

GENDER IN WATER MANAGEMENT: CONSIDERATIONS FOR NEPAL'S KOSHI RIVER BASIN

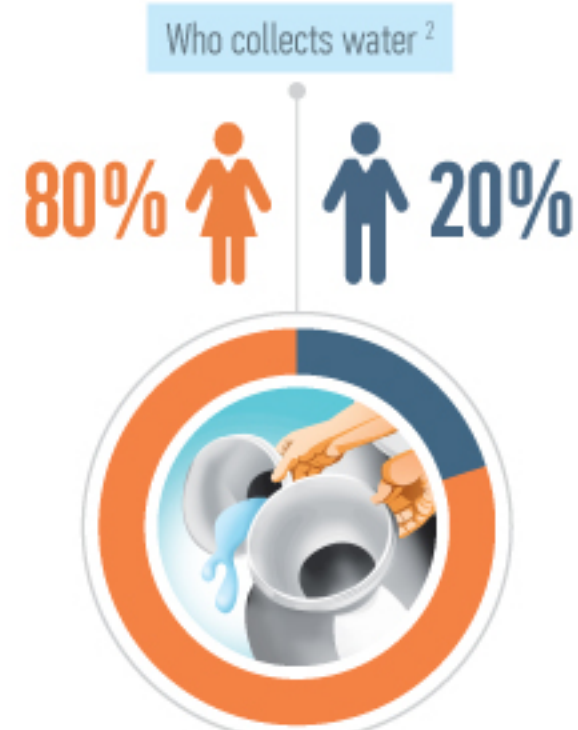
While both women and men interact heavily with water on a daily basis, their involvement in water management decisions is not equal. In the Koshi River basin and across the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, there is a great need to adopt a gender-sensitive and responsive approach to water management.

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Despite their inherent responsibilities surrounding water, women's involvement in local water institutions is usually low, passive, and non-technical

Women's participation in different phases of community-based flood early warning systems³



Time spent collecting water and fuel per day¹



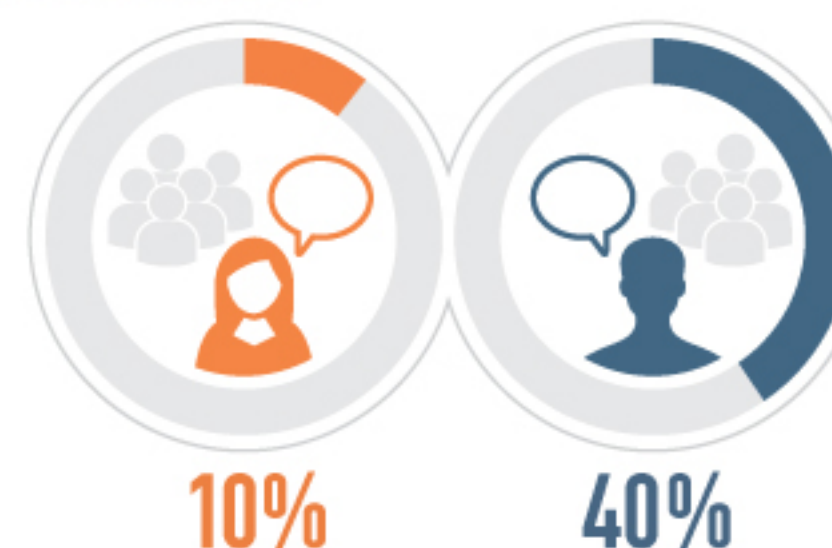
Women and men often experience water differently. While men use water for irrigation and large livestock, women use it for household, health, and small livestock

31% 69%

Membership in farmer managed irrigation systems⁴



Women's limited participation is rooted in gender norms. These contribute to lack of awareness regarding government provisions requiring 33% women's participation in water user committees, and women's lack of land ownership, which is often a criteria for membership in water institutions



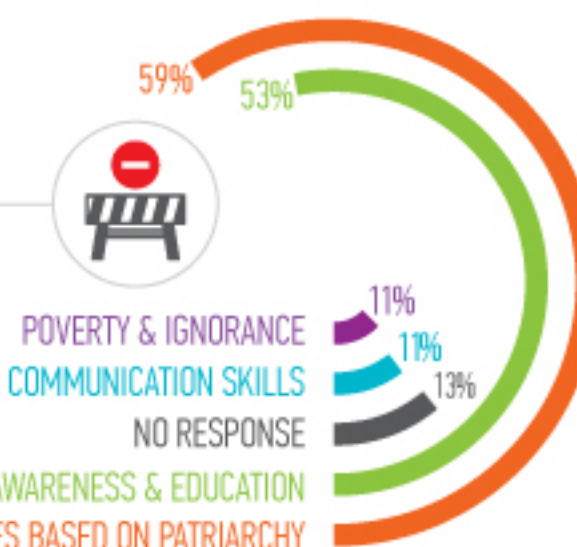
In meetings and assemblies, less women were sure that people listened to them compared to men⁵

14% 82%

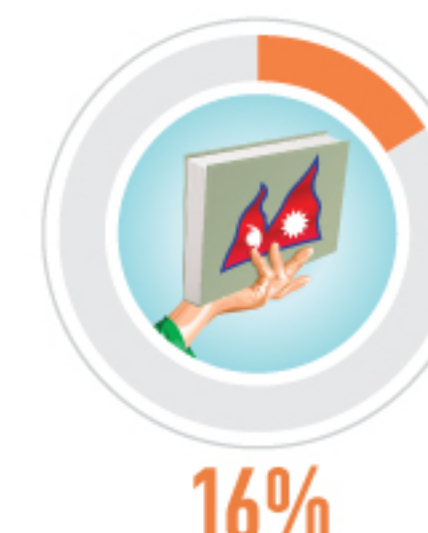
Percentage of men and women who own agricultural land⁶

Perceived hindrances to women's participation⁷

POVERTY & IGNORANCE
NON-EXPOSURE & POOR COMMUNICATION SKILLS
NO RESPONSE
LACK OF AWARENESS & EDUCATION
TRADITIONAL BELIEFS BASED ON PATRIARCHY



Percentage of women aware of the government's policy provisions on women's inclusion in irrigation groups⁶



Water resource management is most effective when there is active participation of both men and women in making decisions

TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION:



Increase awareness about existing gender equity provisions in state and national policies & strategies



Provide leadership training to women and promote them to decision-making roles



Enhance women's technical knowledge of water management and disaster response systems



Establish gender audits to better track who is benefitting from services and interventions



Expand criteria so that more women can become members in water institutions

Sources

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