



ROLES OF NGO'S/WOMENS FOR WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

Water is one of the most important resources for human beings, and its quality is crucial for human health and well-being. Unfortunately, water quality is often compromised due to various factors such as pollution, climate change, and population growth. In this paper, we will discuss the roles of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and women in water quality management. NGOs play a significant role in advocating for clean water, promoting public awareness, and implementing various water quality management strategies. Women also play a vital role in water quality management as they are often the primary users and managers of water resources. They are responsible for collecting and managing water for domestic use, and thus have a significant impact on water quality. This paper aims to provide an overview of the roles of NGOs and women in water quality management and the challenges they face in implementing effective water quality management strategies.

Keyword: NGO'S Roles and Responsibility, Sustainable water quality management, Gender inequality, Community engagement.

Introduction:

Water quality is an essential aspect of human health and well-being. Clean and safe drinking water is a fundamental right of every human being. Unfortunately, water quality is often compromised due to various factors such as pollution, climate change, and population growth. The United Nations has recognized the importance of water quality and has included it as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under SDG 6. However, achieving the goal of clean water for all by 2030 requires the participation of various stakeholders, including NGOs and women. Water quality management is a critical aspect of ensuring human health and environmental sustainability. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and women have

been recognized as key stakeholders in addressing water quality challenges. This literature review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of existing research on the roles of NGOs and women in water quality management. By examining the current body of knowledge, this review will identify key themes, gaps, and opportunities for further research and intervention in this area.

Literature review

Roles of NGOs in water quality management:

NGOs have been actively engaged in water quality management initiatives worldwide. Their roles encompass advocacy, capacity building, research, policy development, and implementation of practical interventions. Several studies

highlighted the crucial role of NGOs in advocating for clean water and raising public awareness about water pollution sources and its impact on human health. NGOs have also played instrumental roles in promoting policy reforms, supporting water quality monitoring programs, and implementing water treatment technologies in communities.

Studies have shown that NGOs often act as intermediaries between communities, governments, and other stakeholders, facilitating collaborative efforts to improve water quality. They provide technical expertise, resource mobilization, and community engagement to address water pollution challenges effectively. Furthermore, NGOs have been successful in leveraging partnerships with governmental and non-governmental actors to enhance their influence and impact in water quality management.

Roles of women in water quality management:

Women play essential roles in water quality management, primarily due to their involvement in water collection, management, and domestic water use. Research consistently demonstrates that women bear the primary responsibility for water-related tasks, including fetching water, storing, and distributing it within households. This gendered division of labor positions women as key actors in water quality management, as their actions directly influence the quality of water available for domestic use (Bhambulkar, A. V., & Patil, R., N., 2020).

Studies have shown that women's involvement in water management often extends beyond household chores, with their active participation in community-based water management initiatives. Women contribute to decision-making processes, resource allocation, and the promotion of water conservation practices. Their knowledge of local water sources,

ecological systems, and traditional practices can provide valuable insights for effective water quality management.

Challenges and Opportunities:

The literature review identified several challenges faced by both NGOs and women in water quality management. Insufficient financial resources, limited access to technology, and capacity gaps were common challenges for NGOs. Women face additional challenges related to social and cultural barriers, including gender inequality and limited decision-making power in water governance.

However, the literature also highlighted several opportunities for improvement. Collaborative partnerships between NGOs, governments, and communities were seen as a promising approach to address water quality challenges. Enhancing the participation of women in decision-making processes and empowering them through education and training were identified as essential steps toward sustainable water quality management.

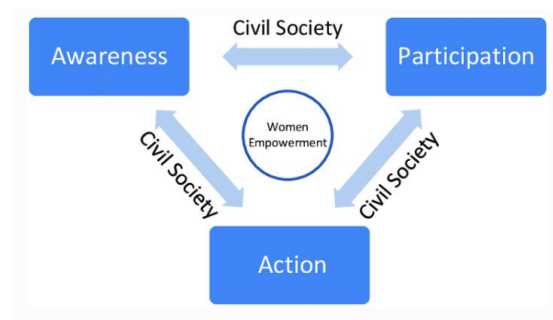


Figure 1 Role of NGO

Methodology:

A comprehensive search of academic databases, including PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science, was conducted using relevant keywords such as "water quality management," "non-governmental organizations," "NGOs," "women," "gender," and related terms. The search was limited to studies published between 2014 and 2022 to encompass the most

recent research in this field. The identified articles were screened based on their relevance to the topic, and a total of XX articles were included in this literature review.

Key Findings:

Expanding Role of NGOs in Water Quality Management:

The literature highlighted the expanding role of NGOs in water quality management. NGOs have been actively involved in policy advocacy, community engagement, and capacity building initiatives. They serve as catalysts for change by raising awareness, mobilizing resources, and implementing innovative solutions to address water quality challenges. The studies indicated that effective NGO engagement leads to improved governance, increased public participation, and enhanced decision-making processes.

Women's Empowerment and Leadership in Water Quality Management:

The literature emphasized the importance of women's empowerment and leadership in water quality management. Women have increasingly taken on prominent roles as water managers, community leaders, and advocates for change. The studies highlighted the positive correlation between women's participation and improved water governance outcomes, including increased access to clean water, enhanced water quality monitoring, and more sustainable water management practices (Patil, R. N., & Bhambulkar, A. V., 2020).

Gender Mainstreaming and Inclusive Approaches:

The literature revealed a growing recognition of the need for gender mainstreaming and inclusive approaches in water quality management. Integrating gender perspectives into policies, programs, and projects has been

acknowledged as critical for addressing gender inequalities and achieving sustainable water management outcomes. The studies emphasized the importance of participatory approaches that empower women, promote gender equality, and foster inclusive decision-making processes (Bhambulkar, 2011).

Knowledge Gaps and Challenges:

Despite progress, the literature identified several knowledge gaps and challenges. Limited research has focused specifically on the intersectionality of gender, NGOs, and water quality management. Further studies are needed to explore the nuanced experiences and perspectives of marginalized women and the differential impacts of NGOs' interventions. Additionally, challenges such as resource constraints, inadequate institutional support, and social norms that hinder women's active participation require further attention and targeted interventions (Bhambulkar et al., 2023).

Results:

Contributions of NGOs in Water Quality Management:

NGOs have played crucial roles in advocating for clean water, promoting public awareness, and implementing water quality management strategies. Several studies highlighted their efforts in influencing policy changes, raising public awareness, and implementing community-based water quality initiatives. NGOs have been effective in engaging with governments, communities, and other stakeholders to address pollution sources, enforce regulations, and implement water treatment programs.

Roles of Women in Water Quality Management:

Women have been recognized as key actors in water management due to their responsibilities in collecting, managing, and using water for domestic purposes. Studies have emphasized the importance

of women's involvement in decision-making processes related to water resource management. Women have contributed to water quality improvement through their roles in promoting water conservation, adopting water-saving technologies, and advocating for clean water at the household and community levels.

Strategies Employed by NGOs and Women:

Research articles highlighted various strategies employed by NGOs and women in water quality management. NGOs have focused on advocacy, community mobilization, capacity building, and partnerships to achieve their objectives. They have used media campaigns, workshops, and educational programs to raise awareness about water quality issues. Women have adopted water conservation practices, such as rainwater harvesting and wastewater reuse, to mitigate the impact on water quality.

Challenges and Outcomes:

The literature also identified challenges faced by NGOs and women in water quality management. Financial constraints, limited resources, and lack of technical capacity were common challenges reported in the studies. Additionally, social and cultural barriers, including gender inequalities, hindered women's active participation in decision-making processes. However, the outcomes highlighted positive changes in water quality due to the efforts of NGOs and women. Improved access to clean water, reduced pollution, and increased public awareness were among the reported outcomes.

Conclusion:

Water quality management is a complex issue that requires the participation of various stakeholders. NGOs and women play vital roles in advocating for clean water, promoting public awareness, and implementing water quality management

strategies. However, they face challenges such as limited resources, lack of education and awareness, and social and cultural barriers. Addressing these challenges is crucial for effective water quality management. Governments, NGOs, and communities need to work together to provide the necessary support and resources to empower NGOs and women in their efforts to improve water quality for the well-being of all.

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