

# A Gender Sensitive Research Guideline for Academia and Development

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## Abstract

*This paper focuses on gender based research in different development sectors of homogenous and divers society in Nepal. In social science, the gender-sensitive research gives equal importance to both the similarities and differences in the experiences and viewpoints of men and women. As a result, women's experiences and contributions have been overlooked in traditional research, leading to the omission of crucial aspects of a subject, underestimation of their significance, and the potential for misunderstandings. In recent times, however, there has been a growing recognition of gender as a significant variable in research. This article based on the objective to explain and highlight the existing variation of gender-sensitive research among development and environment sector. It analyses the provisions regarding research papers, articles, gender related books, Newspaper and seminar papers in academia. This paper widely covers concept, definition, theories, practice, situation, laws, policies and program in all gender sensitive research in all environmental and development levels.*

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**Key words:** Gender-Sensitive, development, role of men and women and experience of gender development

## Introduction

Gender-sensitive research considers gender as an important factor in all environmental and development sectors, distinguishing itself from research solely focused on women or gender dynamics. The Roles differ between men and women. That influence environmental and development issues in different ways.

By introducing its gender strategy, GIZ committed itself to strengthening gender equality throughout the company and within the scope of its commissions. This also comprises an obligation to report to the Executive Management Committee (EMC) annually regarding the efforts that were made to achieve this goal. Specifically, GIZ strives to take the different life situations, needs and concerns of women and men into consideration in all its projects, and to actively contribute to fdismantling gender-based inequalities and discrimination (Gender Strategy, 2012). This is done by:

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1. drawing up a solid gender analysis that documents and describes the gender-specific situations, challenges and opportunities that exist in the various sectors and fields of action and translates these into specific activities and interventions;
2. systematically documenting the positive and negative effects that GIZ's activities and interventions have on gender relations and on the different life situations and concerns of women and men by setting up 'an adequate monitoring system'.

Only if gender-relevant aspects are explicitly mentioned in the objectives system and the indicators of the projects (i.e., if they are firmly entrenched in the monitoring system), can we ensure that gender equality is adequately taken into account when steering and implementing projects and reporting to our commissioning parties. We can also there by ensure that our objectives in the field of gender equality can be achieved. These practical guidelines are intended to help all those who work on results-based monitoring (RBM). Its focus is on the specific challenges of integrating the topic of gender equality. Consequently, these guidelines are complementary to GIZ's guidelines on designing and using results-based monitoring systems (RBM systems) (GIZ, 2014).

Additionally, the power dynamics among males and females play a crucial role in shaping their perspectives on environmental and developmental matters. Moreover, the way that men and women perceive environmental and development challenges is heavily influenced by the power dynamics between them.

Strategically planned and executed research that takes into account women's and gender issues will result in more thorough, participatory and relevant results. More specifically, women are essential contributors to development processes and 'development' itself impacts, and is impacted by, women and men in different ways. Gender-sensitive research that takes this into account can in turn lead to more effective and sustainable development policies. As Secretary General Kofi Annan states, the empowerment of women that results from attention to gender in all stages of the development process is the "most effective development tool (Garcia-Moreno, et. al, 2005).

Globally and historically, women bear the brunt of inequalities and insecurity, evident in processes such as the feminization of poverty and continued high rates of domestic and sexual violence. Yet it was not until the 1970s that the field of development began to include women in research, policy formulation and programme design and implementation.

Gender-sensitive research gives equal importance to both the similarities and differences in the experiences and viewpoints of men and women Eichler, M; Lapointe, J (1985). This sectors is major problem in previous research, It is of utmost importance to acknowledge that women make up half of the population. Disregarding women's viewpoints and experiences leads to judgments that are either inaccurate or provide an incomplete understanding of the matter at hand. In the context of Nepali academia and research, Gender is seldom taken into account as a noteworthy element in environmental and development studies, (Vernooy, R & al. 2021). The human and social dimensions are frequently disregarded in to environmental

research. The influence of population on the environment is analyzed in connection with "population activities." but rarely with consideration for gender: "population" is treated as a homogeneous group. When it comes to poverty assessment, the analysis is primarily based on household income and expenditure, neglecting to analyze the different experiences of poverty among household members. Moreover, economic analysis only values and takes into account productive paid work, disregarding domestic and unpaid work, which is predominantly carried out by women throughout their lives. This oversight fails to recognize the significant contribution of women to the overall well-being of society and community, including food security. As a result, women's experiences and contributions have been overlooked in traditional research, leading to the omission of crucial aspects of a subject, underestimation of their significance, and the potential for misunderstandings. In recent times, however, there has been a growing recognition of gender as a significant variable in this paper. Its recognition and application in the natural sciences and economics are still limited. Research topics, conceptual frameworks, methodologies, analytical frameworks, and the language utilized in scientific articles frequently exhibit a bias towards male perspectives and patriarchal values and norms. Social scientists often emphasize their impartiality and unbiased approach by differentiating between males and females. Nevertheless, female researchers who concentrate on women's concerns often face allegations of subjectivity, whereas males who disregard women's viewpoints and generalize their conclusions to the entire populace are not.

### **Objectives**

1. To analyze the Gender based research in of academic sectors
2. To explain and highlight the existing variation of gender -sensitive research among development and environment sector

### **Methodology**

This article prepared by the secondary sources of gender-inclusive and sensitive research guideline methods, often involvement and active participation can play a crucial role in empowering individuals, particularly women. By enabling both men and women impacted by this issue to collectively analyze the problem, identify its root causes and its appropriate solutions. This approach fosters a more inclusive and effective problem-solving process by utilizing this methodology. This article not only highlights and enhances not only the valuable contributions of women in development sectors but also the academia for enhance their academic uplift, it serves to raise awareness about women's capabilities and bolster their self-assurance. The available secondary data including progress and evaluation reports of related research topic as well as the seminar reports and journals, books, reports of policies and strategies plan were reviewed and analysed the different web side in the electronic method.

### **Complement quantitative information with qualitative insights**

For example from studies or consultations, and combine various sources (statistical office, academic works, policy reports) to gain a deeper understanding. "Gender impact assessment is the process of comparing and evaluating the current situation and trend with the expected development resulting from the introduction of the proposed policy, according to gender relevant criteria." "The estimation of the various effects (positive, negative, or neutral) of any policy or activity implemented to specific items in terms of gender equality is known as a gender impact assessment." The evaluation takes a two-pronged approach: first, it looks at the policy under discussion in respect to gender, and then it looks at the expected impacts on men and women when it is implemented. The assessment must be organized, that is, methodical, analytical, and recorded. Enhancing the planning and design of the proposed policy is the ultimate goal of the gender impact evaluation.

### **Results and Discussions**

It is effectively tackle the obstacles of mountain development and the preservation of natural resources, it is crucial to integrate social aspects into research. This includes sustainable environmental policies and gender-sensitive research that emphasizes both men's and women's roles in sustainable development. While this article may initially appear technical in nature, integrating a gender dimension can bring valuable insights by introducing a social perspective to the issue at hand. For example, when conducting a study on protecting diverse societies in Nepal, it is crucial to not only consider the technical and legal aspects but also the social and historical dimensions, particularly in terms of gender. Failing to do so may lead to solutions that have negative consequences for local populations. The consequences of these actions can include limiting men's ability to earn income and placing a heavier burden on women. Consequently, the communities affected may oppose the suggested solutions in order to take advantage of the available resources. Nevertheless, by taking into account the social aspects of the issue and adopting a gender perspective, the proposed solutions can encourage accountability and active participation from the community in preserving and replenishing natural resources. Furthermore, it is crucial for research to assess the impact of the proposed remedies on individuals of all genders, taking into account various factors such as their workload, access to resources, social status, and power dynamics. This thorough examination can greatly aid in identifying the most effective and socially inclusive solutions. It is important to provide comprehensive explanations of concepts while avoiding any form of gender bias, prejudices, or generalizations. Incorporate a comprehensive, gender-sensitive strategy into your teaching and research. The project partners' reports that were analyzed revealed some recurring issues and difficulties. By offering a series of detailed suggestions for incorporating a gender-sensitive approach in research and instruction, this toolbox seeks to close existing gaps, Studies shown the stark contrast between the academic domains of the social sciences and humanities (SSH) and the natural sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). One of the objectives of EU innovation in research policy is to emphasize the

significance of including the gender dimension in research and education through an interdisciplinary approach, which is the aim of this Toolkit.<sup>8</sup> The aforementioned emphasis on gender as a "isolated topic" is the primary barrier that the project partners face in the area of gender. The intersectional approach to gender, which views gender as an intersecting category of identity that intersects with others such as ethnicity, color, class, age, citizenship status, corporeality, and so on, is another significant component of this toolkit. This method views gender roles as processes rather than as permanent categories, which goes against essentialist reasoning. There is a clear emphasis on the heteronormative approach, with gender seen primarily in terms of the binary gender roles of men and women, and little recognition of characteristics of transgender or third sex identities or gender transgressions. This Toolkit suggests adopting an approach that is sensitive to a diversity of gender identities, in keeping with the overall GARCIA project philosophy that doesn't focus just on women but rather on dominant gender culture and doesn't regard men and women as two homogenous categories. When describing the goals, procedures, and results of a project, it proposes taking into account not just gender and sex but also transgender and transsexual perspectives.

Women's and men's access to resources and living conditions are impacted by all gender-related laws, policies, and programs. The term "gender impact" refers to this effect. Any initiative's potential impact on gender equality must be evaluated through an analytical process that identifies the effects (quantifiable outcomes) that the intervention may have on women's and men's effective equality. One goal of this kind of analysis should be to understand the current circumstances as they affect the relevant groups and how they might change in the absence of government action. On the other hand, the analysis ought to gauge how much the anticipated intervention is expected to alter the current state of affairs.

In order to guide the analysis, the following recommendations can be taken into account:

1. In the event that there are contrasts in encounters between men and ladies inside the domain of inquire about, it is plausible that their definitions of concepts will moreover vary. Gender-sensitive inquire about ought to take into consideration and consolidate different viewpoints when characterizing concepts. It may be useful to discover whether male and female researchers give coordinating definitions and utilize the same conceptual system. Joining distributions wrote by both male and female researchers within the writing survey might help in this endeavor.
2. It is pivotal not to generalize concepts to the 'overall population' in the event that the issue relates exclusively to men or on the off chance that as it were men's perspectives have been recorded. For occasion, men's and women's encounters of relocation may change altogether; all things considered, this does not infer that one is more critical than the other. The qualifications in women's relocation encounters ought to be respected as noteworthy and significant, and ladies vagrants ought to not be exclusively seen as 'spouses'.
3. Gender-specific topics in investigations often suffer from the use of generic terms

that obscure the unique experiences of different genders. For example, when referring to 'farmers', there is a common assumption that they are male. Be that as it may, ladies play a significant part in cultivate generation, though their errands vary. In certain settings, ladies commit more hours to generation work than men, however more prominent accentuation is put on men's parts as proprietors and salary generators.

4. Theories, explanatory systems, and models ought to be grounded in reality, not in assumptions approximately sex parts, capabilities, and social standards. It is basic to dodge twofold benchmarks, as well as overestimating or belittling exercises related with men or ladies, which incorporates predispositions with respect to the capabilities of men or women, or inclinations for certain exercises based on sex. Furthermore, it is crucial to avoid giving higher importance to men's contributions compared to women's in the same profession. Similarly, it is essential to refrain from prioritizing women's domestic responsibilities while disregarding the value of their work outside the household
5. Besides, it is fundamental to recognize the differing qualities of ladies. Create a sexual orientation delicate strategy addressing the ordinary approach to inquire about is imperative. The regular far off and progressive position of analysts has been scrutinized in later a long time, Given, its frequent disposal of a vast range of information, this often raises ethical concerns regarding the beneficiaries of the research findings and the purpose for which the results are utilized. A sexual orientation touchy technique not as it were takes into consideration sex contrasts within the conceptual and explanatory system, it moreover employments strategies and devices that are participatory, conscious, and responsible.

#### **Utilize subjective instruments to capture people's viewpoints and differing qualities of viewpoints**

1. Challenging the conventional strategies of investigate holds critical significance. Later reactions have highlighted the disadvantages of the typical removed and various leveled position taken by analysts, because it tends to avoid a wide array of information and raises moral concerns with respect to the recipients of inquire about results, as well as the reason and manner in which these results are utilized.
2. Utilizing a gender-sensitive approach in technique not as it were recognizes sexual orientation abbreviation inside the conceptual and explanatory system but too utilizes participatory, conscious, and responsible strategies and instruments.
3. Utilizing subjective instruments to capture different points of view and perspectives is significant, as they offer bits of knowledge into the 'how' and 'why' behind issues, giving a voice to people and recognizing the profitable encounters and information of both men and ladies over different financial foundations. 4. Guaranteeing rise to representation and involvement of both men and ladies in inquire about forms is

basic, because it impacts the quality, realness, and esteem of the data assembled and analyzed.

5. Unless inquire about particularly centers on men's encounters, it is imperative to incorporate impartial representation of ladies within the test populace.
6. Inclusion of female researchers within the inquire about group not as it were encourages the support of ladies, particularly in preservationist settings, but too brings a important viewpoint to the investigation handle.
7. In settings like Nepal, where women are underrepresented in certain areas, such as government, senior administration, specialized, building, and characteristic sciences, endeavors must be made to include them in investigate exercises that include interviews and interviews with people from these divisions.

Utilize gender sensitive investigate apparatuses Sex point of view ought to be taken into account amid the investigation and elucidation of inquire about discoveries. It is vital to recognize the distinctive parts and encounters of ladies and men and give them with rise to openings to specific their perspectives on the same segment and assets. By paying consideration to both the likenesses and contrasts between sexual orientations, analysts can avoid making presumptions approximately their levels of intrigued in certain themes. For occasion, within the context of water utilization and administration, it is frequently expected that ladies are exclusively concerned with family water needs, whereas men center on water for efficiency. In any case, it is imperative to recognize that ladies may also have a strong interest in water utilization for agrarian purposes, such as family gardens, as they effectively take part in farm production and animals raising. By considering sex points of view, analysts can guarantee a more comprehensive and comprehensive understanding of the research point.

1. Gender-sensitive research involves utilizing and generating sex-disaggregated data along with conducting a sexual orientation investigation. Simply documenting differences based on gender is insufficient for a comprehensive understanding of sexual orientation issues, as it fails to address the underlying causes of disparities. A thorough gender analysis should elucidate the variations in experiences, perspectives, and impacts that are influenced by gender roles and power dynamics.
2. Gender roles and power dynamics should not be automatically assumed to be universal, and statistical differences should not be seen as inherent distinctions (Eichler & Lapointe 1985, p 9). The roles and dynamics between men and women are not naturally occurring or a result of inherent qualities of men or women; instead, they are constructed within particular economic and social environments. Therefore, contextualizing research is crucial, as it should indicate the location of the study, the individuals involved, the stakeholders, the prevailing beliefs and practices, and other pertinent contextual information.
3. A comprehensive analysis of gender should offer valuable insights into the

interconnectedness or impact of men and women in relation to the subject being investigated. It should consider various aspects such as the division of labor, roles, and responsibilities between genders, their access to and control over resources (natural, financial, informational), power dynamics in different domains (household, community, society, workplace), and the legal and social status of men and women. These factors significantly influence how men and women engage with the issue at hand. Research that is sensitive to gender should also assess the effects of new practices or policies on both genders, identifying who will benefit, who will be disadvantaged, and the overall impacts.

## **Conclusion**

Gender Sensitive research involves more than just collecting data based on gender; it requires a deep analysis of how gender roles and power dynamics influence experiences and outcomes. Merely highlighting differences between genders is not enough to fully grasp gender issues. It is crucial to delve in to the underlying reasons for disparities and inequalities. Gender roles and power dynamics are not inherent, but rather socially constructed within specific contexts. Therefore, it is important to contextualize research by considering the location, individuals involved, prevailing beliefs, and other relevant information. A comprehensive gender analysis should shed light on how men and women are interconnected with the subject under investigation, taking into account factors such as division of labor, access to resources, power dynamics, and social status.

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