

SDG 12

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS



Sustainable Development Goals seen from a feminist approach

The current capitalist model of consumption and production is moving towards the destruction of the ecosystem and a rise in inequality among the world's population. Urgent and definitive measures must be taken in order to resolve this situation. The reforms proposed by various governments in the field of resource and energy efficiency are insufficient given the advanced state of destruction of the natural environment. These reforms should be aimed both at reestablishing a sustainable model of consumption and applying, at the legislative level, restrictions on pollution produced by different industries.

The vast majority of **reproductive work** and the **systems of care** in the capitalist system of production continue to fall on women across the world. It is within the context of reproductive work where food-related care mainly happens. There is, therefore, a direct relationship between women who undertake reproductive work and the logics of consumption within the context of the food industry.

The food sector accounts for around 30% of the world's total energy consumption and accounts for around 22% of total greenhouse gas emissions, while remaining essential for the **food security** and **food sovereignty** of the world's population.

Productive and reproductive work: ecofeminist perspectives

Ecofeminism arose in the sixties and seventies, contextualized by criticism of the system, when a relationship

was found between **the exploitation of women** and the exploitation of nature by the economic system. There are different trends within ecofeminism (essentialism and constructivism), but they all recognize a fundamental principle: the economic system is declaring **war on life**.

Human beings are interdependent and **ecodependent**. We need care (traditionally undertaken by women) at different stages of our lives and we depend entirely on our natural environment to feed ourselves and to survive. In short, the two basic processes on which life depends are being squeezed by the economic system in order to seek profit and accumulate capital. This is having devastating effects on human life and the natural environment.

The **cis-hetero-patriarchal** system renders the vulnerabilities of the body invisible by neglecting the **need for care**. Along with the individualized capitalist system, these forces are based on a social construction as fantasy around the infinite **body-freedom** of individuals. In turn, the economic system is based on a techno-scientific philosophy that justifies the use and exploitation of the natural environment in favor of the "development" of man. Nature at the service of human beings, the consolidation of **anthropocentrism**.

Today, one of the biggest problems lies in the geographic organization of our **cities**. In the largest ones, hardly anything necessary or essential for life is produced. Thus, urban areas are totally subject to and dependent on external production. This not only creates an increase in transport logistics processes, but also requires the creation of a new form of **large-scale** and centralized extensive agribusiness. Currently, cities' **mega-dependence** results in a rupture between productive and reproductive work and therefore the difficulty of sustaining both in a balanced way increases. The present productive work model is not designed to guarantee reproductive work, just as the production and



consumption system is not prepared to preserve the balance of the natural environment on which it depends. Speaking out about **reducing consumption** or **production control**, particularly through legislative projections, has become one of the great political taboos of our time (Yayo Herrero, 2013).

Can SDG 12 be achieved without ensuring Sexual and Reproductive Rights?

The need for guaranteeing **Sexual and Reproductive Rights** is essential to creating collective spaces and work that promote responsible production and consumption. The relationship between heteropatriarchy and the **capitalist system** triggered the process of separation between productive and reproductive work. In the field of reproductive work, either because of the links of women with food-related care or because of the land work carried out mainly by women in the development of **family farming**, women's relationship to the system of food production and consumption is definitive (Yayo Herrero, 2018).

Feminism and antiracism, keys to changing consumer cultures

Feminist economics must be intersectional in order to try to collaborate with different struggles and perspectives that highlight the controversies of the production and consumption system. It is important to mention

the **antiracist** struggle, given the events that occurred in Spain in 2017, with reported rapes of Moroccan women working in the strawberry picking fields. The production conditions under the patriarchal capitalist system have even more devastating effects for women who come from the global South.

Increasing the logic of sustainable and fair consumption will aid in decreasing inequality among populations. The situations where women end up working under conditions of **semi-slavery**, especially in agroecological production environments, must be taken into account, reported and placed at the forefront of the feminist struggle.

The formation of citizenship that is conscious and critical of its forms of consumption becomes a priority: the construction of a civic identity that understands its own emancipation through a sustainable relationship to its environment.

It is important to analyze the close relationship between **production, consumption, food, care economy** and **health**. The culture of food consumption is definitely related to health.

There is, therefore, a similarity between the **exploitation of the land** and the **exploitation of women's bodies** by capital. The role of women is crucial when it comes to creating a transformational change in consumer cultures.

Legislation in Catalonia

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979.
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995.
- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, 2000.
- European Parliament resolution on poverty and gender perspective, 2016.
- Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 on the principles of food law.
- Draft bill on Climate Change Law, 2019.
- Law 3/2019, of 17 June, on agrarian spaces in Catalonia.
- Law 17/2015, of 21 July, on effective equality between women and men.
- National Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Catalonia, 2019.

Legislation in Colombia

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979.
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995.
- Montevideo Consensus, First session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, 2013.
- Law for the management of climate change in Colombia, 2018.
- Law 1900-2018. Gender equity criteria in the adjudication of vacant land, rural housing, and productive projects.
- Law 1731-2014. Reactivation of the agricultural, fishing, aquaculture, forestry, and agroindustrial sectors and of the Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research (CORPOICA).



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