

# Gender Equality & Sustainability

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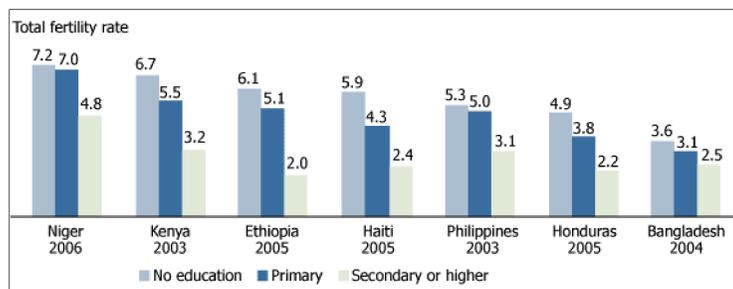
GES 101 – Group 15

## Introduction

Sustainability is not purely an issue regarding the environment, but its human inhabitants as well. True sustainability cannot be reached while natural resources and people are exploited. In the case of gender equality, the empowerment of women and sustainability are interlocked. Women in developing nations are some of those most impacted by environmental instability. These same women are potentially valuable actors in the progression towards sustainability, but are often not given the opportunity to do so.

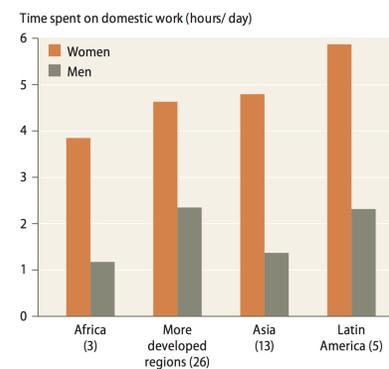
## Public Health

- Need for implementation of reproductive health education for men/women
  - Stabilization and reduction of birth rates
- Access to healthcare reduces child mortality
  - Women are less likely to have many children because there is a higher chance of survival
- Mother's access to education reduces child mortality by 9.5% for each year of education
- Social pressures and inequalities cause concern for women's nutrition
  - Stigmas surrounding women's bodies are prominent, similarly to the western world
- Environmental conditions affect overall health
  - Often a lack of access to clean water, sanitation, and waste disposal/removal



## Work

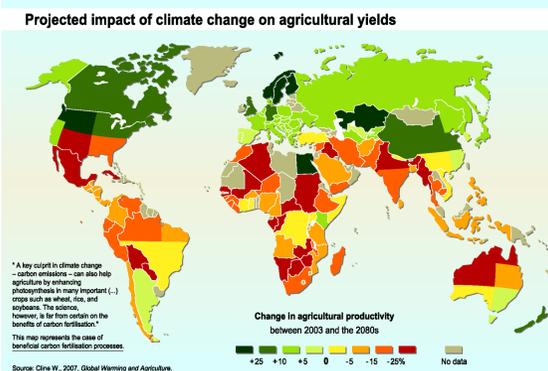
Time spent on domestic work by region and sex, 1999–2008 (latest available)



- Unequal distribution of paid/unpaid work
- Women paid an average of 60 to 75 percent less than men
- Unequal distribution of sexes in type of work
- Women beneficial in the workplace – lead to higher productivity and sustainable outcomes
- Women are crucial components in the solution to reducing poverty and hunger, but face limiting social constraints
  - Own less, produce less, limited credit access

## Food & Agriculture

- Women are often unable to own land - any land they may own is often low quality
- Women make up 43% of agricultural work, yet often lack food security
- Gender roles in household food distribution-- women eat less and lower quality food than the rest of the household, especially men
- Social stigmas concerning women's bodies discourage weight gain
  - Bolivia and India have similar average incomes, yet 36% of Indian women are underweight while only 1% is
- What women are allowed to farm affects their own food security
- Climate change affects food security → more labor → more health risks



## Moving Forward

- Promotion of women's education:
  - Reproductive health and rights
  - Life/Professional skills
- Encouraging women's participation in government
- Empowering women through valuing their work
- Offer more diverse work opportunities

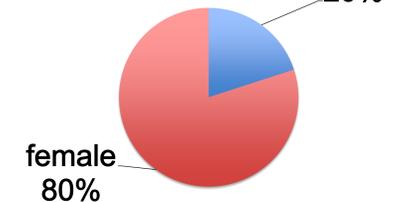


## Vulnerability



- Women disproportionately impacted by shocks/crises such as natural disasters, environmental changes, etc.
- When men leave communities, women are left vulnerable because of lack of skills and tools and become enemy targets
- Heavily impacted by price fluctuations of crops due to climate change and market changes

2004 Thailand Tsunami Deaths



## Existing Projects

- Minimum Initial Service Package
  - Provide reproductive health care tools
  - Prevent spread of HIV
  - Provide clean kits for child birth
- Farmer Field School in Rwanda
  - Women taught business and agricultural skills
  - Receive increased support from their spouses
  - Gives access to health care

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