

fostering women's leadership

It has been well established that global warming and flooding affect women differently and often more dramatically than men; this is largely because men and women are confronted with distinct social and economic roles and responsibilities. Women are often underrepresented in community planning. Various marginalized groups including the poor, indigenous peoples, ethnic or religious communities, migrants and people with special needs are also often left out of key decisions. Building women's leadership is a powerful way to confront structural inequalities and an opportunity to incorporate valuable perspectives on complex environmental issues.

VIDEOS:



Salt Resistant Seeds (India)

The Sagar Island Women's Collective is cultivating salt resistant seeds and organic farming methods to cope with rising waters.



People Powered Policies (Canada)

Andrea Reimer is a Vancouver city councilor who advocates for inclusive policy making that includes the voices of low-income seniors, aboriginal voices, renters and more.



Forecasting Change (India)

In the aftermath of two devastating storms, Maheshvari learns to forecast weather to help her fishing community in Southern India and in doing so becomes a community leader.

QUESTIONS:

What are some of the obstacles that women face when they are assuming new roles in their community or trying out new methods? (Time, finances, training etc.). What kind of support do they need to get more involved? (Childcare, training, peer support, financial support etc.). Are gender concerns different in rural areas and urban areas? (For example how does transportation, age, education, culture or class come into play?).

ACTIVITY:

On index cards or a small piece of paper, write out the following words: Access, knowledge, participation, space, time, legal rights, power, race, age, and decision making. Give a card to each participant and ask him/her to watch the films with this keyword in mind. After the films are finished, go around in a circle and ask participants to use his/her keyword to prompt a discussion about what encourages and what inhibits women in their communities from getting more involved in flood management.

FACILITATION TIP:

Ask participants to write down at least one quote from a video - something that stands out to them - to share with the group.

See facilitation tips to learn of more ways to engage groups