

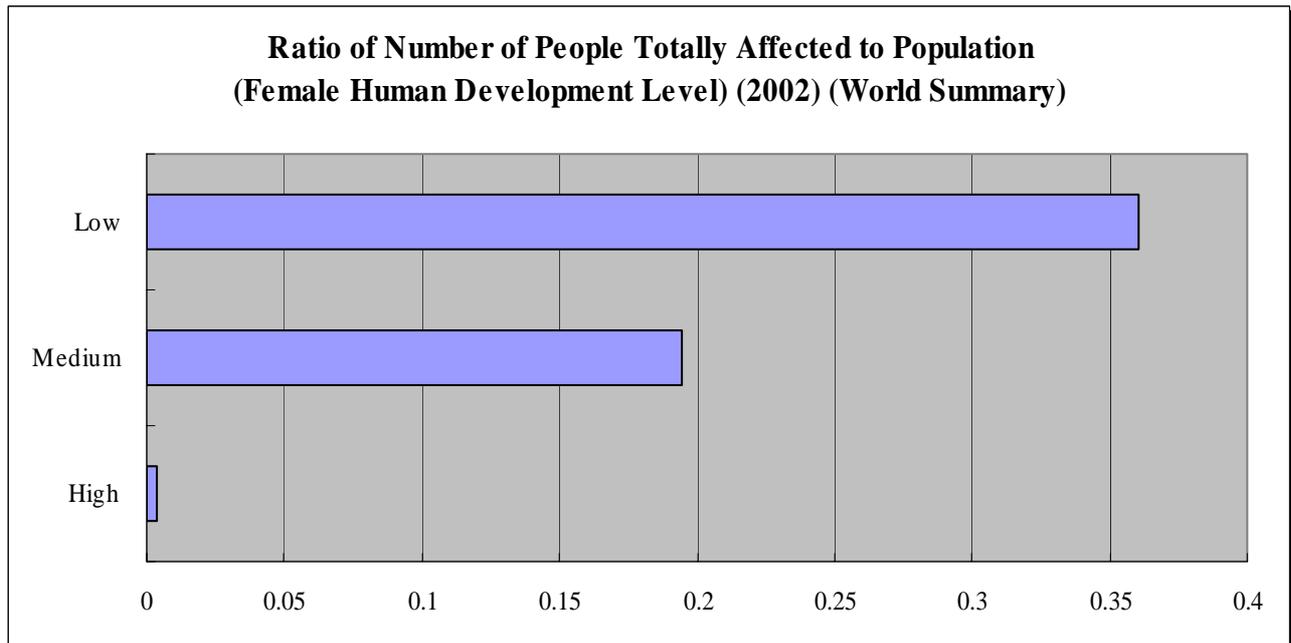
2.2 Gender Issues and Natural Disaster Impact:

In addition to what we have seen above with respect to overall human development and the impact of natural disasters, it is also of paramount importance to observe the relationship between gender issues and the impact of natural disasters. Here we have observed the Female Human Development Index, which was extracted from the general Human Development Index, in relation to disaster characteristics. Figures 11 and 12 indicate that countries with lower female human development report the most human suffering, as the ratio of *totally* affected people to the total population is very high in comparison with countries with higher female human development levels. The trend is very similar to the trend in general human development. This particular analysis stresses the importance of gender related planning and mitigation strategies and approaches in the field of disaster management.

It is known that gender powerfully shapes human response to disasters, both directly and indirectly. Also it has been found that women are hit hard by the social impacts of disasters. From these analyses we can say that women could play a major role in post disaster activities if proper integration of gender issues into disaster management was achieved, especially in light of the fact that women are always identified as active and resourceful disaster respondents but are often regarded as helpless victims.

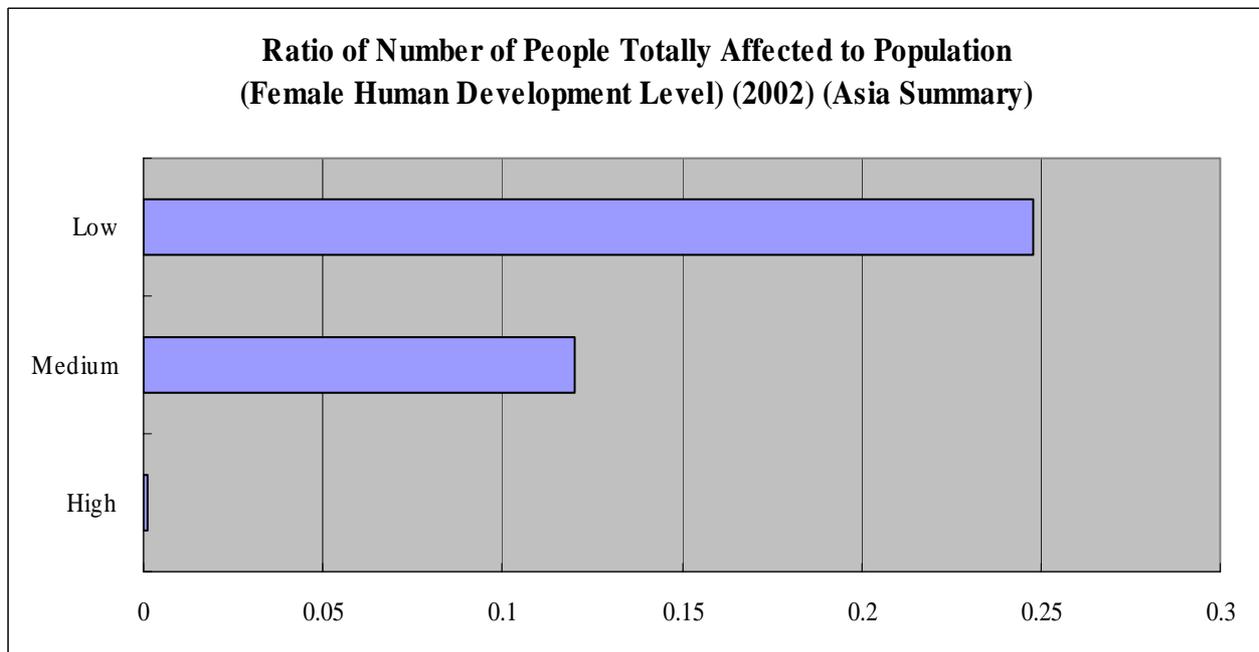
When we look at the structure of socio-cultural and economic dimensions of the least developed countries, especially in the Asian region, the importance of women's participation in development can be understood. Since disaster mitigation and risk management activities should be incorporated into development strategy, it is imperative to prevent gender bias and ensure the participation of women.

Figure 11:



Source: ADRC, Japan, CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium and UNDP, 2002

Figure 12:



Source: ADRC, Japan, CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium and UNDP, 2002