

Assignments from the last class

- Abstract of paper on water studies using a hydro-social lens or political ecology lens
- Names of three authors who work on gender and water in your country



Water sources Dhulikhel



A water spout



SHREE HARISIDDHI
JUDDA DHUNGE DHARA 2074
श्री हरिसिद्धि जुद्ध ढुङ्गे धारा २०७४



In the heart of old Dhulikhel



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



Gender-based division of labour

- Recent studies challenge the assumption of women's role in water management being confined to the reproductive sphere (e.g. involvement of women in WUAs)



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



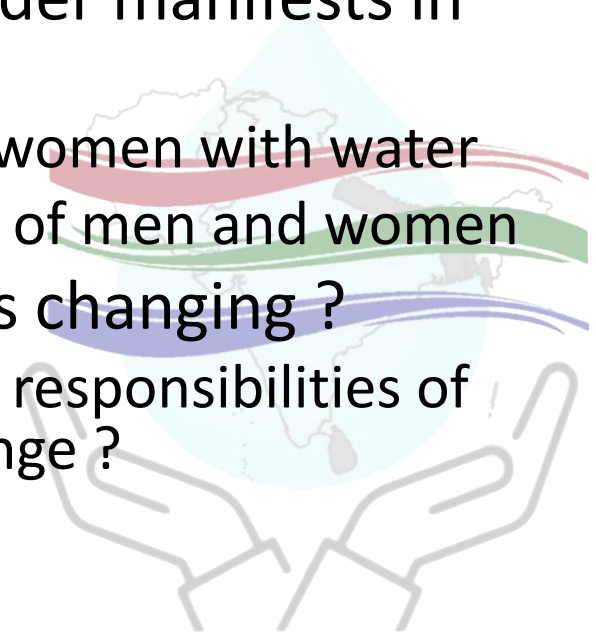
Gender relations are not static

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



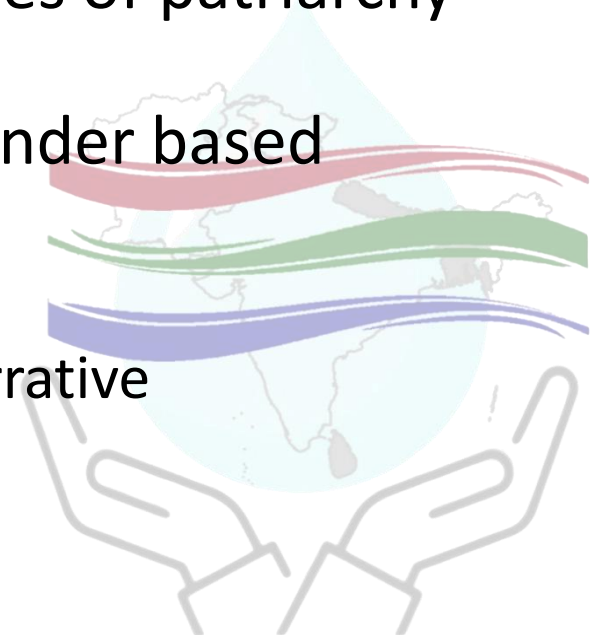
Some points while studying gender in the field

- 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 ?



Gender and collective action

- Difficult to secure women's participation in local institutions
- Participation inhibited by local norms (Gupta 2005)
- Women often represented by husbands or male relatives (Narain 2003)
- Local organisations constituted on lines of patriarchy (Narain 2003)
- Collective institutions shaped by a gender based division of labour (Kaushik 2005)
- Women face constraints of time
 - Steering away from an ecofeminist narrative



Getting more women in the water sector

- Masculine nature of the water sector (Zwarteveen 2011: 2017)
- Focus on engineering and civil works
- Women face infrastructural constraints
- Bias in favour of male engineers
- Sexual undertones at work
- Status of women water professionals in South Asia (SaciWATERs)
- But things are changing... SAWA is a good example



The differential vulnerability of men and women to climate change

- Vulnerability a measure of susceptibility to harm
- Depends on exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity
- Men and women differ in their exposure to climate change impacts
- But also in their adaptive capacity



Adaptive capacity

- Shaped by access to forms of capital
- Physical capital
- Financial capital
- Human capital
- Social capital
- Natural capital



Differential mortality in disasters

- Though female life expectancy is higher than that men, female mortality in water and climate induced disasters is higher than that of men
- Women may be poorly integrated with early warning systems through which information on disasters flows



Suggestions for further reading

- Barbara van Koppen, Margreet Zwarteveen
- Chanda Gurung Goodrich, Manohara Khadka, Farhana Sultana, Sara Ahmed, Smita Mishra Panda
- GWA (Gender and water alliance)

