

Environmental Sustainability and Gender Equality

Why there must be a recognition that the needs of men and women are different



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KEK KEM

Authored by: ATHANASIOS BEIS KORONAIOS

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REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

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*Stimulating gender-based innovative training methods to promote
CLOTHING REcycling through Augmented Reality*

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1. Environmental Sustainability and Gender Equality

It is nowadays clear that gender differences and inequalities influence the extent and nature of almost every form of environmental encounter, use, and impact. The need for proper solid waste management has become apparent and pressing in the light of environmental degradation and the ill-effects of improperly managed wastes on human health.

Those who are threatened mostly by the dramatic climate and environmental changes are those who mainly belong to vulnerable groups and are marginalized (Brody et al 2008,1). Given the fact that women experience higher rates of poverty worldwide, they are the ones most affected. Gender norms, roles and relationships are important factors for determination of both vulnerability and adaptability to health effects of climate and environmental change. The vulnerability of women is determined by the differences in their social roles. As for women, expectation to fulfill the role and responsibilities as an informal family caregiver, burdens them also during extreme weather events. (WHO 2005,1).

But women's role is rapidly evolving, and many NGOs, legal bodies and government entities have been fighting to empower women and to promote environmental sustainability through the establishment of gender equality.

For example, according to a World Bank study the balanced participation of men and of women in the issue of water management (as part of the general waste management), contributes positively to improving the sustainability of water supplies and improving its transparency and governance in management. Gender stereotypes and the way they are expressed in each social segment, often lead to unequal participation in decision-making, which are related to water management resources.

Clothing upcycling is another growing trend in green fashion, however there is no concrete effort to get women involved in upcycling practices despite the EU's commitment to the environment. A study conducted in Turkey, has concluded that males' intention for recycling is shaped by their past behavior and the conclusion is supported by males having learnt attitude toward recycling whereas females' lack of intention for recycling is shaped by their perceived behavior control and is supported by their innate attitude for recycling.

All in all, there must be a recognition that the needs of men and women are different, that equal opportunities must appear no matter the gender, and that public policies and projects can have a different impact on men and women.





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