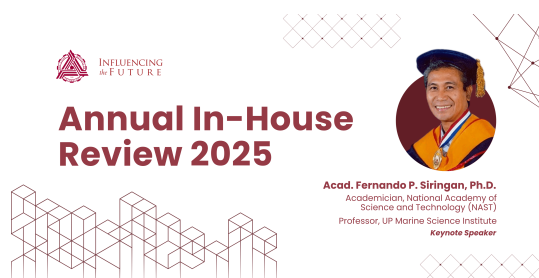


## 23rd MSU-IIT Annual In-House Review of Research and Development Projects



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# Gender Equality in Obtaining a Deeper Understanding of the Implementation of Sustainable Cities and Communities Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Monday, October 20, 2025 1:00 PM (4 hours)*

**Abstract:** This study explored the role of gender equality in achieving a deeper understanding of the implementation of Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11) amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Framed within the context of inclusive and equitable urban development, the research employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative insights with quantitative data to investigate gendered perspectives on sustainability during a public health crisis. A total of 178 participants were purposively selected, ensuring representation across gender identities and socio-cultural backgrounds. The purposive sampling method enabled the identification of key informants whose lived experiences and professional roles were directly relevant to the objectives of the study. Findings indicate that women were well-represented in city department offices, suggesting significant strides toward gender parity in local governance and urban planning. This gender balance reflects an encouraging trend: men and women, including marginalized groups and indigenous peoples, are increasingly gaining equitable access to knowledge, participation, and economic opportunities related to sustainable urban development. Moreover, the study found that access to training and capacity-building programs on sustainable cities and communities was viewed by participants as the most effective strategy for fostering inclusive development during and after the pandemic. Training activities were particularly instrumental in amplifying gender-aware perspectives, allowing both women and men to contribute to community resilience and sustainable recovery strategies. In conclusion, the study underscores that gender equality is not only a goal in itself but a vital catalyst for advancing sustainability in urban settings. The COVID-19 pandemic, while disruptive, has created opportunities to reframe policies and practices through a gender lens, promoting inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities for all.

**Key Words:** Gender Equality; Sustainable Cities and Communities; COVID-19 Pandemic

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