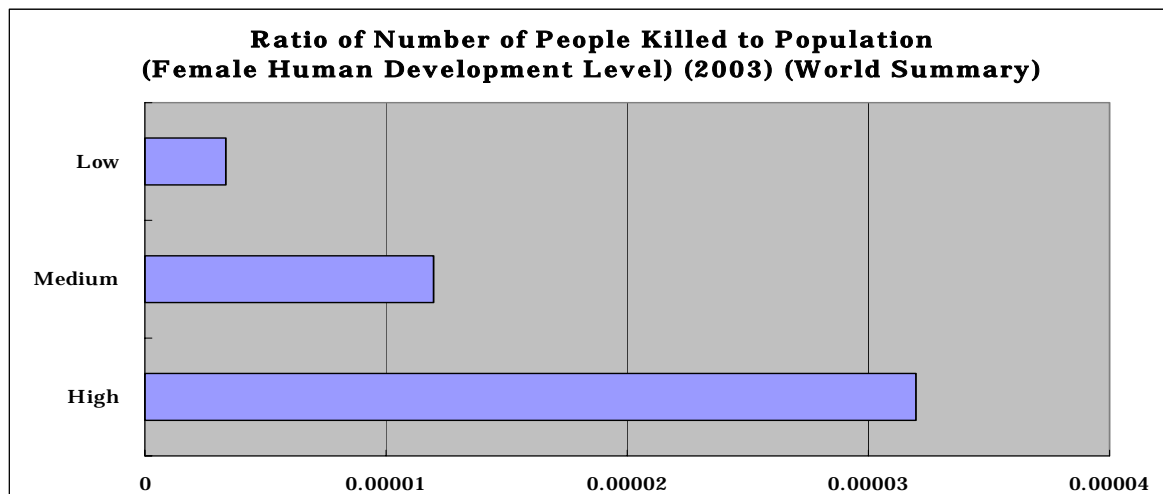


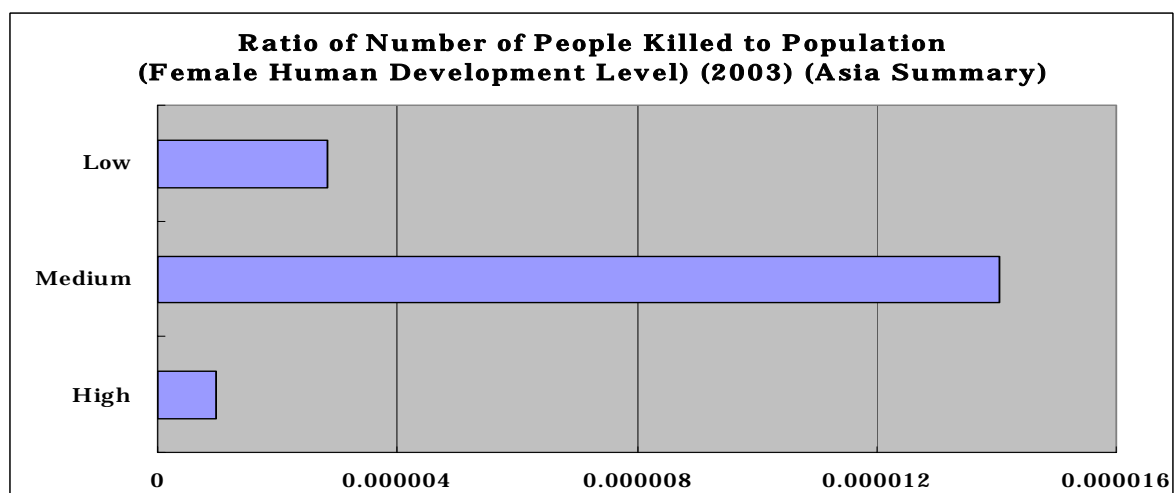
## 2.2 Gender Issues and Natural Disaster Impact:

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. Generally it is understood that countries with lower female human development report the most human suffering, as the ratios of *totally* affected and killed people to the total population respectively 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. But in 2003 the ratio of number of killed to population is high in the High Female Human Development countries due to the heat wave human loss in the Europe and high in the Medium Level countries for Asia, especially due to the Iran earthquake and China Flood (Figure 13 & 14). Also the ratio of *totally* affected people to population is high in the Medium Human Development Countries as shown in the Figures 15 and 16. These figures point out and stress the importance of gender related planning and mitigation strategies and approaches in the field of disaster management not only in the Low and Medium Female Human Development countries but also in the High level countries.

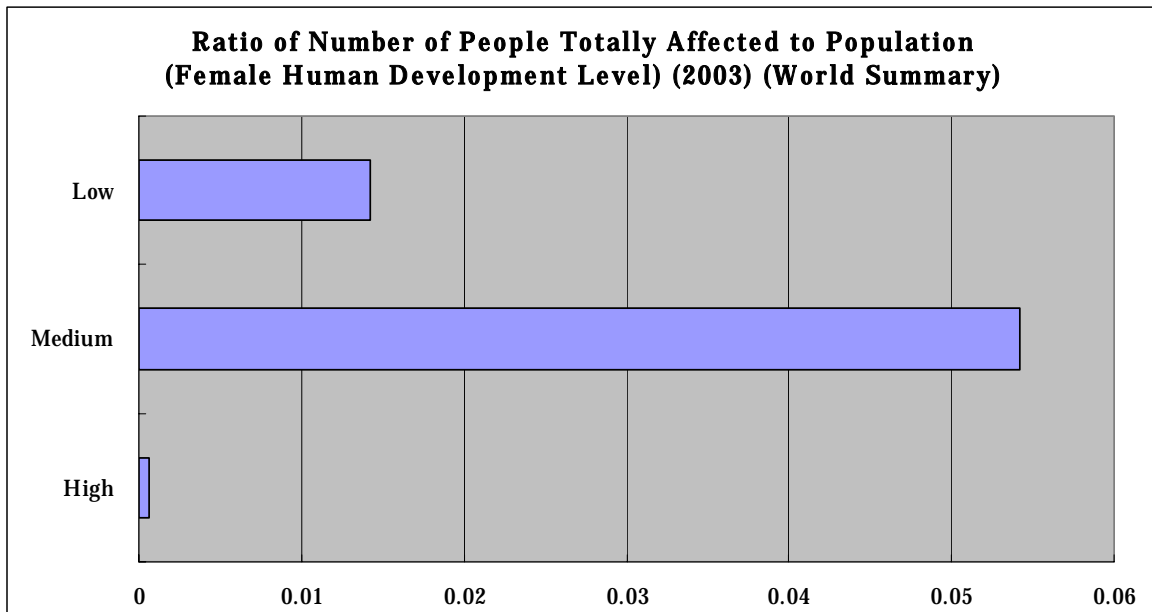
It is known that gender powerfully shapes human response to disasters, both directly and indirectly. Also it has been found that women are hit hard by the social impacts of disasters. From these analyses we could say that women should play a major role in post disaster activities if proper integration of gender issues into disaster management is achieved. The fact is that women are always identified as active and resourceful disaster respondents but are often regarded as helpless victims. Since disaster mitigation and risk management activities should be incorporated into development strategy, it is imperative to prevent gender bias and ensure women participation.

**Figure 13:**

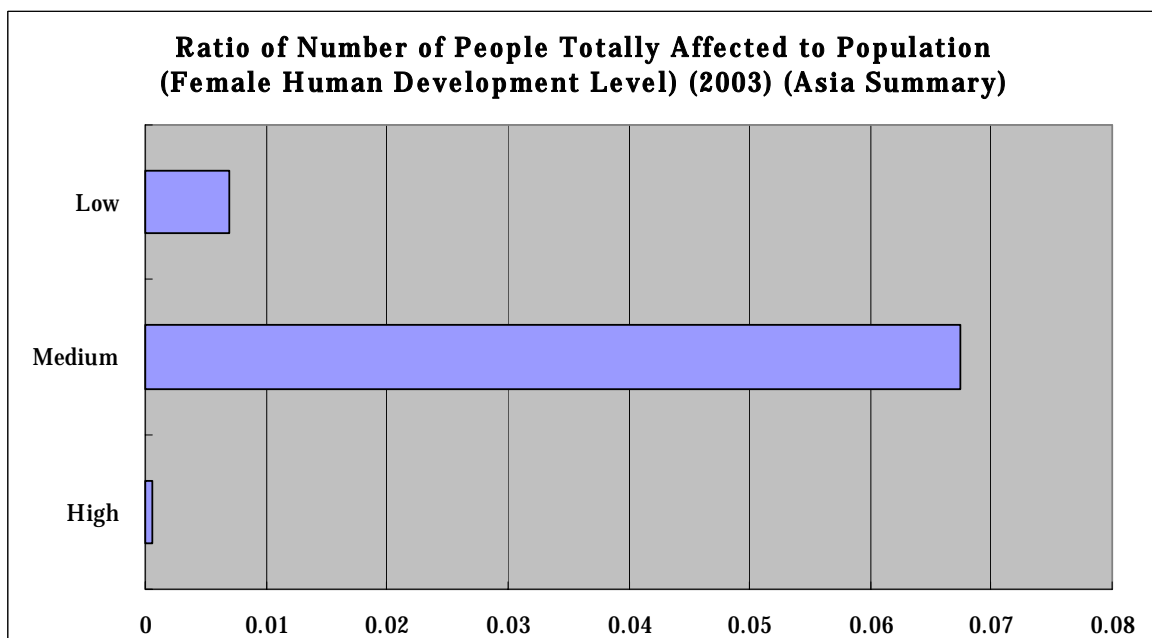
Source: ADRC, Japan, CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium and UNDP, 2003

**Figure 14:**

Source: ADRC, Japan, CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium and UNDP, 2003

**Figure 15:**

Source: ADRC, Japan, CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium and UNDP, 2003

**Figure 16:**

Source: ADRC, Japan, CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium and UNDP, 2003