

# Water, Science and Gender



**GenderInSITE Parallel Workshop on Applying a Gender and Science Lens to Water Issues**  
**TWAS Science Diplomacy Workshop 30 Nov – 4 Dec 2015**

**Both women and men are natural and essential agents for sustainable water management**



- Sustainable water management entities should have gender equity
- Outputs of those entities should be gender-sensitive



## Integrating gender analysis in research

- Implementing gender-sensitive approaches in water research produce more effective outcomes.
- Facilities and technologies are more likely to be technically appropriate and well used and maintained when both women and men are consulted.
- Gender-sensitive project design - Gender sensitive study cases - Gender sensitive outcomes/solutions.

# Gender, Water & Development

the untapped connection



- Women are primary users of “domestic water”
- Women are most vulnerable to water-related disasters.
- Diseases spread through dirty water and poor sanitation are the fifth biggest killer of women worldwide, causing more deaths than AIDS and breast cancer (Water Aid, 2013).
- Dirty water and poor sanitation are at the root of problems such as maternal and child mortality, and sexual violence.
- Many women in developing countries give birth at home without access to clean water, exposing themselves and their babies to infections.



# WATER

## QUALITY AND QUANTITIES:



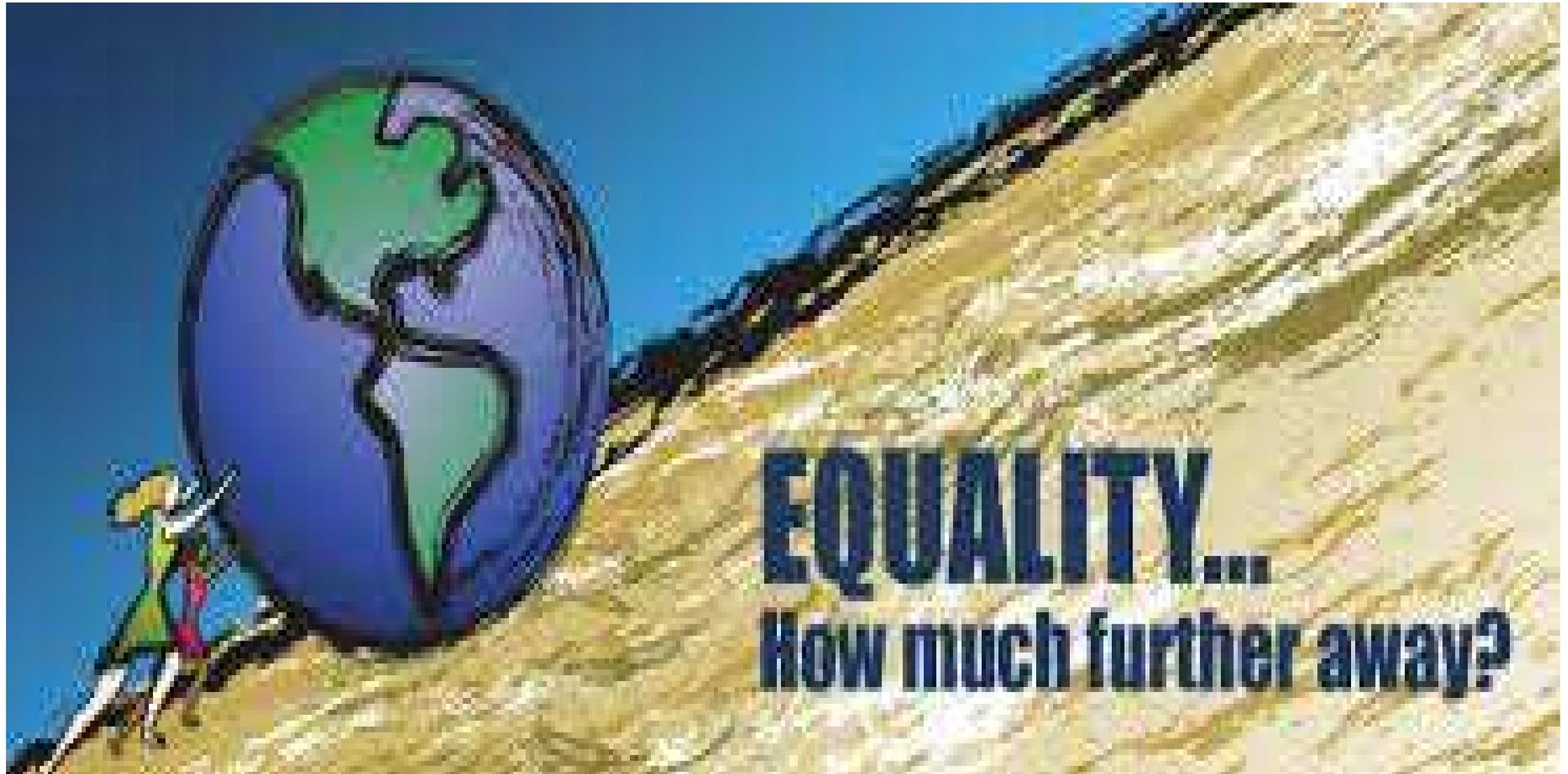
Sanitation

Pollution and run off

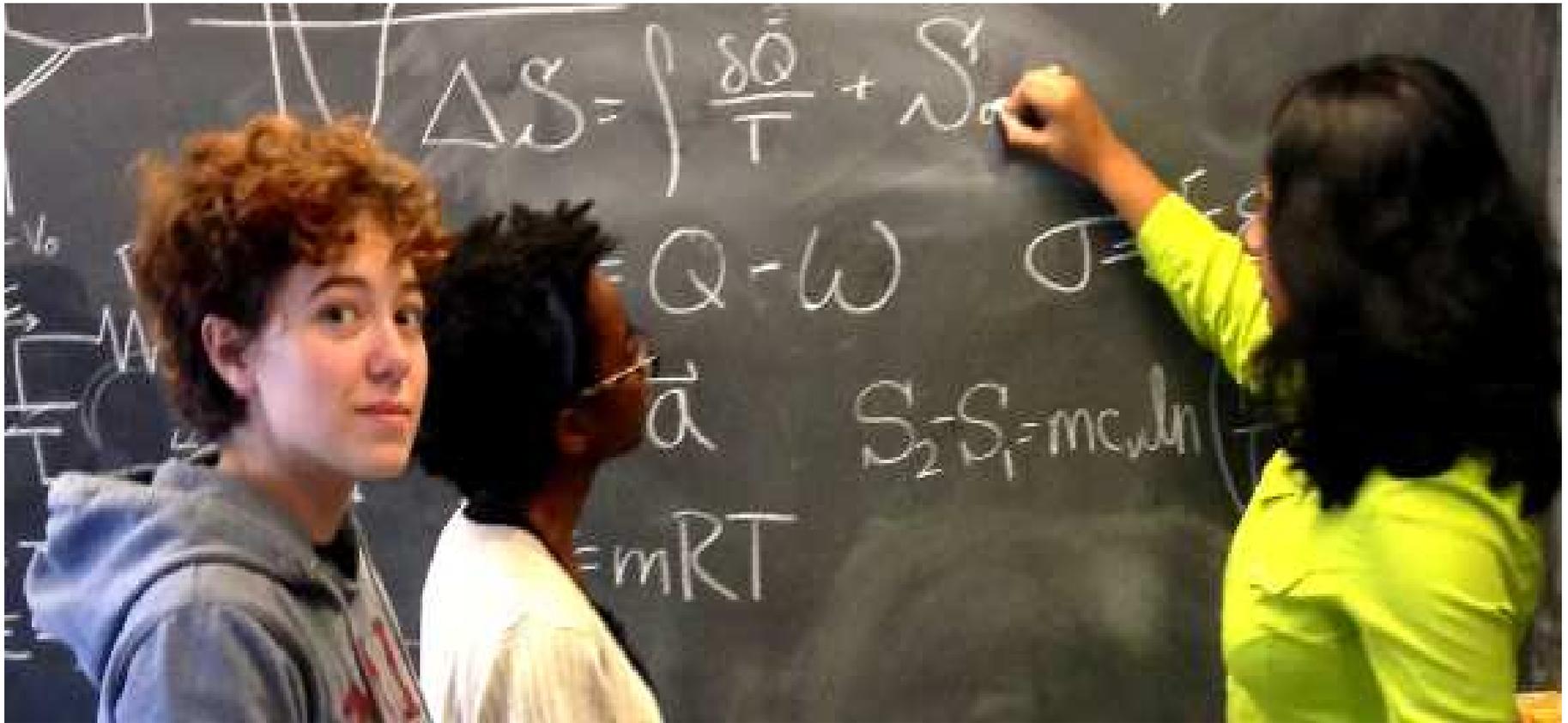


Supply versus Demand

# Basic Research, Deployment, Policy



# Basic Research



# Basic Research

WHAT	WHY	TO WHOM
Problem definition and Question Formation should involve women,	Women are socialized to appreciate complexity and networks, and to conceptualize ideas differently	Research Leads
Researchers and Funders need training on integrating gender in design and evaluation of research	Gendered aspects of research are not always obvious or considered important	Donors/ Funders
Women should be involved at the highest level of priority setting and funding decisions	Women rank/ prioritize topics differently, and ask different questions	National Science agencies, Science funders



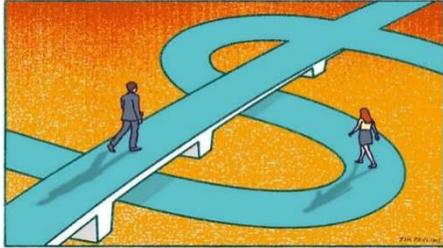
**Gender equality is not a women`s issue, it is a human issue**



It is everyone's right to get the opportunity to reach their full potential. otherwise, it is a waste to that individual; a waste to the economic benefit of the country; and a waste to society.



Let us bring women talent out of home and into the world of research, Science and technology and if we can use women's talent, then we can build a sustainable future.



## Nature or nurture

biological differences

cultural differences

Perceptions of how women should be, what careers they should follow



The consequences of the responsibility of raising babies and children still regarded primarily as being that of women

- flexibility of work
- maternity rights
- childcare cost



Culture determined women's career choice, the inherent stereotypes permeate women's choices of careers.

The variation in the number of women in same career in different countries.

# Deployment



# Deployment

WHAT	WHY	TO WHOM
Need to consider women's perspective as users of technologies	Women are 50% of users (more in some regions/types of use)	Program and project designers and executors
Need to find appropriate ways to engage women	Women may not feel comfortable speaking up under the same circumstances as men (i.e. large community meetings)	Program and project designers and executors

# Women in all scales: Better Outcomes

In Tanzania, a new water well failed due to the failure of the development workers to include women on the local planning committee. Local soil conditions, of which women alone had knowledge, were not considered and therefore the new well ran dry.



# Women in all the scales: Better Outcomes

The Gramalaya NGO worked with many women's groups when creating India's first sanitized slum in Tiruchirappalli, providing communities with safe drinking water and household and child-friendly toilets. Women in the Sanitation and Hygiene Education group have been responsible for maintenance and repairs and have eradicated open defecation in the area. The program has since been extended to seven other communities.



# Policy



Uma Bharti – Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation - India

# Policy

WHAT	WHY	TO WHOM
Financial tools should be equally accessible to men and women	Financial tools are the key to action, women need to be engaged	Investors, Banks, Funders/ Aid agencies
Women and men are equally well suited to natural and social sciences	All societies still have deeply instilled ideas about appropriate interests & careers for men and women	Educators, Parents
In many regions, women are disenfranchised and discriminated against	Tendency for progress & equality in some areas (i.e. basic education) to mask still-existing inequalities	Educators, Communities

### 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

For the targets to be effectively implemented and achieved:

**Gender** and **Science**

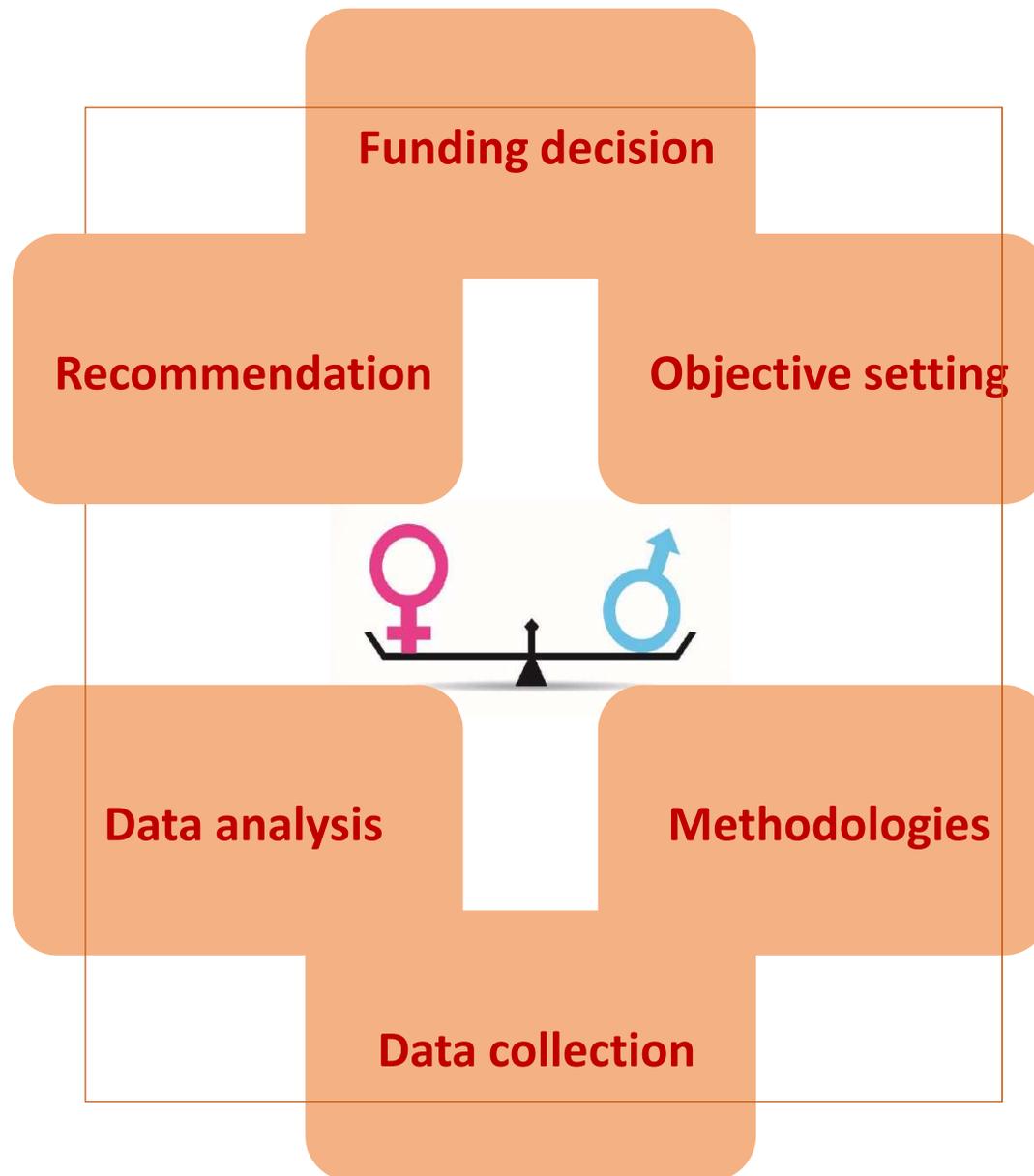
are needed, including sex disaggregated data and good monitoring.

# Women in all scales Better Outcomes

“A World Bank evaluation of 122 water projects found that the effectiveness of a project was **six to seven times higher** where women were involved than where they were not.” – WSSCC

Including women in water management planning often makes for fewer oversights in technical planning, improved resource and financial management, and greater transparency.

Women are empowered in the community through demonstrating their technical and management qualifications.





Alice Abreu – Brazil

Abeer Ahmed - Yemen

Alexis Erwin - US

Dalia Saad - Sudan

Erin Johnson - US

Kathleen Sealey - Bahamas

Marcia Barbosa - Brazil

Tonya Blowers - UK

**GenderInSITE**

*Gender in science, innovation, technology and engineering*