THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES
Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context/time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context. Other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis include class, race, poverty level, ethnic group and age.

Definition of UN Women
(http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm)
GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS

GBA is an analysis process that promotes gender equality when applied to the orientations and actions of local, regional, and national decision-making bodies. Its purpose is to detect different impacts on men and women which may result from adoption of public projects while taking into account the different realities and needs of women and men.

It is carried out during project development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In some situations, GBA will lead to different measures for women and men, to diminish inequalities. Its goal is to attain equality in fact.

WHY INTEGRATE GENDER INTO CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES?

- For effective mitigation and adaptation strategies
- To ensure that mitigation strategies and actions foster social equality
- To ensure that the impacts of do not exacerbate social inequalities

Because of gendered roles, stereotypes and division of labour, women and men have different perceptions, attitudes, and roles to play relating to climate change mitigation.
WHY A GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS?

In 2008, the average salary of women working full-time was 83% of the average salary of men.

Women are underrepresented in the high paying primary sectors (energy, mines, fisheries, forests and agriculture) and secondary sector (transport and construction).
In 2006, amongst parents with children of all ages, 53.7% of partnered mothers and 44.9% of single mothers, compared with 24.5% and 26.0% of partnered and single fathers spend 15 hours or more per week on household chores.

In 2011, women were largely responsible for cooking daily meals (for 58% of couples working full-time) and doing laundry (for 65% of those couples). In working couples, women are also mainly responsible for doing groceries and cleaning.
Canada has signed and ratified CEDAW
Beijing Platform for Action (1995) establishes a clear link between women and the environment
The role of women in environmental protection also recognized at Rio and other environmental treaties (e.g. biodiversity, desertification)
In the Climate change regime:

- Decision 36/CP. 7 (2001) – increasing the participation of women in UN bodies working on climate change

- Decision 1/CP.16 (2010) – gender equality and the participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on climate change; adaptation should take a gender-sensitive approach

- Decision 23/CP.18 (2012) - Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol
Québec Plan of action on climate change 2013-2020 does not include gender;
Québec adaptation strategy mentions « vulnerable groups » but is silent on gender;
The two ministries acting on climate change have not yet integrated gender into their work;
The integration of gender-based analysis is on a per project basis, in ministries working on social issues (immigration, elderly, children, health);
THE GENDER DIMENSION OF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION
SOURCES OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (QUÉBEC)

- 43.5% Électricité
- 28.0% Résidentiel, tertiaire
- 14.0% Agriculture
- 7.9% Matières résiduelles
- 5.9% Industrie
- 0.8% Transport
The Québec Action plan stresses the importance of education campaigns, changes in lifestyles and habits, and the development of knowledge on the socioeconomic impacts of climate change.
According to one European study, individual actions on climate change are influenced by education levels, income, social status and the gendered division of labour in the household;
GENDERED PERCEPTIONS

Women and men do not have the same perceptions of climate change.

Women have a better understanding of and greater concern for climate change.

Women tend to prefer solutions geared towards changes in behaviours and lifestyles whereas men tend to prefer technical and technological fixes.
ENERGY CONSUMPTION IS GENDERED

- 80% of household greenhouse gas emissions are caused by personal transportation, the use of appliances, heating and air conditioning;
- Energy consumption generally increases with income;
- According to one study in Europe, single men consume more energy than single women;
- Increasing electricity rates is a regressive measure
Carbon footprints are gendered and dependent on income (indirect energy use).

- Men travel more by car and airplane than women, who use public transportation more.
- Women tend to eat less meat, more fruits and vegetables.
- Consumption habits are gendered.
GENDERED DIMENSION OF COLLECTIVE MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Public transportation

- Women and men do not have the same uses and needs

Alternative transportation

- Who benefits from economic incentives (e.g., electric cars)?

Economic instruments: carbon taxes

- They cannot exacerbate social inequalities

Agriculture

- Organic and local; community gardens
GENDER IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION
Gendered impacts

Appropriate adaptation strategies
THE GENDERED IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Heat waves
- The most affected are the elderly, children, people with chronic illnesses and people living in poverty

Extreme weather events
- stress, violence

Agriculture
- Gendered roles, gendered impacts

Northern communities
THE NEED FOR FEMINIST AND ECOFEMINIST ANALYSES AND ACTION

- To understand and critique our relationship to the environment
- To understand and critique our relationship to energy
- To frame the climate change issues as social, economic and political issues

Why?

- To theorize the role of women in climate change and environmental protection
  - Avoid putting disproportionate burden on women
    - Challenge gender stereotypes
    - Link to feminist consciousness-raising
- To challenge the societal and structural causes of social inequalities, the gendered division of labour and climate change
  - Capitalism
  - Dualistic thought
  - Western science and technology
- To offer an equitable and sustainable vision of the world
FEMINIST ECOLOGICAL CITIZENSHIP

- "Feminist citizenship has the potential to be a positive political identity that allows women to express their gender-related concerns for environmental quality but that does not forever tie women (in general) to the private sphere of care and maternal virtue."

- "An ecofeminist approach to citizenship... recognizes care as a form of work and a moral orientation that has been feminized and privatized in Western societies and that must be distributed fairly within and between societies if gender equality and sustainability are to be realized."

MacGregor (2006), pp.6-7
SELECTED REFERENCES


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