

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Responding to a [call](#) from USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, Office of Capacity Building and Development (FAS/OCBD) in 2007, a group of academicians from Kocaeli University, sent their proposals to organize the third workshop on gender and disasters. Considering the achievements that were made in the two previous workshops (Florida 2000 and Hawaii 2004), the applicants intended to create a workshop on the link between gender equality and disaster risk for effective disaster management and focused cultural issues and expanding the given framework towards gender-related issues and the influence of values and culture in disaster risk reduction. On the basis of their disaster work and the personal experience based upon horrific East Marmara earthquake that took thousands of lives in 1999 in the region where Kocaeli University is located, the organizers intended to bring scholars as well as community leaders, and NGO people together to investigate how gender based values and practices of culture influence actions responding the disasters and post-disaster relief efforts.

With its dynamic disaster relief community, the call was timely and corresponded well with the internal research and implementation agendas of the surrounding relief work community of Kocaeli. The applicants especially highlighted the need to work on both gender and culture related differences and problems in the post disaster context and developing strategies to deal with them. The purpose of the workshop – in a broad sense - was explained as the discussion and identification of gender related issues in the context of disasters on both national and international levels, helping to raise awareness for all involved and the proposal of possible solutions. More specifically, gender based powerlessness and identity related issues of the carriers of the humanitarian help and the community members were proposed as another focal point of the workshop. Although a significant amount of work has been produced in general, a very limited amount of this focused on gender related issues of disasters, the culture/religion related aspects of the support mechanisms and the economic facade and the application specifically focused on these.

After receiving the grant the organizers especially encouraged applications focusing on the perceived gender inequity and highlighting the connection between culture, gender and disasters. In light of these observations, the aim of the Workshop was supporting activities for raising awareness for specific gender related difficulties which victims face in disaster settings and promoting gender sensitive research in the field of disaster relief and management.

Format

The opening of the meeting took place in Prof. Baki Komsuoğlu Congress Center, located at the Umuttepe Campus of [Kocaeli University](#). The rest of the workshop was hosted in [Derbent Hotel](#). The Workshop gathered about 200 junior and senior faculties working in disaster and disaster relief work along with participants from grassroots organizations and community leaders from the whole world.

After the presentation of a short documentary “Hear my Voice” by Nuran Bayer of Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) that introduced the major challenges that were faced by the women, men and children, the Workshop began with a keynote given by Professor Belkıs Kumbetođlu, presenting the grounds and the objectives of the meeting. In the following one and a half day, [three panels](#) presented different aspects of the given issues and provided a significant background for the following discussions. On the basis of unique case studies, the first one discussed the gender aspects of natural disasters in general. Describing challenges faced by people in poverty in the context of disasters, the second panel explored the economic aftermath, socio-economic impacts of natural disasters, economic impact assessment of disasters on communities and normalization processes, empowerment mechanisms and capacity building. Highlighting the complexities, contradictions, and outcomes associated with women's, men's and children's responses to the disasters through academic work, the participants of the third panel discussed contemporary disaster research in Turkey.

After opening the meeting with the panels, the organizers met the session facilitators, the people who will be responsible for drafting workshop proceedings and the workshop participants to explain what we expect from them and how to conduct the sessions. In the following six workshops which were attended by the victims of the recent disasters, emergency responders, relief workers, volunteers of voluntary organizations, governmental representatives, as well as the researchers who will focus on gender related disaster topics, the various aspects of the disaster were discussed and the experiences were shared.

- Workshop 1: Effective and Gender Sensitive First Aid
- Workshop 2: Disaster Management, Security and Justice
- Workshop 3: Gender Differences in Psychological Distress and Emotional Recovery
- Workshop 4: The Roles of the Non-governmental Organizations During and After Disasters, Bridging the Local and International Agencies
- Workshop 5: Economics and Labor Relations: Natural Disasters and Women
- Workshop 6: Everyday Disaster Education and Gender Equality

Conclusions and Recommendations

The purpose of this workshop was to review our current understanding of gender and disaster dynamics and to outline important areas of emphasis for future international cooperation, research and awareness raising within the given framework. According to the participants of the previous workshops, the main difference of this one was its significant service for awareness raising, for bringing various actors together and its efforts to fill the gap between national-international, rural-urban and governmental-nongovernmental sectors. It needs to be highlighted that the workshop as a whole was a great success in bringing a number of public servants, NGO representatives and academicians together to discuss important issues related to the gender and natural disasters.

The closing session of the Workshop was dedicated to a general discussion on the output of the meetings, the potential next steps, and the lessons learned during the three days. The Workshop was an important step toward further cooperation among the different components of the disaster relief work as well as the international actors. While everybody agreed on the great opportunity during this event to gather people working in different sectors and create a suitable environment for these to share their experiences, it is clear that there is still a lot that needs to be done.

In their closing remarks, the participants identified the following potential next steps:

- This event demonstrated the need for a public forum to share and capitalize experiences in different contexts. Continuance of this forum would be an excellent place where victims of the natural disasters and the relief experts could share expertise.
- The location of the event allowed participants to compare their own experience with the experiences of other geographies and helped them to realize commonalities and specificities between different regions. Therefore, it may be appropriate to run a series of such events around the globe to gather more input from other regions.
- Calling attention to gender based vulnerability in the context of disasters, the participants agreed upon the introduction and/or continuation of grassroots education and capacity building efforts and creating practical tools to implement gender equality into disaster relief policies and programs.
- Raising the level of gender awareness of the national/local agencies requires collaborative work at the global scale and fostering mutual understanding and collaboration among international agencies and community agencies, integrating feedback from the grassroots is critical.
- Empowering women and making them part of the solution regarding not only gender related issues but also others, namely natural disaster risk reduction, environmental management, disaster response planning, relief efforts needs to occupy a focal point.
- Enhancing the aptitude of the international organizations to operate more effectively local community participation and engagement need to be promoted more efficiently.
- Improving community resilience during and after natural disasters is a crucial part of disaster readiness and the development of gender-sensitive programs designed to improve conditions are necessary for more functional and just recovery programs.
- It is essential that disaster respond models need to be updated constantly and the diffusion of gender sensitive information is crucial to have more balanced recovery programs.
- The current strategies of disaster research and their implementation are not adequate to address complex gender dynamics and multidisciplinary research. Therefore, more effective scholarly response which brings better understanding in various disciplines needs to be promoted.
- The workshop highlighted the need for more effective approaches to address cultural, national and local differences.

“FIRST AID IN AN EFFECTIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT” REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP 1

Facilitator: Necati Dedeoğlu

Reporters: Cavit Işık Yavuz & Bora Erdağı

I. GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE WORKSHOP

Natural disasters come out of various natural incidents. However, the consequences of natural disasters can be quite complicated because of the various hierarchical structures in a society. These structures would determine the size and the allocation of the damage a disaster may cause. It is important to determine the basic framework of this workshop titled “First Aid in an Effective Disaster Management” in order for the recommendations to be assessable and applicable. Therefore, our workshop naturally had the following three focal points:

- i) Natural disaster,
- ii) Gender,
- iii) First aid services.

Here is what we should understand from these focal points as a conceptual and practical framework:

Natural disaster; disasters originating from various movements of water, earth and air, such as flood, tsunami, earthquake, erosion, draught, volcanic explosion, and hurricane as well as meteor showers that the earth may face...

Gender and roles; layers of gender roles that would take place in the organization of social life one way or another such as: women, children, homosexuals, men, the sick and the elderly...

First aid: For people and their social environment to be in need for help due to some incidents and medical intervention as the first stage of this help. In other words, emergency medical intervention and relief work.

Not only the focal points but also some agreements have been developed for the purpose of this workshop. These can be grouped within two titles.

- i) Natural disasters do not “treat” all people equally as for the social disasters. The consequences would be worse for those who come from different class backgrounds, especially the poor, workers, and villagers, and from different gender positions and roles; especially women, children, the elderly, the handicapped, and the sick. Therefore, gender perspective and participation should not be forgotten in the planning, management, and decision making processes of a “Disaster Cycle”
- ii) Looking from the perspectives of both international and national politics, there are some agreements and responsibilities such as United Nations’ “Millennium Goals” which Turkey and some other countries have been part of. What all these remind us should not be ignored.

II. EXPERIENCES, PROBLEMS AND COMMENTS

Under this title, experiences of the workshop participants have been shared, and the issues related to this title have been grouped together.

1) Gender plays a role in terms of the access to the emergency medical help/services

- There are problems originating from the use of individual power; especially men or those who have privileged social roles demand priority, then the need of the women/children and some other social groups may go neglected.
- It is not known how much of a role gender plays in not receiving medical help after disasters, especially from women's perspective.
- The lack of demographic and epidemiologic maps makes it difficult to reach out to sensitive groups.
- Deficiency of the existing organizations in the disaster areas or issues of coordination have negative impacts on the first aid and medical services.
- The lack of experience and attentiveness of the disaster personnel create problems in reaching out to the victims and especially sensitive groups. Problems, especially during the formation of triaj causes neglect of those who would need the help most.
- Internalization of gender roles would be a problem in the first aid/health services. Those who stand back and do not receive service because of gender roles or those who are ignored because of common gender perspectives go through these problems firsthand.
- Positive affirmation is necessary for women in terms of the access to the rescue and emergency health services.

2) The role of gender in the process of emergency medical help.

- Cultural differences and biases can sometimes make the interventions impossible. Because of their cultural beliefs, some patients or their relatives would only allow interventions by the health teams that consist of the same sex health officials. For example, female patients would only allow female doctors to examine them. Combining some modern ways of thoughts such as "rights of patients" with these cultural factors would slow down the medical help services even further.
- "Privacy sense" of the families and the society create difficulties in terms of reaching out to the lower layers of gender groups. For example, it is possible to witness tendency to hide problems during the assessment of risk groups before or after disaster. This is especially common in the determination of handicapped and dependent persons.
- The magnitude of natural disasters evokes wide range organizations by disaster help committees. The demands to participate in these organizations by individuals, institutions, and countries, are mostly managed by these coordination committees. Some biases interfere right at this point, which could not be explained only through the differences in cultural patterns, but the existence of some national and local politics.
- There are problems related to emergency help and rescue services, as well, in terms of gender perspectives. It is possible to observe feelings of discomfort and uneasiness in these teams due to women's existence. Originating from gender differences and gender roles, these biases impair the contribution of women workers.

- Women health workers, who work in the first aid and rescue services, lack the social support while they face physical difficulties and their private needs are not met. Another problem for them is dealing with negative attitudes from their supervisors/bosses at the work place after the task.
- Hegemony of men's perspectives in the organization of the emergency medical intervention and rescue teams especially in the selection of personnel and volunteers is also worth mentioning here.

3) The role of gender in the construction of volunteer and official groups for emergency medical intervention and rescue work.

- There are problems in the areas such as localizing the intervention teams, making the continuing first aid and rescue education extensive, overcoming the lack of women's participation in these organizations, and allocation of decision making power equally among gender groups.

4) The role of gender differences in the formation of disaster response programs related to emergency medical intervention and rescue.

- The first intervention is carried out primarily by the local capacities. For example, during the Izmit earthquake, international help could not arrive before the second day of the disaster. In this regard, the lack of volunteer maps in terms of their numbers and qualities can boost problems.
- Necessary training programs and preparatory procedures can not be formed for risk groups such as pre-school children, villagers, and those who live in shanty houses.
- Epidemiologic and social maps, as well as the determination of risk groups (handicapped, HIV positive, etc.) are ignored during the preparatory stage.
- Deficiency in declaration for determination of risk groups can be observed because of various social biases.
- Another problem in this area occurs in terms of "privacy of medical information" which would create some new vulnerabilities.
- Another important issue for the preparatory stage is "education/training". Including both men and women equally, the need for a sustainable and accessible education and using limited resources effectively are all necessary to emphasize. However, not having coordination in the planning of training may cause problems, as people receive training from 4-5 different sources regarding the same topics.
- The content, updating and sustainability (regarding the circulation of overseers and volunteers) of the implemented programs are confirmed as other problems.

5) The role of gender differences in the formation of organization/coordination centers in terms of priorities regarding the emergency medical intervention and rescue work.

- The lack of organization and coordination both at national and local levels creates chaos in help and rescue work.
- Not having plans for specification of the needs and effective use of the resources would increase risks.

6) Formation of database in emergency medical intervention and rescue work from a gender-sensitive perspective.

- It is important to consider the identification and legal medicine dimension in terms of recording deaths and other challenges children and women victims experience in addition to disaster such as rape, abduction, organ smuggling etc.
- It is important to foster awareness related to sexual offenses such as rape and harassment after the disaster.
- Crimes such as abduction and human trafficking should not be neglected, but should be focused upon.

7) The role of gender differences in developing supplementary elements to make the work of medical intervention and rescue teams effective. The lack of equal opportunity in terms of participation of women and men in the developing of supplementary elements is salient.

8) The role of gender differences in self organizing among disaster victims for reducing and eliminating the loss. There are problems of women's participation in these organization activities, thus hindering women's contribution in coping and recovering after disasters.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOLUTION

The recommendations for solution have been discussed in the axis of two main questions: "What to do?" and "How to do it?" In this regard, the following titles are created:

1) It is necessary to achieve gender awareness and sustainability in the management of first aid/rescue and other emergency medical help services for an effective disaster response program. Therefore, it is important to develop awareness and build preparation and intervention programs from planning to implementing stages within this perspective.

2) The essential way of attaining sustainability is the political will which would provide the base for the formation of regulations and making them part of the laws. Regulations that would involve liability, sustainability and coordination should be carried out with gender-sensitive and international perspective (abiding by agreements and protocols such as HYOGO Framework for Action). Therefore, an approach of wide-range participation and different cultural considerations should be adopted through cooperation.

3) It is important to increase allocation of resources towards gender research in disaster management, thus giving way to accumulation of knowledge and information in this area.

4) Monitoring programs should be developed in order to evaluate the existing efforts and determine the emerging needs.

5) Protection programs should be developed, especially against the crimes of rape, harassment, exploitation, kidnapping, human trafficking etc. Preparatory programs should include education related to this kind of protection. Another protection program is necessary to develop for those who work in the first aid and rescue teams. Security issues and psychosocial needs during and after disaster should be addressed in these programs.

6) Gender differences/issues should be considered when building and organizing the shelters after disasters.

7) International aid should be organized from a gender perspective.

8) Resources that would be allocated for first aid should be used effectively in the management of natural disasters.

9) Disaster training programs should be overviewed: these programs should be constructed with gender contents. Different social groups and local needs should be considered. Biases should not be allowed when assigning topics and participants. Emphasis on inaccessible groups, and raising awareness within them should be important tasks. Education should be carried out at various levels; communities, schools, employees etc.

10) Gender roles and social consequences of these roles create challenges for men, as well. Therefore, how gender roles are reflected in every area of our lives should be covered in the training programs for both men and women, in order to generate sensitivity about gender issues. Women should be encouraged to learn their rights.

11) There is a need for resources such as guide books for education related to gender issues/identities and solutions, not only in the first aid field but also in the whole disaster management area.

12) Gender should be taken into consideration when collecting data in the first aid and also disaster management. Specific problems of men's and women's are overlooked when the data is not sorted gender wise.

13) In some countries (such as the Philippines) gender is considered in all government programs and acts, and the gender-sensitivity within these programs is monitored continuously. This kind of legal precautions are effective for the sustainable gender sensitivity. International organizations should also implement gender sensitivity into their programs.

14) There is a need for a structural approach in terms of gender related problems. For instance, gender and gender discrimination should be part of the curriculum in all schools of the country. All universities and research institutions should allocate resources for gender related research. Thus, gender problems can be mitigated in terms of disasters as well as in other areas.

In conclusion, an effective first aid and rescue service can only be possible through the consideration of the points that have been elaborated above. Thus, the fulfillment of these requirements is the mutual statement of the workshop participants.

“DISASTER MANAGEMENT, SECURITY AND JUSTICE” REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP 2

Facilitator: Gönül BALKIR

Reporters: Nihal Şirin PINARCIOĞLU & Ali Tolga ÖZDEN

I- DISCUSSION FRAMEWORK

Natural disasters can cause loss in human lives and injuries, physical and economic losses, social and ecological destructions. Especially in the dense populated urban centers which grow out of control, these cause poverty and frailty. The effects of natural disasters differ for different genders. Heavier damages can be seen especially in fragile and easily affected societies and the recovery and reconstruction processes take longer. Because of this reason, especially the women along with the aged, children and the disabled people are seriously affected by the destruction that was caused by the natural disasters. Women and men are experiencing the surrounding conditions differently. Due to gender based inequalities, the outcome of the disasters can be experienced differently. Before, during and after the disasters the gender differences can put women into a vulnerable position.

In this workshop, the outcome of gender based inequalities on *disaster management*, *security*, and *justice* is discussed. The basics concepts and the common agreements are undertaken as follows.

Gender: Aside from the biological distinction, gender conveys different social roles. These roles are influential to create distinct life practices and specific needs for different sexes. On the basis of the gender based differences, natural disasters cause different results and needs. Thus, the effects of the natural disasters and the related policies need to be studied by taking this distinction into consideration.

Disaster: Disasters are the incidents which are triggered by the nature, technology or human decisions and cause physical, economic and social losses, hold or interrupt daily life and activities, harm human lives and human environment.

Disaster management: Disaster management is an interdisciplinary administrative method which is used before, during and after the disasters to prevent it and reduce the destructions of the disasters and mobilizes all sources of a society. Disaster management consist of prevention and reduction of destruction, preparation, reduction, immediate response and betterment stages. These all need to be implemented in program and by the rules of law.

Security: In a place where disaster takes place, general security of the society has to be considered as the number one priority. Both in normal and abnormal periods, one of the responsibilities of the state and the constitutional establishments is to defend its citizens rights in a gender blind way. During the crises security rights can be breached in various forms. The implementations of the disaster management activities can create negative results especially for women because of the lack of sensitivity for gender differences. For instance, under post-disaster conditions, women living in shelters (such as tents) and temporary housings

(prefabricated houses and containers) can be the victims of various types of abuses and violence starting with sexual harassment and molestation.

Justice: Natural disasters cause different results for the people because of the inequalities in a given society. In every stage of managing disaster unjust practices can be seen. Because of the disasters, the work and household conditions of women along with their productivity can be interrupted and their link to the rescue/support sources can be diminished because of gender based differences. When the rescue/support work and re-structuring policies are organized without gender sensitivity, unjust implementations can be seen and the human rights of the women are infringed upon.

II- PROBLEMS, VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES

General Points

During and after the disasters, especially the more vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities can be more affected.

In these crises periods, there can be administrative and security breaches can be seen in disaster zones. Related to this the legal system cannot function properly.

During the disaster related chaos, the people of the region might end up carrying responsibilities for security and normalization. During the disaster periods, social, legal and administrative structure might either partially function, or stop functioning entirely and under these kinds of circumstances people might handle the control of some decision making by themselves. Sometimes this type of attitude expands the problems of the crises, deepens the problems and causes traumatic results.

In a post-disaster social setting the social roles played by both men and women can be observed to diminish. Although this is seen for both women and men, in specific societies this might cause deeper problems for women. Because of many factors such as unemployment and housing related problems, the responsibilities cannot be shared equally and this might bring traumatic outcomes. Dominant groups in any given society place pressure on other groups, including women and this situation doubles the inequalities in disaster settings.

The improper distribution of support materials, sending of unnecessary, inappropriate support material to disaster zones as well as mismanagement of materials to be received by the families in need and problems related to the storing of materials can cause significant management and legal problems.

The gender perspective of political authorities plays significant roles. This perspective might play a significantly positive or negative role on the social and political actors in any given society.

The lack of knowledge of the legal rights in a disaster context is one of the significant issues affecting people involved in disasters. Although the post-disaster experiences are functional for raising awareness for these types of issues, they may not necessarily produce results (for instance as in the case of housing rights for the couples with no official marriage). In a traditional socio-cultural background with weak economic conditions, women and other vulnerable categories become the most affected part of the society during a disaster.

Particularly, the expectation placed upon women to get the support material for her family can deepen women's suffering and cause traumatic situations when these materials are distributed in a disorderly fashion leading to a furthering of an already chaotic environment.

According to the previous experiences, there are two major reasons for the suffering of women in post-disaster settings: 1- Increase in violence, 2- Economic problems and poverty.

Another significant problem is the lack of chance for the lawyers and jurist to play an active role in the post-disaster environment. Lawyers can only enter the scene if and when there is a lawsuit. While there is a dire need for educated and experienced people in this arena.

The personnel (from another region) who play a role in the disaster region generally suffer from a lack of education and experience. This situation generally slows the intervention process and obstructs the use of the full capacity of rescue and support efforts.

The Problems that are Caused by Gender Differences in Disaster Setting:

Women do not place the highest priority on themselves to survive in disasters. Consistent with their given gender roles, women generally spend the majority of their time in private sphere/houses which creates a disadvantage for them in terms of surviving during a disaster. In disaster settings even the clothing of a woman can be important for her survival. A cloth is a crucial ingredient of a woman's honor, during the disaster a woman cannot go out naked and the effort and time involved in having to wear proper clothing to escape can cause further danger. This stands as a significant example to display the importance of surrounding socio-economic factors.

Everyone is affected by the disasters. However women are more vulnerable. For instance, in Turkey, Pakistan and India, it was widely observed that men left their wives for different reasons. The majority of the women do not have property and this situation generally makes women poorer, and puts their life and property security in danger. While men can easily marry other women after the death of their wives, women could not do the same because of social pressure in various occasions. This also stands as another example to show the gender based inequalities.

All forms of violence against women increase after disasters. Socio-economic factors play a crucial role in this.

Gender Based Approach in Disaster Management:

The responses to the natural disasters are corresponded with the life styles of the people in disaster zones. For instance because of nomadic lifestyle, the disaster related support material cannot be sent successfully to the people in need in Kenya. The inverse proportion between the sufferings of women and children and the support that they receive marks the administrative problems in these efforts.

The necessary statistical data on women at the household level to choose accurate methods for a better disaster management are generally not available. This situation creates negative effects in the process of support and service delivery stage for the women. Having these types of records, therefore, is critical to create a just and logical support delivery system. It is very important to create information collection centers at the city level.

In every country the perspective of political authorities on gender issues plays a significant role. The preparation of the political arena on these subjects appears as one of the key factors for awareness raising. The preparation of educational programs and psychological support programs in advance are very important and necessary. Both pre-disaster efforts to reduce risk and the extension of awareness raising programs to the larger parts of the society are very important to shorten the recovery process in which people can easily return to their normal life.

Coordination for Successful Disaster Management:

The lack of coordination between central government and the local administrations are widely seen especially in developing countries. While there is none or very little authority given to the NGOs, central agencies are dominating the decision making processes against the local ones. This situation causes unsuccessful results in disaster recovery and the following betterment implementations. The communication problems, the lack of power sharing, reduce the level of participation between the central government, the local agencies and the NGOs. These communication problems diminish the capability and effectiveness of these agencies. Gender is also an effective factor which directly influences decision making processes. Gender based inequalities and injustices, increase the fragility of the society and interrupt the recovery process. For a successful disaster management model, gender inequality needs to be cured and role needs to be given to the whole agencies in all levels. The success of these efforts does not only increase the success of the pre-disaster risk reduction, but also post-disaster efforts.

To create an effective risk and disaster culture is only possible and successful with a coordinated effort that includes all possible actors.

Law Related Security and Gender:

The disaster process is the occasion in which the legal security perception is being tested. Any of the personal, administrative, private, and public decision and implementation cannot be considered legitimate without being secured by the law. If the issues that are highlighted in this workshop and in the other sessions are divided into two group as controllable issues by people and the ones which cannot be controlled by the people, it can be clearly seen that controllable problems of people generally appear with the lack of law.

In addition to this finding, the lack of gender consciousness also appears as another element for this reason. Even in the cases in which the law is abided, some issues such as the limited social access of women to the courts and the habit of choosing men for official communication between the courts and the people influences the success of the legal systems. The difference between the intent and the reality needs to be highlighted here. Even if there is a well structured legal system, if people are cut off from their normal safe environments the legal system will not function as intended.

The influence of administrative problems on the legal system needs to be highlighted. As an extraordinary period, the implementation of the regular norms of the legal system requires more time and energy during and after the disasters.

Recently, the disaster management process has evolved into a risk management process. The models and plans that have been created on the concept of risk must include administrative frailty and the absence of law.

Looting, corruption in the delivery of the support material and the unjust use of public sources can be seen during the natural disasters. Since these are widely known patterns of corruption that are seen all over the world, the plans to respond to these issues need to be prepared in advance. However it is difficult to describe a systematic effort in this nature.

Disaster Management and Education:

It is critical to highlight the significance of education in disaster management. Besides information, educational programs provide survival techniques to survive, talents to reduce the level of destruction and hope for the future.

Previous social roles among the gender categories provide a base for the disaster and post-disaster behavior. Because of this reason, the education of the people who are the focal point of administrations is very important.

III- CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Gender needs to be implemented in all plans and programs including disaster management. It is known that in all over the world, traditional disaster management models have been discarded and a risk management approach has been adapted instead. Therefore, gender perspective must be considered in the planning and management of the risk.

Policies regarding disasters should be reorganized with the consideration of gender issues. A new institutionalization and organization process is needed.

Even though disaster risk management requires a holistic approach, local aspects of disasters should not be ignored. The plans should be made according to regional and local characteristics of disasters with the consideration of local needs. Vulnerable sections (such as women) of the society should be especially given importance, and efforts for raising consciousness and capacities of these sections should be given priority.

A reductionism of equality between sexes exists at the constitutional level. This regulation is not sufficient in terms of gender mainstreaming including the area of disaster management. Gender equality should be implemented in the constitutional text. It should also be given place in laws and other written legal texts.

Permanent commissions should be formed in the Parliament, which could lead a social transformation by allowing the representatives to self educate themselves.

Within the context of disaster management, institutions, organizations and individuals should act together in all phases of disaster management such as prevention, preparation, intervention, and reconstruction.

In case of a disaster, the most urgent responsibilities of the government are; the strengthening of relations between central and local governments, providing effective coordination for standard service and practices, ensuring safety and security of both life and property, of disaster victims and women.

Disasters cause destruction of social order. Disorder that emerges after disasters and the perceptions related to it are not the same in all societies, therefore specific mechanisms need to be developed in order to understand local dynamics. Decisions to respond to the changing

needs (according to the place, the situation, and the time), should be made by gathering traditional/local knowledge.

Education for raising consciousness about natural disasters is very important. It is important to assure women's participation in educational activities during and after disasters. Education should be gender based.

Preventive measures should be taken against security problems such as dark streets, distant toilets to the shelters during the sheltered life conditions after disasters.

Household information, including data regarding women, (not the kind that is based on the head of the household) is needed for choosing the accurate method in disaster management. Including women's data in the household information is crucial to provide the records in order to transmit post-disaster aid to them. In this context, it is important to establish and operate town information systems.

Women's needs play an important role in planning and designing of the residences. Women's contribution should be considered in the efforts for the durability of the residences against disasters. Women's roles are especially important, in not allowing changes that would impair the durability of the house against disasters. Along with others who are the actual users of the residences, women's expertise in this area would strengthen the self-inspection mechanisms which would have an important role in risk mitigation. Steps to organize awareness raising activities should be taken in this direction, and necessary plans should be made.

**“GENDER DIFFERENCES IN PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS
AND EMOTIONAL RECOVERY”
REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP 3**

Facilitator: Ufuk Sezgin

Reporters: Jülide Aral & Aslihan Akatlı

Objectives: The objective of this workshop is to discuss the impacts of natural disasters on psychological health, readiness for emotional recovery and the psychological distress related to interventions during and after the disaster. On the basis of the experiences and opinions of the participants we intended to propose a final statement at the end of the session. In the beginning of the meeting, the participants shared their experiences that have been gained either as a victim of natural disasters or health professionals. The summary of the session and the conclusions can be seen in the rest of this report.

* Natural disasters are terrifying incidents. Members of a community that have witnessed first-hand the effects of a disaster, but have not experienced it themselves, still deal with the feelings of fear, anxiety, distress and mourning. It is almost impossible not to be affected physiologically by a disaster after experiencing or witnessing it.

* A natural disaster can damage the whole regularities of the daily life along with all types of personal ties that come out of a lifelong effort. It destroys the places in which people feel safe, their neighbors, work, relationships and sense of belonging and trust. Under these kinds of conditions the victims go through serious physiological distress. When the post-disaster difficulties are added to these factors, the situation can be more destructive. Therefore, psychological health professionals who are experts on disaster recovery focus on re-creating the social ties among individuals and groups and convey these services to the victims in cooperation with social organizations and support groups when necessary.

* Physiological recovery services should be handled with the consideration of three stages; before disaster, during disaster and post-disaster.

Pre-disaster preparation: Disaster preparation (in terms of rescue efforts, providing basic needs, and replacing the loss etc.) should be completed before disasters. Psychosocial support units should be organized in every town. Volunteer groups should be organized. Along with other community leaders such as teachers, *mukhtars* (the elected head of a village or of a neighborhood within a town or city), and religious leaders, reaching out to women leaders should also be one of the goals. These efforts should be organized and pursued from a gender sensitive perspective. Pre-disaster educations and all other efforts including the development of organized communities should be furnished with awareness of gender discrimination first, and then all other kinds of biases (regarding age, religion, denomination, language, race, class, education, occupation etc.), and human rights in order to minimize crimes against humanity in the post-disaster period.

* In our country, Turkish Association of Psychologists, Psychiatry Association of Turkey, Association of Social Workers, Psychological Health Association for Children and Youth, Turkish Association of Psychological Counseling and Guidance have come together and initiated the Union for Psychosocial Services in Disaster (APHB). APHB's work samples have been facilitating for this workshop.

Early period after disaster: Many of the physiological reactions of disaster victims are affected by the life problems disaster creates. Since disasters destroy various kinds of stability in a daily life, many problems for disaster victims are naturally urgent and need immediate practical solutions. Victims would need temporary shelters, clothes, food; as well as transportation; financial help; unemployment pay; medical care, prescription eye glasses and medication; and help related to the removal of wreckage etc. Many of the physiological reactions of the victims are due to bureaucratic problems that occur within the time course. Early physiological interventions are defined as the physiological support given after the trauma victims are provided physical safety and medical care needs.

* The education and proficiency of physiological health professionals who give crisis support are important. Physiological health service is naturally more of a “practical” nature than that of a “physiological” kind during disasters. Demographic structure and socio-cultural characteristics of the disaster-affected community should be taken into consideration when preparing physiological health programs.

* Physiological health professionals should adapt the approach of taking service directly and effectively to the people instead of using traditional methods and physiological health labels. Interventions should be appropriate for the specific stages of the disaster. Recovery support systems (family, neighborhood, school, NGOs in which one is a member) hold vital importance in this process.

* Post-disaster physiological discomforts are the kind of “ordinary reactions to extraordinary situation.” However, even though these reactions are normal they still disrupt a person’s inner sense of balance. Therefore, the main purpose of the early intervention in order to prevent the development of physiological disturbances after disaster is the assurance of normal life as soon as possible and thus recovery of the physiological balance.

* Physiological health professionals should consider the possible consequences post-disaster traumas generate such as increased rates of domestic violence, sexual harassment, drug use, and some other crimes.

* Disaster may often attract attention from researchers. Research attempts in the early period can upset disaster victims and also obstruct the efforts in providing emergency needs of that period. Therefore, every research attempt related to disasters should require the approval of a professional ethic committee.

* Local resources that have been identified before a disaster occurs should be utilized effectively during and after disasters. On site first aid teams should include physiological health professionals who have been prepared in advance to work during disasters.

Post-disaster period: The efforts of this period can also form the pre-disaster efforts. The treatment for disaster related long term reactions should be planned. If possible, staff of the psychosocial support units should be professionals in this area or be available for long-term service. The members of first level health units should be provided with the knowledge and equipment before disasters in order to be able to deal with the post-disaster physiological issues. Related professionals should be supported by the practice of rotation during their work period. Necessary permissions should be obtained from the work places of professionals.

* Along with technical issues such as “strong base for buildings”, cultural and psychosocial needs should also be considered in the attempts of reconstruction after disasters such as earthquakes that ruin infrastructure.

**“THE ROLES OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NGOs
DURING AND AFTER DISASTERS”
REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP 4**

Facilitator: Betül Yarar

Reporters: Melek Gündoğan & Ayşegül Şenol

First, the participants of the workshop introduced themselves. After this introduction, they talked about the specific problems of the country/region they came from. Lastly, the ideas related to the solutions of the problems were shared.

Problems:

The problems that were discussed can be grouped under three main titles. The first group (1) consists of the problems which originate from the dominant approach. The second group (2) includes the problems which derive from the relationships between NGOs and central/local governments. Another group (3) of problems develops among NGOs/INGOs. The last group (4) is determined as problems that are systemic within NGOs.

1. Problems originating from the dominant approach:

The dominant approach can be observed in legal procedures and principles, within the programs, legal applications, and other approaches of local and national governments, in their own perspectives about NGOs/INGOs working in the area, and lastly among the members of the local community where one works. In our opinion, being gender-blind is the problem of the dominant approach. The lack of gender sensitivity and the fact that this concept does not exist in our mindset give way to this blindness. Therefore, the approach of the projects and plans which are produced by formal or informal institutions lack gender sensitivity or incorporate it superficially. These kinds of efforts can not be effective enough from a social perspective. On the other hand, implementations of gender sensitive projects may create reaction and resistance among the members (at least partly) of the community where the project would be implemented.

Gender concept is not investigated thoroughly and is understood commonly as a concept related to only women. Yet, gender has dimensions that cover both women and men. In this regard, even though gender base studies derive from the fact that women have inferior social position, men’s social roles, and their share in gender base inequalities should also be included in the gender base approaches. Besides, post-disaster processes can victimize men and also require transformation of men as well as women.

It can be said that the dominant approaches are generally not sensitive enough to local needs, or they are not formed with these needs in mind. This may reduce the social effectiveness and the strength of the project.

The emphasis is generally put on the period of the emergency help regarding the post-disaster problems in terms of both discussions of the problems and the development of the projects, while the impacts of the disaster can be deep and long term and the solutions would generally require continuing efforts and lasting plans.

Another point that needs to be criticized within dominant discourse and approaches is the use of “need” instead of “right” by the actors who lead the post-disaster efforts. This is not a

social approach and it generally creates a hierarchical relationship between “the help giver” and “the help receiver” and yields only a short term experience of cooperation.

All practices, projects and plans in terms of women and such secondary groups, should be based on the principle of equality and even more on the understanding and principle of “empowerment”. For example, if women have more limited access to the help in a region, it is important to provide women with as much help as men get, but it is even more important to think about why it is harder for women to access help, and how this problem can be overcome by empowerment of women. Efforts to empower women are long term ones and the portion that such efforts acquire in the post-disaster development period becomes important.

One of the basic problems that the actors who are involved in the short and long term post-disaster efforts face is the lack of trusting relationships among themselves. The main reason for this is the lack of common language and culture. Therefore, the cultural gap between these actors should be taken into consideration. The cultural and language barrier needs to be better identified and bridged.

Finally, the dominant approach is generally power centered. It looks at the society and the problems it faces through the lenses of those who are in power/center. Some of us here at this workshop come from countries under military regimes and governments. We are speaking out of an international network/culture/language of cooperation which are not suitable to understanding and approaches of those regimes. It would be hard for many to translate this into the power centered approach of the state institutions in their countries. Therefore, it is important to transform or to pressure to transform the power centered language and perspective in reaching out to people who are affected by disasters. ?

The lack of information related to disasters is a serious problem. Various dimensions of this problem can be mentioned. For example, there is not enough information available, both technical and general, about environmental problems that develop slowly such as draught and the negative consequences they would create. Besides, the social base and impacts of disasters are still not given importance, and disasters are examined just as natural disasters, and the information remains limited to the physical and technical levels. The impacts of disasters on different societies and communities should be considered together with the social, economic and politic dimensions of them. Issues related to finding solutions and making them more effective can only be clarified at the base of this kind of knowledge.

2. Problems emerging from the relationship between Civil Organizations and the Central/Local Governmental Institutes:

One of the basic problems in this context is bureaucratic procedures that affect the efforts negatively. While this is contrary to the urgent nature of post disaster help and efforts it also impairs the communication and cooperation culture between the actors who come from different regions and countries.

In many countries, negative actions such as corruption are witnessed within local and central governments and/or among officials in the post-disaster periods. These kinds of negative incidents obstruct the disbursement of the help to those in need, and also implications of planned actions for the solution of post-disaster problems. The lack of legal actions and the inability for those seeking legal solutions to corruption are common problems found in various areas. It has been observed that, this kind of problem causes distrust, passiveness, and

personal actions independent from public institutions and organizations among the actors who are involved in post-disaster efforts. Moreover, these problems render the already chaotic situation even more chaotic and the people even more victimized in the disaster affected region.

Another problem is the lack of much needed support, both physical and moral, from local and central governments to the groups who want to work in the region. The lack of common language between these aid groups and local/central governments increases the intensity of this problem.

On site efforts, programs, legal regulations, and practices which are led by local and central governments may have been produced with the effect of the dominant approach that has been mentioned earlier. Therefore, these can be short term efforts, insensitive to local needs, and unaware of the principles of social equality, and the concept of gender. Besides, these efforts would be based on insufficient information about the characteristics, dimensions, and variety of the social problems which would differ from one region to another.

One of the most important responsibilities of the local and central governments is to ensure cooperation. However, it can be said that they are generally insufficient and unprepared due to the lack of adequate plans and projects. This is an issue that does not only concern the governments of “developing” countries but also “developed” ones. One of the basic reasons for this is that, since environmental problems have gained global dimensions, the devastation that disasters create should be assessed from the perspective of humanity.

3. Relations between NGOs and INGOs:

The most basic problems that are experienced among INGOs/NGOs are the organization and common language issues. NGOs would generally be ineffective in terms of developing mutual organization and vision, while the culture of working together is needed the most in the post-disaster period.

Horizontal relationships between national and international organizations need to be improved. One of the most important obstacles to make these relationships horizontal is the conditional allowance of international funds for the local NGOs. These conditions can prevent the local efforts and programs from being formed according to the local needs and culture. While the scarceness of local resources for local organizations makes them dependent on international resources it also strengthens the hierarchical relationships between the involving parts. The understanding of work based on NGOs is a new concept for many countries which is the reason for the lack of knowledge and experience within NGOs. Therefore, it can not be said that there is equality between NGOs and INGOs, in terms of knowledge and experience. On the other hand, INGOs might not have flexibility as well as cultural knowledge and equipment necessary to work in different regions, countries, societies/communities. Under such circumstances, joint efforts between NGOs and INGOs can be carried out only with difficulties.

Problems may occur due to the lack of common language and culture during the efforts that are carried out at the international level between NGOs and INGOs. The problems can be twofold; one would arise on the side of the international financial source due to the lack of knowledge regarding the local culture. The other would take place on the local site when the local NGOs have the tendency to perceive these sources just as financial funds or typical

donors, and just care about activation of these funds. Both problems would harbor the danger to distance NGOs and INGOs from the solutions of the problems they are supposed to focus on and from their humanitarian objectives.

4. Internal Organizational Problems:

One of the main problems of NGOs is the financial one which would be one of the most important obstacles for them to carry out effective and long term efforts. Besides, financial problems would restrain their capacity to work independently.

NGOs may not have the sufficient level of gender sensitivity. While some would be totally far from such concepts, some others may not have digested them thoroughly.

The lack of grassroots base is a problem often seen among NGOs. Yet, strong social ties are one of the qualities an NGO should have in order to carry out effective work and to be a lasting organization. An NGO with a strong foundation and public support, as well as active members/volunteers, would carry out highly important tasks in the aftermath of a disaster.

As mentioned above, the importance of international relations of cooperation/solidarity and international funds has been increased in recent years from the perspective of NGOs. This would ease their financial problems and give them the chance to bypass the issues they face while interacting with national authorities. However, centralization among them creates some internal problems. As mentioned earlier, first of these is the vertical relationships that form between NGOs and INGOs. Relationships of INGOs with local women's groups and organizations or any other organizations should go beyond the kind that is a relationship between the "needy" and the "solution owner". The significance that international funds, and other aid organizations hold in the operation of NGOs, due to financial and other reasons, can give way to various problems within NGOs. For example, it would create a hierarchical relationship among the members of an NGO due to different levels of knowledge and skills (such as proficiency in English, experience in the development and implementation of projects). As a consequence, volunteer workers may be pushed into a secondary position. Moreover, project base work forces NGOs to get involved in relationships with companies that focus on certain matters such as the applications of projects, finding project partners, providing financial resources, budget analyses and so on. This, in turn, creates serious weakness from the standpoint of civil society.

The number of specific NGO/INGOs that focus on immediate humanitarian help, as well as pre and post-disaster social issues is still insufficient. This is generally true across the world, but the shortage in this direction is more chronic and deeper in some countries.

Solutions

The solutions to the problems mentioned above are hidden within the problems themselves to a great degree. However, it is important to clearly express and formulate them. Accordingly, our suggestions for solutions are as follow.

- Raising technical capacity and increasing widespread education on gender sensitivity. Enhancing various educational materials on the subject.
- Developing educational programs to improve coordination in the aftermath of a disaster and using them extensively.

- Improving local and national programs and organizations that would speed up the flow of information and response to the aftermath of the disaster such as aid services. In addition to these, establishing regional and global disaster coordination centers. Building a global organization model that would coordinate all organizations from all levels.
- Making disaster plans at every level and legislating those plans with the consideration of NGOs and local communities. Besides, making these disaster plans available for international informatics.
- In this context, increasing disaster response and preparation efforts for possible disasters.
- Planning of the financial resources to ensure the sustainability of various organizations especially the global disaster coordination center.
- Improving legislation regarding pre and post-disaster problems, increasing joint efforts for developing new legislation. Monitoring the application of the legislation.
- Ensuring better participation of women and local communities in the processes of planning, decision making, and organization.
- Increasing multi-dimensional research and related conferences regarding the impacts of disasters and disaster response efforts.
- NGOs need to think about their internal hierarchical problems and work on how to transform this structure.
- Encouraging countries to increase the number of disaster base NGOs.
- Developing solidarity and joint effort mentality in relations with INGOs.
- INGOs and international finance organizations need to flex their programs and way of working in order to adapt local needs.
- Building platforms with NGOs that work in the same area and increasing national and international network relations between them.
- Supporting volunteer work at every level and developing strategies in this respect.
- Reconstructing the national disaster funds and renewing the legislation.
- Developing an international legal base for emergency interventions in order to carry out post disaster emergency help in cooperation with national and international organizations.
- Generating a pool of experts in disaster intervention at the international level. In this context, forming a structure that would at least contain technical knowledge and equipment, making them available for disaster affected communities.
- Increasing long term plans for the rehabilitation period at all levels.
- Creating and organizing platforms and mutual space to develop clear and transparent solidarity relations.
- Creating the proper base and necessary channels in order for NGOs to improve democracy in their organization.
- Raising consciousness about the fact that general public sphere has to be suitable for social participation. This is something that even disaster related NGOs have to keep in their agenda.
- Similarly, raising consciousness about the central importance of the efforts on increasing sensitivity to social and global problems.
- Increasing resources and the capacity for organization and planning in the emergency conditions.
- It is important for NGOs to care about the development of projects and programs from bottom to top, and embrace the principles of participatory structure in their efforts.
- Another important point for INGOs and NGOs is to develop the notion of social state and appreciation of democracy in their principles of work.
- Strengthening sensitivity and understanding in terms of integrating the programs for solutions to post-disaster social problems and solidarity/aid relations into the context of fundamental rights and freedom.

- Implementation of the efforts in terms of women's universal needs (food, shelter, health, security, and such) should be based on the notion of women's empowerment.
- Planning long term efforts to rehabilitate the social life and empower women and other disadvantaged groups.

All these can actually be dealt with on the base of the sustainability problem regarding the efforts both current and planned. This would mean that all levels of organization should create trust, and should respond to a real need. The solutions that are generated for current needs should be effective. Existing of a participatory structure and the real application of it is also another quality that has to be present. This kind of NGO/INGO work also needs to be open to those segments of the society who have been excluded or pushed into secondary positions or those who have various problems gaining access to NGOs. As well as increased sensitivity to the obstacles women face in attempting to be involved with NGOs and their activities. Development of strategies to overcome these problems are some points NGOs should take into consideration.

“ECONOMY AND WORKING LIFE: DISASTERS AND WOMEN” REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP 5

Facilitator: Mehmet Ecevit

Reporters: İsmail Şiriner & Sibel Fettahoğlu

The workshop number five titled “Economy and Working Life: Disasters and Women” started with the opening speech of the session facilitator Prof.Dr.Mehmet Ecevit. Prof. Ecevit first asked the participants to introduce themselves. Then he explained how he planned the course of the session; he said that he would like to allot fifteen minutes to each participant in two rounds to get their views on the subject matter. The participants approved this plan. A framework of focusing workshop topics by starting from participants’ own interest areas and then reaching a general outline was agreed upon.

Personal Views and Suggestions:

- Disasters have social and political dimensions as well as individual. They need to be dealt with at both national and global levels. The roles of the basic actors such as the capital, the state and NGOs, who come forward during disasters, should be carefully addressed. Inequalities within the production process and employment structure should be taken into account.
- I believe pre-disaster risk reduction efforts are very important. For this reason, possible risk factors and the efforts to reduce risks should be considered concurrently. We have to think about the socio-economic, demographic, and cultural aspects of the disasters as well the loss within the physical environment. Because, these factors are quite determining in the process of risk reduction. Family structures and level of education would affect the allocation of the aid. In determining disaster related risks, all groups within the society should be considered instead of focusing on just women.
- I can see the increasing economic role of women in the process of natural disasters, when I observe it both in my own research and in other academic work. The perception that “public sphere belongs to men, and the private sphere belongs to women” changes by natural disasters. While this might highlight an opportunity, it would also stand as evidence of our insufficiency. My other observation is related to the strategic role of NGOs in achieving social integration. I noticed an increase in economic participation as the level of working with NGOs improved. Women play an important role in the protection of social structure. Women have come to a more effective position in terms of social integration and acquiring resources.
- I also think that women’s presence has been enhanced in the region’s economic affairs after the 1999 earthquake. Those who lived nearby the regional center have become involved in the economic life more comfortably. However, I am not sure if this process has been long enough to make generalizations.
- The region where the August 17th earthquake took place was the region that produced the 15% of Turkey’s GNP. The earthquake caused a significant decrease in the national income. While experiencing decrease in tax income, and increase in public expenditures, the state tended to fill the gap with earthquake taxes and paid military service. The fairness of these practices has been debated a lot. Was there another way? It is very important for the state to foresee this situation and be prepared by creating a fund. The most important lesson to be learned from this experience is the allocation of resources and preparing regulations for these resources in the normal times for extraordinary periods.

National tax policies are affected by global competition, thus it becomes harder to impose taxes on the capital. The tax increase after natural disasters occurs in the advantage of the capital. The cost is not distributed equally. Alternatives (such as a fund) to earthquake taxes need to be developed

- In our research that took place in 17 prefabricated residential areas, we have found out that these places have become criminal areas. Crimes of economic basis have especially increased. Increase in migration has escalated economic crimes due to the unprepared social structure. Another observation was the low level of women's employment after the disaster. There has been no sustainable employment policy to increase women's employment during and after the disaster. Institutions of family and familial relations determine the basic outlook of women's employment. Most women with labor would not have the power to make employment decisions under difficult conditions. Nevertheless, we noticed an increasing will to work among women under such conditions. Those who live nearby the city center have especially taken place more in the labor market. It is necessary to think about sustainable income generating projects, and improve them.
- First of all, I would like to point out that there has been a lot of waste during the distribution of the material aid. In addition to the waste, continuing help also created obstacles for the tradesman to start their business again and gather strength. My second example is a more positive one. For instance, construction of prefabricated residences and permanent housings has increased employment. What I am trying to say is we have to consider the indirect consequences of the economic measures along with the primary ones. In this context, planning efforts are generally insufficient.
- It has been observed that, legal issues have increased after the disaster. There have been various forms of losses in rights from the perspective of labor which have not been witnessed before. In the process of gathering labor data, only the data related to "seed labor" has been reached. An issue of terminology has been experienced during these recordings. In the most general sense, legal infrastructure is unprepared for natural disasters and subcontracting becomes prevalent due to disasters.
- I would like to make a comment about considering the economic sphere simultaneously with the other areas. I think that not everyone integrates equally in the process of normalization in the context of labor and business life. I think cultural, educational, psychological, and gender differences and awareness have effects in this. A holistic approach is a must in the economic domain. I especially suggest promoting a way of thinking which is built by a public, egalitarian or communal approach. Public/social approaches should be implemented in order to form healthy relations before and after disasters. The two significant disasters are market and natural disasters. In my opinion there is a direct relation between natural disaster and social disaster. If social policies are not sufficient, philanthropy/aid becomes prevalent. Risks emerging from the market and natural disasters should be overcome together. Neo-liberal politics escalate natural disasters and the losses they generate. There are significant differences between the approaches of social leaning politics and liberal politics in terms of disasters.
- We, especially in the times of social crises including pre and post-disaster periods, do not question the conditions for women's labor. Migration is an important factor in terms of what we are discussing. Even though the population of the city increases, employment rate decreases due to the low employability of the newcomers. Women are easy targets during the periods of crises in terms of lay off. Trade unions have significant roles in the compensation of the loss emerging after disasters. These roles need to be enhanced.
- The economic impacts of natural disasters are parallel with the ecologic deformation, and disparity in wealth distribution would increase the loss related to disasters. Global warming deepens the impacts of natural disasters. Policies should be ecologically

centered, and the impact of decreasing ecologic resources over economy should be considered widely. Another general factor is globalization. The economic effects of natural disasters generate in a world without traditional forms of production and distribution, as well as with the lack of resources that would exist in a developed country. In other words, the new situation occurs in between and as a deficient copy. The distinction of urban/rural is very important when studying economics of natural disaster. The differences in labor, education, and such resources between these categories oblige the development of different lenses.

- Natural disasters create more devastating effects in the rural area. In addition to this, they produce even more difficult consequences for women. Women become estranged during these times. Cultural differences (determinants) should be taken into consideration. Women's participation has to be increased at every level. NGOs are important in the mitigation process. Self help groups can be multifunctional. It is important for women to act collectively in order to advance in the process democratically.
- It is usually men who benefit from resources/aids (direct aid, compensation etc.) that are distributed after natural disasters. Women and their labor are ignored. Gender base discriminations which occur in the allocation of resources can only be eliminated to a limited extent.
- Informal employment increases during the periods of crises. The rising power of global actors within the global economy also causes an increase in women's economic exploitation.
- People's actions determine the loss from disasters. The real loss might appear after a disaster occurs. The sufficiency of the decision makers should be questioned. Social scientists have important tasks in this context.
- Local agencies and practitioners should be able to make decisions on necessary construction and related issues for the local community. It is important to detail the plans according to population density.
- Disasters are important because they make the domestic labor visible, which would previously be invisible for some.
- The public sector should be the producer of solutions. Economic politics should be structured to solve disaster related problems permanently.

In the end of the session, participants reached mutual agreements about the following points regarding the workshop theme:

- The consequences of disasters affect individuals within a social and political context which needs to be considered in the assessment of the post-disaster conditions in order to understand and respond to the economic consequences of disasters, including labor relations.
- Work, related to the pre-disaster risk reduction and mitigation of the post-disaster social and economic damage is carried out in various areas by both researchers and practitioners from every level. Maintaining parallel efforts between all these actors, preventing reductionism and trying to reflect these on the daily considerations, attitudes and practices of those involved are critically important within the scope of this workshop as well as within every disaster-related topic.
- Post-disaster economy and labor-related facts can only be resolved with a comprehensive analysis at national and global levels and with the consideration of international uneven development and distribution issue.

- The special position of the state designates important functions to it in the phase of disaster preparedness. Financial planning and preparation, such as formation of funds, before disasters would function in the prevention of injustice that would be generated by the post-disaster taxes.
- Natural disasters affect societies differently and in direct proportion to their internal dynamics. In response to this reality, while considering these differences, it is also necessary to take into account the power relations and legitimacy of the given social structure and create original formulations in order for the NGOs to work in harmony.
- It is typically men who benefit from the resources that are distributed in the post-disaster period, thus women and their labor are ignored. In order to prevent this, gender-related issues in the compensation mechanisms should be made visible and practical measures should be taken.
- The need to extensively think about the economic and social roles of the capital, the state, and the NGOs as well as the internal dynamics between them have been pointed out under almost every title that has been discussed at this workshop. Efforts in the direction of harmony and cooperation between the mentioned actors should be increasingly continued.
- The most important obstacle to women friendly post-disaster practices is the interruption of the processes. Special attention is needed in terms of the issues and stable practices related to economy and working life.
- There is a close relationship between the individuals' share of the national income and how much they are affected by the consequences of disasters, as a result of economic power relations or economic politics. For this reason, politics of income distribution should be considered as the most important factor in the efforts related to disasters.

“EVERYDAY DISASTER EDUCATION AND GENDER EQUALITY” REPORT FOR WORKSHOP 6

Facilitator: Nehir Varol

Reporters: Oya Çakın & Esma Buluş Kırıkkaya

Summary Report

Extensive efforts to minimize risk in natural disaster settings are possible with constant education and awareness raising programs. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) is a global project to reduce risk. This action plan defines priorities and creates practical methods for risk prone communities to prepare them for the worst possible scenarios. One of the priorities of HFA is to provide training at every level to create a security culture. As it is widely known, the more we provide disaster education, the more we reduce the level of risk.

One of the acknowledgements of HFA is that “all the disaster management policies, decision making processes and educational activities have to be organized with the consideration of gender differences.” Education and training also needs to be provided to the women and the vulnerable people.

It is widely known that women and children constitute the most vulnerable category in the disaster setting. Although in majority of the societies, because of their economic, social and cultural backgrounds the women occupy more vulnerable position, they can play key roles for the processes of change and development.

In this workshop, the following titles are discussed and the suggestions are proposed.

- Is it possible to provide gender sensitive disaster education?
- How can one describe gender sensitivity in disaster related education?
- How can we improve disaster consciousness of women and children?
- How effective and sufficient training material can be produced?
- What kind of educational methods can be more suitable for women?
- How can the media be utilized for effective disaster education?

Personal Experience and Suggestions

* I am an expert on educational program development. In the process of program development, teaching programs need to be completed with the addition of practical training. Generally, there are 1-2 day programs available for the trainers themselves and this is not sufficient. These programs need to be prepared more carefully and the trainers need to be educated with the best possible methods. “Disaster Education” courses have to be included in the main curriculum and have to be taken not only by the elementary school teachers but all sorts of teacher candidates. Only by doing this, we can be sure that the teachers can be more effective in the process of disaster education. We always need to keep in mind that the media occupy a very significant position in every society not only for informing people but also structuring the agendas in various topics. Because of this reason, we need to decide how best to benefit from it for disaster education and how to increase the level of media literacy for this purpose.

* I study Disaster Sociology (drought in specific). On the basis of my experience based upon the research that I conducted in Indonesia, I want to highlight the importance of responsible behavior along with training in disaster setting. High level disaster education without raising the consciousness of the people for proper behavior in disaster setting reduces effectiveness of the fight against the natural disasters. Holding only public agencies responsible to reduce the impact of the natural disasters, in other words, somebody else is going to solve my problems kind of attitude, is another type of problem that needs to be solved. To change this way of thinking, all societies need to invest for the better human capital. Having women noticed their own power and internalize the specific knowledge that they have, will put them in a more advantageous position during and after the disasters.

* Nowadays I work on secondary and high school level disaster education books. I work in the field at the same time. I study the visual materials that are used in course books. Generally in these pictures the women and children are presented as the needy ones, who are rescued by the men. Generally only men are represented as the care giver and help provider. Education needs to be given outside of the school systems as well. In tsunami or flood conditions, diarrhea is so common that sometimes it kills more people than the disaster itself. The knowledge for the cure of diarrhea is generally held by women. Only after teaching this knowledge to the boys/men of the households they seem to become more involved in the household affairs. Women need to trust themselves and need to know the value of the knowledge that they have.

* Women and children need to be provided sufficient knowledge for every stage of disasters. While grouping people for training, vulnerable people and others need to be brought together equally. Training programs need to be constant and should be added to the curriculum. Media can be an effective venue to provide confidence to the women. The social environment needs to be organized in a way that women could support themselves.

* Educational programs are not created with the consideration of the gender factor. I am a university professor. In my university, in undergraduate and graduate programs, we offer disaster related courses. These need to be open to the education studies students and have to be updated in terms of their gender aspects.

* Disaster management is much more than delivering blankets to the victims and pre-disaster preparation is crucial. In the school system, the disaster education is received only by the elementary and secondary school children who consist of only 5 % of the general population. For the rest of the society, unfortunately, there is no education. Adults also need to be educated. Media's support for this purpose is not sufficient. It, either, does not function or functions in a negative way. To reach out to the rural areas artistic activities such as theatre plays and concerts needs to be utilized. Women can easily have access to these kinds of activities. These venues will also bring consciousness of affiliation to the rural people. Women are keepers of knowledge in a society. The knowledge in the hands of men can easily go away, however women keep and protect it.

* I joined this workshop to elaborate on what can be done in the public sector. Generally disaster education is only considered within the formal education. However people working in various parts of the public sector also need training for disaster preparedness. I believe there are gender awareness issues in the majority of the public agencies. This even is not considered as a problem. There has to be specific training programs for public servants. Within the

national education structure and the parliament, special commissions need to be structured for this purpose.

* I am from an institution which is responsible for girls' education. Our activities are directly related to natural disasters, such as drought. We do worry a lot about the displacement of children after disasters. The recovery process took much longer in Africa and the displacement influences children's education negatively. Everybody focuses on the immediate life saving efforts and education generally suffers from it. Even during the recovery process the education of the children needs to remain on a regular schedule. My institution is part of an international network. Through this network we develop programs/tools. Since we generally include gender aspects of these programs in later stages, women are generally caught unprepared.

* I would like to touch upon the ways in which to create effective methods for gender sensitive disaster education. One of the participants of this session just shared that women need to find ways to raise self confidence. By this way of thinking, you can put women into a special category, a category of people with weakness and this bothers me. Let me give an example from India. Swimming and climbing to the trees are known as the talents for men, not for women. Girls do not walk on the beaches. If you are a woman with no training to climb trees or swim, you are in trouble in disasters. Therefore both education and the responsibilities need to be shared equally.

* Since I am an active professional in communication sector, the coverage of disasters got my attention in television series. For instance, never in these series does one call 911 to get help. Instead a person cries out the window. Pretty often I write to the communication regulation agency (RTÜK) to file complaints about this situation. This is a sign of lack of education in the media. Talking about the media, I am not only talking about the national media, but also seriously considering the local ones. Generally formal education comes to our mind when we talk about education, but life long training is as much as important as the formal one. There is a lot that can be done by the communication people. A fireman/firewoman can be good at putting out a fire, but s/he may not be the best one when teaching it to the others. Communication professionals can do this better. Of course the audience also needs to be alerted. If you place an olive oil ad on the TV screen around dinner time, you can get the attention of women. Education programs should not be repetitive and should be planned carefully. The education of the children that is provided in schools should not be in conflict with the one that is given by the mothers. Similar people need to be trained together. For instance, we organized an education competition. We gave bonus credits to the children, whose families have disaster preparation plans for their households. To bring families to the picture, we organized picnics. The families felt important and honored. We searched for extra methods to bring women in and we especially approached house wives. I should also note it that our first aid training manikin was unisex. We can do many things even with those who do not see the necessity of this kind of outreach work. We can teach them their blood types and the emergency numbers in case of emergency.

* 1999 East Marmara Earthquake was the peak moment for disaster awareness for many. Significant urban progress was made. Izmit and Istanbul had received immigrants from every corner of Turkey and therefore the outcome of this tragedy was felt in all over Turkey. One of the negative effects of this situation became a kind of false consciousness. Now for the majority of the people in the country natural disaster is akin to an earthquake. The continuity of disaster education depends upon the institutions. Universities, especially the technical

departments, are now aware that our country is located on a disaster zone. There are a great many graduate research projects being conducted on the subject. For instance my professor advised nine different theses herself. As somebody who worked for the NGOs, I should tell you that the children are crucial to reach out women. For instance, while teaching folk dances to the kids, we managed to convince women to participate in our disaster related meetings.

* I am speaking as somebody who worked a lot to train people for disaster preparedness. For instance, in Bakırköy, Istanbul we reached out all the taxi drivers for this purpose. We have done a lot, but of course this is not enough. Not only the educational structure and universities but also the political power needs to handle/support these efforts.

* We got trapped between the needs and the requests. The all crucial decisions are taken by the center. To make these issues part of our daily lives, we need to increase the level of sensitivity in general. The group that we call people/citizens is not a homogenous group. In some cases it is difficult to find volunteers. In some other cases, such as Pakistan for instance, it is easy to find volunteers but it is observed that these volunteers are abused by some agencies. The concepts that are in use are very important. The concept of volunteer work is widely respected but the level of volunteer coordination is low. We need to prioritize the volunteer work in general.

* We need to provide gender sensitive education to the communities that we deal with. Public servants and the citizens need to learn the same concepts. Some time ago, when we talked with search and rescue people, we asked for their practical and strategic needs. How much over time they carry out during the disasters? How much for women? How much for men? Having this kind of information is important for solid decision making in disaster training.

* Thanks a lot to the organizers. On the basis of my own experience, I created a different perspective for disaster management. For disaster preparedness, for instance, Turkey is ahead of us. However, we are better for coordinating the forces and gender education. It is important to keep up with various disaster types. What can we do, when we experience a chemical disaster?

* It is crucial to create awareness. It is difficult to bring women to the meetings. They need to be visited in their own environments. We need to be part of their daily life. People try to do their best in their own life/environment. To reduce damage in disasters, the efforts of municipalities are crucial.

* As far as I understand, the ingredients of the educational programs and their implementation are far from being satisfactory. It seems that these training programs are being given in different settings and contexts. Maybe we should organize a program specifically for Turkey. Various disaster programs are already over saturating the schools. Disaster preparedness is already in the curriculum and we are just approaching the schools, without doing anything else. We need to expand these educational efforts to the rest of the society.

Workshop Report

The workshop participants have agreed upon the following points:

- The educators who are active in formal and informal disaster education need to be trained properly.

- “Disaster Education” courses have to be taken by the school teachers at all level and these courses need to be developed by the joint efforts of academicians and the field experts.
- Formal and informal education needs to be in harmony and complete and the programs for women need to be part of their everyday life.
- To maximize the positive effects coming from the media, media literacy programs need to be supported.
- In cooperation with the television companies and the producers, the television series should be part of disaster awareness efforts. For reaching this goal, media personal need to be trained.
- Adults also need to be educated. To reach out to the rural areas artistic activities such as theatre plays and concerts needs to be utilized.
- To prepare background studies for program development on disaster education, deeper and more advanced studies need to be conducted.
- Gender discrimination in course books need to be dealt with and graduate level programs need to be updated on a regular basis.
- Reducing repetition and the waste of financial sources, the cooperation among the related agencies and sectors need to be prioritized and supported.
- All educational efforts related to disaster relief and education needs to be continuous.