



Mainstreaming gender in human security concerns into the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

**Globalisation and Environmental Challenges-
Reconceptualising Security in the 21 st Century
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International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

- A radical and crucially important shift has occurred from preparing to respond to disasters to focus on the concept of risk (IDNDR 1990-2000)
- With the realisation of the need for social, economic insights and political commitment helped to shape the ISDR in 2000
- 2005 adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action – HFA sets out specific goals and priorities of action, now accepted as the international blue print for guiding action on DRR

Paradigm shift

Emergency, events, humanitarian response,
preparing for response, victims

Risk, vulnerability, security, capacity, causes
of risk and vulnerability, social identity
based vulnerabilities, obstacles to capacity
and security, socio economic and political
processes

Definitions of security

Traditional definitions – International, national security:

Point of reference- Integrity of the state

Threats: Inter state war, civil conflict, nuclear proliferation

New dimensions of security- Human security: alternative to traditional concepts of security

Challenges the practice of international security

Point of reference – Integrity of the individual

Threats: Poverty, disease, natural disaster, violence, human rights abuse

Human security in natural disaster context

Exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters-
major threat to human security

Exposure of individuals to the threats of physical,
economical, social, health, personal, cultural and
psychological insecurities

Management of disasters from a new perspective,
by a new understanding of the root causes of
disasters, proactive tackling of root causes vs
responding to disaster events

Human security of disaster victims

Impact of disasters:

Higher on poor and powerless individuals

Higher on communities that are already hard-hit by past or continuing natural disasters or human conflicts.

Post-disaster contexts:

Threaten all aspects of human security

Violation of rights

Relief and recovery not delivered in democratic and equitable manner

Gender- a show case of human security dimensions in disasters

- **Impact during disasters** - varying impacts on men and women based on gendered social economic and political realities
- **Women- Vulnerable within the vulnerable**
Overall higher impact: Higher rates of death and displacement, inadequate access to warning information, evacuation, less survival possibilities
- **Post disaster issues – challenges for women**
security of person, sexual and other forms of harassment and abuse, marginalisation and lack of power due to social positioning, violation of rights

Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

Expected Outcome: *The substantive reduction in losses in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.*

- a) A more effective **integration of disaster risk into sustainable development** policies, planning and programming at all levels with emphasis on **prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and vulnerability reduction**.

- b) The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, including community level, **to build resilience to hazards**.

- c) The **systematic incorporation of risk reduction measures** into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Gender Dimensions in the HFA

- HFA recognises Gender perspective as one of the 4 cross cutting areas:

Multi hazard approach , Gender and cultural diversity , community and participation, capacity building and technology transfer

- Vulnerabilities and capacities of men and women differ and arise from the existing diverse and dynamic gender relations specific to each society and community
- Gender considerations are fundamental for sustained disaster risk reduction

Concluding remarks

- Mainstream essential factors of ensuring human security, elevate, scale up the efforts on DRR processes
- Elevation of paradigm shift, political commitment to human security concerns