

# GENDER DIFFERENCES CREATE BARRIERS ACROSS THE VALUE CHAIN



Household

**Discriminatory gendered social norms within the household influence men and women's sanitation purchase decisions, use, maintenance, and accessibility**  
*"In Zambia, rural men are prohibited from sharing toilet with in-laws and grown adolescent girls"*

**Number and placement of public sanitation facilities favors men and is inadequate to meet women's needs** *"In Ahmedabad, public facilities for men outnumber those for women by nearly 42%"*

**FSM design does not consider women's role in emptying & maintenance, leading to increased burden or stigma**  
*"Across many geographies, latrine cleaning is primarily considered to be a woman's role."*

Community

**Community sanitation efforts encourage women's participation, but fail to address gendered roles and relationships**  
*"A study in Nigeria found that projects led to equal representation of women and men on the Water and Sanitation Committees, but not equal decision-making authority"*

**Fear of sexual assault, shaming, and harassment influences women's mobility and access to sanitation facilities outside the home**  
*"56 % of women living in slums around Lagos, Nigeria avoid using toilets at certain times of the day to avoid putting themselves at risk of violence."*

**Women perform low-level sanitation roles for little or no income, perpetuating inequities and poor economic outcomes**  
*"In India, up to 95% of the manual scavengers (people who manually sweep household dry latrines and carry human excreta) are women"*

Public and private enterprises

**Policies are designed as gender neutral, overlooking diverse needs of men and women across the life course; women have limited decision making role in setting sanitation policies** *"India's National Urban Sanitation Policy (2008) did not provide ways to address the lack of basic services and safety for women users, resulting in increased open defecation from unsafe sanitary public infrastructure"*

**Disposal of menstrual waste is rarely considered by public and private sector actors** *"Menstrual waste disposal was not prioritized in the planning of developing communal sanitation blocks in informal settlements in Nairobi-. This led to women throwing waste in toilets and blocking the pipes. "*

**Sanitation enterprises are largely run by men; however, its correlation to sanitation & gender outcomes is unclear**  
*"Half of the countries surveyed reported that women comprise less than 10% of total professional WASH staff "*