

# Connecting the Dots: Youth, Gender & Climate Change

Chanda Gurung Goodrich  
Senior Gender Specialist

---

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

Kathmandu, Nepal

# What is Gender?

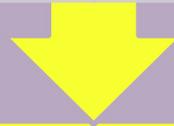
- Culturally specific set of characteristics that identifies the social roles and behavior expectations of women & men, and the relationship between them.
- Simply put: Different roles, responsibilities, behavioral expectations are assigned to men and women *that determines their access & control over important resources.*



## Different - Roles

Responsibilities

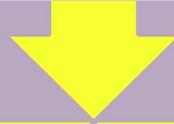
Behavior Expectations



## Different - Life experiences

Benefits

Opportunities



## Different - Advantages or disadvantages

Social/political/economic/environment

- Overarching conceptual framework linking gender & youth: the prevalence of **systemic disadvantage, inequalities, and exclusion** –
  - women are discriminated against due to unequal gender structure and relations
  - youth - particularly rural youth - are caught up in traditional social structures that give control of assets and decision-making-power to the elders.
- Both types of disadvantage are cross-cutting, and often magnified by broad social stratification along the lines of wealth, ethnicity, religion, culture, history.
- Gender inequality - visible at all age groups, from the young to the old.

**Due to the social and gender structures youth and women have *less access to and use of resources and technologies, and to decision-making***

## Women

Have limited access to & control over resources

More dependent on natural resources

Do not enjoy access to the same level of education and information

Lack/limited mobility

Have a limited role in decision-making



## Youth

Social Structure which gives control of assets and decision-making-power to the elders



Places youth in a lower position in the power hierarchy



# Gender & Climate Change

The emergence or recognition of climate change as a serious threat to sustainable development.

CC affects everyone – both men and women, young and old

BUT

CC affects poorest, marginalized and backward communities more than ordinary ones.

Women are one of the marginalized groups.

**So CC affect women more than men**



These differences in access to and use of resources and technologies, implies that youth and women get disproportionately affected by CC

And

Is also a serious challenge to the achievement of a climate resilience

# Climate resilient development

- The emergence or recognition of climate change as a serious threat to sustainable development has led to the drive towards climate resilient development
- Climate Resilient Development - minimises harm triggered by climate change and exploits opportunities associated with low carbon emissions reduction



# Role of Youth in CC & Resilience

- Youth run the risk of also contributing to climate change and failing to mitigate it, just as past generations have been doing.
- For the youth to actively and meaningfully participate and influence climate resilient development it is important that they understand these issues and the challenges:

***Constraints & opportunities facing young women & men are invariably very different, largely due to social and cultural norms affecting gender roles.***

- So youth need to consider gender perspective amongst youth while working towards climate resilience.



# Thank you

ICIMOD

