

# Gender dimension to research writing

**By Kanokwan Manorom**

**Faculty of Liberal Arst, Ubon Ratchathani University**

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# Gender in research is highly trendy....

## For early-career scientists

- Increase involvement of gender in scientific community and policies
- Increase chance of getting published
- An advantage when applying for research grants
- Boost a chance of getting a job
- provide a decisive advantage for early-career scientists
  - by prompting more in-depth, interesting, and socially relevant research questions

# So far, fellows know.....

- Including gender dimension in your research is possible and useful , true?
- Using adequate methods addressing gender to design your studies?
- Analyze your data, and report your results
  - require extra time and resources?
  - it is worth the effort?
  - really powerful way to see new thing?

# Gender in research

Research Idea  
phase

Gender sensitive ideas/make hypothesis gender sensitive

Research proposal  
phase

Formulate gender sensitive research questions, women in research team, gender sensitive methods

Research phase

Conduct gender sensitive data/analysis data in a sensitive way

Dissemination  
phase

Report data in gender sensitive way, use gender impartial language

# 1. Writing gender in introduction

- **Telling an context, objective, how to get and analyze data and main argument**
  - Context: Impacts of large dams on women and man
  - Objective
  - How to get data and analyse it
  - Main argument by addressing debates/critiques gender/patriarchy/feminist/theories

# 1. Writing gender in introduction

## 1. Context

“A growing body of literature has recently explored the impacts of large and centralised water control projects on the livelihoods of poor people, especially the more vulnerable communities that are susceptible to livelihood shocks from deteriorating environmental resource bases. Evidence is accumulating that women and men are not affected in the same way by large-scale resource development projects

Source: Lahili-Dutt 2012 “Large Dams and Changes in an Agrarian Society: Gendering the Impacts of Damodar Valley Corporation in Eastern India”

# Objective

To explore how changing gender relations have altered power relations, I also examine who bears the brunt of negative changes at present and who gains from them....”

Lahili-Dutt 2012 “Large Dams and Changes in an Agrarian Society: Gendering the Impacts of Damodar Valley Corporation in Eastern India”

## **How to get data and analyze it**

Clearly, the investigation of gendered impacts of long-in-existence large dam projects demands a new and interdisciplinary epistemology, as suggested by Whitehead (2002). In this paper, an environmental and historical understanding of the regional context, and the role of the Damodar river in sustaining rural life before and after the engineering intervention, provide the canvas on which to trace changes in social relations and scrutinise them through a gender lens. Doing so involves examining the changes that have occurred in gender roles and status as a result of altered water management regimes and the transformation of the farming economy under the sheer weight of the project. To explore how changing gender relations have altered power relations, I also examine who bears the brunt of negative changes at present and who gains from them.

Source: Lahili-Dutt 2012 “Large Dams and Changes in an Agrarian Society: Gendering the Impacts of Damodar Valley Corporation in Eastern India”



- Main argument by Addressing debates/critiques gender/patriarchy/feminist/ theories

“..Yet many water engineers, administrators, and policy-makers continue to see 'the community' or 'the family' as a homogeneous unit, and neglect the intricate complexities of gender roles, tasks, and power relations residing within these units...

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## 2. Writing gender in research methodology

- Research method: Mixed methods
  - Who are females and males you have interviewed/ observed
  - Why are they?
  - How did you select them: socio-economic and political status?
  - How many female and males are your key informants?
  - What research tools do you use to while in the field? Ex. Gender impact assessment tool, [Oxfam Australia](#)
  - How long have you spent time with them and where?

# Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) manual by Oxfam Australia

Balancing the Scales - Using gender impact assessment in hydropower  
development

<file:///Users/apple/Downloads/GIA%20MANUAL.pdf>

# Interviewed with woman in Xe Bang Fai river



# Talking with woman who was doing dry season rice near Xe Bang Fai river



# 3. Writing gender in main body of the paper

- Looking at the main objectives or research questions
  - Breaking the objectives/research question into sub-topics based on concepts using (gender/feminism/patriarchy)
  - Present data
    - Narrate stories of some Females and Males
      - addressing/reflecting/back up the main argument
    - Quote their words
    - Giving examples
    - Bini Agrawal
    - Andrea Nightingale; Andrea Cornwall; Babette Resurrecion (+ Rebecca Elmhirst)

Ex. Lahili-Dutt 2012 “Large Dams and Changes in an Agrarian Society: Gendering the Impacts of Damodar Valley Corporation in Eastern India”

## **WHY GENDER?**

I argue that the differences in impacts of developmental projects arise primarily from a sexually-based division of labour, along with local and cultural discourses on gender roles. These discourses produce and reinforce specific constructions of gender ideals and create norms for women and men. The roles and tasks may be formally accepted as laws or informally understood as cultural ideals, but they are invariably connected to power relations and women and men’s social and economic positioning within societies and families. This argument is different from either the ecofeminist position (of equating women with nature) or the anthropological position that illuminates the aesthetic relationships between women and water (see Naguib, Forthcoming).

Source: Lahili-Dutt 2012 “Large Dams and Changes in an Agrarian Society: Gendering the Impacts of Damodar Valley Corporation in Eastern India”

# Example, People and their river (in Laos)

Women and men, whether they are Lao, Kaleung, Phou Thai or Brou, often play complimentary roles in many key household activities. While men generally plow the rice fields, women tend to plant the rice seedlings and do most rice harvesting. Overall, women, regardless of ethnicity, have been highly attached to and dependent on river, land and forest resources. They caught fish and other aquatic resources from the XBF River and its tributaries and in other wetlands. As one woman said in 2001,

“I only catch small amount of small shrimp and fish in the rapids...but I catch them every day and they are enough to feed my family.”  
(Shoemaker et al. 2001: 62).



# Baird et al., (Forth coming)

Brou women have been especially impacted by the damage that NT2 has had on wetland resources. For example, we met ethnic Brou women who once depended heavily on the Nam Phit Wetlands near the border between Gnommalath and Mahaxay Districts where a small stream, Houay Khama is found. Before NT2, water in the stream dried up or became very low, making it easy for women to collect aquatic resources when water levels were low. After NT2, however, there has been water in the stream all year round.

As one woman put it,

“It was easier to find fish and shellfish before the NT2 dam came. Today I have to stop finding shellfish as I see that water has now increased, so I cannot see and reach shellfish at the bottom.”

# 3. Writing gender in main body of the paper

Providing information about how men and women are related to, or affected by development projects

Producing gender disaggregated data

- ☐ division of labour, roles, and responsibilities between men and women:
  - who is doing what
  - what is the link with the research's topic
- Gender impacts of development projects (dam/irrigation/highways and etc)
  - How females and males differently are impacted by these projects and how they have differently coped with or adapted in these changes

# Baird et al., (Forth coming)

As in other parts of Laos, women in the XBF Basin tend to be more marginalized than men, but this is especially the case for ethnic Brou women. For the Brou, girls tend to have considerably less education than boys, due to preferences of families to prioritize the education of males.

Ethnic Brou women have important but somewhat different roles in society compared to the Lao and Kaleung, the dominant lowland groups. For example, grooms move in with the families of their brides for the Lao and Kaleung, while the Brou were historically organized bilaterally, with brides and grooms shifting from one side of the family to the other. But in all cases women play important roles harvesting and collecting natural resources and some also in selling these items, either at markets or elsewhere.

# 4. Writing gender in analysis section

- Bringing in concept of gender/feminism/related concepts such as power relations
  - Why gendered?
  - Explain the differences in experiences, viewpoints, and impacts related to gender roles and power relationships
  - Gender roles and power relations are constructed in a particular socioeconomic and cultural context
  - women and men's access to and control over resources
  - [Look up Susan Hamilton]

# Women in the Xe Bang Fai and NT2 dam

## **Why gendered?**

Our research has shown that women and ethnic minorities have faced more difficulties in their lives since NT2 has been introduced. These impacts have widened gender and ethnicity disparities and marginalized women and minorities to the extent that they are further impoverished (Yong 2001; Lahiri-Dutt 2010; Namy 2007; Whitehead 2009; Resurreccion and Manorom 2007).

## 5. Using gender sensitive language in the research report

- An effective way to highlight the gender dimension of the research's topic is to use gender sensitive language.
- Language itself is not neutral
- Language reflects the values of patriarchal system
  - Clearly use female and males not a generic term like farmers/villagers

Lahili-Dutt 2012 “Large Dams and Changes in an Agrarian Society: Gendering the Impacts of Damodar Valley Corporation in Eastern India”

Evidence also suggests that women and men commonly adopt multiple livelihood strategies according to geographical scales and climatic season (Cleaver, 1998; Valdivia and Gilles, 2001).

Yet many water engineers, administrators, and policy-makers continue to see 'the community' or 'the family' as a homogeneous unit, and neglect the intricate complexities of gender roles, tasks, and power relations residing within these units. Critiquing such purely technocentric views, Jones (2006) observed:

Lahili-Dutt 2012 “Large Dams and Changes in an Agrarian Society: Gendering the Impacts of Damodar Valley Corporation in Eastern India”

[I] argue dams are more than just concrete and water. They have huge environmental and social impacts, and are often political strategies in disguise... Analysis of dam projects still often describes affected peoples as genderless, focusing on homogeneous 'households' and disregarding communities and family units as sites of gendered interaction. The reality is, however, that women's relationship with water is different to that of men's, which should be taken into account in all planning phases of dam development.



## 6. Writing gender sensitive in policy

- Anticipating impacts of new policies or practices on women and women
  1. identify the impacts of new practices or policies on men and women;
  2. who will benefit from these;
  3. Decision making
  4. who will be disadvantaged; and
  5. the impacts on men and women's activities and relationships.

# Women in the Xe Bang Fai and NT2 dam

- Thus, this paper suggests that we must reflect whether hydropower is really a mean for eradicating poverty for affected women and ethnic minorities. Are mitigation measures practically sound or are they just the rhetoric of donors. We need to have a better understanding the causes of poverty and the impacts of various poverty reduction programs on how they effectively work for the affected groups, especially women. Governments and donors alike should be more critical towards their own pre-conceived mitigation measures.

# 6. Writing gender sensitive in policy

- Considering that your research should propose equity measures, and promote equality

“In spite of their social constraints, women in the lower Damodar valley have not remained mere victims of the floods created by the DVC. There are instances of women taking up leadership or showing astounding courage and strength in the face of adversity. The level of improvisation by women in dealing with the extreme lack of resources, privacy, and support is extraordinary. Many women in such distressing situations have, individually and in groups, proven that they have more to them than what is given by their social milieu. This intangible quality is best described as resilience and spirit, and is difficult to incorporate in broader terminologies such as 'adaptation”

Source: Lahili-Dutt 2012 “Large Dams and Changes in an Agrarian Society: Gendering the Impacts of Damodar Valley Corporation in Eastern India”