

# Gender Differences and Changes in Citizen Environmental Behaviors: the data during 2006 and 2009 in Xi'an, China

Wang, feng      Cheng, Zhihua

(School of Economics and Management, Northwest University, 710069, Xi'an, China)

**Abstract:** Gender differences in citizen environmental behaviors have been focused for several years, Accumulated research findings show that women tended to express higher levels of concern toward technology and the environment than men did, and women were more likely than men to participate in environmentally protective consumer behaviors, but the tendency was not universal.<sup>1</sup> Empirical study from China is less. This article, based on the New Paradigm Dunlap Theory by adopting the cross-section data during the period from 2006 to 2009, compares and analyzes the present situation and changes of women involvement in environmental behaviors. Citizen environmental behaviors are classified as individual environmental behaviors and public environmental behaviors. Individual environmental behaviors include none-use plastic bags, especially when shopping, use regular tableware when you are eating out, sort household waste for recycling, recycle batteries, plant trees, use recycled paper, no smoking is allowed in public, completely turn off water on tap, use energy saving products etc. Public environmental behaviors include publically showed concern about environment protection, participated in environmental protection activities, volunteered for government or NGO sponsored events, participated in environmental public awareness activities e.g., paintings, performances, stopped others from environmentally destructive activities, complained or petitioned against environmental pollution etc.. Citizen's environmental awareness include environmental protection and environmental protection significance, these two aspects have 19 specific questions, which total score to be considered.

The results show that score of female in individual behaviors, public behaviors, significance of environmental protection and importance of environmental protection have different degrees of improvement, improvement percent respectively is 6.65%、10.8%、4.54%、0.42%. Female individual behaviors and public behaviors' improvement is larger; female environmental importance's improvement is the lowest. Further analysis about gender difference shows that in 2006 individual behaviors is no significant, in 2009 individual behaviors is no significant, in 2006 public behaviors is no significant, in 2009 public behaviors is no significant. At present stage citizen environmental behavior hasn't showed gender differences, women don't show more positive environmental behavior than men.

We conclude the reason is that in China women receive less school education and society education than men, so they lack of environmental knowledge and environmental awareness. Government could improve women environmental behaviors through adding women environmental education, strengthening professional environmental protection knowledge propaganda and enhancing the effect of NGOs.

**Key word:** citizen environmental behaviors; gender differences; environmental awareness

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