Journal of Novel Applied Sciences

Available online at www.jnasci.org ©2014 JNAS Journal-2014-3-3/303-306 ISSN 2322-5149 ©2014 JNAS



An investigation on the participation rate of women in the urban environmental conservation

Nosrat Ganjali^{1*}, Masume Hafez Reza Zadeh² and Gholam Reza Miri²

1- Master student, Department of Geography, Zahedan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Zahedan, Iran
2- Department of Geography, Zahedan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Zahedan, Iran

Corresponding author: Nosrat Ganjali

ABSTRACT: Humans and environment interact in many different ways. New buildings and the associated land use for example cause a complex set of environmental, social, urban and economic interactions. Women's direct contact with environment has produced their deep- knowledge about the environment. Thus, women have served as agriculturalists, water resources managers, and traditional scientists, among others. Women are not only knowledgeable about the environment; they are also protective and caring. Women, being primarily responsible for domestic and household management, interact more intensively with both the natural environment and build the environment more than men. Consequently, they are more likely to suffer from a degraded home, neighborhood, and city environment and to shoulder more of the burden that goes with living in poor housing and communities with inadequate residential and health infrastructure, since they spend more time at home and its immediate vicinity.

Keywords: Women's, Environment, Protection.

INTRODUCTION

Humans and environment interact in many different ways. New buildings and the associated land use for example cause a complex set of environmental, social, urban and economic interactions (Bock and Preuss 2011, p. 27f., Vester 2007). After Independence in 1947 the activities related to economic development got momentum and greater emphasis was given on increase of agriculture produce and industrialization. Use of fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides was on increase and heavy industries in field of steels, fertilizers petroleum refining, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, mining heavy chemicals etc. were established. Numerous ancillary units followed. Industrialization and economic upliftment give rise to problems of urbanization, public health and others. Today the environmental problems of a technocratic industrial society are so serious and complicated that it threatening the very survival of life on this planet. Everybody is compelled to think about an immediate solution to these problems. We need a technology to re-establish the harmonious relationship between man and nature by assuring the fulfillment of the basic needs of all the living beings from the surroundings. Due to all these factors the importance of Environment Preservation and Pollution Control had also started getting cognizance in government, intellectuals and voluntary agencies (Kalinowsky, 1992). The study was anchored on the theory of Vandana Shiva (1998), which places a high premium on "feminine principle" as a source of life. Women, according to her, are the original givers of life and caretakers of environment, and it is the western patriarchal development strategies and western science that have displaced the feminine principle and victimized women, non-western people and the environment. Shiva further argued that the marriage of patriarchy and capitalism had subjugated women to the environment. The survey also showed that the gendered distribution of tasks within the household was an important aspect for the readiness to take over sustainable consumption offers. In households where women were taking the burden of the housework, the child-care and additionally an employment, whereas men were not taking household responsibilities, there was clearly no space for sustainable consumption anymore because women were simply overtaxed with the issue (and men thought it was a women's issue). However, in households that were trying to live gender equality, although they have a strict time regime, there is still space for sustainability concerns

and moreover, men had taken over caring concerns as well and were more open for sustainable consumption offers (Edrege, 1990). To strengthen the moral and behavioral attributes among people related to environment protection, as well as enhancement of social skills to active participation in decision making and policies about the environment, education is necessary (Majnounian, 2001). Women and men often are forced to change their families' dietary practices when soil fertility has been drastically reduced due to over cropping, overgrazing, or erosion, or where there is a lack of fuel wood and potable water. Nutrition suffers when fuel wood shortages force households to economize on fuel by shifting to less nutritious foods that can be eaten raw or partially cooked, by eating partially cooked food that could prove toxic, by eating leftovers that could rot in a tropical climate, or by skipping meals altogether, Although these nutritional changes affect all household members to some degree, women and female children bear the greatest burden in places where they eat last and least (Bina, 1997). Mirdamadi and Haji Shafi (2009) in a study about "the role of nongovernmental organizations in adult education (andragogy)" have found financial resources of NGOs, participation in municipalities planning and educational level of educators, had positive role in protecting urban landscapes. Women, being primarily responsible for domestic and household management, interact more intensively with both the natural environment and build the environment more than men. Consequently, they are more likely to suffer from a degraded home, neighborhood, and city environment and to shoulder more of the burden that goes with living in poor housing and communities with inadequate residential and health infrastructure, since they spend more time at home and its immediate vicinity (Etta, 1999). The interesting part of the whole dilemma is that we have greater women's participation in forest management through tree planting, rehabilitation, or protection. For example in India, women participate in Forest Management Scheme (IDS, 1995). Farm forestry is being practiced whereby small holders are encouraged to grow more trees on their land. The women tend the trees after planting to maturity. Such insecure land tenure influences how different groups use natural resources. Women, the poor, and other marginalized groups are less likely to invest time and resources or adopt environmentally sustainable farming practices on land they do not own. In the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, researchers found that men usually plant permanent tree crops, such as coffee, on household land where they have secure tenure. Women's food crops are relegated to rented, steeply sloped land with erosive soils. Because tenure is not secure, women have little incentive to invest in soil conservation (Melissa and Robert, 1991). In Zimbabwe, researchers found that women are also significantly less likely to plant trees for food, medicine, and fuel wood in areas where future access is uncertain (Lonise, 1996). Environmental and consumer education is another important voluntary information instrument regarding sustainability. Although the importance of environmental education for women has repeatedly been emphasized, environmental education has also been criticized as to its gender blindness. For instance, consumer and environmental movements mostly do not deal with gender-related issues (Gerard, 1994; Graber, 1995). Environmental research from a gender perspective makes this point by criticizing the extra-terrestrial Sputnik-point of view. The 'blue planet' is a picture in which the world is understood in terms of scientific definitions of pollutants. On this view the ecological crisis of the globe is defined by 'too many' material flows and energy conversions, which are seen as destructive for the ecological balance of the globe. This is the frame picture of thinking 'ecology' today. Against this reduction on pure natural scientific interpretation of the world, gender research argues for new images and scientific models that combine the natural sciences perspective with everyday life experiences of women and different social groups. Consequently, ecology in a gender-perspective must be social ecology. The socalled ecological crisis is a global societal crisis, in which political, economic, social, ecological and gender-political crisis factors are inseparably bound together (WEDO, 1994).

Women in urban area

Women living in urban areas find themselves in an unfriendly environment. They face problems associated with housing, noise and air pollution. Lack of accommodation makes them to adjust with small dwellings. In many cases there is no moving place in the cooking area. They spend 3 to 4 hours in the kitchen for cooking purpose. Inefficient fuel and improper ventilation make them disease prone. It is observed that the concentrations of reparable fraction of the suspended particulate matter were beyond the permissible level in indoor conditions (Mohan, 1992).

Participation of Women

Nowadays, the participation of women as half of human resources, not only the basic objectives of economic and social development in any country is, but is also instrumental in achieving the goals of sustainable development. One of the indicators of the degree of development of a country, the amount of participation and the role that women have in that country. Given the potential of women and their potential to be developed as part of the goals and programs of the utilize their participation. Their involvement means the participation of women in all

aspects including consultation, consultation, collaboration, decision making and implementation of economic affairs, political, environmental, which lets them in the management process, active participation. Modern world demands and new expectations require the participation of women is one of the examples of actual expectations. Women participate more than anything else in need of a serious change in the mentality and culture of the society they are present and active with half the world's population due to the type of tasks associated with the undeniable natural resources and environment and so are closer and more intimate nature, due to problems such as poverty, lack of access to education and knowledge necessary lack of environmental management and etc. acceptance of their powers and abilities is a good start (Ferreira, 1998).

Urban residential environment

Urban environment, the ecosystem or environment that has several components, including resources, processes, and effects of local plant and animal communities, human life, minerals, water, soil, air, resources and processes, impacts associated with construction housing, roads, utilities, resources and processes, and the impacts of human activities, education, health, the arts (environmental, social and economic). The result of human activity and the conversion of resources and raw materials, goods and services required, urban environmental influences that these effects may be positive or negative. Among the negative factors affecting the urban environment can be different types of pollution (pollution of water, air, noise, etc.), production of waste and garbage, sewage and population density, and so on (Franz, 2001).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This paper is a review of the articles search ISI .Scopus and the University Jihad Site SID and MAGIRAN Is also abundant. Search library collection of books, reports, proceedings of the Congress was also performed. All efforts have been made to review articles and abstracts related to internal and external validity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Environmental and consumer education is another important voluntary information instrument regarding sustainability. Although the importance of environmental education for women has repeatedly been emphasized, environmental education has also been criticized as to its gender blindness. For instance, consumer and environmental movements mostly do not deal with gender-related issues. Although the importance of environmental education for women has repeatedly been emphasized, environmental education has also been criticized as to its gender blindness. For instance, consumer and environmental movements mostly do not deal with gender-related issues. Women's direct contact with environment has produced their deep- knowledge about the environment.

REFERENCES

- Bock S and Preuß T. 2011. Flächenverbrauch: Fakten, Trends und Ursachen. In: Stephanie Bock, Ajo Hinzen and Jens Libbe (Hrsg.): Nachhaltiges Flächenmanagement Ein Handbuch für die Praxis. Ergebnisse aus der REFINA-Forschung. Berlin. (In German)
- Eldredge M. 1990. Gender, Science, and Technology: A Selected Annotated Bibliography. Behavioural 6 Social Sciences Librarian 9. No. 1, 77-134
- Etta FE. 1999. Maroko Low-Income Settlement in Lagos, Nigeria: Gender and Urban Natural Resource Management in D.L. Smith Women Managing Resources Mazingira Institute, Nairobi.
- Franz-Balsen A. 2001. Nachhaltigkeit and Gender Konsequenzen für die Umweltkommunikation. In: Umweltbundesamt (Hg.): Verankerung des Nachhaltigkeits- Leitbildes in der Umweltkommunikation- Chance, Barrier und Potential der Sozialwissenschaften.
- Garber JA/RS, Turner (eds.). 1995. Gender in urban research. Thousand Oaks Gender and Sustainable Cities: contributions to the international workshop on Gender Responsive Environmental Planning and Management, Nairobi, 28.-30.9.1998. (1999) Special issue, Trialog, Vol. 60
- Gérard A. 1994. Women in architectur studies and women architects: attitude transmission of knowledge. In: Gender issues in the decision making process with regard to urban space and housing: Summary of the 1993 action-oriented research, Brussels, 28 May 1994: www.dhgender.org/city and shelter/
- IDS. 1995. Policy Briefing, Issues 5: August.
- Kalinowsky A. 1992. Ekologia jako dziedzina nauk biologicznych. Obrona terminu przed zawlaszczeniem czy tez naduzywanie?" (Ecology as a Branch of Biological Sciences. A De fence of the Term Against the Larceny or Its Abuse?)

- In: Wybrane zagadnienia z ekologii i ochrony srodowiska {Selec ted Problems in Ecology and Environmental Protection) (Ed.: D. Kalinowska), Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warszawa, pp. 35-45.
- Majnounian H. 2001. Discussions about Park, green space and promenades in Tehran city. Publication of parkha va fazaye sabz organization, Tehran, Iran.
- Mirdamadi SM and Esmaeali S. 2010. Examine the level of high school student's awareness in Tehran towered environmental protection. Quarterly Journal of environmental technological sciences. 12(1), spring, 2010.
- Mohan J, Gadgil A and Pawar NJ. 1992. Indoor air quality assessment at selected locations in Pune city, Indian Journal of Environmental Health, Vol.34, No.3, pp.209- 213.
- Shiva Vandana. 1998. Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Survival in India. London Zed Books.
- Vester F. 2007. The Art of interconnected thinking: Tools and concepts for a new approach to tackling complexity, MCB Verlag GmbH (Management, Cybernetics, Bionics), Munich.
- Leach M and Mearns R. 1991. Poverty and the Environment in Developing Countries: an Overview Study, Report to Economic and Social Research Council and Overseas Development Administration (UK) (Brighton, England: Institute for Development Studies.
- Fortmann L, Antinori C and Nabane N. 1997. "Fruits of Their Labors: Gender, Property Rights, and Tree Planting in Two Zimbabwe Villages," Rural Sociology62, no. 3: 295-314.
- Bina Agarwal. 1997. "Environmental Action, Gender Equity and Women's Participation," Development and Change, 28: 1-39.
- WEDO (Women's Environment and Development Organisation). 1999: Risks, Rights and Reforms. A 50-Country Survey Assessing Government Actions Five Years After the International Conference on Population and Development. New York Whatmore, S./T. Marsden/P. Lowe (1994): Critical perspectives on rural change series. London.