

# Rural Farmers are Burdened by Gender Roles and Conscious of Climate Change

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## Abstract

The goal of this study is to determine the degree of climate change awareness among rural farmers in Northern Cross River State, analyse how gender roles play out in some of these farmers' daily tasks, determine the workload burden of climate change impacts that differs between men and women, and determine the strategies these farmers have used to mitigate the effects of climate change in their agricultural activities. The study's findings showed that farmers in rural areas are somewhat aware of climate change. These farmers learned about it from radio, newspapers, awareness campaigns, posters, and billboards, among other sources. The rural farmers used six of the nine recommended techniques to lessen the consequences of climate change on themselves. The gender workload burden between men and women in the area differs significantly; the outcome is positively skewed toward women, suggesting that the workload for women increased relative to that of men. The outcome further demonstrates that EE can affect people's attitudes toward climate change by raising awareness, disseminating information, and encouraging members to engage in climate change effect mitigation, prevention, and adaptation.

**Keywords:** Climate change • Environmental • Rural households • Food crops • Harvested crops • Fossil fuel • Gasoline • Temperature

## Introduction

Creating the necessary awareness, knowledge, skills, and information regarding human actions and their effects on the constantly changing environment is the goal of Environmental Education (EE), a procedure used in education. According to various definitions, EE is also the educational process that aims to give learners the awareness, abilities, knowledge, attitudes, and values they need to address environmental problems. It also develops in them the abilities and willingness to work both individually and collaboratively to address environmental issues and work to prevent the emergence of new ones. The primary responsibility of EE is to raise awareness of current environmental issues and the best ways to stop the development of future ones. EE is an intentional campaign to educate people on how the natural world works, especially how humans interact with it, how humans can control their behaviour in ecosystems so that they can live sustainably. The term "educational outreach" (EE) is frequently used to refer to education within the context of the school system, from primary to post-primary, which restricts the course's focus. However, it is also occasionally used more broadly to refer to all efforts made to educate the public and other audiences, including print materials,

websites, media campaigns, etc. Through the use of a process called environmental education, people can learn about environmental problems, solve them, and take steps to make the environment better. People have a deeper grasp of environmental issues as a result, and they are more equipped to make wise choices. EE is a learning process that creates attitudes, motives, and commitments to make wise decisions by increasing people's knowledge and understanding of the environment and related concerns commitments and driving forces for making informed decisions.

Climate change refers to the impact that shifting climatic conditions have had on the environment and its resources to the point that these impacts have adversely affected a great number of human activities. The incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and gasoline from industrial chimneys and exhaust pipes, which releases carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, methane emission from animal dung, agricultural chemicals and pesticides, and waste garbage, arctic sea beds and paddy rice fields, deforestation, especially from tropical wood for agriculture, pulp, and farmlands; increased use of agricultural chemicals, especially pesticides; and increased global temperature rise are some of the causes of global climate change. Climate or weather elements, such as temperature, air pressure, wind speed and direction, humidity, and precipitation amount, are used to measure climatic conditions. Latitude, altitude, continentality or continental effects, mountain range orientation toward prevailing winds, and ocean current are a few of the additional factors that affect these elements.

On the other side, climate change awareness refers to all of the rural population's knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, and beliefs regarding the causes, effects, and mitigation measures related to climate change. The notion of climate change, some human actions that produce climate change, their impacts, and some level of knowledge regarding the mitigation of climate change effects are all imparted to the student or possessor through climate change awareness. It is impossible to overstate the negative impacts of climate change on the environment. These effects include salinization of freshwater, saltwater intrusion, rise in sea levels due to melting polar ice, flooding, low or excess rainfall, drought and desert encroachment, increasing ambient temperatures, and more. global agricultural failures, greenhouse gas emissions, and food insecurity. According to studies, a major factor in crop failure and food insecurity is a lack of precipitation, which leads to extensive desertification and all of its consequences.

The goal of raising climate change literacy among young people and adults, encouraging changes in people's attitudes and behaviors, and assisting the populace in adapting to climate change-related problems is to increase people's understanding of and ability to deal with the global, regional, and local impacts of global warming and its associated effects. Numerous studies have demonstrated the urgent need to educate or raise public awareness about the catastrophic effects of climate change. Their knowledge of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), water-related issues, and physical risks to human health due to climate change are among the topics that will be assessed, along with their sources of climate change awareness. Based on the respondents' own accounts, the data gathered and evaluated demonstrate that human activity is primarily to blame for global climate change. The respondents noted that television was the simplest information source.

The UNFCCC, IPCC, and Kyoto Protocol's goals were also found to be poorly understood, with the majority of respondents noting that one of the main causes of According to Protocol, the majority of respondents noted that deforestation, for any reason, is one of the main contributors to global climate change. Other respondents suggested that there are other physical hazards directly felt from extreme weather events,

which have very potential health impacts on both humans and the environment as a result of climate change. Respondents noted that they have observed water-related issues due to climate change. These respondents also suggested that altering one's way of life can be a key strategy to combat the trend of climate change. In rural areas, there is more effort to be done to protect crops, maintain household livelihoods, and ameliorate difficult environmental circumstances as a result of climate change. Whose daily task burden increases the most during these times, and environmental circumstances. Whose daily tasks are burdened the most during these times, and how have these rural populations alleviated these hard environmental trends? Given that the effects of climate change on rural agricultural activities are significant, does this place an additional load on these farmers? Which population is most impacted by these effects? What impact can their level of climate change awareness have on determining their local advantages and strategies for mitigating their vulnerability and capacity to adapt to its effects? What functions can EE play in decision-making to promote the adoption of environmentally friendly measures to mitigate the effects of climate change and increase the productivity of the harvest?

Many study looked at how much rural farmers were aware of climate change, how the implications of the change affected gender roles for both men and women, and what role EE could play in preventing, mitigating, and adapting to the effects of the change in Northern Cross River State, Nigeria. After a thorough review of the data, it was discovered that rural farmers had an average understanding of how climate change is affecting their agricultural activities and productivity based on the variability in weather conditions. The farmers in rural areas noted that local farmers struggle to use climate change mitigation techniques when its effects are felt. Farmers in the area struggle to use local tactics to reduce the effects of climate change, and when this

occurs, the gender role burden on women grows due to the additional workload added to their already busy schedules. In order to increase cropproductivity, among other things, farms are mulched, crops are watered manually, cover crops are planted, and compost manure is used. EE will come in handy to play these roles if you want to be able to alter your mindset, gain new knowledge, skills, and awareness, and actively participate in alleviating, preventing, or adapting to climate change situations. The local farmers under study had an average level of awareness of climate change, according to the findings of this study, and they have found some local strategies.

The workload for women grows more than that of males when certain local solutions used in rural areas to mitigate and prevent climate change conditions are in effect. The degree to which people are aware of climate change, how it affects the workload associated with gender role analysis, and what role EE can play in preventing, reducing, and adapting to the effects of this climate change are all important topics. The majority of rural farmers in the northern parts of Cross River State have a reasonable level of awareness of climate change, according to the study's findings. Based on these levels of awareness, the people are aware of the effects of climate change and are aware that these effects increase the burden of gender roles in agrarian societies. Therefore, EE can in individual and social groupings to prevent, mitigate, and adapt to the consequences of climate change on agricultural productivity. Therefore, in an effort to prevent, mitigate, and adapt to the effects of climate change on agricultural productivity, EE can give individuals and social groups the ability to actively participate in reducing the effects of climate change.