

UNIVERSITE Joseph KI-ZERBO
Office du Baccalauréat

Séries G1-G2

Année 2020
Session Normale
Epreuve du 1^{er} tour
Durée : 20 minutes
Coefficient : 1

EPREUVE ORALE D'ANGLAIS

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1- Empower a Woman, Empower an Eco-System

Women and girls are at the forefront of the battle against climate change, as migrants and refugees, but also as caretakers.

In other parts of the world, such as West and Sub-Saharan Africa, women have been the traditional food providers and gatherers of water and fuel. They are intimately versed in the dangers of climate change, yet they have significantly less access to land ownership and financial support, compared to men. Given this rampant inequity, empowering women – economically, socially and politically – will help them to become more climate resilient, and able to initiate proactive solutions.

The sentiment behind the age-old proverb, “educate a man, and you educate an individual, educate a woman, you educate a generation” resonates powerfully with climate change initiatives. It appears that when you empower a woman as a decision-maker, you empower an entire community’s ecosystem. Home-grown female-led groups that are leading on renewable energy sources, are a case in point.

Such efforts when scaled to size and consistently supported over decades have proven to reverse the human ecological footprint. For instance, greening and reforestation initiatives in India, China and other parts of the so-called global south, where women are often the primary food providers and protectors of the environment, show significant increases in global green leaf areas, over the past two decades.

Such efforts need to be empowered at all levels of climate justice, including international climate policies and financing. If women receive their fair share, simply in terms of access to the formal labour market, they could bridge the current gaps in financing sustainable development.

Adapted from African Business Magazine, February 2019
