

## GENDER STUDIES

### QUESTION: 06

#### → Gender Roles Shaping Women's Vulnerability to Climate Induced Disasters in Developing Countries:

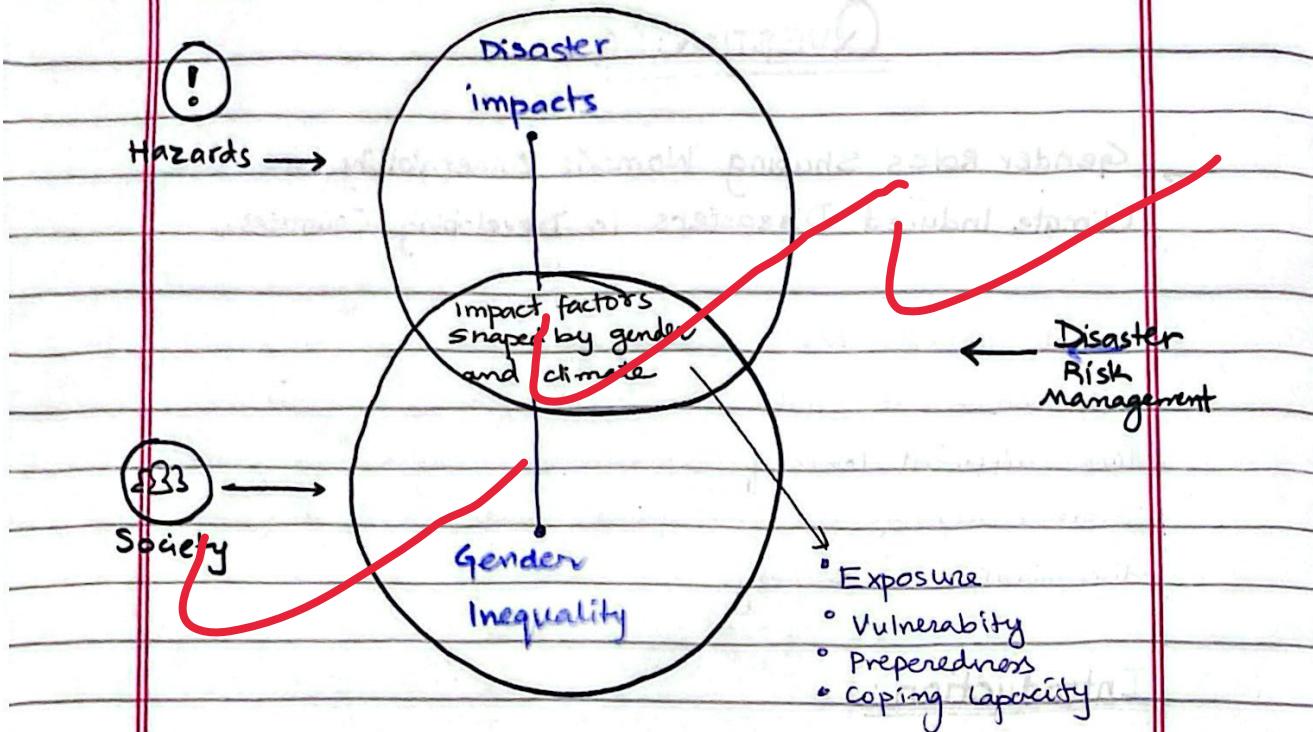
Climate Hazards are neutral but their impacts on men and women are not. Men, Women, Boys and Girls face different levels of exposure and vulnerability to disaster hazards due to gender relations and discrimination in society.

#### Introduction:

While women and men are at 'disadvantaged position in society at large, this doesn't by default translate into worse disaster outcomes for women. In Europe and USA men account for 70 percent flood related deaths due to overrepresentation of men in rescue professions according to World Bank. But in less developed countries despite men having overrepresentation is risky and rescue operations more women tend to die because of disasters due to gender gap in:

- i) access to information disaster preparedness,
- ii) access to public shelters
- iii) limits in mobility  
Due to which and Women are disproportionately effected by natural disaster in several outcomes e.g;
- i) life expectancy
- ii) unemployment
- iii) labor force re-entry
- iv) relative asset loss
- v) Increased chances of gender based violence.

**Seem like notes**



## ① Disaster Impacts : Exposure & Vulnerability:

According to World Bank, natural disasters have different levels of ~~ex~~ exposure and outcomes in terms of endowment (education, health, child labor), economic outcomes (livelihoods, assets, consumption), and voice and agency (child marriage, GBV) on men and women.

### i) Life expectancy and mortality:

Women are more likely to die in natural disaster like flood. Pakistan is prone to due mortality due to a number of factors including:

- Ability to self evacuate through learned skill like climbing & swimming.
- Women's clothing restricts their mobility.
- Difference in knowledge affecting women's ability to access safe shelters.
- Higher likelihood of women evacuating with children.

and elders.

## ii) Education & Child Labour:

World bank reports show that parents unable to afford tuition fees focus on boy's education due to common belief that girls are supposed to be leave & married. The dependence on income of boys in future makes parents invest on boy's education, due to which the enrollments of girls drops relatively more than boys post-disasters.

## iii) Assets:

Women own relatively less assets than men in developing countries. In cases of disasters, they have little to rely on. Also assets held by women in countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, India are tangible, mostly in form of gold, Jewellery, more likely to be lost in comparison to men having secure assets like property, saving accounts, etc.

## iv) Consumption:

Reports suggest that women after disasters are more likely to skip meals to cope with economic stress. World Bank reports that Bangladeshi women after floods are 1.6 times more likely to skip meals.

## v) Child Marriage:

After the disasters, to lessen the financial burdens, parents tend to marry their girls. Surge in child marriages of girls is seen after in south Punjab and areas affected by floods are an evidence.

Kindly build headings align to asked part

## vi) Gender Based Violence :

Loss of safe shelter makes women more exposed to gender-based violence. ~~crowded displacement~~ and overcrowded shelters compound the risk.

## ② Intersection with Class :

### i) Poor women - Compound Risk:

Poverty reduces quality of housing (making people more likely to live in disaster-prone areas), reduces access to transport for evacuation, and also lessens ability to replace lost livelihood. 2022 floods pushed millions into

### ii) Female headed households:

According to Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (2017-18), 13% of Pakistani households are female headed, those households have fewer assets and fewer chances of recovery after shocks.

## ③ Rural-Urban Divide :

### 9) Rural Women :

Rural women depend more on rainfed agriculture, livestock, natural resources in terms of earning are therefore relatively more sensitive to droughts, erratic rains and floods. According to UN female-headed rural households lose  $\approx 8\%$  more income from heat stress and  $\approx 3\%$  more incomes from floods compared to male-headed households.

## Important Note to get Good

### marks in Gender Studies):

Marks would be given on the

following parameters

I) Women in Non-formal Settlements:  
Urban poor, especially informal settlements are

more prone to floods, poor sanitation, other disasters.

Also women in slum are associated to precarious jobs.

(street vending, domestic work) which are disrupted by

disasters and difficult access to formal relief and safe

shelter, increasing health & safety risks.

a- Content 60% References 15%

Subject specific language 15%.

Graphs and charts 10%

### III) Different Service Access:

Add 12-13 headings in each question

Urban areas may have better physical infrastructure & services

but urban poor (women) often ~~as~~ cannot access it due

to financial barriers and rural areas may lack services

the questions carry 3-4 parts...

#### 4) Conclusion:

each part has equal weightage so

discuss all equally

Gendered roles in developing countries make women both

exposed more and less able to recover from climate

disasters. Poverty and Rural residence often worsen

these effects while urban poverty may create distinct

hazards. Policy response must be gender-sensitive,

inclusive recovery planning, investment in women's livelihoods

and protection of women and children safe shelters and

WASH can lessen these impacts on women.

use subject specific jargons e.g.

Patriarchy, entrenched traditional

values etc. Also, do not add blunt

statements

use types, waves and theories of feminism as references

Improve headings and add facts

attempt all parts in the question.

do not neglect one

add facts and figures to support

your argument

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