Gender in Southeast Asia

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Historical contexts of gender inequality

1. Gender in pre-modern SEA
2. Gender and colonization
3. Gender in contemporary time

Why gender is important in water management in SE?

• Women and water are inseparable
• Women and men have different and changing gender roles which are bound up with relations of unequal power
• Women and men have different access to power and assets
• Women are often not heard in consultations
• Women are not involved in management or decision-making

Current gender issues in water

• Moving beyond gender stereotype
• Integrating the uses of water a gender perspective
• Commoditization of water
• New approaches to gender mainstreaming
• Water as a human right
• Water and civil society
Development impacts on gender

- Large resource development projects have long-term impacts on the communities living in and around the project area.
- The impacts are caused by changes to the social and cultural fabric of community life.

(Helen Johnson, 2017)

- Attempts to analyse, monitor and manage these impacts by experts have given rise to Social Impact Assessment practices.
- Social impacts do not occur in a socio-cultural vacuum. Impacts can affect the human rights of individual members of local communities.
- Impacts are ‘gendered’ in that they are different for women than for men (Helen Johnson 2017)
Why missing women in decision making in water?

– Scarcity of women water professionals,
– Sociological factor
  • unconscious bias toward “male preference” for leadership
– Technical aspects
  • limited sex-disaggregated data showing how women compare with men in leadership
  • underrepresented at every level, and in every subsector
Where are women in water management?

• Promote gender-inclusive water policies
• Conduct robust research to evaluate the success of promoting women to leadership positions. Replicate good practices.
• Build the technical and managerial skills of women as professionals and technicians in the water sector by developing their competency and expertise (see ADB document no. 24, 2014)

Where are women in water management?

• Build capacity for women through different modalities,
• Establish mechanisms for women to pursue technical careers
• Put women in leadership posts
• Continue gender mainstreaming and gender sensitization for all water-related institutions.
• Link governments and water agencies with universities and technical and vocational education and training institutions

Group work

• Discuss gender issues in your research under MK project
  – To what extent gender is put in place in your research?
  – Why are they not included?
    • Scarcity of professional women in water/resource management?
    • Limited Disaggregated data? Underrepresented?
  – How to promote them?