

Roles of Women in Water Governance and Sustainable Environmental Management in the Nile Basin



Josephine Mihama



Outline

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- **Spaces for transformation-Roadblocks and Opportunities**
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- **Conclusions**
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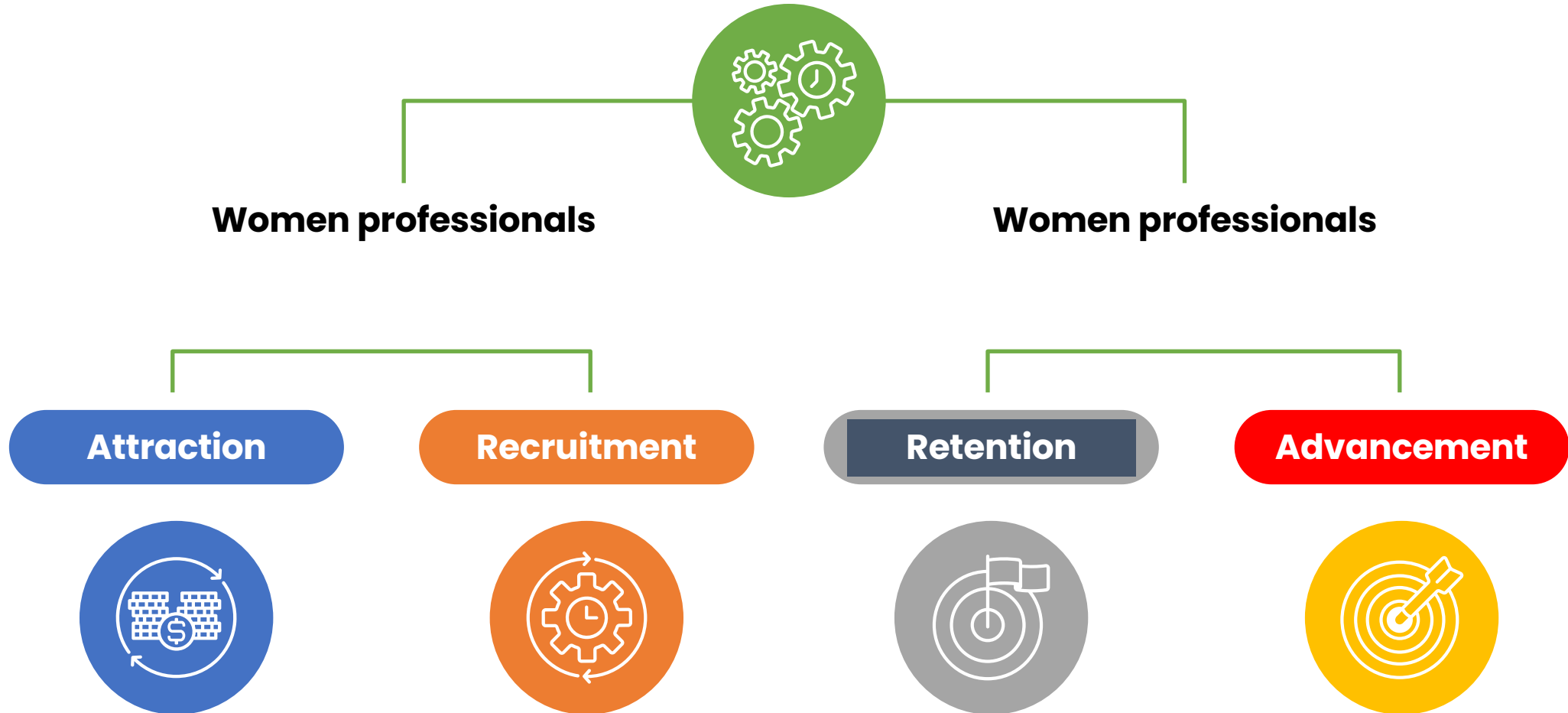
The departure point- Gender inequity!

- **Communities trapped in biased socialization**
- **Women mostly confined in informality!**
- **Commodification and commercialisation of natural resources accompanied with exclusion of women**
- **Policy promises for transformation not enforced**
- **Organising the excluded always end up in fatigue**

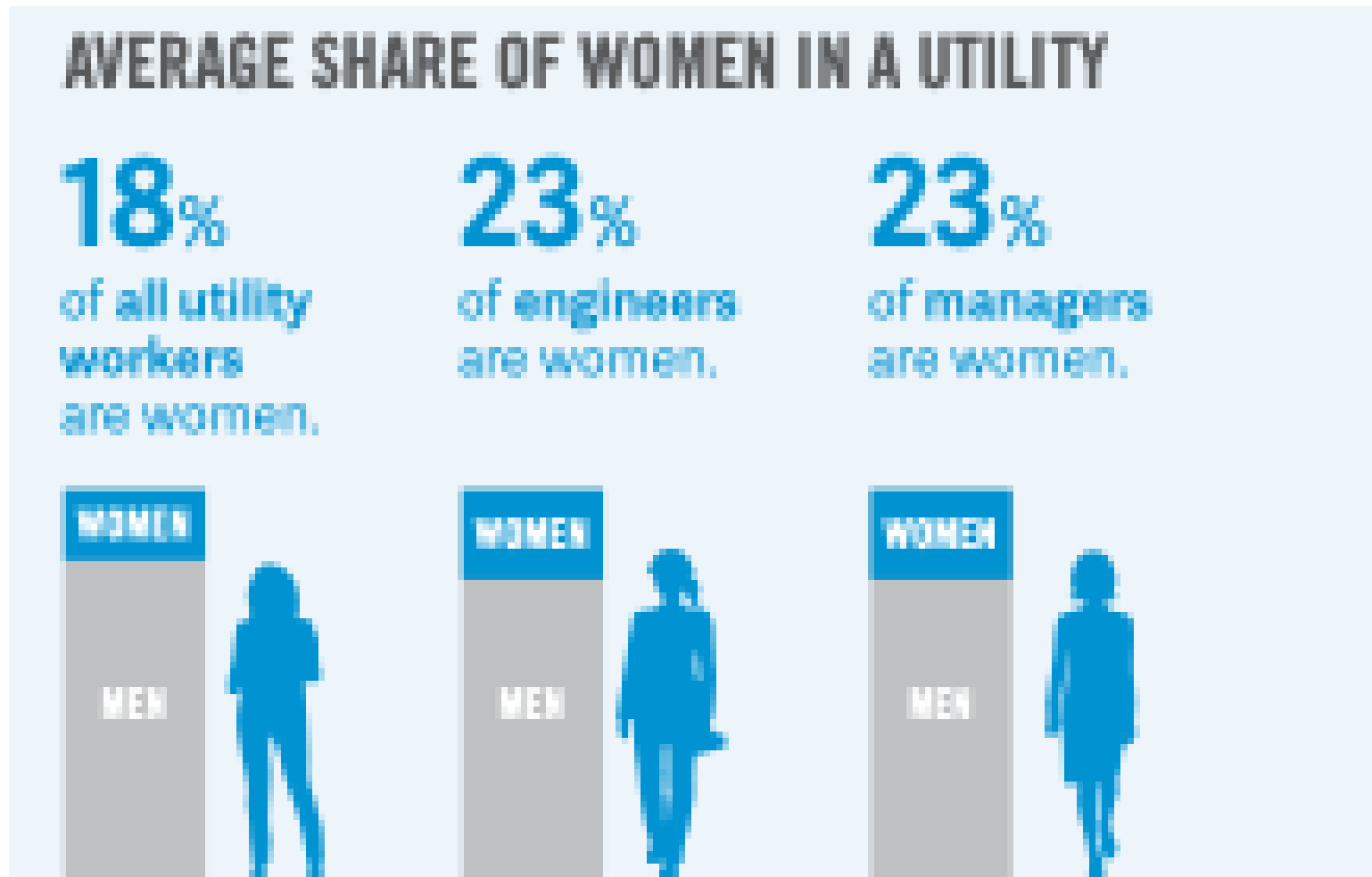
Narratives about women in water and environmental management

- Household level-the role of women is defined by Responsibilities (Social care) reinforced by cultural norms
- Community level -women excluded in managing **collective natural resources** therefore absent in strategic positions
- Efforts to address barriers focus on reduce the burden on women (sympathy)
- **Institutional level-Policy tokenism** -Encouraging participation not control !
- National /Basin /Transboundary- *Incoherent policy commitments* - Promises-SDGs , Gender equality

Women professionals – Water utilities



Women professionals in Water: *Under-represented* ! World Bank Report ,2019



Spaces for transformation-Roadblocks and Opportunities

Roadblocks

- **Social norms and stereotypes**
- **Power ,Power Power (skewed)**
- **Evidence too generic !**
- **Occupational segregation**
- **Critical mass for transformation**
- **Women rights organisations fragmented !**

Opportunities

- **Investing at organizing community and local governance levels**
- **Roles models working together at all levels**
- **Effective use of evidence to influence at all levels**
- **Using outreach campaigns to claim space for control and accountability**

Conclusion

- Transformation is possible for women beyond participation and inclusion
- Querst for the right data for asking the **right questions** on natural resource control
- **Affirmative action** clouded by sympathy
- The **critical mass** is available but not sufficiently organised
- **Women empowerment is fuzzy !**

Recommendations

- Context based tools for Social engineering
- Need result-based strategies for policy reforms and transformation
- **Education with organising** women rights organizations to claim the space in natural resources governance
- Engage **male champions**- The emerging CIWA initiative of a dozen of male champions
- Appropriate data and indicators for women empowerment
- Climate change and its impacts an opportunity for awareness at community and local government levels
- **Community** seek to influence cultural beliefs and practices concerning water and natural resources than waiting for statutory laws
- Leveraging technologies for mobilization—digital communities