

# Conceptual groundwork for gender and water

Vishal Narain

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# Some basic questions to ask

- What is a conceptual lens ?
- What is equity ?
- How is it different from equality..
- Then connect with gender

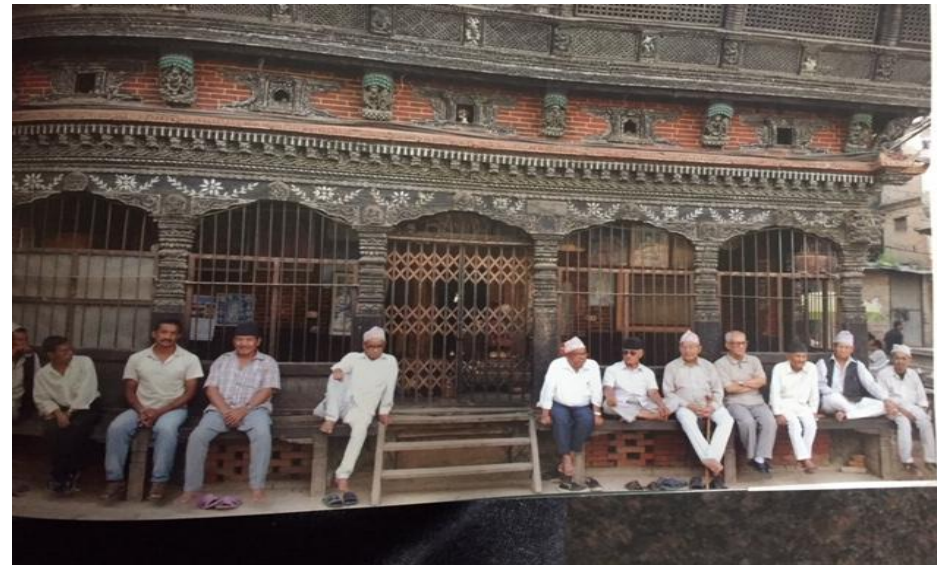
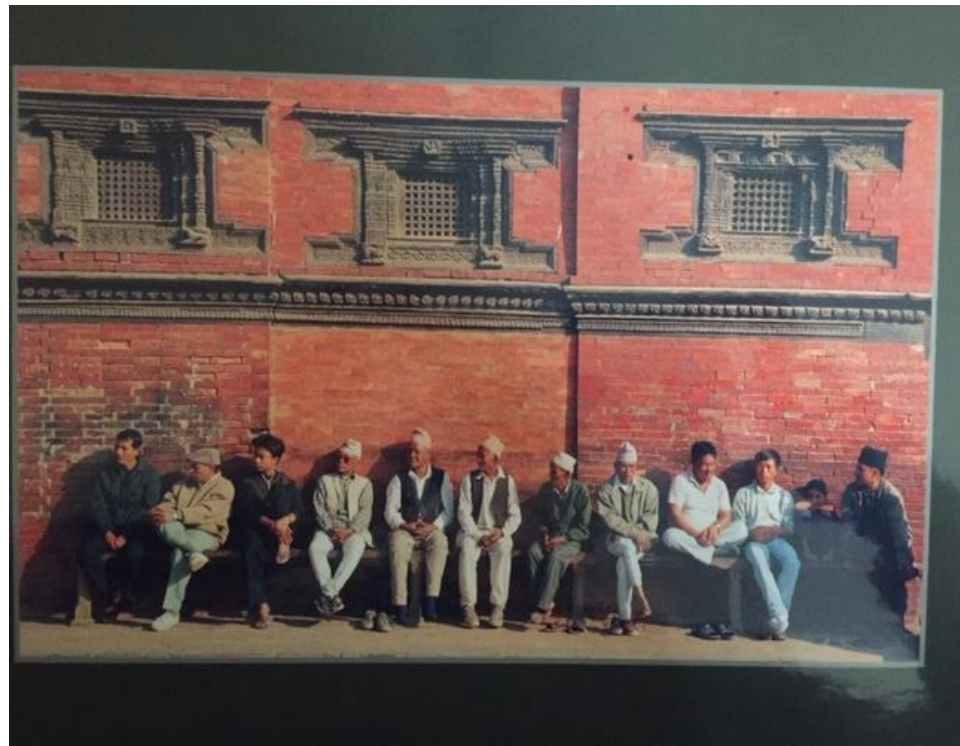


# Defining the concept of gender and distinguishing it from sex

- Sex is the biological difference between men and women
- Gender is a social construction located in time and space
  - Socially defined norms of what it constitutes to be male or female (Ahmed 1998)
- Sanctioned by a host of institutions
  - Law, religion, social norms



What do we see here ? (source: Ashraf 2016)



And what do we see here ? (source:  
Ashraf 2016)



# Gender needs to be distinguished from

- Gender identity ....
  - Whether the person identifies with the sex assigned to her at birth
- Sexual orientation
  - Whom one is sexually or emotionally attracted to.
    - Gay/heterosexual/bisexual



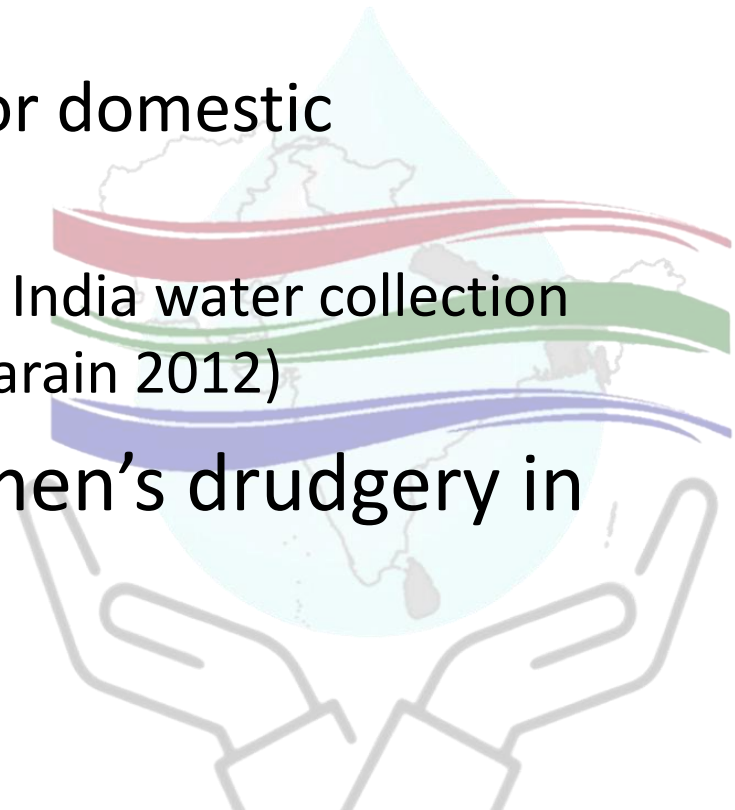
# Some key points in studying gender-water linkages

- Concept of the sex gender system (Aalten 1991)
  - the institutions and norms that provide a social meaning to being a man or a woman
- Gender intersects with other axes of social differentiation such as caste, class and age (Joshi 2014): concept of inter-sectionality
  - Women are not a homogenous whole
  - Caste, class, race, colour of skin, age, marital status
  - Different categories of women experience water access differently



# Why gender perspective in water resource management

- Access to water is gendered
- Water collection shaped by a gender-based division of labour
- Women primarily collect water for domestic purposes
  - In upper caste households in North India water collection not done by women (Ranjan and Narain 2012)
- Water scarcity increases women's drudgery in water collection



# The gendered dimensions of water access

- Water supply interventions have gendered impacts
  - e.g. In the Morni Shiwalik Hills (Narain 2014)
- Dam construction also seen to have gender dimensions
- Gender dimensions of environmental protest movements (Drew 2014)
  - Men and women have different ways of expressing themselves in environmental struggles



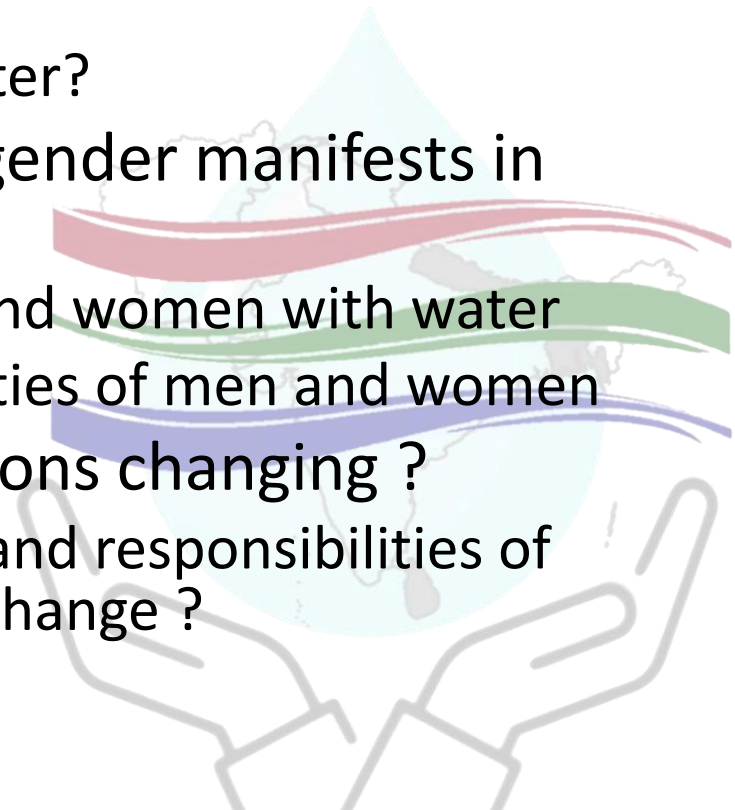
# Gender relations are not static

- Changing gender relations around water
- Migration and occupational diversification
  - Ranjan and Narain (2012)
- Acquisition of common property resources
  - Vij and Narain (2016)



# Some points while studying gender in the field

- Focus on 'gender relations' and not on 'women'
- Look at the sex gender system
- Ask the 'who' question
  - Who does what around water ?
  - Who collects water ? Who uses water?
- Understand the different ways in gender manifests in the field
  - The different relationship of men and women with water
  - The different roles and responsibilities of men and women
- Ask yourself how are gender relations changing ?
  - What is causing the relative roles and responsibilities of men and women around water to change ?



# Assignment

- Identify three authors who have done research on water and gender in your country

