

Gender and Water

Module 2

Water Classrooms

CWR/IISER-Pune / LWM / TESF



Understanding Gender

- What are some of the sex role stereotypes (male /female / other characteristics) that you are familiar with?
- Where have these ideas come from?



Dhobi



Farmer

Construction Worker



Top left image source : World Nomads - Travel photography scholarship 2012 - Dhobi ghat, Mumbai - Daniel Sordo

Right image source :

<https://in.pinterest.com/pin/201325045826941080/> - Accessed on 19/04/2018

Bottom left image source :

<https://in.pinterest.com/pin/180355160062393433/>

Chef



Security Guards

Mother



Top left image source : Topyaps - [Lifestyle](#) - Career As A Chef In India: 5 Things You Can Expect - Pragati Kashyap

Right image source :
<https://in.pinterest.com/pin/431219733040995287/> -
Accessed on 19/04/2018

Bottom left image source : www.thebetterindia.com -
Did You Ever Think A Rural Woman Could Become A Security Guard? She Did! by [Shreya Pareek](#)

Boxers



Cricketer

Weight Lifter



Top left image source : www.newindianexpress - Mary Kom advances to Commonwealth Games boxing final of 48 kg with 5-0 verdict; Sarita, Pinki crash out by PTI

Right image source : www.khelnama.com - India's Individual Olympic medalists

Bottom left image source : www.sports.ndtv.com - BCCI Ignoring Women's Cricket, Says Women's Cricket Association of India Secretary Nutan Gavaskar by Press Trust of India



Taxi Driver



Surgeon



Bus Driver

Top left image source: jonathanfryer.wordpress.com - Driving with Selvi by Jonathan fryer

Top right image source: <http://drkaminirao.com/> Dr Kamini Rao – Padma Shri

Bottom image source: www.allindiaroundup.com - Meet Prema Ramappa Nadapatti, The First & Only Female Bus Driver of BMTC



Indian Airforce
Officers

Indian Army
Officers



Top image source : Elle India - *Meet the first women fighter jet pilots of the Indian Air Force* by Supriya Dravid
Bottom image source: www.shethepeople.tv - *Fighting their own battle, 340 women get permanent commission as officers in the Indian army*

SEX

- Biologically determined – we are each born male or female
- Cannot be changed unless through medical intervention
- Sex role stereotypes
- Sex ratios

GENDER

- Socially constructed: "*we are not born women, we become women (or men)*" (Beauvoir)
- Gender roles and identities are shaped by social institutions
- Can change over time, dynamic – fluid bonds, like water
- Intersect with other social and power relations shaped by caste, class, age, faith, ability....

Understanding the difference

Gender **Equality**

- **Fundamental human right** – right to life of human dignity without deprivation for both women and men
- Depends on access to
- Education
- Economic opportunities
- Participation in decision-making

Gender **Equity**

- **Fairness in allocation** – being able to access the same opportunities
- Sometimes may require positive action like quotas, reservation

Fetching Water – Unpaid work, reproductive roles, the care economy



MAPPING SOCIAL AND GENDER
INEQUITIES IN THE WATER SECTOR
IN SOUTH ASIA (2011), SOPPECOM,
Pune :
<http://www.womenwaterwork.org/>



She wakes me in the early
morning for grinding flour,
At night I have to weave,
She sends me to fetch water
very early in the morning,
Oh grandfather, life is very
difficult for me.
My pot has never filled up in
the well,
Water is so deep that my rope
cannot reach,
The sun rises and sets also, but
Today I was unable to collect
even a single pot of water."

(folk song sung by Arvindbhai, social
historian, Surendranagar, 1999)

Domestic Water Use



WATER EMPOWERS
WOMEN, Archana Pandey :
<http://www.womenwaterwork.org/>

Boys do fetch water!





Picture credit:
Basia Irland

Agriculture – productive work



MAPPING SOCIAL AND GENDER INEQUITIES IN THE
WATER SECTOR IN SOUTH ASIA (2011), SOPPECOM,
Pune : <http://www.womenwaterwork.org/>

Herding – caring for livestock



MAPPING SOCIAL AND
GENDER INEQUITIES IN THE
WATER SECTOR IN SOUTH
ASIA (2011), SOPPECOM, Pune
:
<http://www.womenwaterwork.org/>

Fishing and Related Activities



Lobster fattening with marginalised women involved in Foot fishing to augment incomes -Bandar village, Mahuva block, Bhavnagar district

WOMEN AND WASH,
UTTHAN, Gujarat :
[http://www.womenwater
work.org/](http://www.womenwaterwork.org/)



Supportive mechanisms to reduce drudgery of women fisherfolk involved in tedious parts of the job, Mahuva block, Bhavnagar district

WOMEN AND WASH,
UTTHAN, Gujarat :
[http://www.womenwater
work.org/](http://www.womenwaterwork.org/)

Plumbing



TRAILBLAZING WATER
JOURNEYS, GRAM
VIKAS :
[http://www.womenwaterw
ork.org/](http://www.womenwaterw
ork.org/)

Carrying Water – the Bhistees



The Bhishti's are a traditional community of Water Carriers who supply water in leather-skin bags called as Mashaqs. They are the Muslim tribes found in North India, Pakistan and Terai region of Nepal.

Bhishti - The Water Carriers,
Amit Tandon :
<https://www.livingwatersmuseum.org/bhishti-the-water-carriers>

The Right to Sanitation

- *“With one out of three women worldwide lacking access to safe toilets, it is a moral imperative to end open defecation to ensure women and girls are not at risk of assault and rape simply because they lack a sanitation facility,”* UN General Secretary Ban Ki-Moon (2014).
- 60% of world's open defecation in India: Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- Lack of sanitation affects women's health, dignity, security
- Access to schools for adolescent girls – separate toilets, functioning





The provision of hygiene and sanitation are usually considered women's tasks



Societal barriers often restrict women's involvement in decision-making processes

SEWA, Gujarat

- Women leaders discussing community water issues as part of SEWA's campaign on Women, Work, Water
- Finding appropriate solutions: low-cost, self-reliant, maintain

