER FOCAL POINT AT THE NATIONAL (INDIA) AND STATE (WITHIN INDIA) LEVEL TO ENSURE THAT GENDER GOALS ARE IDENTIFIED AND APPLIED
- MINIMUM QUOTAS FOR WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING BODIES SO THAT GENDER BALANCE IS MAINTAINED.
- VI. LIVELIHOOD: AS MOST POOR WOMEN ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE. THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN TERMS OF PROVISIONS FOR ENHANCING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AS WELL AS INFORMATION REQUIRES INTENSIVE STRATEGIC PLANNING.

- CLEAR GENDER MAINSTREAMING POLICY PLANNING SO NOT ONLY WOMEN'S VULNERABILITY BUT ALSO THEIR DECISION MAKING CAPABILITY IS RECOGNIZED.
- MIGRATION IS LINKED VERY CLOSELY TO CLIMATE CHANGE. THERE IS A NEED FOR A SPECIFIC POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION INCLUSIVE OF GENDER.

RESEARCH:

THE CONCEPT OF VULNERABILITY HAS CHANGED AS IT IS NO LONGER UNILINEAR. A LIMITED VISION WHERE CHANGE IS IMPOSSIBLE. THIS NEEDS FURTHER RESEARCH, THE POTENTIAL AND CAPACITY OF WOMEN TOWARDS ADDRESSING ISSUES OF CLIMATE CHANGE HAVE TO BE UNDERSTOOD,

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