

Reduce the Juice: Connect Climate and Gender

Reflection by Jayden Hooper

“How is the impact of climate change related to gender?” you might ask. Girls and women are impacted by climate change significantly more than men.

Men tend to have more financial assets in the form of investments where women have more physical assets such as jewelry. After a disaster strikes, women have much higher risks of losing their financial assets than men. Since their assets are already disproportionate, the impact on women is significantly higher.

Social appropriacy conditions women to be less physical than men, decreasing their chances of survival during and after a disaster. Underrepresentation of females during this time leads to increased sexual and gender violence. The effects of disaster increases the chances for females to be forced into marriage and/or at an earlier age.

In 2019 only 19% of global leadership roles were held by women. This increased by a mere 3% in the last 3 years to 22%. At the rate we are going, it is estimated that it will take us another 40 years (by 2063) to have equal representation in global leadership roles.

This inequality impacts climate change in itself. Women are far more involved in agriculture than what the media perceives, however they have severely imbalanced access to land ownership compared to men (under 10%). Providing equal access to land ownership to women will provide 20-30% more crops globally, pushing us to the sustainable development goal 5, ending world hunger. The significance of equal representation and power has a substantial impact on the human race.

If there were global reproductive rights; self determination and contraception, it's estimated that the population would reduce by 1 million, reducing carbon dioxide gas emissions substantially.

What can you do to make an impact on gender equality and therefore climate change?

- Spread awareness and avoid stereotypes.
- Encourage and empower female leaders.

- Donate to sustainable development goal 5.
- Stay informed with local news or with global goals online.

While it's difficult to see just how deep the effects of gender inequality go, it is very observable in day to day areas of life. It is very common to see more women than men around universities. It is clear that women have less opportunities and therefore it is more important for females to get higher education to overcome sociological barriers. The problem lies deeper than just leadership. Us as a community need to grow socially from stigmas surrounding women or there will never be equality.

I am particularly interested in supporting in a technical heavy way leveraging programming, AI and/or data science. I will personally keep an eye out for key areas of gender inequality locally and brainstorm potential ways I can make a difference in my own way.