



Integrating Gender Justice into Mitigation Policy: Examples from India

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Introduction

- Gender in climate change literature : Predominantly discussed in the context of vulnerability and adaptation.
- Climate Policy: Gender-neutral techno-centric approach
- Lack of a well-developed body of climate policy literature examining gendered dimensions of low-carbon development.
- The agenda of mitigation policy: Make fundamental transitions in the way we organize our economic lives.
- How does it interact with issues of social justice, specifically gender justice?

Identifying Injustice

- Fraser (1996, 2000, 2009): Identification of injustice lies in the barriers to participation at parity.
- Gendered injustice originates from i) distinction between productive and reproductive labour ii) androcentric cultural order
- For parity of participation: Recognition and Re-distribution
- Recognition as a critical element of justice : to be pursued by practices of political participation, which according to Sen “are essential capabilities to conduct a functioning life” (Schlosberg 2014).
- Justice as recognition : fairness in process and regulation, inclusion in decision-making and access to environmental information the inclusions and exclusions of environmental decision making

Two-step approach for evaluation of gender sensitiveness of climate policies:

Parity of Participation

- Examine the ‘parity of participation’ dimension of making, framing, implementing, and distributing impacts of policy.
- How the policy cycle addresses various forms of mal-distribution and mal-recognition that hinder effective parity in participation?.
- Engaging effectively with procedural dimensions of justice which includes challenging institutionalised norms of misrecognition and consistently demand a ‘place at the table’ and the right to ‘speak for oneself’ (Schlosberg 2004).

Two-step approach for evaluation of gender sensitiveness of climate policies:

Capability Outcome

- From conception to implementation to revision.
- Identification of capabilities that can disrupt or weaken the intertwining of identified mal-distribution and mal-recognition perpetuating gender injustice,
- Does the policy process reasonably builds those capabilities or not?

Case Studies

Analysis of mitigation interventions

REDD+

REDD+: A major mitigation mechanism to encourage developing countries to reduce emissions from forest degradation and deforestation.

India's national REDD+ strategy: Operationalised through Joint Forestry Management Programmes, Green India Mission in line with the NDCs

- Existing policy landscape does not mainstream gender concerns effectively
- Quality of engagement restricted by a gender order that marginalises their potential contribution and interests.
- Partial participation without recognition of gendered metaphors: unfair burdens of conservation on women.
- Capability development through: Women's secured land rights, Implementation of associated safeguards, Capacity building measures

PMUY

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: Aims to prevent negative health implications due to exposure to indoor air pollution. It aims to provide 5 crore LPG connections over 3 years to BPL households, free of cost, along with financial assistance worth INR 1600 per connection.

- The scheme, although cognizant of gender concerns, is restrictive in both conceptualisation and impact evaluation
- The scheme presupposes gender roles. The inclusion of women in the framing of the scheme is suspect. Subsequent participation of women in the scheme is limited to being beneficiaries.
- Shifting focus from number of connections to LPG consumption, capacity building, addressing the affordability issues

Solar Mamas Programme

Spaces & Forms of Exclusion

- Economic & cultural marginalization ***recognised***
- Recognition with aim to overturn marginalization: ***redistribution***
- ***Epistemic injustices addressed*** by change in ideologies (community & self)

Channels of Inclusion

Solar engineer training programme creates capabilities:

- Income generation
- Awareness
- Agency

ENRICHE sub-programme modules create capabilities:

- Health
- Income generation
- Agency
- Awareness

Conclusion

- The intertwining of maldistribution and misrecognition:
 - (i) lack of capacity of women to participate due to mal distribution of resources, gendered socio-economic position and institutionalised forms of socio-cultural exclusion
 - (ii) lack of the recognition of gendered concerns which renders women invisible in policy space.
- Two broad avenues for integrating gender justice:
 - i) Economy wide low carbon transition strategy, broadly outlined in the NDC targets
 - ii) individual policies, projects and programs that make up the implementation of NDCs.
- Economic restructuring is in favour of gender justice, that the new economy is more inclusive and dignified for women in aggregate terms.