

Intersection 2025

SOCIAL NORMS • GENDER EQUITY • CLIMATE ACTION

TECHNICAL BRIEFS

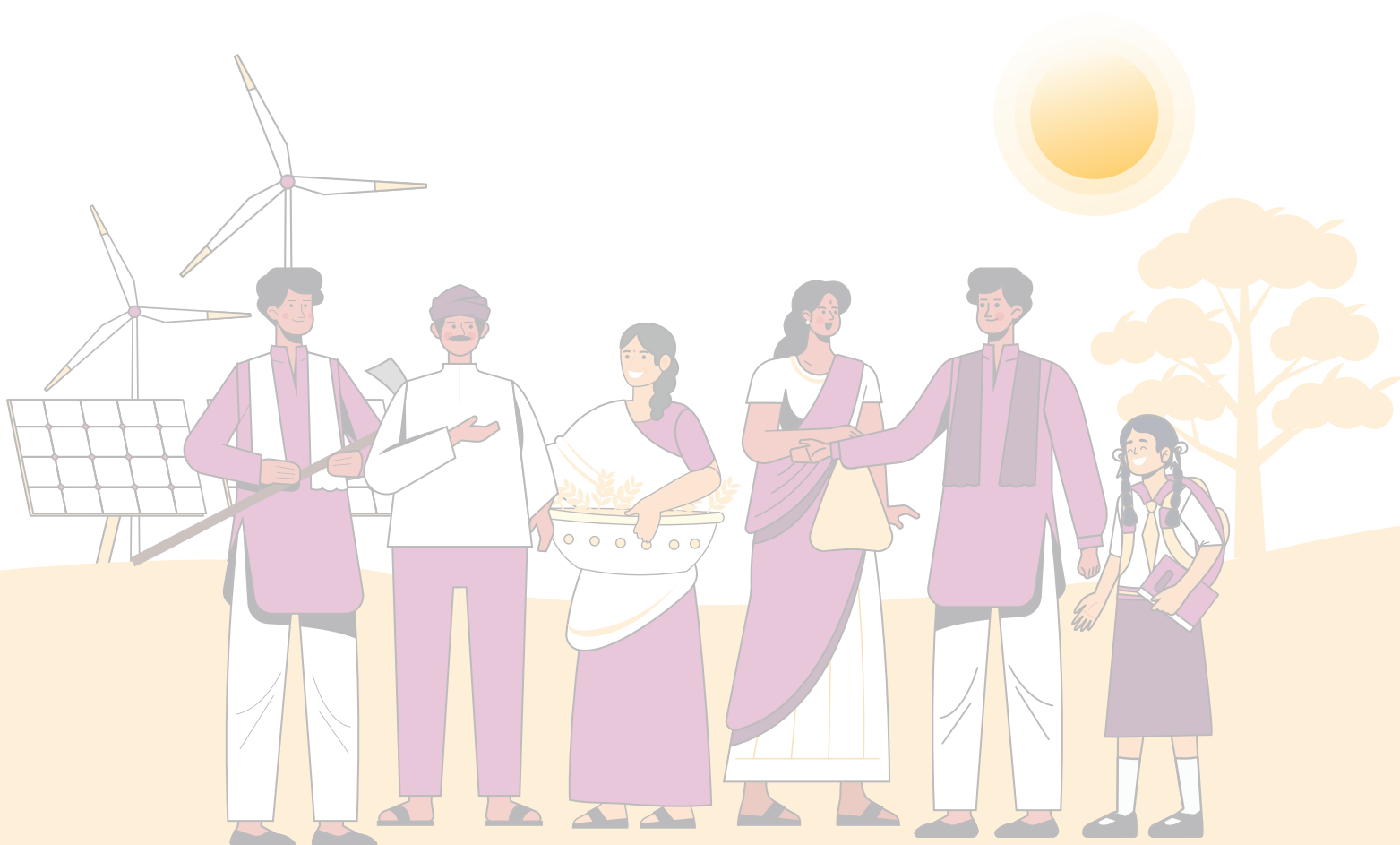


Cover Illustration

Rashi Srivastava

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Acknowledgment

This book is the culmination of collective efforts, thoughtful guidance, and unwavering support from individuals and institutions committed to advancing the intersection of gender, social norms, and climate action. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to this important endeavour.

We are deeply inspired by the leadership and vision of Indrajit Chaudhuri, Chief Executive Officer & Country Director, PCI India, whose guidance has been instrumental in shaping this initiative. Your unwavering commitment to equity and resilience continues to motivate us.

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To everyone who has been part of this journey, thank you for your unwavering belief in the power of knowledge, partnership, and action to create a more equitable and resilient future.

– Team SA-SNALC

About SA-SNALC

The South Asia Social Norms & Agency Learning Collaborative (SA-SNALC) is a collaboration of institutions and individuals who are researchers, practitioners, and enthusiasts working in the domain of social norms. It serves as a platform to facilitate discourse on social norms that can help address deeply rooted gender inequities.

Apart from South Asia, there are also regional LCs in Eastern Africa, Anglophone West Africa, Francophone West Africa, and Global (based in US). The LCs are supported by various donors, including BMGF, USAID, etc. The South Asia Learning Collaborative was set up in 2021 and has been hosted by PCI India since then.

Today, it has 300+ members across the spectrum of development from diverse fields & sectors including:

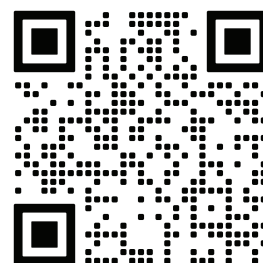
- **Practitioners (grassroots, national and international)**
- **Funders/donors**
- **Researchers**
- **Academicians**
- **Students**
- **Representatives of community voices, etc**

SA-SNALC has members from various nations in South Asia region, including India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, and so on. This is not just a platform for deliberations, but it brings together opinions of all members. Its primary objectives include:

- Facilitate cross-learning and networking
- Support evidence-based interventions
- Contribute to global policy development
- Organize events
- Bridge capacity

To facilitate cross-learning and keep the collaborative engaging where all members can actively contribute and learn, SA-SNALC places thrust on multidimensional communication with a host of:

- Webinars
- Critical Conversations that capture voices across the spectrum
- Training and capacity building (both virtual and in-person)
- Technical Briefs
- Blogs
- Case Studies
- Research Articles
- Monthly meets
- In person events, such as Intersection and workshops, and so on



Scan here to know more about SA-SNALC and participate in various events and discourses

Message

In a world facing intersecting crises, the interplay between gender, social norms, and climate action holds immense transformative potential. The book in your hands is a significant contribution to these urgent conversations, offering insights, analyses, and tools to navigate the intricate challenges and opportunities within the South Asian context. This publication is the result of a collaborative effort under the South Asia Social Norms and Agency Learning Collaborative (SA-SNALC), supported by the unwavering commitment of PCI India to fostering equitable and resilient communities.

At its core, this book takes an integrated approach, recognizing that climate change is not merely an environmental issue but also a deeply gendered phenomenon. Women, girls, and marginalized communities often bear the heaviest burden of climate impacts due to entrenched social norms and unequal access to resources and decision-making spaces. Addressing these inequities is not optional; it is essential for achieving sustainable development and climate justice.

The chapters present a rich tapestry of knowledge and strategies. The section on policy review explores existing agricultural schemes and advocates from a gender lens for promoting approaches that amplify the voices and experiences of women. Similarly, the discussion on gender-responsive strategies for building climate-resilient health systems and communities strives to establish a foundation for future discourse.

A glossary of terms related to climate, gender, and social norms enhances clarity and bridges gaps in understanding, thus fostering a shared language for advocacy and action. Additionally, the inclusion of the climate-gender marker — a tool designed to assess and ensure gender-responsiveness in climate initiatives — highlights the importance of accountability and intentionality in programming and policy development.

This book is more than a repository of knowledge; it is a call to action. It challenges policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and activists to rethink traditional paradigms and embrace transformative approaches. It celebrates the power of collaboration, recognizing that collective efforts are the foundation of meaningful and enduring change.

As we navigate the uncertain terrain of a warming world, let this book serve as a guide, a resource, and a beacon of hope. Together, we can dismantle harmful norms, empower communities, and build a future where gender equity and climate resilience are no longer aspirations but realities.

Sushmita Mukherjee
Director - Gender and Adolescent Girls
PCI India

Acronyms

ATMA	Agriculture Technology Management Agency
DAY-NRLM	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GAT	Gender Assessment Tool
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GRAS	Gender Responsiveness Assessment Scale
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MIDH	Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture
MKSP	Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Pariyojana
NITI Aayog	National Institution for Transforming India
NMSA	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
NRLM	National Rural Livelihood Mission
RKVY-RAFTAAR	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WHO	World Health Organization

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Introduction

Climate change poses an urgent global challenge, affecting diverse populations in multifaceted ways. However, the impacts of climate change are not gender neutral. Women, especially those from marginalized communities in the Global South, face disproportionate risks, vulnerabilities, and barriers in adapting to climate change. This is further exacerbated by regressive social norms, which intensify the gender-specific climate vulnerabilities faced by women. Understanding and addressing these differential impacts and integrating gender-responsive strategies into climate action is, therefore, crucial for effective, sustainable, and equitable solutions.

In this direction, this knowledge product has been developed as a resource for practitioners, academicians, policymakers and other stakeholders with an aim to integrate gender perspective into climate change discussions and actions. It focuses on key developmental domains such as gender, health, and agriculture, providing a discussion of the gendered impacts of climate change across these sectors.

This document includes technical briefs that address the specific vulnerabilities and adaptive needs of women, particularly in marginalized communities. It also outlines gender-responsive strategies and practical solutions aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change, with a focus on promoting equitable and sustainable development.

By offering these insights, the knowledge product serves as a tool to guide the design and implementation of policies and norm-shifting interventions that are both gender-transformative and climate-smart. This will empower stakeholders to create more inclusive, effective, and long-term solutions to the climate challenges.

Methodology

The knowledge product was developed through a comprehensive desk review of existing literature, reports, and resources on climate change, gender, and social norms. The review included academic articles, policy documents, published papers, and technical reports from international organizations, NGOs, and governmental bodies. The aim was to identify key concepts, frameworks, and strategies related to gender-responsive climate action.

About the Knowledge Product

The knowledge product aims to address the intersection of climate change, gender, and social norms by providing practical tools and strategies that can guide climate interventions with a gender lens. The contents include:

- i. Glossary: Demystifying climate change with a gender lens:** The glossary is designed to provide an understanding of key climate change terms from a gender-inclusive perspective. It defines essential concepts and offers practical examples, emphasizing the crucial role women play in climate action.
- ii. Gender-Responsive Climate Change Policies related to Agriculture: Opportunities and Challenges:** This document looks at the intersection of climate change, agriculture, and gender in rural India. It highlights the specific vulnerabilities faced by women in agriculture, outlines existing national programs aimed at empowering women, and provides recommendations for integrating gender-responsive strategies into climate policies.

iii. Gender-Responsive Strategies for Addressing Climate Change and Health Challenges: Climate change is not only an environmental issue but also a significant health challenge, particularly for women. Against this backdrop, this document outlines gender-responsive strategies to address the health impacts of climate change, focusing on the unique needs and vulnerabilities of women in the face of climate change stress.

iv. Climate Gender Marker: A Tool to Assess Climate Interventions: This self-assessment tool is designed to support teams in tracking progress, identifying gaps, and adopting transformative approaches that promote gender equality in climate initiatives. It provides a structured framework to evaluate whether programs effectively address the distinct vulnerabilities, roles, and contributions of women and men in responding to climate challenges.

Together, these resources aim to equip stakeholders with the knowledge and tools necessary to integrate gender considerations into climate change interventions and policies. By addressing gender inequalities and shifting harmful social norms, more resilient and adaptive communities can be built that are better equipped to face the challenges posed by climate change.

Glossary: Demystifying climate change with a gender lens

Purpose

This glossary serves as a resource for understanding key climate change terms through a gender-inclusive perspective. By defining essential concepts and providing real-world examples, it underscores the vital role women are playing in climate action. It highlights the need for integrating gender equity into climate action strategies to ensure inclusive, effective, and sustainable solutions for addressing global climate challenges.

Each entry includes a definition of the term that is sourced from credible and authoritative organizations such as the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), International Labor Organization, and so on, for ensuring accuracy and reliability. Following the definition, a gender-focused approach is provided to demonstrate how the concept applies in real-world contexts, particularly highlighting the role of women and the importance of gender mainstreaming in climate action.

Key Terms: Understanding Gender-Inclusivity

1. Behavior Change

Definition: Behavioral change is about altering habits and behaviors for the long term. The majority of research around health-related behaviors (Davis, Campbell, Hildon, Hobbs, & Michie, 2015) indicates that small changes can lead to enormous improvements in people's health and life expectancy. These changes can have knock-on effects on the health of others (Swann et al., 2010)

Gender-inclusive approach: Empowering women to lead local, sustainability initiatives can inspire behavioral change within communities, such as transitioning to clean cooking solutions, reduced reliance on single-use plastics or increased use of renewable energy sources.

2. Blue Economy

Definition: Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem."¹

Gender-inclusive approach: Women make up the majority of the workforce in coastal and maritime tourism and fisheries—key sectors of the blue economy. However, they often hold low-paid, low-status, and poorly protected positions. A significant gender disparity exists in work and pay, with women predominantly engaged in processing roles rather than fisheries management or decision-making. Many women face unequal access to opportunities, resources, financing, market information, technology, training, mobility, and bargaining power. Promoting gender equality in tourism and fisheries has the potential to unlock substantial opportunities for women within the blue economy.

¹ https://www.un.org/regularprocess/sites/www.un.org.regularprocess/files/rok_part_2.pdf

3. Climate Action

Definition: Stepped-up efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-induced impacts, including climate-related hazards in all countries; integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning; and improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity with respect to climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.”²

Gender-inclusive approach: *Women’s involvement in renewable energy projects, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience efforts can help in creating inclusive and sustainable solutions, while promoting gender equality in decision-making processes.*³

4. Climate Adaptation

Definition: Taking action to prepare for and adjust to the current and projected impacts of climate change.⁴

Gender-inclusive approach: *Incorporating Indigenous and local knowledge, particularly that held by women, significantly enhances resilience strategies. Systemic barriers, including discriminatory laws and cultural norms, often debar women from voicing their concern in climate adaptation planning.*⁵

5. Climate Change and Patriarchy

Definition: The intersection of climate challenges and patriarchal systems that limit women’s agency and decision-making in environmental governance.⁶

Gender-inclusive approach: *In regions heavily impacted by climate change, patriarchal systems often restrict equitable participation in decision-making processes related to environmental governance. For instance, while communities may rely on women and marginalized groups for sustainable agricultural practices or water management, these individuals frequently lack access to resources, training, or leadership roles in crafting climate policies.*

6. Climate Finance

Definition: Local, national or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change.⁷

Gender-inclusive approach: *One way in which climate finance can bring in gender equality is by prioritizing adaptation and mitigation projects that yield maximum co-benefits to the vulnerable section, including women. For example, providing access to sustainable energy technologies to women would reduce the drudgery associated with energy production and use, while also contributing to a reduction in their dependency on solid fuels.*⁸

²<https://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/learn-more-about-climate-action#:~:text=Background,Help%20Desk's%20dedicated%20Thematic%20Area>

³https://uncclearn.org/mod/scorm/player.php?a=709¤torg=articulate_rise&scoid=2491&sesskey=WD30moxT99&display=popup&mode=normal

⁴ <https://gca.org/what-is-climate-adaptation/>

⁵<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/women-for-results/womens-empowerment-for-resilience-and-adaptation-against-climate-change>

⁶<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244019825914>

⁷<https://unfccc.int/topics/introduction-to-climate-finance>

⁸<https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/UNDP%20Gender%20and%20Climate%20Finance%20Policy%20Brief%205-WEB.pdf>

7. Climate Justice

Definition: Putting equity and human rights at the core of decision-making and action on climate change. It suggests that the countries, industries, businesses, and people that have become wealthy from emitting large amounts of greenhouse gases have a responsibility to help those affected by climate change, particularly the most vulnerable countries and communities, who often are the ones that have contributed the least to the crisis.⁹

Gender-inclusive approach: *feminist climate justice aims for a world where women, girls and gender-diverse people can flourish on a healthy and sustainable planet.*¹⁰

8. Climate Migration

Definition: The movement of people due to the adverse effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, or resource scarcity.¹¹

Gender-inclusive approach: *In communities affected by climate-induced migration, programs that provide women with skills training and support networks ensure they can adapt to new environments, access employment opportunities, and participate in decision-making processes in their host communities.*

9. Climate Mitigation

Definition: Efforts to reduce emissions and enhance sinks.¹²

Gender-inclusive approach: *Women's participation in clean energy projects, such as solar panel installations and biogas systems, can help reduce emissions while providing economic opportunities to women and empowering them as leaders in climate mitigation.*¹³

10. Climate Resilience

Definition: The ability to prepare for, recover from, and adapt to the impacts of climate change."¹⁴

Gender-inclusive approach: *In regions prone to floods or droughts, women often play a significant role in preparing their communities for extreme weather events by leading early warning systems, organizing evacuation plans, and ensuring the availability of emergency supplies. Their local knowledge and leadership skills help strengthen the community's capacity to recover and adapt to the ongoing impacts of climate change.*¹⁵

11. Community-based Climate Action

Definition: Local initiatives that draw on traditional knowledge and collective action to address climate challenges.¹⁶

⁹<https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/climate-change-matter-justice-heres-why>

¹⁰<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/feminist-climate-justice-a-framework-for-action-overview-en.pdf>

¹¹<https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/environmental-migration>

¹²<https://unfccc.int/topics/introduction-to-mitigation>

¹³<https://www.pwc.in/assets/pdfs/consulting/esg/gender-equality-in-climate-action.pdf>

¹⁴<https://www.c2es.org/document/what-is-climate-resilience-and-why-does-it-matter/>

¹⁵<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212096324000706>

¹⁶<https://niua.in/intranet/sites/default/files/2669.pdf>

Gender-inclusive approach: Women's groups in rural areas often lead efforts towards reforestation or community solar projects, demonstrating the role of social cohesion and norms in effective climate action.

12. Cultural Barriers and Climate Adaptation

Definition: Socio-cultural norms or traditions that impede the adoption of climate-resilient practices or technologies.¹⁷

Gender-inclusive approach: In some regions or in certain societies, cultural norms restrict women's land ownership and participation in household decision making, limiting their ability to implement climate-smart agricultural techniques.

13. Ecofeminism

Definition: A movement or perspective that links the exploitation of nature with the oppression of women, advocating for the interconnected liberation of both.¹⁸

Gender-inclusive approach: Ecofeminist projects may involve women-led reforestation programs that combat deforestation and climate change while empowering women in local communities.

14. Food Security

Definition: Access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food, which is increasingly threatened by climate change.¹⁹

Gender-inclusive approach: Women in agricultural roles often lead to innovations in climate-resilient farming practices that can ensure food security for their communities.

15. Gender Roles and Resource Management

Definition: The socially constructed roles of men and women that influence how resources are used, managed, or conserved.²⁰

Gender-inclusive approach: Women are often primary managers of household water and energy in rural areas, making them critical stakeholder in the adoption of sustainable resource management practices.

16. Gender-disaggregated Data

Definition: Data collected and analysed separately for different genders to understand disparities and inform equitable policies.²¹

Gender-inclusive approach: Gathering gender-disaggregated data on climate impacts helps policymakers design interventions that address women's unique vulnerabilities and contributions.

¹⁷https://agenda21culture.net/sites/default/files/files/documents/en/report_10_-_culture_and_climate_resilient_development_-_en_2.pdf

¹⁸<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23311983.2024.2303200#d1e263>

¹⁹[https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/a4fd8ac5-4582-4a66-91b0-55abf642a400/content#:~:text=%E2%80%9CFood%20security%20exists%20when%20all,World%20Food%20Summit%2C%201996\).](https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/a4fd8ac5-4582-4a66-91b0-55abf642a400/content#:~:text=%E2%80%9CFood%20security%20exists%20when%20all,World%20Food%20Summit%2C%201996).)

²⁰https://eugender.itcilo.org/toolkit/online/story_content/external_files/TA_NaturalResources.pdf

²¹<https://genderhealthdata.org/resource/differences-between-sex-disaggregated-data-and-gendered-health-data/>

17. Gender-responsive Climate Policies

Definition: Policies that actively consider and address the differing needs, opportunities, and roles of all genders in the context of climate action.²²

Gender-inclusive approach: A gender-responsive climate policy might include targeted financial support for women entrepreneurs in renewable energy sectors.

18. Green Jobs

Definition: Decent jobs that contribute to preserve or restore the environment, be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction, or in new, emerging sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.²³

Gender-inclusive approach: Although there are numerous opportunities in green jobs and employment in renewable energy sectors, participation in these is highly gendered and often offers unequal opportunities for women, partly cultural and largely due to women's limited engagement in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) which is needed in technical areas of renewable energy.²⁴

19. Intersectionality (Climate and Gender)

Definition: People are not defined only by their gender, but by other unique and diverse identities as well. This could be a person's race, ethnicity, age, disability, profession, education, marital status, sexual orientation or social group. Groups of people, including women, often face compounding and overlapping forms of inequalities and discriminations based on these multiple and intersecting identities. This is what is referred to as intersectionality.

Gender-inclusive approach: Rural women often face different and distinct impacts to climate change as they have limited access to credit, healthcare and education. Here not only their gender but also their living status in resource poor rural setting further compound their vulnerability. They also rely heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods, such as farming, fishing and forestry, which are extremely sensitive to climatic changes.²⁵

20. Just Transition

Definition: Greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind.²⁶

Gender-inclusive approach: To ensure that women, especially those in rural areas, have equal access to renewable energy technologies and green jobs. This includes providing women with training in renewable energy sectors, such as solar panel installation or energy-efficient technology.

²²<https://unfccc.int/news/five-reasons-why-climate-action-needs-women#:~:text=The%20Gender%20Action%20Plan%20agreed,making%20a nd%20in%20climate%20action.>

²³<https://www.ilo.org/resource/article/what-green-job#:~:text=Green%20jobs%20are%20decent%20jobs,energy%20and%20raw%20materials %20efficiency>

²⁴https://unccelearn.org/mod/scorm/player.php?scoId=2485&cm=4285¤torg=articulate_rise&display=popup

²⁵https://unccelearn.org/mod/scorm/player.php?scoId=2485&cm=4285¤torg=articulate_rise&display=popup

²⁶<https://www.ilo.org/regions-and-countries/europe-and-central-asia/areas-work/enterprises-development/green-jobs-and-just-transition-ea stern-europe-and-central-asia>

21. Loss and Damage

Definition: The irreversible impacts of climate crisis that cannot be mitigated or adapted to, often hitting the most vulnerable communities the hardest.²⁷

Gender-inclusive approach: After a severe cyclone destroys homes in a coastal village, a recovery program ensures that women and marginalized groups are actively included in compensation processes and rebuilding decisions, addressing their specific needs, such as safe housing and access to livelihoods.

22. Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

Definition: Actions that leverage ecosystems to address societal challenges, including climate change, while delivering environmental and social benefits.²⁸

Gender-inclusive approach: Women's participation in mangrove restoration projects can reduce coastal flooding and support sustainable livelihoods.

23. Normative Shifts in Climate Narratives

Definition: Changes in the dominant societal perceptions and discourses around climate change, driven by advocacy, education, and awareness campaigns.²⁹

Gender-inclusive approach: Shifting norms to celebrate women's leadership in renewable energy cannot only challenge stereotypes but also encourage broader societal acceptance for gender equity in the green economy.

24. Social Norms and Climate Change

Definition: Perceived informal, mostly unwritten, rules that define acceptable, appropriate, and obligatory actions within a given group or community. Social norms are learned, sometimes explicitly but often implicitly, and evolve over time.³⁰

Gender-inclusive approach: Women are disproportionately affected by climate change due to social norms that limit their access to resources and decision-making power. However, efforts to shift regressive social norms by actively including women in disaster management can promote gender equity and enhance community resilience.

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²⁷<https://www.wri.org/insights/loss-damage-climate-change#:~:text=%E2%80%9CLoss%20and%20damage%E2%80%9D%20is%20a,and%20ives%20during%20extreme%20floods.>

²⁸[https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-024-01308-8#:~:text=Nature%2Dbased%20Solutions%20\(NbS\),UNEA%2D5%20definition2\).](https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-024-01308-8#:~:text=Nature%2Dbased%20Solutions%20(NbS),UNEA%2D5%20definition2).)

²⁹<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0760/8/1/24>

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Gender-responsive Climate Change Policies related to Agriculture: *Opportunities and Challenges*

Author: Amita Sharma

Introduction

India's rural economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, where women play a crucial role. They make up a significant portion of the rural labor force yet face challenges that make them more vulnerable to climate change. Climate-related impacts—such as droughts and floods are worsening conditions for rural communities, that are affecting livelihoods and food security. For women, these challenges are magnified due to gender-based barriers, thus reducing their opportunities for economic resilience (Sorensen et al., 2018). Addressing the issue requires a gender-responsive approach to both rural development and climate adaptation. National programs targeting rural livelihoods (such as National Rural Livelihood Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act etc.) must integrate gender considerations to empower women as agents of climate resilience while promoting sustainable economic growth.

Key Facts

- 1. Women in Agriculture:** In India, Agriculture employs about 80% of rural women (NITI Ayog, 2022). According to the Agriculture Census (2015-16), 13.9% of agricultural land holders in India were women. However, only 12% of the total operational land holdings were owned by women, leaving them vulnerable to poverty and food insecurity. Despite their major contributions, women's access to land and agricultural resources remains significantly restricted due to socio-cultural norms that favor male ownership. This limits their ability to access credit, inputs, and extension services crucial for climate-resilient agriculture (Jiggins et al., n.d.).
- 2. Climate Change Effects:** Increasing weather variability, crop failures, and resource depletion place additional burden on women, who are often responsible for household food security (Magwegwe et al., 2024).
- 3. Impact of Climate Change on Rural Women:** Women bear the brunt of climate change impacts, as they face increased workloads, reduced agricultural yields, and greater vulnerability to food and water insecurity (Ibid).

Methodology

This review employed a systematic approach to examine the intersection of gender-responsive climate change policies and rural livelihoods in India. A thorough literature search was performed across academic databases (e.g., Google Scholar, JSTOR) and key reports from government ministries and international organizations, such as FAO, IPCC, and NITI Aayog. Sources were selected primarily from the past decade (2010 to 2023), emphasizing India-specific challenges and strategies that enhance rural women's resilience to climate impacts and promote economic empowerment. Selection criteria required that sources address climate change adaptation, resilience, or sustainable rural livelihoods from a gender perspective, while exclusions applied to studies outside India, unless they offered valuable comparative insights. Data extraction focused on key national policies and programs (e.g., NRLM, MGNREGA) and gender-specific challenges and opportunities, particularly regarding rural women's access to resources, finance, and agricultural extension services.

National policies and programs that aim to strengthen women's livelihood opportunities and build climate resilience

Promoting climate-smart rural livelihood opportunities for women necessitates policies that enhance productivity, adaptation, and mitigation in agriculture. National policies align with recommendations by IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), emphasizing effective adaptation strategies such as cultivar improvements, on-farm water management, soil moisture conservation, irrigation, agroforestry, and sustainable land management. These strategies not only improve soil health and increase resilience through diversified production systems but also enhance income sources and productivity. Women's vital roles in various agricultural activities, including crop and livestock production, fishing, and involvement in high-value commercial value chains are recognized in national policies. Against this backdrop:

This review examines how selected national programs from the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development support women's livelihoods, providing valuable strategies for adaptation and potential mitigation within sustainable ecosystems.

a. Ministry of Agriculture – Livelihood opportunities and climate action in the agriculture and allied sectors

The Ministry of Agriculture's initiatives under the National Action Plan on Climate Change emphasize enhancing livelihood opportunities and climate action within the agriculture sector. Key components include the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which promotes integrated farming systems, resource conservation technologies, effective water management, and improved agronomic practices. Programs like the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY-RAFTAAR) and PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana focus on making farming profitable, encouraging agri-business entrepreneurship, and promoting community irrigation, with particular attention to empowering women and marginalized groups. The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) supports micro-irrigation and women's participation in horticulture, while the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) enhances women's roles through targeted programs.

b. Ministry of Rural Development – Livelihood Programs targeting women and their potential for climate adaptation/mitigation

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) aims to alleviate poverty by promoting self-employment and skill development, particularly for poor women in rural areas. Its four-fold strategy focuses on social mobilization, financial inclusion, sustainable livelihoods, and social inclusion. Central to this program are Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which empower women through collective action and financial services. The DAY-NRLM also features the Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), which specifically targets vulnerable women in agriculture, providing them with comprehensive support across the agricultural value chain. By integrating climate action and gender equality into its initiatives, both programs hold significant potential for enhancing women's socio-economic empowerment and leadership in climate action, while improving food and nutrition security at the household and community levels.

c. MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act)

MGNREGA serves as a vital social security program aimed at enhancing livelihood security for rural households through guaranteed work for up to 100 days of unskilled manual labor. The Act mandates at least 33% participation from women, who often account for over 50% of participants, and includes provisions such as crèche facilities and wage parity to encourage their involvement. Women are also prioritized in supervisory roles

and decision-making bodies. MGNREGA primarily focuses on natural resource conservation, agricultural activities, and infrastructure development, all of which are labor-intensive. Incorporating gender considerations into climate-related assessments of MGNREGA can further strengthen its effectiveness.

Insights for Gender-Climate Synergies in Rural Livelihoods

- **Integrate Women's Perspectives:** Government policies on climate-compatible development must address the intersection of gender gaps and pro-poor agendas, ensuring that there is an emphasis on climate adaptation alongside mitigation. Existing vulnerabilities of women and marginalized groups need targeted strategies through models that bridge the climate adaptation gap. Climate knowledge should also be integrated into gender equality curricula and women's development programs to empower women with adaptive capacities.
- **Entry Point Activities:** More targeted and sustained investments are required for engaging women in activities that support ecological sustainability – such as using natural fertilizers, herbal plant knowledge – in order to foster ownership of gender-inclusive climate action strategies.
- **Holistic Appraisal:** Need for comprehensive analysis of women's situations to address inequalities when creating gender-responsive climate strategies.
- **Adopt Climate-Smart Technologies:** Promote technologies that enhance resource use efficiency and improve agricultural output while considering women's needs to avoid exclusion.
- **Upgrade Agri Nutri-garden and Homestead Garden Training:** to use water efficient and organic ways of production which can reduce time and resources incurred by women in growing these gardens.
- **Outcome Budgets (OB):** of programs should be reviewed to identify their potential for empowering women through climate responsive livelihoods and increase the share of women in the gender budget.
- **Operational holding of women** should be used as an indicator of gender equality.
- **Include Women's Context and Barriers:** The recommendations for rural livelihoods need to be based on a more thorough analysis of women's contexts and present barriers that prevail and hinder their participation in skill development, inclusion in skill mapping and access to credit.

Way Forward



Collaborations: Need to strengthen collaborations between partners and networks to improve access, affordability and participation of women in climate response for sustainable communities in India.



Evidence generation: There is a pressing need to encourage more field-based studies and evaluations to assess the co-benefits of climate change adaptation and gender equality in various agricultural initiatives. There is a need for greater intersectional research on key development indicators and their gender implications to help engender climate vulnerability assessment.



Gender representation: There is an opportunity for increased representation of gender experts in institutional frameworks.



Models: Create models of climate smart or climate resilient villages and skill training courses for farmers, including women, present opportunities for research to explore how these initiatives can better integrate gender equality and enhance women's participation in capacity-building efforts.



Gender-responsive assessment: Vulnerability assessment in the agriculture sector needs to acknowledge women's unequal position in agriculture despite their predominant role in it and how this inequality devalues their work, affects their decision-making space, their economic rights and security.

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Gender-responsive Strategies for Addressing Climate Change and Health Challenges

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Overview

Marginalized groups, including indigenous women and gender-diverse populations, face compounded vulnerabilities due to overlapping systems of discrimination. Addressing these inequalities is critical for inclusive climate resilience (UNEP, 2021). Climate change influences health outcomes through direct and indirect pathways, such as extreme weather events, altered disease patterns, and food and water insecurity (IPCC, 2022). Gender roles and inequities exacerbate these effects, as women and gender-diverse individuals often face systemic barriers to resources, healthcare, and decision-making (UN Women, 2020). Climate change acts as a threat multiplier by exacerbating existing inequalities. Women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die in a disaster (UNDP, 2020). Under a worst-case climate scenario, climate change could push up to 158.3 million more women and girls into poverty by 2050 (16 million more than the total number of men and boys) (UN Women, 2023).

Gender-Specific Health Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change is not gender-neutral; it exacerbates existing inequalities and disproportionately impacts women's health and well-being, particularly in low-income and marginalized communities. This section explores the intersection of climate change and women's health through seven critical dimensions: heat stress, vector-borne diseases, reproductive health, mental health, social norms, economic inequities, and intersectionality. These factors highlight how structural inequities, gender roles, and limited access to resources compound the health risks women face in a changing climate.

i. Enhanced Vulnerability of women to heat-related illnesses

Women are more at risk of heat related mortality, as their ability to thermo-regulate is compromised. There are increasing evidences of still births among pregnant women who are exposed to heatwaves. Adverse social norms and gender discrimination further add to their problem (IIPH, 2021). A study conducted by IRADe (2021) in the slums and marketplaces in Delhi (India) also showed that women are extremely vulnerable to the impact of Heat Stress due to their socioeconomic disadvantage which acts as a driving force.

ii. Disproportionate effect on women due to climate change exacerbated Vector-Borne Diseases

Climate change expands the geographical range of diseases like malaria and dengue fever. Gender norms often position women as primary caregivers, increasing their exposure to these diseases. Limited autonomy in accessing healthcare further exacerbates the impact (UNEP, 2021; Jiang et al., 2020). Faramand et al. (2019) highlighted how climate change exacerbates the spread of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue. In a recent study of three districts in India, it was found that 23% or more of maternal deaths between 2004 and 2006 were attributable to malaria, making it the most common cause of maternal death during pregnancy (Kourtis et al., 2014).

iii. Disrupted access to Reproductive Healthcare due to climate change

Changes in temperature, water scarcity, and natural disasters disrupt access to reproductive healthcare. Pregnant women, especially so in Low- and Middle-income countries, are vulnerable to malnutrition and

waterborne diseases during climate-induced crises, posing risks to maternal and neonatal health (Dumbuya et al., 2024; Afzal, et al., 2024).

iv. Increase in Mental Health related challenges due to climate change among women

Climate-induced displacement disproportionately affects women due to their caregiving roles and reliance on local resources. This exacerbates mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, and trauma (IPCC, 2022). White et al. (2023) conducted a global review on the mental health effects of climate change, emphasizing that women displaced by climate events are at heightened risk of depression and trauma due to their caregiving roles and limited access to resources. In the Indian context, the stress of dealing with continuous heatwaves and droughts, coupled with economic hardships and increased workload, can lead to anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. Women, who are often the primary caregivers and providers in rural households, are particularly affected (CSIS, 2024).

v. Increased health risk to women due to economic inequities

Women often lack economic resources, land ownership, and access to credit, limiting their ability to adapt to climate change. This economic vulnerability translates into heightened health risks during climate crises (IPCC, 2022).

Gendered Health Impacts of Climate Change: Case Studies

a. Cyclone Idai in Mozambique (2019):

The cyclone displaced hundreds of thousands, with women disproportionately affected by inadequate shelter and reproductive healthcare. Rates of gender-based violence (GBV) increased, demonstrating the link between climate disasters and social vulnerabilities (UN Women, 2020).

b. Heatwaves in India (2015):

In 2015, a severe heatwave struck India, with temperatures soaring above 47°C (116°F) in some regions, leading to widespread health crises and significant mortality. Among those most affected were female agricultural workers, whose roles often involve prolonged exposure to extreme heat during peak working hours. This disproportionate impact was rooted in both occupational and socio-cultural factors (Ravindra et al., 2024).

c. Floods in Bangladesh (2020):

The 2020 floods in Bangladesh, exacerbated by climate change, displaced millions and disproportionately affected women. The floods left hundreds of thousands of pregnant women without access to healthcare, forcing many to give birth in unsafe and unhygienic conditions. Furthermore, the crisis disrupted access to basic menstrual hygiene products and sanitation facilities, leaving countless women and girls to manage their periods in challenging circumstances (UN Women, 2021).

Strategies for Gender-Responsive Climate and Health Policies

The WHO Operational Framework for Building Climate-Resilient Health Systems provides a strategic approach to enhancing health systems in the face of climate change. It identifies six key building blocks: **leadership and governance, health workforce, health information systems, essential medical products and technologies, service delivery, and financing**. Figure 1 Operational framework for building climate resilient health systems, WHO These components are crucial for ensuring that health systems are equipped to address the increasing health risks

associated with climate change. Additionally, the framework underscores the importance of cross-sector collaboration, particularly with sectors like water, energy, and agriculture, to create a comprehensive, climate-resilient environment. By integrating these building blocks, the framework guides efforts to strengthen health systems, ensuring they are adaptive, sustainable, and capable of mitigating the impacts of climate change on public health.

Given this context, several gender-responsive strategies can be implemented to address the health impacts of climate change on women. These are explained as follows.

a. Building Climate resilience in health systems, nutrition and communities

- **Strengthen the six building blocks of Health systems:**

leadership and governance, health workforce, health information system, essential medical products and technologies, service delivery, and financing (refer to Fig.1). Collaboration

between health systems and sectors impacting health, such as water, energy, and agriculture, is essential.

- **Nutrition and Food Systems:** Enhance the climate resilience of nutrition and food systems through adaptive agricultural practices, technological innovations, social empowerment, biodiversity conservation, and effective governance.
- **Community Resilience:** Communities can build resilience by partnering with health care institutions to assess and address climate vulnerabilities. Health care institutions can use their social, political, and economic influence to help communities adapt to and recover from climate impacts.

b. Strengthening Health Systems:

- Improve access to reproductive health services during and after climate crises (WHO, 2021).
- Train healthcare providers to address the specific needs of gender-diverse populations (UNEP, 2021).

c. Economic Empowerment and Education

- Promote women's access to education and economic resources, enabling adaptive capacity (UN Women, 2020).
- Support community-led initiatives focusing on women and marginalized groups (UNEP, 2021).

d. Model solutions identification that can be taken up to scale

Conduct co-creation workshops with key stakeholders, including community members, policymakers, and



Figure 1: Operational framework for building climate-resilient health systems, WHO, 2015

implementing organizations, to identify potential solutions. Ensure these solutions are aligned with the local socio-cultural context and address the specific barriers to scalability.

e. Stakeholder engagement for building climate resilience in health

Engage stakeholders from health and allied sectors to co-develop programmes that address climate change's root causes while building health system resilience.

Way Forward: Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Adaptation and Health Action

The future of addressing climate-induced health inequities requires a gender-sensitive, intersectional approach to climate and health policies.

- i. **Develop Gender-Sensitive Indicators:** To evaluate the effectiveness of climate and health programs, ensure policies address disparities in access, outcomes, and participation.
- ii. **Co-Design with Affected Populations:** Engage women, gender-diverse populations, and marginalized groups in the co-design of climate adaptation and health initiatives, recognizing their unique needs, knowledge, and experiences.
- iii. **Dedicated Resources for Gender-Responsive Health Systems:** Allocate resources for the implementation of gender-responsive health systems, particularly in regions prone to climate-related health crises.
- iv. **Focus on Intersectional Approaches:** Ensure that global and national climate frameworks address overlapping systems of disadvantage that amplify health inequities.
- v. **Need for collecting more evidence:** Undertake quantitative and qualitative research, particularly gender-disaggregated data, to understand the intersectionality of climate change with other developmental domains.

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Climate Gender Marker: A Tool to Assess Climate Interventions

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Climate Change, Social Norms, and Gender

Climate change affects populations unevenly, with women and marginalized genders disproportionately impacted due to existing social inequalities (Choudhary, 2024). Intersectionality, involving race, socioeconomic status, and other identities, further exacerbates vulnerabilities. Gender-conforming behaviors and unequal resource distribution lead to differential climate impacts on men and women (Bauriedl, 2016). Gender and social norms intersect with climate change, leading to greater vulnerability for women, while women can play a significant role in climate mitigation and adaptation (UNFCCC, 2022).

Societal norms, unequal resource access, and limited decision-making power compound women's vulnerabilities. However, women hold critical knowledge and resilience strategies that enhance climate adaptation and mitigation. A gender-sensitive approach is essential to recognize these contributions and promote inclusive, effective climate solutions (Bryan et al., 2023).

Women, particularly in developing regions, rely more heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods, making them more susceptible to climate-related events such as floods, droughts, and crop failures. Research indicates that women play crucial roles in climate change mitigation and adaptation processes, despite being disproportionately affected by climate impacts (Gicheru et al., 2024). Women act as climate change negotiators, clean technology ambassadors, and climate-smart agriculture advocates (Ibid.). Their extensive knowledge of the environment and resource conservation is valuable for climate action (Ajani et al., 2013). Women's economic empowerment through climate initiatives can foster economic growth, reduce poverty, and increase adaptive capacity (Ibid.). In developing countries, women are often involved in reforestation and forest conservation efforts, though their contributions are undervalued (Ajani et al., 2013). Women's engagement in climate-related activities enhances their understanding of climate change causes and consequences, making them essential in adaptation processes and the search for safer communities (Carvajal-Escobar et al., 2008). Recognizing women's knowledge, skills, and promoting gender equity in climate action is crucial for effective adaptation strategies (Carvajal-Escobar et al., 2008).

The intersection of gender and climate change also highlights the need for targeted solutions that address the specific roles and challenges women face in the context of environmental stress. To address these issues, there is a need for gender-sensitive climate policies, equal representation in decision-making, and the integration of intersectional analysis in climate change studies (Choudhary, 2024; Djoudi et al., 2016).

For example, women often serve as primary caregivers and household managers, roles that become even more critical in times of climate-induced stress. Climate impacts like water scarcity, food insecurity, and the loss of livelihoods disproportionately affect women's ability to provide for their families and communities. By understanding and addressing these gendered impacts, climate policies can be designed to enhance the adaptive capacities of women, helping to break the cycle of poverty and marginalization and the entire process and efforts should be empowering for women by enhancing their agency. Furthermore, women's leadership in climate action

can unlock innovative solutions and promote more equitable and sustainable development outcomes for all. Gender is often a missing element in climate action, despite its critical importance in shaping vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities (Lambrou, 2006). Climate financing mechanisms, for example, frequently lack a gender-inclusive lens, resulting in interventions that overlook the unique needs and contributions of women, men, and people with diverse gender identities. Women in rural areas, who are disproportionately affected by climate change due to their reliance on natural resources and limited access to decision-making, are often excluded from climate solutions. Similarly, rigid gender norms may even prevent men from exploring adaptive livelihoods, further exacerbating vulnerabilities of the larger family and the community.

This highlights the urgent need for climate projects to be gender-responsive and transformative. Projects must not only address immediate climate challenges but also build the agency of individuals across all gender identities, enabling inclusive and empowering adaptation processes. By shifting away from regressive social norms and fostering gender equity, such initiatives can create more resilient and sustainable outcomes for communities. For definitional understanding, "gender equity" involves fairness in addressing unequal outcomes, while "gender equality" focuses on equal treatment and opportunities.

Climate Gender Marker: Advancing Gender Equity in Climate Interventions

What is Climate Gender Marker?

The **Climate Gender Marker** is a monitoring tool designed to evaluate gender integration in climate interventions. Developed by PCI India, it assesses vulnerabilities, roles, and contributions of all genders, aiming for transformative approaches in climate programming. It provides a structured framework to evaluate whether programs effectively address the distinct vulnerabilities, roles, and contributions of women and men in responding to climate challenges.

The tool focuses on five key criteria—**analysis, activities, participation, negative effects, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)**—to guide project teams in designing, implementing, and refining gender-responsive strategies for climate change programming.

Objectives of the Gender Marker

The Gender Marker is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- i. **Ensure Inclusion:** Evaluate the extent to which gender equality considerations are embedded into the design, implementation, and outcomes of climate change programs.
- ii. **Promote Accountability:** Encourage project teams to align with gender equity goals by embedding gender-sensitive and transformative approaches into program planning and execution.
- iii. **Enable Learning:** facilitate reflection and course correction through regular self-assessments to ensure programs adapt to emerging gender-specific needs and priorities.
- iv. **Enhance Impact:** Ensure that programs meaningfully contribute to reducing gender disparities while achieving climate adaptation and mitigation objectives.

How the Gender Marker Works?

Existing tools often fall short in addressing climate-specific sectors such as energy, water, agriculture, and disaster risk management. They frequently miss the opportunity to explicitly link gender equity to outcomes in climate adaptation, mitigation, or resilience. Additionally, current tools may not adequately account for the intersectionality of gender with factors such as age, ethnicity, disability, and socio-economic status in the context of climate vulnerability. Furthermore, there is limited guidance available on tailoring interventions to diverse socio-cultural and environmental contexts.

To address these gaps, PCI India builds on the WHO five-point Gender Responsiveness Assessment Scale (GRAS)¹ and the Gender Assessment Tool (GAT)² and adapting it to the specific needs of climate action and adaptation interventions.

The Gender Marker can be used to rate programs based on a Gender Integration Continuum, resulting in a rating scale of 1-5. A score of "1" signifies programming and its impact are "gender unequal," meaning it reinforces or exacerbates gender disparities. In contrast, a score of "4" and "5" reflects "gender responsive" programming, demonstrating the effective integration of gender mainstreaming into climate solutions. This is explained in further detail as follows.

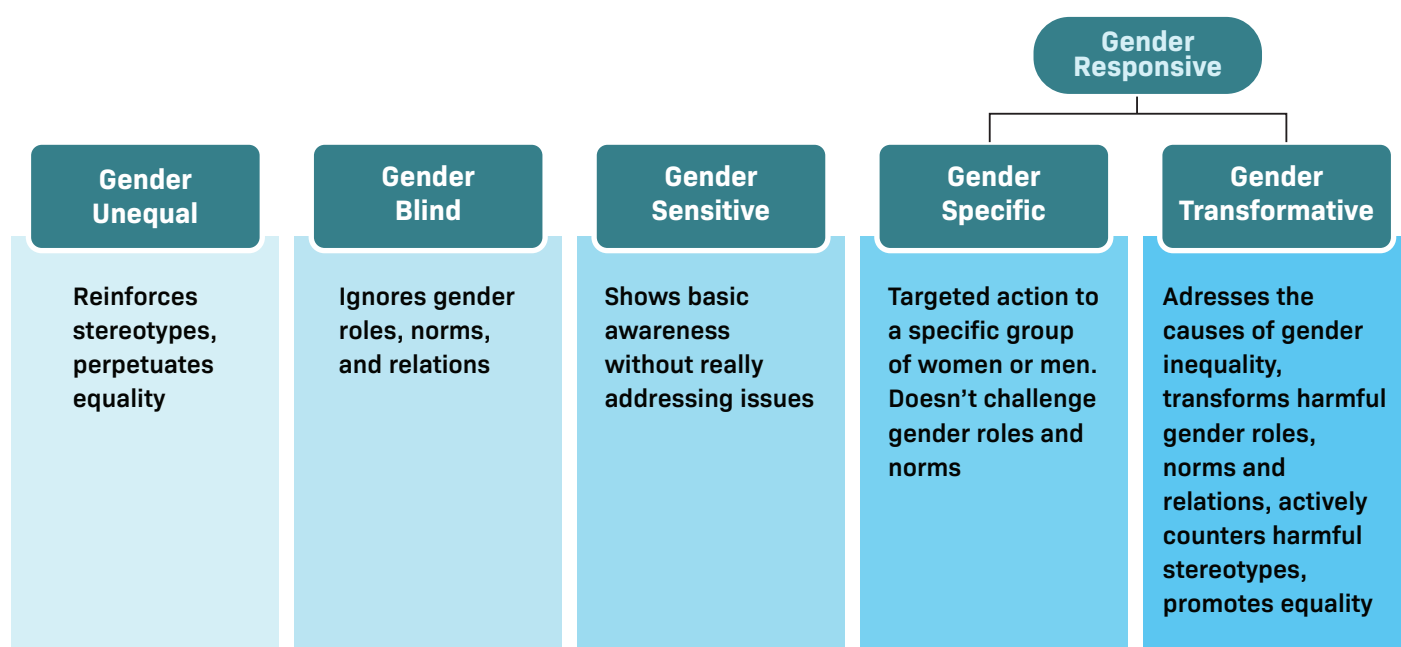


Figure 2: Gender-responsiveness assessment scale (Source: WHO, 2019)

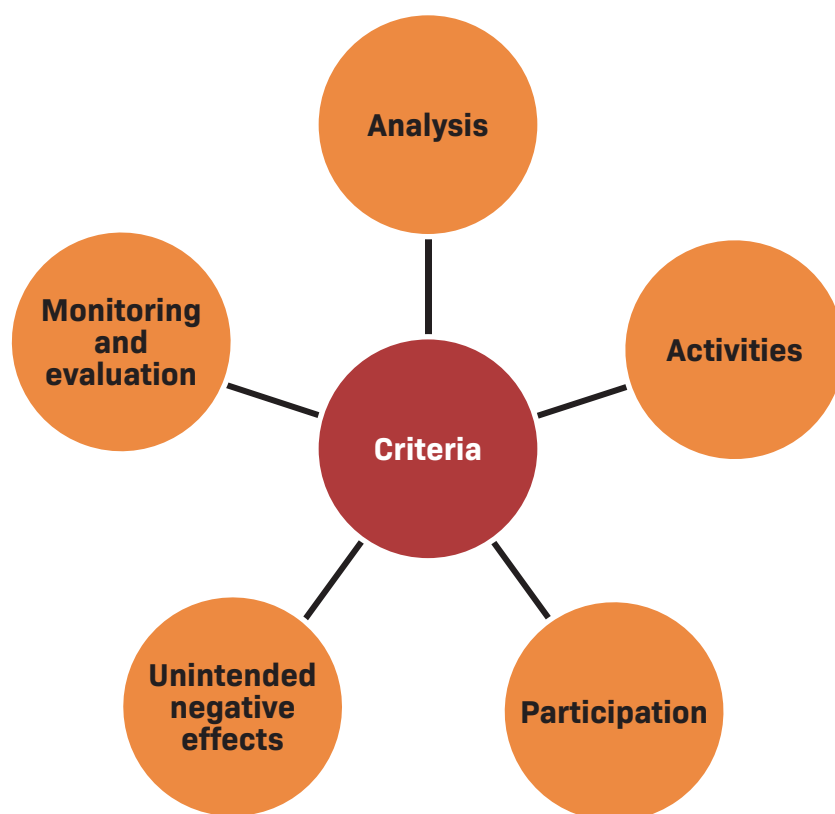
¹<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/360406/9789240049291-eng.pdf>

²<https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/WHO%20Gender%20Assessment%20Tool.pdf>

Table 1 Framework for Assessing Gender Responsiveness in Climate Change Programs

S. No.	Category
1.	<p>Gender Unequal</p> <p>These programs reinforce existing gender inequalities or create new ones, often by ignoring gender dynamics or imposing policies that harm women and marginalized groups.</p> <p><i>Example: A climate resilience project that prioritizes men for leadership roles while excluding women and reinforcing traditional gender roles.</i></p>
2.	<p>Gender Blind</p> <p>Programs in this category ignore gender roles, norms, and relations, assuming neutrality, which often results in unequal benefits or missed opportunities to address gender-specific vulnerabilities and needs.</p> <p><i>Example: A climate finance initiative that does not account for women's limited access to financial services, inadvertently excluding them from funding opportunities.</i></p>
3.	<p>Gender Sensitive</p> <p>These programs recognize gender-specific needs and attempt to address them, they acknowledge gender issues but lacks integration without tackling deeper systemic inequalities or power imbalances.</p> <p><i>Example: A clean energy initiative that distributes fuel-efficient stoves to women but does not address their lack of decision-making power in accessing larger energy resources like solar grids.</i></p>
4.	<p>Gender-specific</p> <p>Programs in this category take targeted actions for addressing gender issues in design and activities for specific groups (e.g., women or men) without challenging broader gender norms or power imbalances.</p> <p><i>Example: An agricultural project that trains women in water conservation techniques but does not address systemic barriers like unequal land ownership.</i></p>
5.	<p>Gender Transformative</p> <p>These programs aim to shift harmful gender norms and create systemic change by actively reducing disparities and empowers marginalized groups to achieve equity and inclusion.</p> <p><i>Example: A policy influencing program that ensures women's participation in climate governance while addressing sociocultural barriers through community dialogues.</i></p>

The framework is to assess where programs fall on the spectrum of gender integration—from gender unequal to gender transformative. Furthermore, there are five criteria: analysis, activities, participation, negative effects, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) on which this tool can assess the programmes. This is explained in detail as follows:



Criteria	Key actions and considerations
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct gender analysis to understand impacts on different groups. Use gender-disaggregated data to assess vulnerabilities, access to resources, and adaptive capacities. Analyze power dynamics and decision-making structures in communities and households.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design activities that address the distinct needs and challenges faced by different gender groups in adapting to climate change (e.g., equitable access to clean energy or climate-resilient livelihoods). Integrate initiatives that empower women and marginalized groups through capacity building, resource access, and leadership opportunities. Ensure that interventions advance gender equity in three dimensions: individual agency, supportive social structures, and equitable relationships.
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guarantee the active and meaningful participation of women, men, and marginalized groups in decision-making processes. Establish mechanisms for transparent information sharing, inclusive consultations, and responsive feedback. Prioritize equitable representation of all genders in community-driven climate actions, governance structures, and policy forums.

Unintended Negative Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proactively identify and mitigate risks of unintended consequences, such as reinforcing gender stereotypes or increasing gender-based violence due to climate stressors. ▪ Apply a “do no harm” approach to ensure interventions do not exacerbate existing inequalities or create new vulnerabilities.
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorporate gender-sensitive indicators to measure progress toward gender equity within climate change programs. ▪ Collect and analyze gender-disaggregated data to track changes in access to resources, participation, and decision-making. ▪ Evaluate whether programs contribute to long-term structural changes that promote gender equality in climate resilience.

Applications of the Climate Gender Marker

The Climate Gender Marker can be applied at multiple stages of a project cycle:

- 1. Design:** Assess whether gender considerations are embedded in the initial planning phase to lay the foundation for transformative programs.
- 2. Implementation:** Regularly evaluate the program’s activities and outcomes to ensure they align with gender-responsive goals and take corrective measures where needed.
- 3. Final Evaluation:** Measure the long-term impact of the program on gender equality and identify lessons learned for future initiatives.

Limitations of the Climate Gender Marker

The Gender Marker has some limitations, these are explained as follows:

- i. Self-Assessment Bias:** Since the tool is self-administered by project teams, there is a potential for grading inflation. Teams may assign higher scores based on self-perception, which may differ from an independent assessment. This could impact the accuracy of the evaluation.
- ii. Context-Specific Variability:** The tool may not account for all local cultural, social, and economic factors, which could affect its applicability across various contexts. It might need adjustments to cater to different regional challenges and the dynamic nature of gender issues in different settings.
- iii. Gender Expertise Requirement:** Grading gender programming necessitates a certain level of understanding of gender dynamics. Therefore, it is recommended that teams undergo basic orientation on gender programming before using the tool.

Check Annexure I on further details around scoring tool for climate gender marker.

Check Annexure II on ideas around integration of gender into climate interventions

Concluding remarks

The Climate Gender Marker represents a critical step toward embedding gender equity and inclusion into climate change-related programs. By providing a structured framework for assessing gender-responsive interventions, this tool holds immense potential for ensuring that climate adaptation efforts are not only effective but also equitable and inclusive.

It serves as a vital resource for accountability, helping ensure that gender considerations are not merely peripheral but central to climate resilience strategies. The use of this gender marker tool will contribute to a more just and sustainable future, where all individuals, regardless of gender, can thrive in the face of climate challenges.

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Annexure I

Climate Gender Marker – the operational guidelines

Sample Questions specific to different stages of climate intervention or programming:

1. Design Stage

Objective: Integrate gender considerations into the initial planning to ensure equity and inclusivity.

Questions to Ask:

- Have we conducted a comprehensive gender analysis?
 - Does it include gender-disaggregated data on climate vulnerabilities, resource access, and decision-making?
 - Does it account for intersectional factors (e.g., age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status)?
- Are the proposed activities addressing gender-specific needs and barriers?
 - Do they empower women and marginalized genders?
 - Do they challenge harmful norms or systemic inequalities?
- How will the project ensure equitable participation in planning and decision-making?
 - Are mechanisms in place to include diverse perspectives, especially from underrepresented groups?
- Have we identified potential unintended consequences?
 - Could the activities exacerbate existing inequalities or create new vulnerabilities?
- Are adequate resources allocated for gender-specific actions (e.g., capacity building, leadership training)?

Checklist:

- ✓ Conducted gender analysis using disaggregated data.
- ✓ Identified gender-specific barriers and opportunities.
- ✓ Designed activities addressing these barriers.
- ✓ Engaged diverse stakeholders in planning.
- ✓ Budget allocated for gender-responsive components.

2. Implementation Stage

Objective: Ensure gender equity during the execution of activities and adapt based on feedback.

Questions to Ask:

- Are all genders actively participating in project activities?
 - Are women and marginalized groups meaningfully engaged in decision-making roles?
- Are resources (e.g., training, funding, technology) equitably distributed?
 - Are there specific efforts to address barriers faced by underrepresented groups?
- Is the project team trained in gender sensitivity and inclusivity?
 - Have they undergone gender programming orientation?
- Are mechanisms in place for monitoring unintended negative effects?
 - How are we addressing issues such as increased workloads for women or risks of gender-based violence?
- Are there feedback loops for participants to voice concerns or suggest improvements?
 - How are these inputs being integrated into ongoing activities?

Checklist:

- ✓ Project team trained on gender-sensitive implementation.
- ✓ Regular monitoring of gender equity in participation and resource distribution.
- ✓ Feedback mechanisms established and actively used.
- ✓ Risk mitigation strategies in place to prevent negative effects.
- ✓ Adaptive measures implemented based on participant feedback

3. Evaluation Stage

Objective: Assess the project's impact on gender equity and extract lessons for future initiatives.

Questions to Ask:

- Did the project meet its gender-specific objectives?
 - Did it reduce gender disparities in resource access, decision-making, or outcomes?
- What was the level of participation across genders?
 - Were women and marginalized groups involved in leadership and decision-making roles?
- Did the project lead to any unintended consequences?
 - How effectively were these addressed?
- Are there visible shifts in harmful gender norms or systemic inequalities?
 - Did the project promote transformative change at the community or systemic level?
- How did gender-sensitive indicators perform?
 - Were they tracked systematically, and what do the results show?
- What lessons were learned about integrating gender into climate interventions?
 - What best practices emerged, and how can they inform future projects?

Checklist:

- ✓ Gender-sensitive indicators tracked and reported
- ✓ Success and gaps documented with disaggregated data.
- ✓ Lessons learned and best practices recorded for future use.
- ✓ Stakeholders consulted on project outcomes and their perceived impacts.
- ✓ Final report includes recommendations for enhancing gender equity in similar interventions.

Suggested checklist for scoring purpose for Gender Responsiveness

1. Gender Analysis (Score: 0-4)

- (0): No gender analysis conducted.
- (1): Limited gender considerations (e.g., only basic demographic data).
- (2): Gender analysis partially conducted but lacks depth or intersectionality.
- (3): Comprehensive gender analysis conducted, identifying key gaps and vulnerabilities.
- (4): Gender analysis includes intersectional factors and informs program design.

2. Design and Activities (Score: 0-4)

- (0): Activities ignore gender differences.
- (1): Gender mentioned but not addressed in activities.
- (2): Activities address gender gaps but lack a transformative approach.
- (3): Activities explicitly aim to reduce gender disparities and empower women/marginalized groups.
- (4): Activities challenge structural inequalities and promote systemic gender equity.

3. Participation and Leadership (Score: 0-4)

- (0): Women/marginalized groups excluded from decision-making.
- (1): Minimal representation of women/marginalized groups in discussions.
- (2): Women/marginalized groups participate but not in leadership roles.
- (3): Women/marginalized groups actively participate and influence decision-making.
- (4): Women/marginalized groups lead decision-making and implementation processes.

4. Mitigating Negative Effects (Score: 0-4)

- (0): Intervention exacerbates gender inequalities.
- (1): Intervention lacks safeguards against negative effects.
- (2): Some measures in place to avoid harm but not consistently applied.
- (3): Effective safeguards ensure intervention avoids harm to vulnerable groups.
- (4): Intervention proactively reduces existing inequalities and prevents harm.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) (Score: 0-4)

- (0): No gender-specific indicators or tracking.
- (1): Minimal gender data collected without specific indicators.
- (2): Gender indicators included but not systematically tracked or reported.
- (3): Gender indicators regularly tracked and inform program adjustments.
- (4): Comprehensive M&E system tracks and reports transformative gender outcomes.

Total Score:

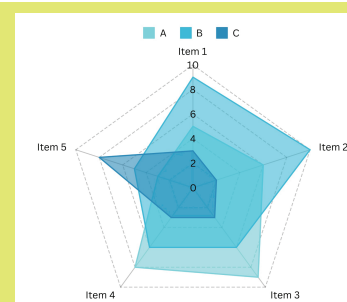
- Maximum score = 20 (4 points × 5 dimensions).
- Use the predefined categories (Gender Unequal → Gender Transformative) to interpret results.
- Adding weightage (optional): If stakeholders feel some dimensions are more critical than others then weightage can be applied to specific dimensions.

Results:

- 0-4 – Gender unequal
- 5-8 – Gender Blind
- 9-12 – Gender specific
- 13- 16 – Gender responsive
- 17-20 – Gender Transformative

A radar chart or scorecard can be included to visually represent scores across the five dimensions (Gender Analysis, Design, Participation, Mitigating Effects, M&E). This helps stakeholders quickly identify strengths and areas for improvement in the intervention.

A radar chart, also known as a spider chart or web chart, is a graphical representation used to display multivariate data across three or more quantitative variables. Each variable is plotted along an axis, referred to as a radius, which radiates outward from a central point. The values of the variables are marked along these radii, and the resulting points are connected to form a polygonal shape. This visual format enables the comparison of different variables simultaneously and highlights patterns or trends in data distribution.



Worked Example: Applying the Climate Gender Marker

Case Study: A Climate-Smart Agriculture Project

A project aims to promote climate-smart agricultural practices in a rural community.

Step 1: Evaluate Each Dimension

- **Gender Analysis (Score: 3)**
 - A comprehensive gender analysis was conducted, identifying women's limited access to land and training.

- Intersectional factors (e.g., socioeconomic status) were partially explored.
- **Design and Activities (Score: 4)**
 - Activities include training programs for women on climate-resilient crops and equitable access to tools and resources.
 - Women's empowerment and leadership are explicitly targeted.
- **Participation and Leadership (Score: 3)**
 - Women actively participate in decision-making bodies.
 - However, their representation in leadership roles remains limited.
- **Mitigating Negative Effects (Score: 2)**
 - The project addresses women's vulnerabilities but lacks safeguards against potential unintended consequences, such as increased workloads.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (Score: 3)**
 - Gender-sensitive indicators are used to track participation and resource access.
 - However, long-term impacts on structural barriers are not systematically evaluated

Step 2: Calculate the Total Score

3 (Analysis) + 4 (Design) + 3 (Participation) + 2 (Negative Effects) + 3 (M&E) = 15

Step 3: Interpret the Results

- **Score: 15 → Gender Responsive**
The project demonstrates strong gender integration and begins to address systemic barriers but has room for improvement in mitigating negative effects and expanding long-term evaluations.

Step 4: Identify Areas for Improvement

- **Score: 15 → Gender Responsive**
Develop specific safeguards to prevent increased workloads for women.
Expand leadership opportunities for women and marginalized groups.
Enhance M&E by systematically evaluating impacts on structural inequalities.

The **Climate Gender Marker** has specific criteria that address both **climate and gender dimensions** together, focusing on areas like **gender analysis, climate risk adaptation, participation in decision-making, resource access, and climate-specific vulnerabilities** (e.g., women's role in climate adaptation).

The scoring is designed to evaluate how well a climate program integrates **gender-responsive strategies** in the context of climate change, and how it can address both **climate goals** and **gender equality outcomes**.

Focuses on integrating gender analysis and strategies specifically within climate change programs, ensuring that interventions contribute to **climate resilience** while also advancing gender equity.

The tool tracks whether programs are effectively addressing **gender-specific vulnerabilities** to climate change, and whether they are facilitating **gender-transformative actions** in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Annexure II

Integrating Gender into Climate Interventions

Integrating gender into climate intervention strategies ensures that climate actions are inclusive, equitable, and address the unique needs and contributions of all genders.

Gender Integration into Climate Interventions

Climate interventions can be categorized based on the different aspects of the climate crisis. Some key categories are:

1. Awareness and Education

- **Focus:** Increasing public understanding of climate change and its impacts.
- **Examples:**
 - Campaigns to inform about greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Workshops on sustainable living.
 - Climate change integration into school curriculums.
- **Gender Integration:**
 - Design campaigns that address gender-specific impacts of climate change (e.g., the burden on women in water-scarce regions).
 - Highlight the role of women and marginalized genders as agents of change in climate action.
 - Develop educational materials targeting women and girls to build their capacities for climate resilience.
- **Example:** Community workshops led by women focusing on sustainable farming practices and renewable energy usage.

2. Mitigation

- **Focus:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sinks to limit global warming.
- **Examples:**
 - Transitioning to renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind).
 - Enhancing energy efficiency in buildings and industries.
 - Reforestation and afforestation projects.
 - Promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing deforestation.
- **Gender Integration:**
 - Include women in decision-making processes for mitigation strategies, such as renewable energy project planning.
 - Provide access to financial resources and training for women to adopt low-carbon technologies.
 - Promote gender-sensitive policies that enable equitable access to clean energy and sustainable livelihoods.
- **Example:** Women-led cooperatives managing solar microgrids in rural areas.

3. Adaptation

- **Focus:** Adjusting to the impacts of climate change to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience.
- **Examples:**
 - Building flood defences and sea walls.
 - Developing drought-resistant crops.
 - Improving water management systems.
 - Relocating communities from high-risk areas.
- **Gender Integration:**
 - Identify and address the distinct vulnerabilities faced by women, such as limited access to land or resources for adapting to climate impacts.
 - Strengthen women's adaptive capacities by ensuring they have access to climate-resilient crops, technologies, and financial tools.
 - Involve women in designing climate-resilient infrastructure that meets the needs of all genders.
- **Example:** Training programs specific for women on using climate-resilient agricultural practices.

4. Resilience Building

- **Focus:** Strengthening systems and communities to better withstand and recover from climate shocks.
- **Examples:**
 - Creating robust disaster preparedness plans.
 - Diversifying livelihoods to reduce dependency on climate-sensitive sectors.
 - Enhancing social safety nets for vulnerable populations.
- **Gender Integration:**
 - Enhance women's leadership in community-based resilience initiatives.
 - Develop gender-sensitive disaster preparedness plans that consider specific needs, such as maternity care and safe spaces.
 - Support women-led small businesses in diversifying income sources to build economic resilience.
- **Example:** Establishing women-led disaster response teams with resources tailored to their communities.

5. Carbon Removal and Geoengineering

- **Focus:** Directly removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or altering climate systems to counteract global warming.
- **Examples:**
 - Carbon capture and storage (CCS).
 - Ocean fertilization for increasing carbon uptake.
 - Solar radiation management techniques (e.g., cloud seeding).
- **Gender Integration:**
 - Ensure that women and marginalized genders have a say in the planning and implementation of carbon removal projects.
 - Assess gendered impacts of geoengineering projects, such as land use changes or access to natural resources.
- **Example:** Involving women farmers in afforestation programs and compensating them equitably.

6. Policy and Governance

- **Focus:** Developing and enforcing policies to address climate change at local, national, and global levels.
- **Examples:**
 - Implementing carbon pricing mechanisms (carbon taxes or cap-and-trade).
 - Enforcing regulations on industrial emissions.
 - International agreements like the Paris Agreement.
- **Gender Integration:**
 - Advocate for policies that address gendered impacts of climate change (e.g., policies facilitating women's land rights).
 - Ensure equal representation of women in climate policy negotiations at all levels.
 - Allocate climate finance for initiatives that empower women and reduce gender disparities.
- **Example:** Gender-responsive budgeting for climate adaptation programs.

7. Behavioural Change and Lifestyle Adjustments

- **Focus:** Encouraging individual and collective shifts toward sustainable practices.
- **Examples:**
 - Promoting plant-based diets.
 - Reducing single-use plastics.
 - Encouraging use of public transport and biking.
- **Gender Integration:**
 - Recognize and address gendered barriers to adopting sustainable practices (e.g., access to resources or time constraints).
 - Promote behavioural change campaigns that challenge harmful gender norms and empower women in climate leadership.
- **Example:** Interventions showcasing women leaders in sustainable agriculture or renewable energy.

8. Technology and Innovation

- **Focus:** Leveraging advancements in technology to address climate challenges
- **Examples:**
 - Development of electric vehicles (EVs).
 - Smart grid technologies for efficient energy distribution.
 - Innovations in sustainable building materials.
- **Gender Integration:**
 - Ensure access to climate-smart technologies for women, particularly in rural areas.
 - Develop gender-sensitive innovations, such as solar-powered water pumps that reduce women's labor burdens.
 - Promote women's participation in STEM fields to foster gender-diverse solutions to climate challenges.
- **Example:** Training programs for women on using and maintaining renewable energy technologies.

9. Climate Justice and Equity

- **Focus:** Ensuring fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, particularly marginalized communities, in climate solutions.
- **Examples:**
 - Supporting indigenous-led conservation efforts.
 - Addressing loss and damage in vulnerable regions.
 - Allocating climate finance equitably.
- **Gender Integration:**
 - Centre gender equity in all climate justice initiatives, ensuring marginalized genders have a voice in decision-making.
 - Address the disproportionate climate burdens faced by women, particularly in low-income and indigenous communities.
 - Support women focussed organizations in climate promotion and implementation.
- **Example:** Funding grassroots organizations that address the intersection of gender and climate justice.



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