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- Poverty Reduction
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- Crisis Prevention

Training on gender and disaster risk management

Session 1 – Key concepts – gender and sex

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What is sex?

- The term “sex” refers to biological differences between males and females. These are fixed and mostly unchangeable, and vary little across cultures and over time.



What is gender?

- “Gender” refers to socially learned differences between males and females
- Explains differences in the social, economic and political relations between men and women

Sex and gender

SEX	GENDER
Fixed and unchangeable	Dynamic and fluid
Determined at birth	Constructed over lifetime
Universal	Can be culture specific
Biologically defined	Social constructed
Usually two distinct categories (male and female)	Multiple manifestations

What are socially ascribed roles and behaviours?



- Roles and behaviours considered **masculine** and others considered **feminine** and appropriate for women
- Result in a sexual division of labour in the household and society

Examples of male gender roles

- Reproductive – make many children
- Provider – earn money to provide for wife, family, dependents
- Assumption – able to learn enough to provide for family needs
- Protector – assumptions – strong, aggressive, fearless, risk-taker

Examples of female gender roles

- **Reproductive role** – care for family (children, sick elderly, disabled)
- Provide food for family – planting, cooking
- Provide water for washing, cooking, cleaning, sanitation
- **Productive role** – earn supplementary income to (male) income

How do we learn gender roles?

Through agents of socialization:

- Family
- School
- Church
- Peers (friends, people of same age)
- Media (TV, advertising, magazines, cartoons)
- Laws, customs and taboos

Social construction of gender

How males and females experience gender in a disaster may be influenced by:

- Race and ethnicity
- Age – babies, children, adolescents, youth, adults, elderly
- Socio-economic status – low, middle, upper income
- Religion
- Location – urban, rural, semi-rural



Gender similarities hypothesis

- Most of our supposed gender differences are small, and they only show up on average when studying large samples of people
- >>>> the differences are often just matter of practice
- Men are from Nadi, women are from Sigatoka (instead of Mars and Venus)

Daily divergence theory

- Asserts that the perceptions of gender roles are more rigid than the realities of how men and women live their daily lives
- People contradict their assigned gender roles through small actions and in many ways, often under the radar



Why is gender important?

- Helps to understand how the experiences of males and females are influenced by differences such as age, class, religion, culture, location
- Highlights hierarchical relations, unequal roles and relations between and among males and females
- Highlights the unequal value given to women's work
- Highlight women's unequal access to power, decision-making and resources



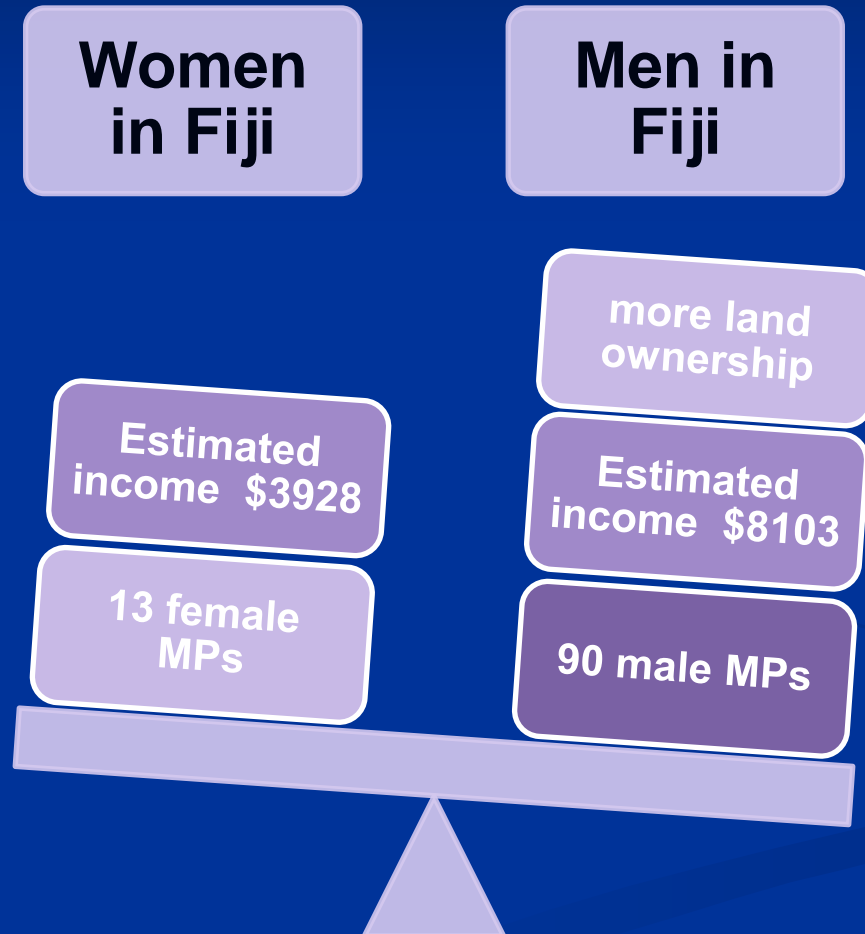
Gender differentials and gaps

- Men on average earn higher salaries and incomes than women
- Women spend more time than men doing **unpaid work**
- Women's reproductive role (bearing children) often takes them out of the workforce
- Female-headed households are poorer, larger in size and inter-generational
- Male-headed households are smaller and more “wealthy”
- Men have **greater mobility** for daily activities and for work and employment

What is gender analysis?

- Gender analysis examines the differences in men's and women's lives, including those differences that lead to social and economic inequality, and applies this understanding to policy development and service delivery

Sex-disaggregated statistics in Fiji



Data from Human Development Report 2008

What is gender analysis?

- Gender analysis is the systematic effort to identify and understand the roles and needs of men and women within a given context
- The cornerstone of gender analysis framework is an adequate data base (disaggregated)
- Look at division of labour in:
 - Reproductive roles
 - Productive roles
 - Community roles

Relevance of gender analysis to disaster management



- Immediately following a disaster, a “tyranny of the urgent” prevails
- A narrow view of the disaster can lead to a focus on the physical and more apparent economic impacts, ignoring social aspects
- Disaster preparedness and prevention is more effective if it is based on detailed understanding of the people at risk



Fa'afetai

Vinaka vakalevu

Meitaki