

Building Resilience or Just Coping- How Women in Fiji are Faring with Climate Change and Disasters

14 December 2021, 9:30 – 10:30 Zoom Webinar

Abstract

The Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM), established in 1986, is a multi- ethnic and multicultural non-governmental organization committed to removing all forms of discrimination against women through institutional reform and attitudinal change.

By means of its core programmes on Gender and Transitional Justice and Intergenerational Women in Leadership, FWRM practices and promotes feminism, democracy, and the rule of law, good governance and human rights. We strive to empower, unite and provide leadership opportunities for women in Fiji, especially for emerging young leaders.

Fiji is made up of many small islands, prone to natural disasters and the impact of climate change i.e. sea-level rise, ocean warming, tropical cyclones, floods and droughts. When we look at the context of gender, climate change and disasters only deepens existing inequalities for women and girls in Fiji. Our research shows that many women and girls are more likely to live in poverty compared to men, have limited access to resources, land, assets, and as well as the cultural, attitudinal and institutional barriers that affect women's ability to participate in decision making especially around building resilience. As such, it is imperative that laws and policies around climate change and disaster risk reduction and management recognize the inequalities and vulnerabilities for women and girls to ensure that there is a targeted approach to support strengthening women's resilience.

Biography of the speaker



Nalini Singh, from Fiji, is a feminist and a social development specialist with over 20 years' experience in design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of women's rights and development programmes in Asia Pacific. Currently, she is the Executive Director of the Fiji Women's Rights Movement.

With her passion for women's human rights and gender equality driving her work, her particular interests is in the issues of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), decent work and organisational capacity strengthening.

Prior to joining FWRM over four years ago, Nalini worked as the Programme Manager- Advocacy and Capacity Building for the Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women

(ARROW) based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for 7 years. Nalini is a graduate of the University of the South Pacific.

This lecture is part of the Gender Lecture Series 'Know the GAP! Looking for Gender Parity' organized by **Prof. Elisa Fornalé** who leads the SNSF-funded research project '*Gender Equality in the Mirror (GEM): Clothing the Invisibility of Women's Participation at International Level*' housed at the World Trade Institute, University of Bern.

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