



General Studies-1; Topic: Role of women and women's organization

Impact of Climate Crisis on Women

Introduction

- The climate crisis affects women and girls differently as they face disproportionate risks due to existing responsibilities and cultural norms.
- Women shouldn't be viewed solely as victims but as leaders in climate action.

Impact

- Women bear the **brunt of climate-related health risks** due to caregiving roles.
- They face challenges from heat waves, extreme weather, and vector-borne diseases.
- Health issues can **exacerbate social issues and strain social support systems**.
- **They face income loss and food insecurity** due to unpredictable weather and soil degradation.
- **Climate-induced water scarcity and contamination** limit opportunities for education, income, and community involvement.
- Higher rates of waterborne diseases and maternal mortality.
- Competition for scarce resources like food and shelter can lead to increased domestic violence within households.
- Women and children are **14 times more likely than men** to die in disasters, according to the UNDP.

Role of Rural women in the fight against climate change

- In Odisha, **women resurrect traditional crops** that withstand frequent floods and droughts.
- The **African program Solar Sister**, led by women, helps communities establish small-scale solar systems for energy independence.
- **Women collectives in Nagpur** use indigenous techniques to turn parched lands into fertile areas.

- Women farmers in the Malnad region practice **agroforestry, intercropping native trees with traditional crops** to combat erratic rainfall and enhance soil fertility.
- Rural women actively participate in community decisions and drive movements.

Constitutional Rights

- Right to live in a safe environment free from the adverse effects of climate change and disasters
- Equitable treatment and opportunities in climate change adaptation and disaster response measures.
- Access to healthcare services to mitigate health risks posed by climate change and disasters
- Ensure that women are not subject to discrimination and have equal rights to livelihood opportunities.
- Safeguarding women and girls from vulnerabilities exacerbated by climate change-induced displacement and migration.
- Indigenous women and girls have constitutionally protected rights to their traditional lands and resources

Way Forward

- **Providing cash transfers, food security initiatives, and insurance schemes** for women affected by climate events.
- Providing **equal access to resources**, which can enhance agricultural yields and promote local solutions
- Providing **heat wave warnings**, adjusted work and school timings, and cooling facilities.
- Involve urban local bodies and municipalities in climate action planning.
- **Reform State-action plans on climate change** to apply a gender lens and implement gender-transformative strategies.