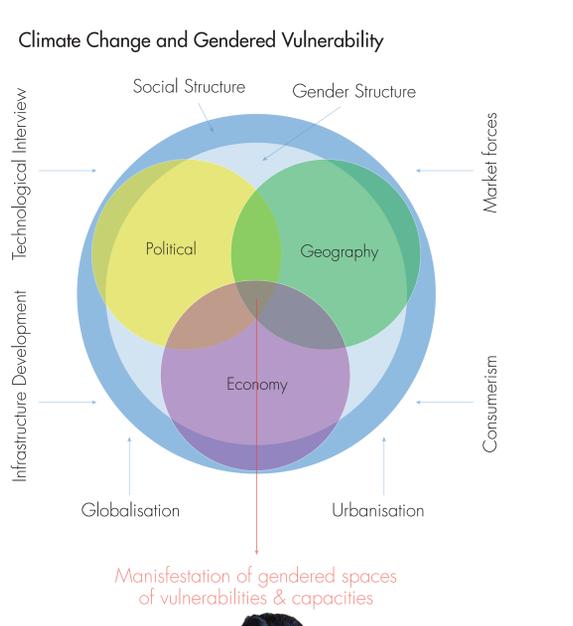


Understanding vulnerabilities by taking the intersectionality of gender with other axes of social differentials (class, caste, ethnicity, age, race, health) along with the interplay of external drivers of changes is important to capture the multi-dimensional impacts and implications of climatic and socioeconomic changes on people's lives and livelihoods.



Conceptual Framework

Manifestation of gendered vulnerabilities in the climate change context is an interplay of external factors i.e market forces, consumerism, urbanization, globalization, infrastructure development, technological intervention at a certain place and time combined with internal geopolitical and socioeconomic factors of social and gender structures.

Methods & Methodology

Qualitative participatory research methods with combination of Focus group discussions (with women and men's groups of different social groups), key informant interviews and participant observations in high, mid and downstream of the study basins.



Findings

Across four basins of the HKH, the major factors shaping manifestations of gendered vulnerabilities and capacities in the face of changing climate are :

- Patriarchal norms and values regarding ownership of resources, decision making
- Mobility norms and patterns of women and men
- Identities and political affiliations
- Lack of social security and safety-nets for women and marginal groups

Climate and socioeconomic changes have increased in outmigration of younger men. This has led to altered gender roles and responsibilities where in roles were conventionally done by men are taken up by women; at the same time women are entering new domains and spaces that were hitherto men's domains - e.g. markets, dealing with government institutions and facing disasters alone.

Way Forward

Socioeconomic changes exacerbated by climatic stressors have led to the increase in the trend of out-migration of young men. This is changing the genderscapes in the HKH – there are changes in demography, gender roles are altering, the domains/spaces of women and men are shifting, and gender and social relations are undergoing a transition. However, institutional and policy processes and structures remain patriarchal and male dominated. With the change in women's roles and spaces, their skill and capacities have increased immensely. This is a big opportunity to take advantage of this positive change to bring women's voices in decision-making by giving more leadership roles. This would go a long way in the gender transformative change and achieving the SDG goals.