Gender, disability and climate justice

Evidence from a participatory study in Nepal

The Swiss Disability and Development Consortium (SDDC):

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Purpose of the study

How do the impacts of climate change uniquely affect women with disabilities?

*Context: Nepal is a **very climate-vulnerable** country (landslides, droughts and floods)*

- Document **lived experience**
- Identify specific **barriers and enablers**
- Develop evidence-based **recommendations** for inclusive climate policies and practices

Impacts of climate change on women with disabilities

- **Inaccessible infrastructure**
- Psychological and **health impacts**
- Social consequences of resource scarcity, **water challenges**, environmental degradation
- **Evacuation challenges**
- Mobility and **information accessibility**

Barriers to participation

- **Patriarchal norms**
- **Charity-based approaches** to disability and **traditional belief systems**
- **Invisibility**: lack of disaggregated data
- Gap between inclusive **policies** and their **implementation**

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Enablers of participation

- Recognition of **women's experiential knowledge**
- **Community solidarity** networks and inclusive practices
- **Capacity-building** opportunities
- Emerging **cross-movement collaborations**

How does climate change impact the inclusion?

- **Gender norms become increasingly restrictive**
- **Water scarcity**: affects particularly rural communities with no access to tap water.
- **Economic constraints**
- **Worsening of existing mental health conditions** or triggering new ones.
- **Inaccessibility and evacuation challenges**: Inability to leave the house for during flood.

A video message by Muna Shakya

- Play video

Organizations of persons with disabilities recommend

- **Address** stigma and **discrimination**
- **Ensure meaningful participation,** including quotas for women with disabilities **in decision-making bodies**
- Strengthen **resource access**
- Ensure **accessibility** of infrastructure and information
- Inclusive **knowledge-generation**

More information

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