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Seminar: Tapping into collective wisdom: Gender sensitive development and water ecosystems

ABSTRACT VOLUME

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Seminar: Tapping into collective wisdom: Gender sensitive development and water ecosystems

Contents

An alternative gender analytical approach for water governance

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Keywords
Analytical Frameworks, Gender, Irrigation, Governance, Social Relations

Highlights

- The abstract presents an alternative analytical framework to examine the issues involved in water governance and gender participation.
- The approach helps examine the extent to which gender is a significant driver of participation in irrigation management.
- Its application is illustrated by empirical evidence from Ethiopia and Argentina.

Introduction and objectives

It is widely recognised that rural women are important irrigation water users, in particular those dependent upon small scale agriculture. Although there has been increasing attention to the question of women as users of water for agriculture (Ahlers and Zwarteveen, 2009; Udas, 2014; Buisson et al., 2017), a comprehensive analysis examining all interrelated factors, with a methodology going beyond the case study approach is missing. This article uses an alternative analytical framework to examine the gendered outcomes of irrigation management through the perspective of social relations of power and its contribution to gender equality in water policy.

Methodology approach

The construction of this framework was based on reviewing relevant existing analytical approaches and the analysis of empirical data from two contrasting settings, small scale irrigation systems in Ethiopia and Argentina. The approach is used to examine the question: what are the outcomes of the interactions of dynamics of gender, social relations and irrigation practice within the context of collective water governance? The understanding of the mechanisms that govern those intersections is of particular relevance for the understanding of how natural resource management, including water management, is gendered. This in turn can help addressing gender differences towards broader social equality.

Analysis and results

The use of this analytical approach allows to understand and describe gender differences in access, use and participation of different groups of irrigation water users. Applied to the irrigation management sector of Mendoza Province, centre-west of Argentina, this analysis provides an example of how even in a technically robust and well established democratic water management system, gender-based constraints to participation and decision making by women persist.

The analysis of water users' associations of Tigray, Ethiopia, shows that formal and more transparent forms of organisations of irrigation users have visibly improved security of access to irrigation water of certain groups of female farmers. In both Tigray and Mendoza, women appear to have a very low participation in the governance of irrigation systems due to a number of contextual, but also similar constraints. This imbalance in participation has practical implications, which become particularly apparent in the small scale irrigation sector.

Empirical evidence from both countries indicates that women claiming participation in the male dominated sector of water resource governance often have to confront culturally rooted ideologies and power structures, often at a personal cost. This appears to also be the case elsewhere (for example, Vera Delgado, 2005; Udas and Zwarteveen, 2010).

Conclusions and recommendation

This study has helped explain why some groups of women find it harder to overcome constraints in the irrigation management sector. It also highlights opportunities and conducive sector polices. Gender integration policies are strongly needed in the irrigation sector of both regions, despite considerable environmental, socio-economic and cultural differences. Interestingly, Ethiopia appears to have a more advanced gender and agriculture policy framework.

The most frequent scale of analysis of women's participation in water resource management has been the local level. The transition from community to higher levels of collective gender participation is of substantial interest in this study.

Circular economy practices for exotic vegetables cultivation of women farmers

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Keywords

Circular economy, women farmers, blackwater recycling, greywater recycling, climate-smart agriculture

Highlights

Under Securing Water for Food (SWFF) project, women farmers in NIlgiris implement circular economy principles through the recycling of black and greywater for compost production and irrigation of exotic vegetables cultivation respectively. The women farmers are organised into Producer Companies. Through these companies marketing partners advance money for vegetables under cultivation (advance purchase orders).

Introduction and objectives

The economic condition in the Nilgiris District, India depends on the success and failure of horticulture crops. Climate change has resulted in limited water availability for 4-6 months. Excessive application of chemical fertilisers has resulted in declining soil fertility. Additionally, solid and liquid waste in the area are inadequately treated and disposed irresponsibly to the environment.

To change this negative cycle, we introduce the circular economy principles,with black and greywater recycling for compost production irrigation of exotic vegetables by women farmers respectively. The objective is to increase women farmers' income by extending crop season and improving soil quality with compost for increased yield.

Methodology approach

Women farmers in Nilgiris are accustomed with growing, processing, and sales of exotic vegetables to market. A total of 2250 women farmers will get organised into Producers Companies located in Nilgiris for linkage with marketing partners and banks for loans.

Blackwater are collected by honeysuckers from women farmers' households and transported to a treatment site in which the dried sludge gets mixed with collected organic solid waste for composting. Greywater are sourced from a cluster of women farmers' households into a treatment area in which the treated water goes into a pond for irrigation for use by women farmers.

Analysis and results

A baseline assessment has been undertaken among women farmers about their situation and their view on comprehensive recycling. It was observed that all of them use compost and some of them are already familiar with co-compost from the mixing of faecal sludge and organic waste, which would later help in the adoption process of the product. Additionally, they also expressed the need to have more water availability during dry months.

Blackwater from women farmers' households will be treated with a wetland system in which the dried sludge gets mixed with collected organic solid waste for composting at government-owned treatment site. Greywater from women farmers' households will be treated with a natural system in which the treated water will be collected in a collective farm pond for women farmers to use for irrigation. It was observed that the

community has their own traditional system for sharing of public good. Discussions with the village leaders have been held and a new collective system will be decided among women farmers on distribution of treated greywater for irrigation purpose.
Women farmers are registered under Producer Companies. They are developing business plans for banks and MoU with marketing partner for the procurement of their crops.

Conclusions and recommendation
Women farmers have expressed demand for compost (with the mix of faecal sludge and organic solid waste) and additional water availability. A methodological monitoring and evaluation must take place to ensure safety and quality of compost for soil application and treated greywater for irrigation. Additionally, trainings will be conducted and SOP developed for women farmers on how to operate and manage greywater treatment units and undertake household composting. These will also be developed for honey sucker operators on the handling of blackwater and women workers at centralised treatment site on composting and handling of dried sludge and organic waste.

Gendered approach in capitalising on traditional knowledge: A case study

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Keywords
Gendered approach, Traditional knowledge, Apatani valley, Water ecosystem, Case study

Highlights
Based on the traditional knowledge of the tribal people in Northeast India, Apatani plateau was transformed from a water deficit to water sufficient region for raising crops, fisheries, livestock and domestic use. The region is now called the 'Rice Bowl' of the region, inducing women empowerment and quality of life.

Introduction and objectives
Water is main driver for combating poverty and achieving sustainable development and sustaining ecosystems. It reflects the social differences that impact women's empowerment. Gender differentiated indigenous knowledge systems have placed such concerns within a broader social and institutional context. The indigenous water management system of Apatani tribe of Arunachal state of India has been developed due to ingenuity and skill of the tribal farmers, which has sound gender base and remarkable labour distribution pattern. Combination of indigenous knowledge and interventions with modern technologies have made the system more productive ad improved the ecosystem for delivering more ecosystem services.

Methodology approach
Streams from the hills are tapped soon after these emerge from the forest, channelized at the rim of the valley and diverted by a network of primary, secondary and tertiary channels. The feeder channel conveys water through the series of terraces, so that by blocking or opening the connecting ducts (Huburs), any field can be flooded or drained. These channels are generally pitched with boulders to checks erosion. Farmers drain off the water from the rice fields twice during tillering, once during flowering and finally at maturity. Fish channels are dug at various locations in the rice fields.

Analysis and results
The Apatani tribe has developed unique water management system, which remained sustainable for centuries because of its sound scientific base and dependence on locally available resources. A well-marked division of labour is generally followed for various operations. Men folk generally take care of hard works like, building terraces, irrigation channels, fencing, removing earth and planting trees; while women folk look after nurseries, transplanting, weeding, fish, harvesting, threshing, drying and storage. Some of the operations like fencing and maintenance of main irrigation channels are done on community basis. A proper code for erection of risers as well as maintenance and release of water for irrigation is followed. Community gangs of boys and girls are always ready to help each other in various operations. Interventions were made in the system with regard to enhanced role of women, improved crop varieties, fish farming, soil fertility improvement, access to bank loan and marketing for improving crop productivity, environment and water ecosystem. Apart from conservation, farmers have taken up the plantation of Terminalis myrinalia, Altingia excelsa, Michelia sp., Magnolia sp., Pines and bamboos to keep entire hills surrounding the valley as conserved forest. This helped in conserving of natural resources and maintenance of ecological balance.

Conclusions and recommendation

The Apatani tribe has developed unique water management system, which has remained sustainable for centuries because of its sound scientific base and dependence on locally available resources. Since no inorganic fertilizer are used, there is no pollution of surface and ground water regimes in the area. Improving these land use systems with state-of-the-art technologies in water and soil conservation has ensured judicious rainwater management, reduction in soil erosion, environmental compatibility, leading to healthy ecosystem and livelihood security. Proper policy framework for planning, taking advantage of the advances made in water science combined with indigenous knowledge, would improve ecosystem services.

‘Green Lady of Bihar’ and sustainable watershed management in India

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Keywords

Watershed management, India, sustainable development, gender, equity

Highlights

This presentation will highlight how sustainable watershed management has been organized in Dharhara Kol, a socio-economically backward region in Bihar, India through participation of local women and men under the able leadership of the ‘Green Lady of Bihar’, Jaya Devi. This has led to sustainable development.

Introduction and objectives

Women’s participation in water resources management has been long endorsed as desirable and several ‘top-down’ approaches have been applied towards this end, though not every effort has delivered the goods. In comparison to top-down approaches, ‘bottom-up’ approaches have greater acceptability and sustainability. This presentation aims to describe a case of bottom-up women’s participation from India under the leadership of a local woman leader Jaya Devi, who belongs to a socio-economically backward class. Under her guidance several villages in a water-stressed poverty-stricken area have brought about revival of their water ecosystems and consequently sustainable and equitable development.

Methodology approach

The presentation is based on the findings of an empirical research in Dharhara-Kol, a socio-economically backward region in Bihar state of India. Data was collected through qualitative research methods in selected villages in two watersheds led by Jaya Devi, namely Kareli and Koilu. The study was based on the framework of IWRM, conceptualized as an approach promoting coordinated restoration and management of water and other natural resources, with the aim to maximize equitable development together with ecosystems sustainability. ‘Integration’ primarily focused on: green and blue waters, different water use sectors, and involvement of all villagers in planning and action.

Analysis and results

Dharhara Kol is a rain-shadow area with only 700-800 mm rain annually, which also becomes lost due to the hilly undulating terrain. As a result, until recently the region comprised bare hill slopes, barren uncultivated lands, with low water table, resulting in poor agricultural productivity and hence limited livelihoods and widespread poverty. Water was brought to the region by Jaya Devi, a local rural woman, through her relentless efforts at gender-sensitive community-based watershed management. She has untiringly motivated and organized women and men in the various watershed villages into self-help groups and village watershed committees to work together to undertake rainwater harvesting and water conservation practices These efforts have delivered unbelievable results, leading to effective water resources management that enhanced ‘blue water’ storage on the surface and ‘green water’ retention in the soil. This made hillslopes turn green, agricultural production boost several times, and added new livelihood options. About 9000 families living in six watersheds where she has worked have benefited immensely, and over 5000 hectares of barren land turned into green belt. Her efforts at bringing water in the barren Dharhara Kol region

have brought her many awards and accolades, such as the 'Real Heroes' award and the National Youth Award. She is also recognised as the 'Green Lady of Bihar' and the 'Water Lady of India'.

Conclusions and recommendation

Jaya Devi's efforts and the successes it has brought to her area in terms of water security and sustainable and equitable development is an eye-opener. A local woman who is barely educated upto primary level has brought not only empowerment for herself, but ushered in a new era of empowerment for her poverty-stricken community through ecosystem- and IWRM-based approach. There is need to promote women's participation from 'bottom-up' in this manner by motivating and supporting local women leaders who are accepted by the community in terms of their own criteria rather than through 'top-down' approaches.

Human rights to water and sanitation for indigenous peoples

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Keywords
human rights, gender, indigenous, WASH, Latin America

Highlights
Balancing the scientific approach with a sustainable solution at river basin level is extremely challenging and requires a holistic approach. Governance policies for indigenous people in Latin America are analysed to see how they support the realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation at river basin

Introduction and objectives
The human rights to water and sanitation are an obligation under international law for all people to have the rights to access, under safe conditions. Equally, people have the right to a healthy environment. The two rights are intrinsically linked, not just as rights, but also from a water management perspective. While the status of laws and policies at a river basin level may recognise these rights in international and national frameworks, the practical processes for introducing workable policies, monitoring and compliance are often far from being realised, and can ignore the rights of indigenous peoples.

Methodology approach
WaterLex conducts legal and policy mapping at country or river basin level, to see how the HRWS is being met, where are the gaps, and how to monitor human rights sensitive data to help realise the rights. Recent research in four countries in Latin America has highlighted the rights of women and indigenous peoples, as these groups are often the ones at highest risk of lacking access to safe water and sanitation, exacerbating poor conditions.
The research is practical, as well as analytical, and we engage with stakeholders from these countries to build on our research.

Analysis and results
The paper will be a case study of best practices from four countries in Latin America (Guatemala, Nicaragua, El-Salvador and Honduras), comparing practical governance solutions for implementing the human rights to water and sanitation, especially looking at the balance between natural ecosystem solutions and the needs of people in rural and environmentally sensitive areas. Given the high proportion of indigenous people in Latin America (80% in Guatemala for example); the traditional inclusion of women as water managers and carers in the family; the impact of poor WASH services in the region in general (62% with access to safe water, and less than 50% to safe sanitation); the impact affects women, children and indigenous people to a higher extent than the rest of the population.
These case studies will be looking at practical advice on how to include a human rights-based approach to consultation, keeping non-discrimination, transparency of data and participation in mind. It also examines the role of National Human Rights Institutions to help monitor the situation, advise government, and help to trigger changes in behaviour.

Conclusions and recommendation

The conclusion of the case study report will highlight the best examples of governance approaches from each of the countries in dealing with the issues surrounding access to water and sanitation for indigenous people, and in particular for the inclusion of women in the decision-making process.

The conclusions are readily estimable, given the high connectivity between poverty and lack of WASH services. The ability to include nature-based solutions, and integrate indigenous peoples into the process, especially women, helps to achieve a more holistic approach to water resource management and development will surely provide more sustainable solutions for all.

Integrating indigenous and scientific drought forecasts empowers Africa's women small-holder

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Keywords

Indigenous Knowledge, Drought Early Warning System, Seasonal Climate Forecasts, Sub-Saharan Africa, Women small-holder farmers

Highlights

- Integrating indigenous knowledge(IK) on droughts with the seasonal climate forecasts improves the accuracy of droughts forecasts for small-holder farmers.
- More than 60% of these farmers are women who are illiterate for whom scientific forecasts are irrelevant
- Incorporation of IK makes the forecasts relevant and hence increases willingness to use

Introduction and objectives

The fact that over 70% of food produced in Africa comes from vulnerable rain-fed small-scale farms, makes them vulnerable to rampant droughts. To address this, we present a drought early warning system that integrates indigenous knowledge and scientific drought forecasting approaches using mobile phones, wireless sensor networks and artificial intelligence. The resulting system is called ITIKI. With over 60% of the participants being semi-literate women, the system has resulted in more empowered women who are now able to make sound cropping decisions. Tests from African 3 countries indicate forecasts' accuracies of 78-98% for lead-time of up

Methodology approach

A series of structured interviews as described in were used to collect primary data from five communities: Mbeere, Nganyi and Taital of Kenya, then Ndau of Mozambique and finally Zulu from South Africa. Scientific weather data was collected from conventional weather stations, sensor-based weather stations as well as from historical weather data. This was then followed by the development of an integration framework that takes the form of a generic early warning system consisting of four components: gathering of the risk knowledge, monitoring and predicting the situation, communicating the warning messages and responding to the warning

Analysis and results

This is a novel drought-monitoring and predicting solution that works within the unique context of small-scale farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is a sustainable, relevant and an empowering tool for women small-holder farmers. The system uses mobile phones as input/output devices and wireless sensor-based weather meters to complement weather stations. The system has been deployed and tested in Kenya, Mozambique and South Africa. The robustness of the system is anchored on artificial neural networks that support forecast models with accuracies of 70% to 98% for lead-times of up to 4 years. Fuzzy logic is used to store and manipulate the holistic indigenous knowledge.

Conclusions and recommendation

The now more rampant and severe droughts have become synonymous with Africa; they are a major contributor to the acute food insecurity. The uniqueness of the problem is the ineffectiveness of the drought monitoring and predicting tools in use in. The main form of forecasts is the Seasonal Climate Forecasts (SCFs) whose utilisation by the semi-illiterate small-scale farmers is below par. By integrating indigenous knowledge Forecasts and SCFs, accuracies are greatly improved and the majority of these farmers, who happen to be women, are empowered with a usable cropping decision tool. This way, we contribute towards food security in Africa

Monitoring SDGs 6, 5 and 14 through gender analysis tools

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Keywords

Gender-sensitive freshwater assessments, sex-disaggregated water data, SDGs, water policies

Highlights

1. Explore the interlinkages between SDG5, SDG6 and SDG 15
2. Combining gender equality and water management targets
3. Operationalize SDG targets at project level
4. Understanding gender role differences through sex-disaggregated data contributes to reduce inequities in freshwater management
5. Informs water policies and facilitates transboundary cooperation in aquifer governance.

Introduction and objectives

Gender analysis and its resulting sex-disaggregated water data play a critical role to ensure SDG achievement, and interconnect targets and indicators particularly for Goals 5, 6 and 15. Concrete ideas for operationalizing SDG targets on gender and water at the project level will be discussed through the use of case studies, such as the SDC-UNESCO GGRETA Project that conducted gender surveys in the Stampriet transboundary aquifer in Southern Africa, and the GEF WWF MAR2R Project focused on the integrated ridge to reef management of the Mesoamerican Reef Eco-Region.

Methodology approach

The GGRETA Project applied UNESCO-WWAP Toolkit (the methodology on sex-disaggregated water data collection and the gender-sensitive priority indicators) in intra-household (HH) surveys in Botswana and Namibia, to investigate gender roles and decision-making in water access and use. Statistical analysis was applied to understand gender relations and whether conditions of gender equality exist in freshwater provision, allocation, and ecosystems conservation.In WWF MAR2R Project, gender analysis is applied at the conception of the water-management project to identify gaps, opportunities and entry points for gender mainstreaming. The project includes gender-responsive activities, as well as gender-responsive implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Analysis and results

Respondents of the GGRETA Project gender surveys indicate that women are primarily responsible for domestic use of water resources. Water allocation in agriculture and for livestock is instead broadly under men's responsibility. National water policies have been critically analyzed in light of the results of the sex-disaggregated data gathered in the field. MAR2R project demonstrates how to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of shared freshwater, coastal and marine resources by addressing gender at all phases of the project cycle. It shows how traditional knowledge can contribute to sustainable development and enhance water ecosystems preservation and functioning.

Conclusions and recommendation

UNESCO-WWAP gender surveys identified socially-determined differences in women and men's roles, confirming the prevalent role of women in managing freshwater within the household boundaries, and men's decision-making in freshwater productive uses. Results from the surveys can inform Botswana and Namibia water policies, contributing to gender transformative national and regional actions.WWF-MAR2Rproject indicates that well-designed projects help ensure women's access to sustainable sources of safe water and sanitation, and their effective participation in decision-making. Both case studies demonstrate how gender-responsive activities can help moving forward the progress on SDGs, while having significant implications on the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems.

What gets measured (by women), gets managed

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Keywords

Community-based natural resource management, citizen monitoring, gender, ecosystem conservation, co-creation of knowledge

Highlights

- Many women perceive governance committees and stakeholder consultation meetings as unproductive 'talk-shops' with little relevance to their lives
- citizen science is emerging as an innovative tool enabling local ownership of monitoring processes
- co-designing monitoring schemes with local women captures their distinctive perception of what should be measured and thus, managed

Introduction and objectives

The gendered nature of water is well documented. In sub-Sahara Africa, rivers, lakes and wetland ecosystems provide key resources for women in poor communities, and women are disproportionately affected by ecosystem pollution, degradation and the loss of informal use rights through wetlands conversion. The impacts of weak resource management on female equity and lack of female engagement in decision making are widely assumed to sustain and perpetuate each other. In this context, citizen science is emerging as an innovative tool for locally relevant monitoring schemes that allow female ownership of monitoring processes and can transform power relationships in resource management.

Methodology approach

The research presents experience of two projects in Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda, promoting local - and in some cases specifically female - leadership in the management of local water resources and ecosystems. An Action Research approach both stimulates and reflects on the development of women as agents of change. Interventions are co-designed with rural women and communities in interaction moments that foster active learning for both researchers and community members. Knowledge exchange in regional networks of communities, partners and experts distills lessons on how involvement of women in citizen monitoring of water resources can improve sustainability.

Analysis and results

Local communities proved highly knowledgeable about the declining productivity of soils and ecosystems, and aware what practices contribute to the problem. However, a legacy of broken promises by projects and agencies, as well as abuses of power by conservation agents create widespread cynicism and mistrust that undermines the work of local (environmental) action groups. Women in particular perceive governance committees and stakeholder consultation meetings as unproductive 'talk-shops' with little relevance to their lives. Female representatives ran for election only after 'practical' skills trainings, for example in conservation agriculture, revealed the links between resource management decisions and landscape productivity. In this, the findings support a close connection between community access to natural resources (SDG target 1.4), women's participation in decision-making (5.5) and the conservation of ecosystems (6.6/15.1).

Based on interim findings, current efforts focus on co-designing monitoring schemes with local women and communities, capturing their distinctive perception of what should be measured (and thus, managed). As key objective, one local community aims to create a platform that forces donors and government departments to talk to each other, before the community is confronted with yet another parochial, redundant or contradictory plan, or request for consultation after key parameters have already been decided.

Conclusions and recommendation

Engaging women in local citizen monitoring serves to ensure that resources affecting their livelihoods and wellbeing are monitored, and helps identify and communicate their specific perception of problems and solutions. To be effective, the design process has to give local communities control over decisions on all aspects of the monitoring scheme, starting with its purpose. Key challenges result from the dilemma that donor-funded schemes can enforce participation of women but not 'create' agency, and the paradox that gendered approaches to ecosystem management implicitly conceptualize empowerment as a means to a (different) end.

Women, SDGs and climate related adaptation: A practitioner perspective

Presenting Author: Ms. Kusum Athukorala, Women for water Partnership, Sri Lanka
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Keywords
Women, climate, resilience, policy, information

Highlights

- Climate change adaption awareness for rural women affected by droughts through site specific ground level citizen
- Ground level programs challenged by lack of gender desegregated data and gender sensitive initiatives
- Promotion of gender sensitive SDG policy

Introduction and objectives

In the past three years Sri Lanka witnessed a series of multiple and parallel extreme climate related events, literally becoming as a living laboratory for disasters with droughts in the North, floods in the South and landslides in between. Disaster risk reduction in Sri Lanka is generally seen as the responsibility of state agencies. But a partnership of civil society and private sector can address gaps in climate change adaptation through strategic development interventions, thereby strengthening the resilience of communities, especially for women who tend to be marginalized due to inadequate data.

Methodology approach

Inspite of high development indices women in Sri Lanka have had a low political participation, suffer from poor access to information and decision making related to NRM mainly due to insufficient gender desegregated data which would highlight their situation and needs. In trying to support communities who need to move from a dependence on a post disaster response to risk reduction, NetWwater with partners from state, civil society and private sectors carried out a series of ground level programs focused on building resilience through information, capacity building and adaptation of community wisdom.

Analysis and results

In the Jalavahini interactive training programmes on climate change adaptation carried out across drought stricken communities for women with hands-on roles at the grassroots level in the water sector, the lack of access to state agencies extension was seen as a major challenge. Citizen science programs carried out in post Samasara landslide in Aranayake saw that communities both men and women were helpless in the face of illicit logging posing a threat to the ecosystem and heightening the threat of future landslides. However policy level initiatives were lacking in a gendered approach which took local realities, issues and knowledge into consideration. It was seen that global documentation related to gender and climate change were inadequate and did not support the national need to push for gender desegregated data a women led collective initiative reviewing the climate related challenges, including the documentation at global level was undertaken in December 2017 by women organizations and women water professionals from all sectors supported by the Sri Lanka Water Partnership. The output of this activity includes a Right to Information (RTI) petition and and the development of a shadow document highlighting ground realities faced by women in Sri Lanka.

Conclusions and recommendation

In promoting successful SDGs related to women ecosystems conservation and climate change, there is a need to strengthen this platform to support a true reflection of ground realities in development, harness local knowledge especially related to climate change adaptation and focus on felt needs of communities especially women. It is also necessary in the view of current funding shortages that advocacy collectives including partners from all sectors, especially the private sector link up with supporting the state. The stage agencies need to be more proactive in supporting gender desegregated data collection.