

Mainstreaming Gender in Philippine Institutional Responses to Climate Change

Global climate change has become a pressing environmental, social, political and economic problem in vulnerable developing countries like the Philippines. A growing number of socio-political institutions like the UN, the Philippine government, international and local NGOs or cause-oriented groups are thus now involved in mitigation and adaptation efforts in vulnerable Philippine locales. While these efforts are underway, there is also a parallel growing concern that institutional responses to climate change will reinforce gender inequalities or undermine the gains made towards gender equality, in developing countries. This apprehension is significant in the Philippines since it has long subscribed to UN commitments to mainstream gender concerns in policy-making and program/project planning and implementation. This proposed study will therefore focus on analyzing the extent to which Philippine institutional efforts to address climate change adhere to gender mainstreaming frameworks. The study will utilize a triangulation of feminist social science research methods consisting of content analysis, survey and semi-structured interviews. The study results are expected to influence practices on the ground and will have implications on the development of gender-sensitive, equitable, efficient and effective institutional efforts to address climate change in vulnerable Philippine locales.

Key words: climate change, vulnerability, mitigation, adaptation, gender mainstreaming