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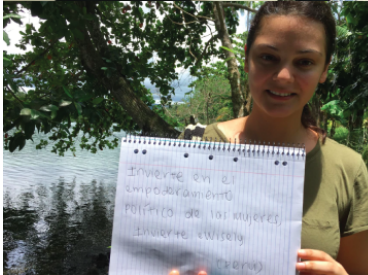
EWISELY.ORG

Exceptional Women in Sustainability

MAGAZINE



Gendering Climate Adaptation In Nepal



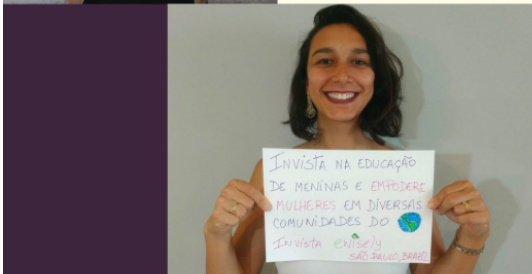
Study 'Golden Women' RELAUNCH



WOMEN And Their Will To Lead A Circular Economy In Chile



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE Through Gender Lens In The Philippines



International Women's Day 2019.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

IN THE 2030 AGENDA

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Investment Opportunities



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Contributors

We appreciate the contribution of guest creative writers, interviewees and graphic designers from global connectors namely, eWisely Australia, eWisely Colombia, eWisely Nepal and eWisely Chile.

James Tracey

Ellen Derbyshire

Jyoti Sedhain

Verónica de la Cerda

Carmen Zuloaga Marin

Caitlin Powel

Gobierno de Filipinas

Yuliana Gómez

Editorial

International Women's Day (#IWD2019) is celebrated around the world on the 8th of March. This is an opportunity to reflect on our journey towards sustainability and become strong advocates for the Global Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and interlinkages with other Sustainable Development Goals (here after SDGs). This magazine is dedicated to all Exceptional Women in Sustainability around the globe!

With a particular emphasis on women as drivers of sustainability, eWisely magazine aims to inform socially and environmentally responsible individuals and organizations about global sustainability issues, particularly on the leadership of Exceptional Women in Sustainability (eWisely) in tackling those issues and achieving the SDGs. eWisely is the fastest-growing connector of women in sustainability operating in +60 locations globally. eWisely also advises organizations on identifying material issues impacting on women and organisations and the implementation of due-diligence processes to action SDG 5 (Gender Equality) into corporate agendas.

In addition, the Magazine aims to disseminate the outcomes of impact scientific research carried out by us through eWisely Lab. Our research is originally published in the Scientific International Journal of Women, Sustainability and Leadership Studies and aims to explore limiting and hindering factors on how stakeholders can invest wisely and sustainably to create shared value for all parties, mainly for women.

We hope eWisely magazine contributes to foster sustainable lifestyles and assist stakeholders and women-orientated brands in making better decisions to integrate the SDGs into organizations' DNA. In this publication we highlight women's contributions from various geographical contexts, namely Colombia, Japan, Chile, Nepal and Australia. We discuss a wide range of sustainability issues, such as climate change, circular economy, sustainable energy, education for sustainable development, sustainable agriculture and interlinkages between SDG 5 Gender Equality and SDGs 4 Quality Education SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 7 Renewable Energy and SDG 13 Climate Change, among others.

Happy Sustainable International Women's Day!

Invest in Women, Invest eWisely!

Dra. Isabel B. Franco

Senior Sustainability Advisor

eWisely

About the Editor



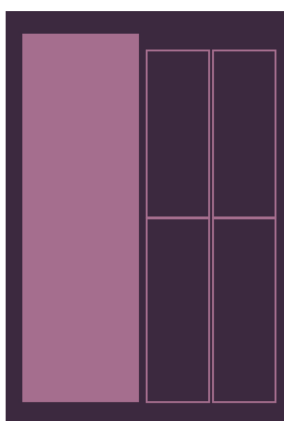
Dra. Isabel B. Franco

Dr. Isabel B. Franco is the Editor of eWisely Magazine and Senior Sustainability Advisor at eWisely Lab. She is an emerging leader in sustainability and SDGs with global experience in conducting large consulting and scientific projects on sustainability and SDGs for international organizations such as the UN (UN University, UNDP, UNESCAP), British Council, Minerals and Energy for Development Alliance, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, CATOCA, Anglo American, among others. She has been invited to participate in various global forums and appointed as a guest lecturer at various universities, such as the United Nations University, Japan, University of Queensland, Australia, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Universidad Autonoma de Mexico, University of Zambia and Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Dr. Franco is Australian, Colombian Citizen and e-Resident of Estonia currently residing in Japan. She has lived and worked across the globe (Latin America, Africa, Asia-Pacific). Dr. Franco has authored several publications on sustainability and SDGs. Her latest book is titled: Socially Responsible Businesses: Towards a Sustainable Business Model. She is also the co-author of the UN book, 'The Corporate Agenda for Sustainable Development'. Dra. Franco can be reached at connect@drisabelfranco.com

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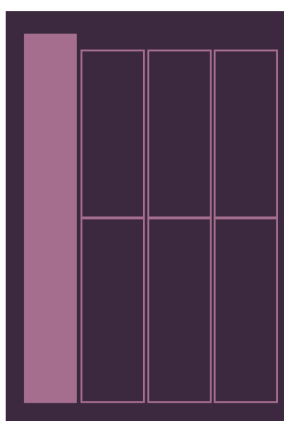
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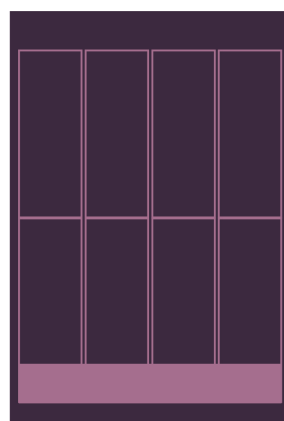
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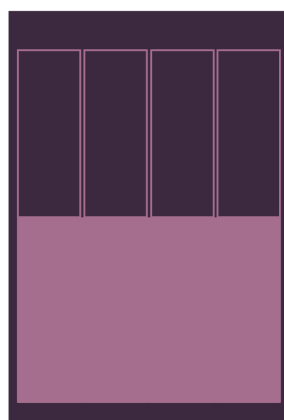
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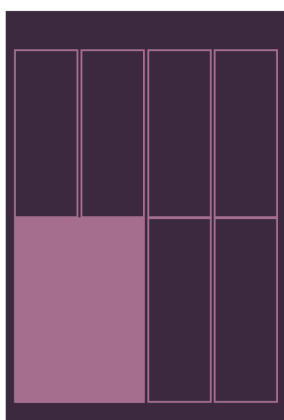
CINTILLO

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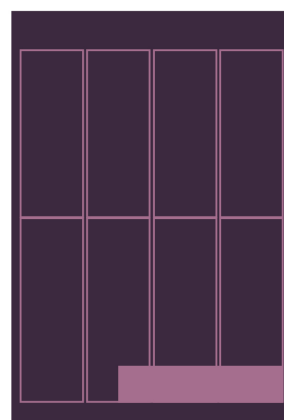
MEDIA PÁGINA HORIZONTAL

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(Sin rebase)



CUARTO DE PÁGINA

Ancho: 9.7 cm.
Alto: 14 cm.
(Sin rebase)



CINTILLO EN PORTADA

Ancho: 15.2 cm.
Alto: 4 cm.
(Sin rebase)

RELAUNCH

Study Golden Women

Actioning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Extractive Industry (Mining, Oil and Gas) 'Research eWisely Hub
Research eWisely Hub



In recent decades, the issue of women in extractive industries has transcended the discourse of sustainability and corporate social responsibility, due to the impacts of the industry in the contexts in which it operates. The sustainable participation of women in the industry and the supply chain faces a series of complexities that could increase or decrease the capacity of stakeholders in promoting regional sustainability. The study, therefore, presents an assessment of the Colombian extractive industry and provides stakeholders with recommendations for the successful integration of SDG 5 Gender Equality. The assessment is presented in more detail in the study published in the global connector eWisely.org (section Impact Sustainability -SDG 5). However, a brief summary of the ranking ranking is presented in figure 1. The study shows that Cerrejón ranks first, followed by Drummond and Cerromatoso South 32. Mineros S.A and AngloGold Ashanti are both in fourth place. The lowest scores were for Continental Gold and Red Eagle Mining respectively. The findings show that Cerrejón is positioned as the company with the greatest positive impact on the integration of SDG 5.



- 1 • **Cerrejon**
- 2 • **Drummond**
- 3 • **Cerromatoso South 32**
- 4 • **Mineros S.A &. AngloGold Ashanti**
- 5 • **Continental Gold**
- 6 • **Red Eagle Mining**

Figure 1. SDG 5 Integration (Gender Equality in the Colombian Extractive Industry) eWisely, 2018

The assessment was carried out on the basis of the methodological approach to SDG 5 integration. The approach is based on scientific research developed by Research eWisely Hub. It indicates that the priority areas for sustainable human capital development and that have the greatest impact on women are those that help them achieve their own development aspirations. An approach developed from and for women is more likely to have a greater impact on the effective integration of SDG 5 and, therefore, on sustainability strategies. Likewise, the approach allows to promote regional sustainability more effectively than corporate approaches to sustainability.

In cases where companies have adopted community-oriented and women-led programs, they claim to have been more resilient to cope with the transformations induced by the extractive industries, both inside and out the organization. Women who have been duly consulted about their sustainable human capital development aspirations have been able to strengthen key assets, namely, education, employment, entrepreneurship, leadership and innovation / use of technology.



The study found that SDG 5 integration into government and corporate agendas should be done through multi-stakeholder consultation processes. Such processes should not be merely a source of symbolic information, but should be such that women are able to participate in decision-making processes, from funding allocation to asset transformation. The consultation processes must include women within the extractive industry (mining, oil and gas), women artisanal miners, farmers and businesswomen and all those other women who participate in the supply chain. Likewise, more attention should be given to women in community associations in order to help them become active transformation agents and suppliers in the value chain in the extractive industry and in other industries relevant to the local economy. The study involved stakeholder and public policy analysis, a review of best practices at the global, regional and local levels and focus groups with women in the extractive industry in Colombia.

The study was originally published in Spanish and can be consulted at eWisely.org under the Impact Sustainability section, SDG 5 Gender Equality.

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GENDERING CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN NEPAL.

A conversation with Exceptional Women in Sustainability from Nepal

Jyoti Sedhai
eWisely Nepal



Dra. Isabel B. Franco: Today we have an exceptional woman in sustainability from Nepal, Jyoti Sedhain. She does research on sustainability science at the United Nations University. Jyoti – thank you for joining us! Please tell us about your background and your experience in dealing with sustainability issues, particularly with climate change and interlinkages with gender issues in Nepal.

Jyoti Sedhain: I am from Nepal. I am doing research at the United Nations University. I completed my Bachelor Degree in Forestry Design and I am doing Postgraduate Studies on Sustainability Science. After my bachelors I worked for a multi-stakeholder forestry program for three years. After these 3 years I started to work with Save the Children Nepal as a Food Security and Livelihood official and then moved to Japan to conduct research on sustainability.

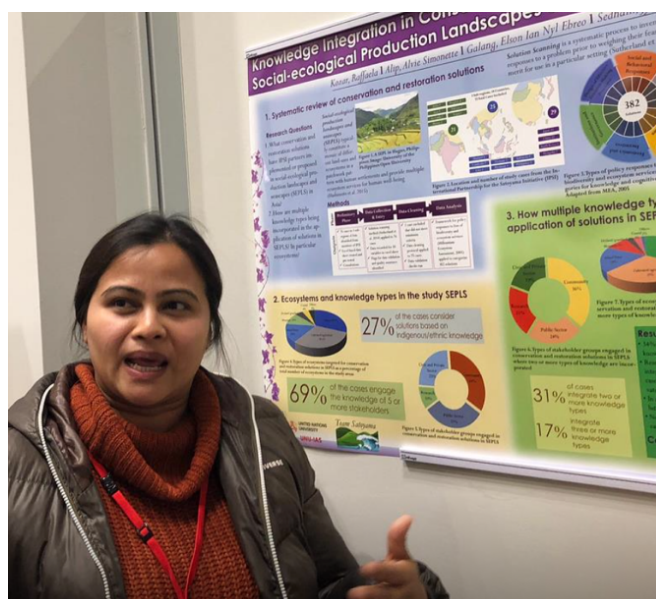
Dra. Isabel B. Franco: Tell us more about your research and the connections you have found in your work between climate change and gender. Please explain this connection in more detail. And tell us more about your interest in this topic.

Jyoti Sedhain: During my bachelor degree I focused my research on human wildlife conflict, then when I started to work with the multi-stakeholder forestry program my fascination towards gender issues and climate change was engrained. This is because I was responsible for implementing the program at a community level particularly focusing on gender equality, social inclusion and climate change issues.



Jyoti Sedhain

We were responsible for developing a local community adaptation plan, including a lot of programs in livelihood improvement and income generating activities for the empowerment of women. So, I spent almost 3 years working with the community, and I also had the opportunity to get to know girls who had experienced problems due to gender inequality and the social disparity genders. I also came to learn how females were facing challenges in participation and community level decision-making and their contributions to forest management system. After the multi-stakeholder program I started to work on an earthquake recovery program. In this program I was also responsible for implementing the community-based income generating activities like food for work, cash for work and other agriculture-based activities. So, I was extremely close to the women and the disadvantaged people of Nepal.



Jyoti Sedhain

I have been exposed to many issues, which helped me, develop my research here at the UN in 'How the forest community forestry programs in Nepal are contributing to regulating climate change through community and empowerment of women'. I am also looking at how climate change impacts on forest-dependent communities and how the community is adapting in response to climate change. Thirdly, I am intrigued on how the community forestry programs are contributing to the empowerment of women in forest-dependent communities.

Isabel B. Franco: Jyoti tell us a little bit more about your research findings. We went through your data and we found clear disparities between male and female respondents in terms of their participation in climate change and adaptation strategies. Can you explain these disparities?

Jyoti Sedhain: Actually, I found lots of issues at a community level between males and females. There was a clear difference in the answers when male and female respondents answered the same questions due to their different responsibilities and rights.

In response to a question regarding responsibility of females in forestry management, nearly all female respondents between the age of 30-45 answered along the lines of “yes, we can do this, we can take on this responsibility” but at the same time almost 50% of male respondents replied “females cannot take responsibility for forest management as they need to take care of the children and family matters”. In terms of climate change female respondents had a more positive response of “Yes we now are suffering because in the past water and wood were much more abundant, but now we need to travel a lot further for the same quantity of water”. The male respondents answered more dismissively for example “yes we have heard of this on TV and read about it in the paper”. So these are the issues.

Dra. Isabel B. Franco: Finally, I would like to ask you where do you see yourself in a few years time? and what are your WISE tips for other women, who are willing to take the lead in a field like sustainability?

Jyoti Sedhain: I believe I will be able to make some recommendations for national level planning commissions in developing countries such as Nepal because there are a lot of girls who don’t have the chance to go to school even in the 21st century. So, we have to fight for ourselves and create greater self-worth and fight for our rights whilst not forgetting our roles and responsibilities to our communities and families. If women become more empowered they can do anything.

Dra. Isabel B. Franco: Thank you Jyoti for your participation and wish you all the best for your research on women empowerment and connections with climate change.

Jyoti Sedhain: Thank you so much for having joined us at Speak Up eWisely!

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WOMEN AND THEIR WILL TO LEAD A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN CHILE

*Veronica de La Cerda, Partner and CEO
TriCiclos, Chile.*

Carmen Zuloaga Marin, Circular Economy Office, Ministry of Environment, Government of Chile.

eWisely Chile



Dra. Isabel B. Franco: At Speak Up eWisely we are hosting two exceptional women in sustainability from Chile, Carmen Zuloaga from the Circular Economy Office at the Ministry of the Environment of Chile and Veronica De la Cerda, Partner and CEO at TriCiclos. We would like you to tell us more about your background and your leadership in sustainability issues, such as the circular economy.

Veronica De la Cerda: At TriCiclos we put circular economy into practice. We work across the entire supply chain. First, we focus on recyclable material. This allows us to be in contact with consumers to educate them on sustainability issues and responsible consumption. This also helps us to get to know all the challenges of logistics and the actual recyclability of certain products. All these components together produce relevant information that helps us inform large companies about the products they put on the market. We inform them if the products they sell are recyclable and advise them on their business models to advance towards a circular economy. Another important component concerns to developing technology and other types of solutions that allow us to support the change that companies need to make in their journey towards circular economy.

Dra. Isabel B. Franco: Carmen, your work is closely related to circular economy. Please explain your role at the Ministry in more detail.

Carmen Zuloaga Marin: I work at the Circular Economy Office. We work on recycling issues and we also work on the REP Law (extended responsibility of the producer). We work with tires and other priority products. We also work with everything that has to do with organic and construction waste. This was an area that was not previously covered by the REP Law. We also work on innovation to increase awareness of circular economy. In the next months we will be holding a Forum in Santiago, in which we will put the topic on the table. We hope that with this forum, we will be able to take the issue to the whole region and support other networks to move towards a circular economy.

Dra. Isabel B. Franco: What are the implications of your work at the local and global levels?

Veronica De la Cerda: In a globalized world, the things you do in a very remote country can have implications at the global level. Solutions that are implemented in a country like Chile or Colombia can influence processes in Europe and Asia. The potential impact is huge.

Carmen Zuloaga Marin: There are good practices implemented in Europe closely related to what we have done in Chile. However, many solutions are still lacking. You have to put all the actors on the table to have a conversation. Companies, governments and NGOs must collaborate, because ultimately this requires a very powerful change of behavior and requires a mindset shift towards a more circular economy.

Dr. Isabel B. Franco: Veronica - I saw you delivering a presentation at the World Circular Economy Forum. I was surprised you were the only woman participating in the panel. In fact, you are one of the few women leading important issues, such as circular economy in a world forum. Why is this the case? What kind of education and skills do women need to be able to lead important sustainability issues, as you do?

Veronica De la Cerda: I think it is due to a combination of many aspects. With respect to education, the education women need is the same as any human being would require to exercise a specific role. Obviously, as women, we have to overcome more barriers. We need a more supportive ecosystem that allows us to be women. I have been lucky because I have worked in very respectful work environments. I do not mean respectful as taking care for women. It is about understanding that we are in a world where there are barriers to be overcome.

There is an issue that has always been associated with the role of women. It is the family issue, which sadly often turns into a barrier. Family should have the same effect on both, men and women. It is important to be in an environment that for example allow men to pick their children up from school. Both, women and men have the same rights. I am lucky to be in a context in which this is a reality. A context in which men I work with understand that women and men are equal inside and outside work. I believe this has helped me a lot to exercise my role as CEO of TriCiclos

Carmen Zuloaga Marin: I think Chile is doing well at the government level. We had a woman president. I understand that sometimes there are barriers that limit the role of women. There is no difference in relation to the capacities of men and women to deal with these issues. On the contrary, we think that women contribute substantially to this field. For example, our Minister of Environment is a woman. We also hope to have more women participants in our next Forum on circular economy.



Dr. Isabel B. Franco: Finally, what are your WISE tips or advice for all women interested in leading circular economy-related issues and overall sustainability?

Veronica De la Cerda: Not to be ashamed when setting boundaries. I have my job, but I also have time for myself. There are times when I cannot be at work. I set my boundaries. Do not be afraid of setting boundaries. We should not think that by setting boundaries we will not get the roles of responsibility that we would like to have in the future. There may be others that set boundaries on us. I think we should also understand that we are not men and we should not behave as such.

Carmen Zuloaga Marin: Women have a very important role and we must not underestimate their work. Men and women have good qualities. We must acknowledge women's contribution. They should not be ashamed of their work. Instead they should always take a step forward.

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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE THROUGH

Gender Lens in the Philippines

eWisely Philippines

Interviewees for the Philippine Government and will be referred in this interview as government officials



Dra. Isabel B. Franco: Thank you for joining us for this discussion. Our guests today are three exceptional women in sustainability from the Philippines. The three of them work for the government and are doing amazing work in agriculture and sustainability-related issues such as circular economy. Please tell us more about your work at the government and implications for sustainable agriculture.

Government Official 1: I am a Program Officer. I am responsible for overseeing that the land given to farmers is productive and that they can get an increased production, increased income, resulting in an improved quality of life. Most of our projects strive for economic development. For instance, for agricultural production we should provide farmers with farm-to-market routes in order to enhance productivity.

Additionally, we have technology transfer programs for farmers of our primary crops such as rice, corn and higher value crops and down the line consumers. Finally, we also work to identify livelihood opportunities not only for men but also specifically for women because at the end of the day our women must also be empowered to conduct economic activity to supplement their income and at the same time they will have an additional source of income during the crop growing period. For instance, we can look at rice. Rice grows for about 3 months before it can be harvested therefore for that span of three months our women beneficiaries should also be conducting different economic activities.



Some of our opportunities depend on available materials, for example tiger grass. Tiger grass is being used to make brooms, so women in the communities can make these brooms and sell them at the markets in order to supplement their income from rice farming. Other income supplements can include meat processing and many other side industries. Now at the end of the day we would like to see our women become empowered. However, empowerment does not come overnight it is highly dependent on a long process. We also provide a lot of capacity building workshops with local women to help them express their ideas, as there is a stereotype that women are the life of the house, and they must prioritize taking care of the house. This is one thing we are desperately trying to change because at this time is still very deeply engrained. Now a very classic example is if we are conducting a training the wife will come along and say, "I am just here representing my husband", and when her husband comes along the women will walk out slowly and her husband will take the seat. This is one thing that we are really trying to eradicate, and work to slowly change the mindset of the women and allow them to realize that they are in fact a key part of the sustainable agriculture development process.

Dr. Isabel B. Franco: Thank you so much for giving us this insight into your work. You mentioned community capacity-building priority areas for women. Would you like to expand a little bit more on what type of education is important to lead the change in sustainability?

Government Official 2: Basically, in capacity development there is a growing need to train women, especially those working on the ground with communities. We have lots and lots of organizations, which are carrying out these operations. These operations are comprised of both men and women, however they still seem to be dominated by men leaders, so it is imperative that women strive to take leadership positions in order to improve their own lives.

Government Official 3: So, actually we have a problem in the Philippines with gender development, but we are trying to empower women through education regarding equality...It is important that we have more training specifically tailored towards women, especially farmers' wives. It is also important that this is backed up by legislation. We already have senators, congressmen and legislators who are supporting these programs by passing laws in favor of women in areas such as violence against women. Therefore, it is clear that the legislators are trying to protect the women.

Dr. Isabel B. Franco: Well thank you so much, and finally what is your WISE tip for all women out there who are willing to take up leadership roles at the government level in the Philippines, regarding sustainable agriculture and broadly the Sustainable Development Goals?

Government Official 1: for all of these women there are many things to do yet. Although, at times things seem a struggle at the end of the day there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Government Official 2: for all women, there is such thing as equality. In this generation we feel more empowered as we can really fight for our rights.

Government Official 3: we need to claim public space to be able to lead and manage our own domestic homes and public governance.

Government Official 1: I would like to restate this again, claiming public space is of incredible importance because it is really difficult for women to claim public space especially in rural areas, like for example in our agriculture organizations. We have found that the women are just content in holding secondary positions, and do not strive for positions such as chairwomen as they feel that these positions will be held by men. So perhaps, I will say this slowly but surely, there must be a paradigm shift, but the Philippines is definitely making headway towards equality.

Dr. Isabel B. Franco: Thank you for your contribution and for joining us at Speak Up eWisely.

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GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE 2030 AGENDA: *A Focus On Education And Responsible Consumption & Production*

*Original Authors: Isabel B. Franco, Leticia Sarmento Dos Muchangos, Mahesti Okitasari,
Ranjeeta Mishra, Manjuma Akhtar Mousumi, Athena Nguyen, Norichika Kanie
United Nations University*

Edited by James Tracey

Gender equality is a crosscutting issue that affects all dimensions of sustainable development; it is clear that women must be at the centre of the 2030 Agenda. Despite the clear links between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the commitment to “leave no one behind,” progress on gender mainstreaming seems to be uneven across the SDGs. This article specifically analyses the links between Gender Equality (SDG 5) and both Education (SDG 4), and Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12).



Although, improving women’s education has been found to lower fertility rates and improve household nutrition according to scholarly literature, it will take 50 years to achieve gender parity in political representation, and 80 years to achieve economic equality. Furthermore, according to the Gender Gap Report, in 144 countries there remains an average gap of 32% across the four index dimensions: (i) economic participation and opportunity, (ii) educational attainment, (iii) health and survival, and (iv) political empowerment.

Placing women at the center of the 2030 Agenda requires stronger links between the SDGs and a real commitment to investing wisely in women’s capacities to cope with pervasive sustainability challenges. Whilst we have seen remarkable advances in gender parity in education, the overall progress towards achieving SDG 5 has been less impressive. Evidently efforts have been made to connect goals 4 and 5, resulting in more equitable and quality learning, creation of lifelong opportunities, and women’s empowerment for economic. There is also evidence to suggest a link between goals 5 and 12 — for example, when women have secure land rights, production is more sustainable and efficient. But few attempts have been made to connect these two areas in practice.

Quality Education and Gender Equality – Linking Goals 4 and 5

The link between goals 4 and 5 aims for both equitable and quality lifelong learning opportunities and the empowerment of women while fostering economic growth. However, gainful employment opportunities and economic empowerment through education are still constrained by biased curriculums as well as economic, religious, and social norms, specifically in developing countries.

Household decision-making often does not favor female education and careers because of financial constraints, religious ideologies, and cultural beliefs held by parents, and the obligation to engage in family care. Thus, culture and policies should be taken into account in efforts to achieve quality education, further developing synergies between stakeholders to increase effectiveness.

Entrepreneurship programs and pathways to access higher education are high-impact, and they help women to become economically self-sufficient and reinforce their desire for a high level of economic independence. Very often these initiatives are driven by NGOs and civil society organisations, yet stronger multi-stakeholder collaboration between regional and local governments and the private sector is needed to effectively target women's educational needs in alignment with their development aspirations. This can result in positive outcomes for women themselves and the achievement of SDG 5 as a whole.

Responsible Consumption & Production and Gender Equality – Linking Goals 5 and 12

In developing nations particularly, production is structured towards profit maximization, targeting the employment of women in low-skill, lower wage, and labor-intensive jobs.

In addition, global production demands have resulted in unfair work arrangements and exploitation of women across production supply chains in various industries, a situation that further exacerbates the issue. On consumption, there is a consensus that, in patriarchal societies, women's limited access to household resources translates into fewer livelihood opportunities and services. Moreover, women are solely responsible for the "socially reproductive work", that is, ensuring that household members meet minimum consumption needs.

In the household sector, the traditional role of women as "principal shopper" is misconceived as women having greater agency and autonomy in decision-making. Even though women usually propose more comprehensive approaches to those advocated by men, they still lack a voice in strategic issues, and the opportunities to participate and influence policy are still limited. Moreover, it can be argued that women take up a caring and nurturing role whilst messages relayed to men reflect a careless attitude towards consumption. This leads to the assumption that women are mainly responsible for upholding sustainability, thus exempting men from equal responsibility. These prevailing gender knowledge gaps result in the proposal of gender-neutral solutions that undermine gender equality.

Policy Recommendations

- Increase multi-stakeholder collaboration for ensuring women's access to education and fair work arrangements across production chains.
- Provide women with educational opportunities in alignment with their own development aspirations.

- Develop gender-sensitive interventions that are context-specific to address power structures.
- Use gender assessment tools and promote public awareness for gender mainstreaming.

The United Nations University: Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability published this Policy Brief No. 15, 2018. Find full version at UNU Collections.

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EQUAL RIGHTS ENSURE A *Sustainable Society*

By Dr. Manjuma Akhtar Mousumi, Sarvajaya Choudhury and Dra. Isabel B Franco



Human rights include women's rights, and for women to be empowered on equal grounds as men, is at the end of the day, human rights. However, we find ourselves today in a world led and dominated by men. This begins from the basic core household level and carries on up to global dominance. Women need to be given fair and equal representation in every field of life to ensure a balanced social environment. When society allows women to grow, it automatically enhances the structure of the society and its economic status. A disturbed and distressed society usually gets created out of suppressed women and dominant men. The key is equality of existence.

It is rather difficult to obtain equal status for women in society when all the norms and rules are dictated by men. We find men and women on different payrolls for the same job performed by either, and this is no secret. Conditions are already laid down for women in society even before they can understand society.

The pressure for a female on the ways of living life, beginning from home to every little step outside of it is massive. When society is afraid of loosening and letting go of the grip on its reins on women, it only reflects how weak it is.

In the pursuit of women empowerment, the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 has left women in a permanent contradiction. Under the global mandate of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 5, Gender Equality (SDG 5), women find themselves in a permanent dichotomy between the gender diversity and equality paradigm. On the one hand, the gender diversity approach has imposed on women new responsibilities. It has been said that we are multitasking, more organised, more careful and with greater capacity of commitment. Under this paradigm women are assigned more responsibilities that very often are not adequately rewarded. On the other hand, under the gender equality approach, women have been asked to be as competitive and assertive as men. Our research shows that both discourses are equally contradictory and that women face a permanent contradiction in their work and personal lives in the pursuit of SDG 5. Therefore, the notion of women empowerment is becoming merely a part of the bandwagon than a real commitment to gender equality.

Empowering women would not only improve the socio-economic status of a country but it would also decrease the crime rate which further marginalises women. Increasing the confidence of women would help them fight daily abuse instead of being submissive towards it. Most women are made to feel degraded despite their daily hard work, due to the lack of opportunity to earn more money than men or more importantly, have a voice to speak up before men. This leads to women facing more abuse inside and outside of their homes. Women are usually considered to be, not smart or intelligent or courageous enough to lead the world, according to men of course. Until we break these stereotypes, society will always remain weak, vulnerable and susceptible to injustice.



We women need to empower ourselves; men in our country (nearly all over the globe) have been brought up with the idea that their role is to be providers and therefore, earn and support the family. We need to alter this credo and begin to address our role in the family and in society. We can no longer isolate ourselves from the outside world and remain seated with our feet tied. Parents need to internalise and promote the idea that daughters and sons are equally accountable for work and domestic responsibilities. Because parents happen to ignore this, girls and young women often become discouraged to pursue their dreams and reach their optimal potential. Instead, we passively accept our “inherited” condition and engage in care work. Parents can step forward to make changes that we are striving to achieve for centuries. Parents need to equip daughters in the world where they are required to be armed with the proper weapons—confidence, self-esteem, determination and having the ability to think independently without any interference and interruptions. Even if women are armed with confidence, we are continuously compared to and our skills are measured against our male counterparts—there is a constant demand to demonstrate our flair, resulting in an unhealthy man versus woman battle. Despite these odds, we can advance ourselves to clinch what is ours. It is us—women—who need to break the stereotypes and invest wisely in ourselves to unleash our highest potential and get off the women empowerment bandwagon to bring about real gender equality.

Women must stand up for women, for the ones who have had the chance to be themselves and been able to express to help those who cannot. Empowering women is giving women the right to express and have a voice of their own as rightfully deserved.

This article was first published by the The Daily Star Opinion in Bangladesh On 21 April, 2018

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Gender and Sustainability:

Trends, Themes, and Policies

*By Caitlin Powel
eWisely Australia*



Since the 1990s, sustainable development has been the pre-eminent force behind the global development agenda. It has flooded academic literature and policy documents, before finally culminating in the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals — 17 global objectives to be achieved by 2030. These goals are orientated towards understanding, and combating, the complexities which underpin the nexus between poverty and inequality. Amartya Sen (2001) highlights the importance of increasing women's agency and participation in sustainable development, as 'women are increasingly seen as active agents of change: the dynamic promoters of social transformation. Sen further argues that 'the survival disadvantage of women compared with men in developing countries seems to go down sharply — and may even get eliminated — as progress is made in women's agency.' Sen's argument not only emphasises the importance of promoting female agency — it also serves as an indication of the fragile vulnerability that women inhabit, which severely impedes upon their livelihoods and the proliferation of gender equality.

Gender, Energy, and, Sustainability

As women are more likely to be among the world's poor and impoverished, and rely more predominantly upon natural resources for their livelihood, women make up a disproportionate percentage of the worst affected by climate change. In a more damaging vein, the complexities of unique contexts in which females are immersed in, and inhabit, have increased in the past years because of unsustainable socio-environmental practices within these contexts. For example, 'women's economic contribution is often unpaid, unrecognized and undervalued'. This causes less investment in female empowerment and agency, and, ultimately results in decreased sustainable development opportunities for women. The unfortunate reality is that women often face systemic disadvantage within society. Systemic disadvantages that impede upon female empowerment and the expansion of gender equality include embedded socio-cultural norms and care-giving responsibilities. In this regard, a prominent issue, which confronts sustainable development policies, is the lack of active female participation in the shaping and construction of renewable and ecological policy. Failure to insert the voice of women into policy 'risks cementing gender inequalities in post-disaster and reconstruction efforts because of the inherently inequitable power relations, resource allocations, and underpinning assumptions on which responses to climate disasters are based'.

Harnessing Education for Sustainable Development to expand gender equality around the globe

There exist many barriers and obstacles, which hinder, and interfere with, women from having access to their right to participate in, and complete higher education. These obstacles broadly include: geographic location, minority status, and traditionally charged attitudes concerning the status of women in society. To mitigate these obstacles the UNESCO Priority Gender Equality Action Plan for 2014 – 2021 (GEAP II) maps an action framework for implementing gender equitable initiatives throughout education systems. The plan recognizes that gender equality is inseparable from sustainable education, and it 'is increasingly considered as one of the most effective investments. The GEAP II plan aims to alleviate gender disparities and encourage gender equality by leveraging a sustainable education system. Almost 16 million girls worldwide will never set foot in a classroom; moreover, women account for 2/3rds of 750 million adults without rudimentary literacy skills. However, as emphasized above, education for sustainable development (ESD) has the potential to break down and eliminate these gender inequalities and barriers. Costa Rica serves as an emblematic example of a country that has successfully implemented ESD into a tangible policy. On the 17th October 2006, the Government of Costa Rica approved the National Commitment on the 'Decade of Education for Sustainable Development' (DESD). Following this commitment, and under the Presidency of Laura Chinchilla, Costa Rica published the National Development Plan 2011 – 2014, which stressed the importance of improving secondary education, technological literacy, and learning a second language.

Impact Sustainability Recommendations

While the above themes were broad the interconnected thread uniting the subjects is the overpowering reality that women still lag behind men in development indicators. More perturbingly is the missing women phenomenon – where women are lacking in the areas of: education, labor market opportunities, and, political representation. In order to understand and evaluate how economic and cultural structures impede upon gender equality, accurate data is paramount. Data and statistics play a crucial role in generating equal opportunity for women. Consequently, it is vital that international standards and methodologies are developed, and standardized. Precise data from different countries and cultures is systemically lacking. To that end, greater investment in accurate data is necessary; work needs to focus specifically on data that captures land rights and ownership, access to education, family planning, and health care. Finally, beyond sustainable research, public policy initiatives should focus on decreasing the barriers and cost of education for women —

this is imperative to maximise the full benefits of ESD and research for sustainable development. There is a global responsibility to address 'discriminatory norms and practices through the media, religious institutions, and community members'.

This article 'Gender and Sustainability: Trends, themes and Policies' was written by Caitlin Power and published in International Journal of Women, Sustainability and Leadership Studies Vol 1. No.2, 2018.

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WOMEN HAVE ENERGY TO BOOST:

A Capacity Building Approach for Sustainable Energy

Por Dra. Isabel B. Franco and Ellen Derbyshire

This article reports briefly on research findings in regards to interlinkages between women and energy. Based on a comparative case study between two selected case study locations (in Japan and Colombia), our research identifies priority capacity-building areas valuable for women and proposes a capacity-building approach for sustainability in both locations. Research shows that existing capacity-building approaches do not strategically target women and fail in incorporating priority capacity-building areas valuable for women. However, these efforts represent a potential for fostering sustainable energy consumption patterns and therefore overall sustainability.

Risaralda, Colombia

Risaralda is a region located in the Colombian Andes in South America. With the escalation of fossil fuel projects, stakeholders in Risaralda have attempted to maximize social benefits for vulnerable groups, particularly for women. Whilst, at the local level stakeholders join efforts to develop a capacity-building approach that tackles key community issues; at the regional level, high priority areas for capacity-building in Latin America include but not limit to SDG 4: Quality Education; SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 9: Industry Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13: Climate Action; SDG 15: Life on Land.



The extractive industry in Risaralda has provided communities, particularly women with capacity-building initiatives. However, these actions are limited compared to the adverse impacts caused by the extraction of minerals and metals. Furthermore, disruptive industries such as mining, oil and gas will eventually affect the livelihoods of women in farming, jewellery design, artisanal mining, large scale mining and other economic activities. Some female coffee and jewelry producers and women entrepreneurs have already expressed the importance of implementing capacity-building, aligned with their development aspirations:

“We have been trained in jewelry design ... the company has also provided us with some financial assistance to attend international fairs so that we can promote and sell our products”.

The case study showed that stakeholders should boost the following areas in order to help women become more resilient and cope unsustainable use of natural resources;

- Generating and managing income
 - Employment opportunities
- Education and training
 - Work experience and apprenticeships and Infrastructure for development

Okayama, Japan

Research findings show that impactful capacity-building areas in Asia and the Pacific need to further be focused on SDGs 4: Quality Education, SDG 15: Life on Land and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. So far, the environment has not been given sufficient attention; hence many initiatives have been undertaken so that human society and nature can thrive together.

Based on participants' perceptions, priority areas for capacity building are as follows:

- Water quality
- Biodiversity
- Traditional Knowledge
- Teacher education on sustainability
 - Aging communities
- Corporate sustainable responsibility

So far the major challenge encountered by stakeholders has been the inclusion of women in decision making in the identification of capacity-building priority areas:

‘when we talk about the ration of participants of community-based activities the majority are women but when it comes to decision making, most participants are men’ (Higher Education Representative, Japan).

Overlooking women's voices in the development of capacity-building approaches to sustainability will not only escalate unsustainable patterns but further reflects the lack of capacity to design impactful capacity-building initiatives for women and for the community as a whole.

A capacity-building Approach for Sustainable Energy

Research indicates that both cases acknowledge the participation of women in capacity-building approaches to sustainability. However, the Japanese case differs from the Colombian case study in fostering women's decision making to cope with sustainability challenges around energy and other pressing issues. Interestingly, women in Colombia are more empowered and have been able to integrate their development aspirations into the design of existing capacity-building approaches to sustainability. In both case study areas multi-stakeholder collaboration and alignment with SDGs is perceived as a determinant factor for the success of existing capacity-building approaches

Impact Sustainability Recommendations

Through the above findings it is clear that successful integration of priority areas for capacity building can boost women's capacities to cope with unsustainable practices in energy or other pressing issues. Furthermore, community-oriented and women driven agendas can help women become more resilient to cope with unsustainable practices in energy consumption or associated matters. In addition, consultation and active participation in decision making for the development of capacity-building approaches to sustainability needs to be guaranteed in both cases. In both cases consultation should not be merely the token provision of information but should be such that women are actively involved in decision-making regarding matters such as priorities for the allocation of funds and asset transformation. Consultation processes should also include women across the broader community to help them boost their assets and cope with unsustainable energy practices in the case study locations.

The full version of this article 'WOMEN HAVE ENERGY TO BOOST: A Capacity Building Approach for Sustainable Energy' was written by Dr. Isabel B. Franco and Ellen Derbyshire and published in the International Journal of Women, Sustainability and Leadership Vol 1. No. 2, 2018.

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 - Actioning SDGs into the Business
- Actioning SDG 5 (Gender Equality) across the supply chain
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-

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Women



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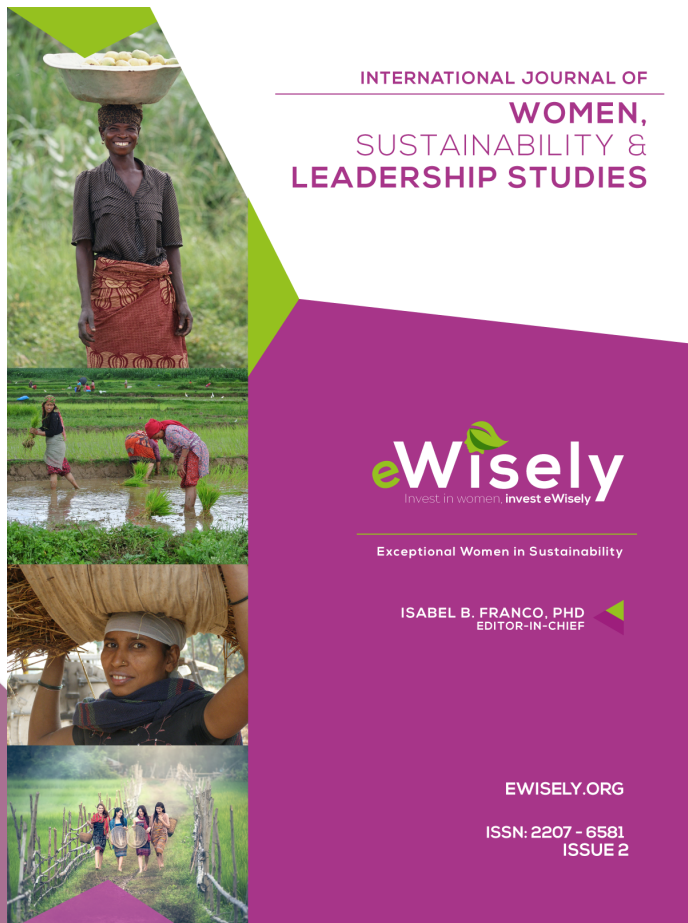
Creative writers

We invite bloggers to invest wisely by submitting their contribution to our Magazine eWisely. This publication is a monthly online magazine aimed to publish featured stories, news and personal, real-life case studies of women and non-scientific research that connects women, impact sustainability/SDGs and Leadership.

Clean Tech Start Ups

There are a few ways start ups and companies can invest wisely. Some typical ways to invest is by donating a product:

- Tech product in existing form to a nonprofit (via software or licenses)
- Tech product in form revamped specifically for nonprofits
- Hardware / goods
- Pro-bono services (can also be considered a time donation)



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