Mainstreaming Gender and Complexity: An Introduction for Research Design

By Nibedita Ray Bennett,
Tomorrow's Cities Gender Champion

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Gendered approaches to risk management are relevant to male, female and non-binary identities, from all areas, including marginalised communities[1] and are a central concern in meeting the Hub's goal of making urban development resilient to multiple disasters in ways that enhance equity and social justice.

The Hub strategy is to mainstream gender into all aspects of research, impact and capacity building activity. The Hub's Gender Champion will support this process through advising City and Research College teams on:

(1)   Making our research gender sensitive: how gender and other forms of social discrimination and difference can be highlighted in research methods, analysis and dissemination for impactful changes.

(2)   Making project management gender sensitive: how the ways in which we undertake research (employing staff, staff development, research roles and leadership) can enable gender and other equity.

The Hub takes coproduction and leadership by city partners seriously as agents for transition and impact of themselves. For this reason, we do not pre-determine content for gender strategy. However, the vision of the Gender Champion, who will strongly influence this, encourages three entry points for mainstreaming. These entry points should be considered during project design and implementation through MEL systems for both research and management. We present these now to indicate the trajectory of gender sensitive research within the Hub.

First, **Gender Analysis**. To map the different socio-cultural and political contexts of gender in each urban system. Methods to address this could include a series of stakeholder workshops to understand the level of gender receptivity and to develop shared city strategies to disrupt strict gender practices and stereotypes through DRR thinking.

Second, **Gender Intersectionality**. Gender exists in the intersection with age, disability, social class, race, place and religion - among others. Intersectionality can be promoted in

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[1] Non-binary identities include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex identities. While these terms have increasing resonance, different cultures use different terms to describe people who have same-sex relationships or who exhibit non-binary gender identities (such as hijra, meti, lala, skesana, motsoalle, mithli, kuchu, kawein, travesty, muxé, fa'afafine, fakaleiti, hamjensgara and two-spirit). UN Definitions accessed from https://www.unfe.org/definitions/

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research design including through sample selection, consultation processes, mining vulnerability stories and promoting capabilities in 'at risk' locales. Currently, gender and intersectionality frameworks in the context of DRR are lacking. These could usefully be encouraged as elements for assessing dynamic properties of vulnerability and capacity building. As a first step, the use of common variables and tools as elements of city-specific projects can allow the development of a cross-cutting Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction Intersectionality Framework (GDRRI) to form general empirical statements to inform wider policy processes.

Third, **Gender Empowerment and Impact**: These are intimately linked. Participatory processes with urban dwellers (such as through qualitative interviews, surveys, focus group discussions, social and hazard mapping and participatory urban appraisal) will open scope for local reflection and voice (to understand 'power' that constrains development), contributing to processes of gender empowerment.

City Theories of Change

City level Theory of Change documents could usefully include a gender dimension (for both management and research) and associated measurement criteria and deliverables for monitoring and evaluation and planned mechanisms to enable learning (for both management and research) by research teams and partners. DRR and sustainable development involves participation from local, national, regional and international actors and institutions. As part of the evidence that could be built by a common GDRRI Framework to enable bottom-up community and top-down policy influence to maximise scope for transition as outlined in the Hub Theory of Change. Impact can be maximised by connecting local change, through participatory methods and citizen science approaches, with efforts targeted at local, national and international institutions, in particular the representation and reporting of gender to the Sendai Framework, and through this to relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

Entry Points

Gender Mainstreaming

- Moser, C. (2005) 'Has gender mainstreaming failed? A Comment on international development agency experiences in the South', International Feminist Journal of Politics, 7(4), pp. 576-590.

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This article should help you to understand the concept of gender mainstreaming and its implementation in the south. The concept of gender mainstreaming is still under-developed in the context of disaster risk reduction. Moser's article should give you ideas as to how to transfer some of the components of gender mainstreaming in your research context.

Gender Analysis

- Anderson, M. (1994) 'Understanding the disaster-development continuum: gender analysis is the essential tool', Focus on Gender, 2(1), pp. 7-10.

This is an interesting and easy read. Anderson makes a powerful case that gender is a vital tool to analyse disaster and development issues. Besides, Anderson makes a case that gender is not just about women, it includes men as well.

- Porter, F. and Sweetman, C. (2005) 'Editorial', Gender & Development, 13(2), pp. 2-10. https://www.jstor.org/stable/i20053142

This is a seminal journal. Please do read to find out more on gender and development theories.

Gender intersectionality

- Ray-Bennett, N.S. (2009) 'The influence of caste, class, and gender in surviving multiple disasters: A case study from Orissa, India', Environmental Hazards 8 (2009), pp. 5-22.

This article brings the complexity of caste, class and gender experiences of women during multiple disasters. In a disaster and developmental context, gender, caste/race, class, and other variables intersect. It is important to understand the intersectionality and complexity of social life and context when conceiving social problems and their anticipated solutions.

Empowerment

- On empowerment please visit the website of Naila Kabeer: http://nailakabeer.net/category/articles/womens-empowerment/

Further Reading

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