

Impact of climate change on gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights in Khutiya and Banganga river basins: Findings from a mixed method

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Nepal is one of the most climate change vulnerable countries. The drivers of climate risk are its topography, ecological diversity, fragility, climatic variability, natural resource dependency, less development, economic insecurities, and social vulnerabilities. This is a mixed study conducted in two river basins. Household survey was conducted with 384 women and girls of age 18-49 together with 12 FGDs and 22 KIIs with different stakeholders. The analysis was carried out, both for qualitative and quantitative information. The findings showed that respondents have experienced an increase in summer temperature (88%) and decrease in winter temperature (53%). The rainfall pattern is erratic and fluctuates with heavy rainfall for a short duration (78%) resulting in flash floods and landslides. The immediate climate change impacts are limited access to health services, increased migration, increased domestic violence and lack of nutritious food. Limited access to health services hampers the notion of sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) & services, low/no use of maternal health cares, unintended pregnancy due to lack of contraception, maternal and neonatal mortality. Migration has further led to low confidence and willpower among women with difficulties in decision making (51%). The other longer-term impact is GBV (24%) faced by women. Food scarcity forces women in risky work environment (30%), increased workload (61%) and decreased women's nutritional status. The findings have suggested a clear impacts of climate change on gender and SRHR.



Khusbu Poudel is a climate advocate and development practitioner passionate about women-led climate justice. She has a master's degree in Environment and Natural resource from Kathmandu University. She has around 8 years of working experience in programme development and management in the field of climate resilience, disaster risk management and gender in leading NGOs/INGOs in Nepal. She works with Ipas Nepal as Programme Coordinator, leading the climate justice component integrating gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Her role as a climate specialist is to conduct research, lead initiatives, and develop business to close gaps on the intersection of climate change, gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights. She also supported as an advisory board member of y.lab (organisation working for youth's health) for the development of climate justice and SRHR frameworks, a guide for funders.