

Gender and Financial Ethnography of Climate Change and Disaster Adaptation to Agricultural Production and Food Insecurity in Nepal

Sabrina Regmi

Background of the research

Nepal, a landlocked country situated in the Himalayan region is particularly vulnerable to various climate change impacts. Multiple biophysical, political, and socioeconomic stresses interact to increase the country's susceptibility and constrain its adaptive capacity. Climate change impacts such as drought has been recognized as a major issue likely to have negative consequences on agricultural production and food security in Nepal whose population as large as 80% lives in rural area, depends highly on agricultural economy, and feeds on subsistence agricultural produce (CBS, 2012). Similarly, it is also widely known that about 90% of Nepalese agricultural workers/laborers are women (FAO, 2011). The research study reviews four bodies of scholarship that have evolved somewhat separately, yet are interconnected: gender, finance, climate change, and agricultural production/food security.



Agricultural land in Nepal



Female farmers



Climate change and Drought



Women feed the family



Loss of cash crops for Men

Research Questions

- How do male and female headed households secure financial resources in adaptation to drought, agricultural food production and insecurity?
- What type of financial resources do male and female household heads usually have and seek? How do they decide and utilize these financial resources towards adaptation to drought and food insecurity?

Research Method

The study aims to understand the gendered tools, systems and emotions that prompt male and female heads of the households to seek, secure and decide on the financial resources in their adaptation towards protecting and managing their agricultural production and food for their respective households. Hence, the study will employ ethnographic method of data collection with gender analytical approach to the analysis of data and information.

Usefulness of the Study

The study is expected to contribute not only to the dissemination of scholarly and research knowledge at academic level in the related field but also to contribute to a more egalitarian and gender inclusive policy making and programs implementations.

References

- CBS. 2012. National Population and Housing Census 2011 (National Report), National Planning Commission, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2012.
- FAO. 2011. The State of Food and Agriculture. Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gap for Development.