

This is not an ADB material. The views expressed in this document are the views of the author/s and/or their organizations and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank, or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy and/or completeness of the material's contents, and accepts no responsibility for any direct or indirect consequence of their use or reliance, whether wholly or partially. Please feel free to contact the authors directly should you have queries.

ATTITUDES AND MOTIVATIONS OF FILIPINO WOMEN IN WASTE

WWF, UP CWGS, and BAYI, Inc.



THE WORLD FOR GENDER & PLASTICS



World Wide Fund observed that women:

- Take on more waste segregation tasks due to their assigned reproductive roles at home and in the community
- Use more products (e.g., napkins, make up)
- Feel obligated to extend the same care to the community

The background is a collage. It features a photograph of a dense green forest. There are several pieces of torn, bright green paper scattered around the edges. On the left side, there is a cutout of a hand holding a small green plant with several leaves. The title 'THE WORLD WE WANT TO STUDY' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the top of the forest image.

THE WORLD WE WANT TO STUDY

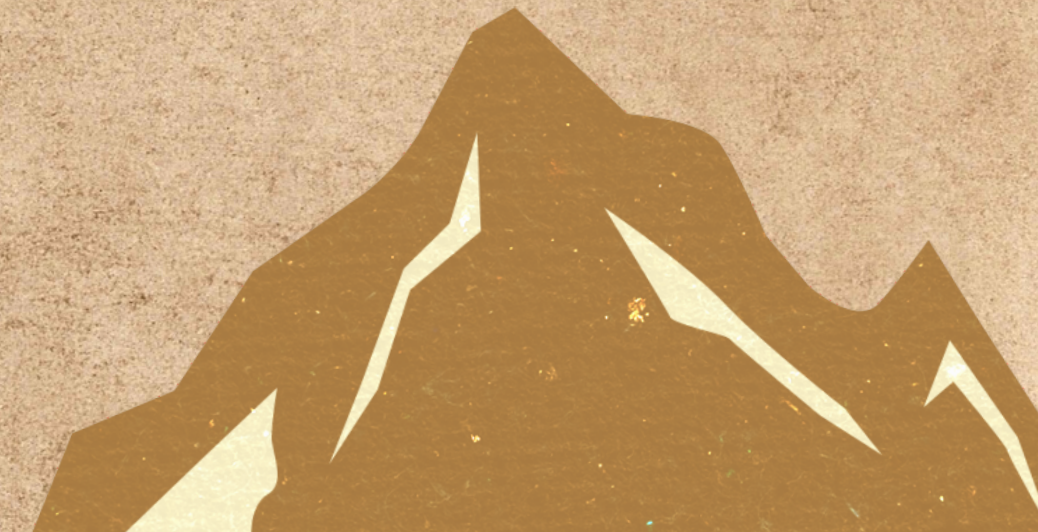
WWF, together with the UP CWGS and BAYI, conducted a study that focuses on

- Women's perception of their plastic use, consumption, and segregation
- Women's acceptance and perception of their roles in plastic reduction initiatives

TEAM WORK



The
Incubation
Network





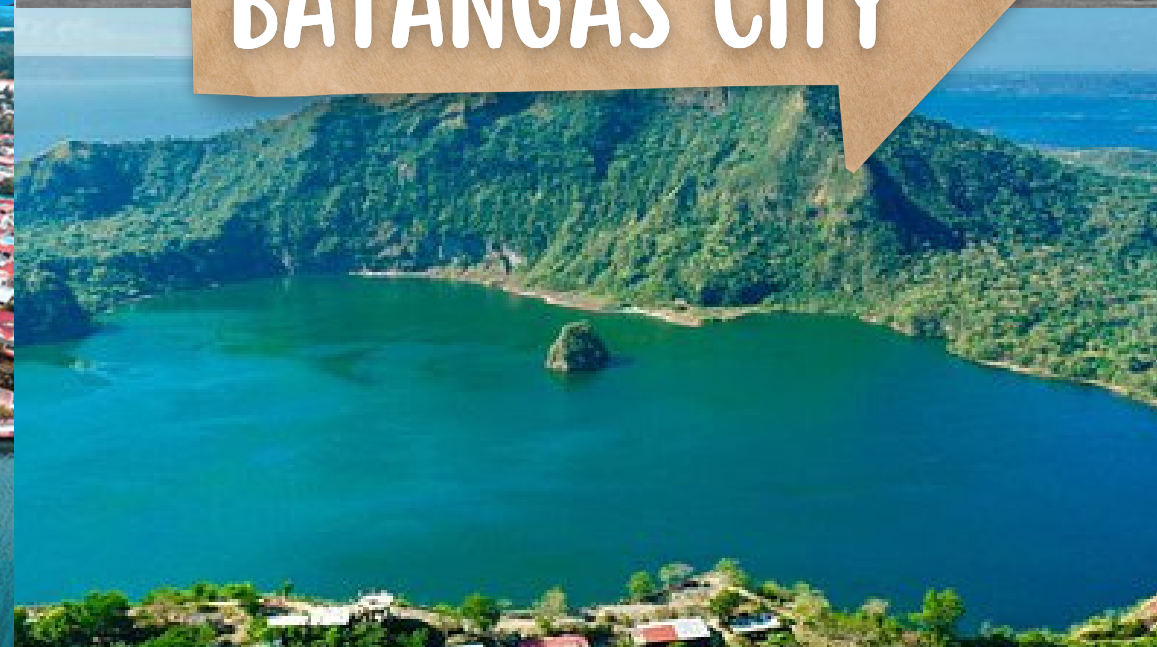
BARUGO, LEYTE



CAGAYAN DE ORO



BATANGAS CITY



WHERE?

WHAT'S THE CONVO SO FAR?

- Plastic pollution is a complex problem and requires a comprehensive solution!
- The Philippines is ranked as the 3rd plastic pollution emitter in the world
- Gender stereotypes of women being 'nurturing' means more environmental and social altruistic values
- More care = more waste disposal tasks!



HOW DO WE LOOK AT WOMEN IN WASTE'S LIVED REALITIES?

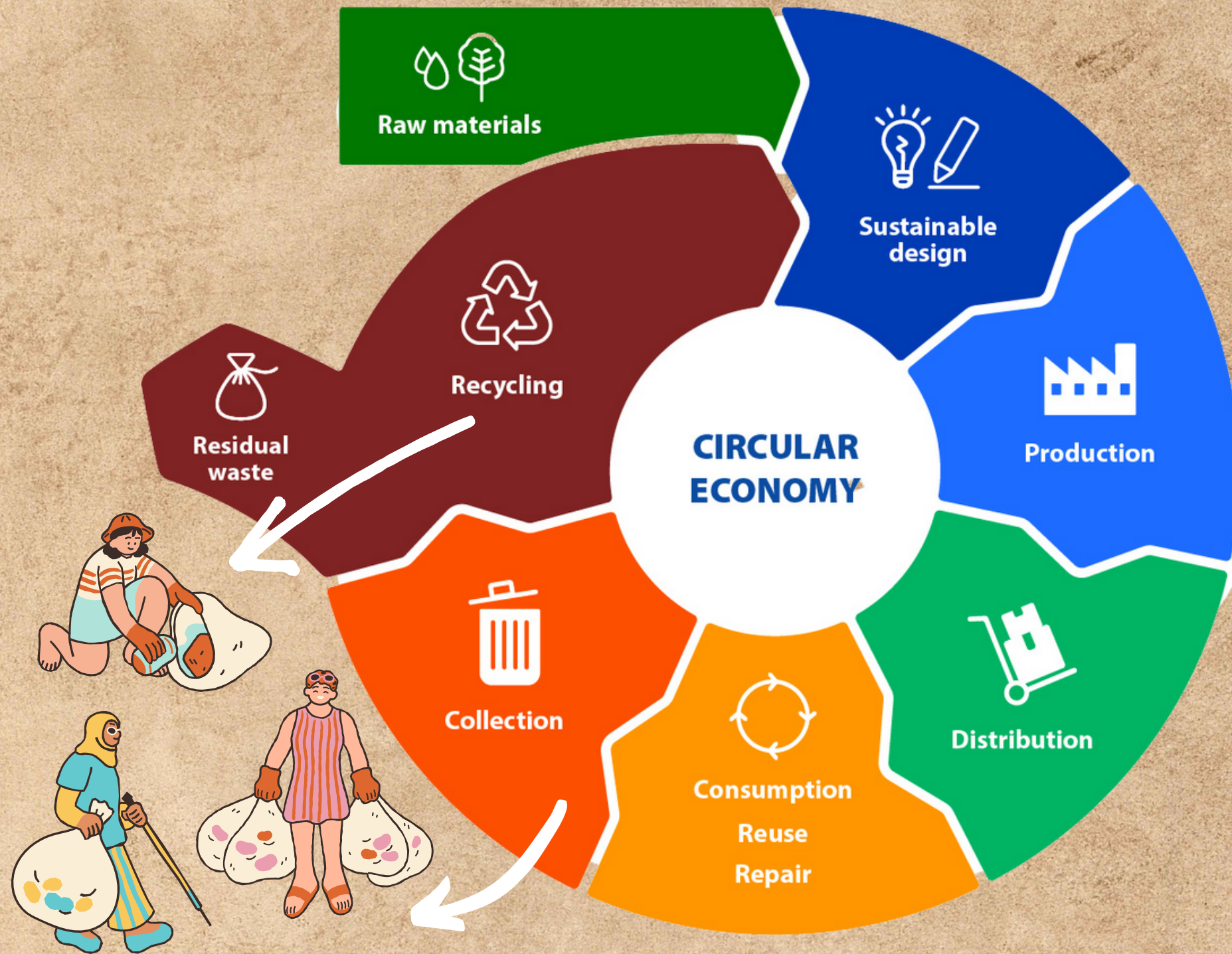
*GENDER DIVISION
OF LABOR
(MOSER)*



WHERE ARE THEY IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY?

According to the UNDP (2022):

- "[G]lobally, women make up the majority of the workforce working in the informal waste management sector."
- "Women work in precarious situations and are exposed to harmful substances and chemicals along the value chains in the textile, agriculture, or waste sectors."



WHO ARE OUR MAIN KEY PLAYERS?

- There are women profit-oriented IWCs and community-oriented IWCs
- Community – street sweepers or community volunteers subsidized by the government
- Profit – junk shop owners and often partners with their husbands, cooperatives



HOW DO WOMEN PERCEIVE THEIR PLASTIC USE AND CONSUMPTION?

Situating the findings based on their contexts, the participants had:

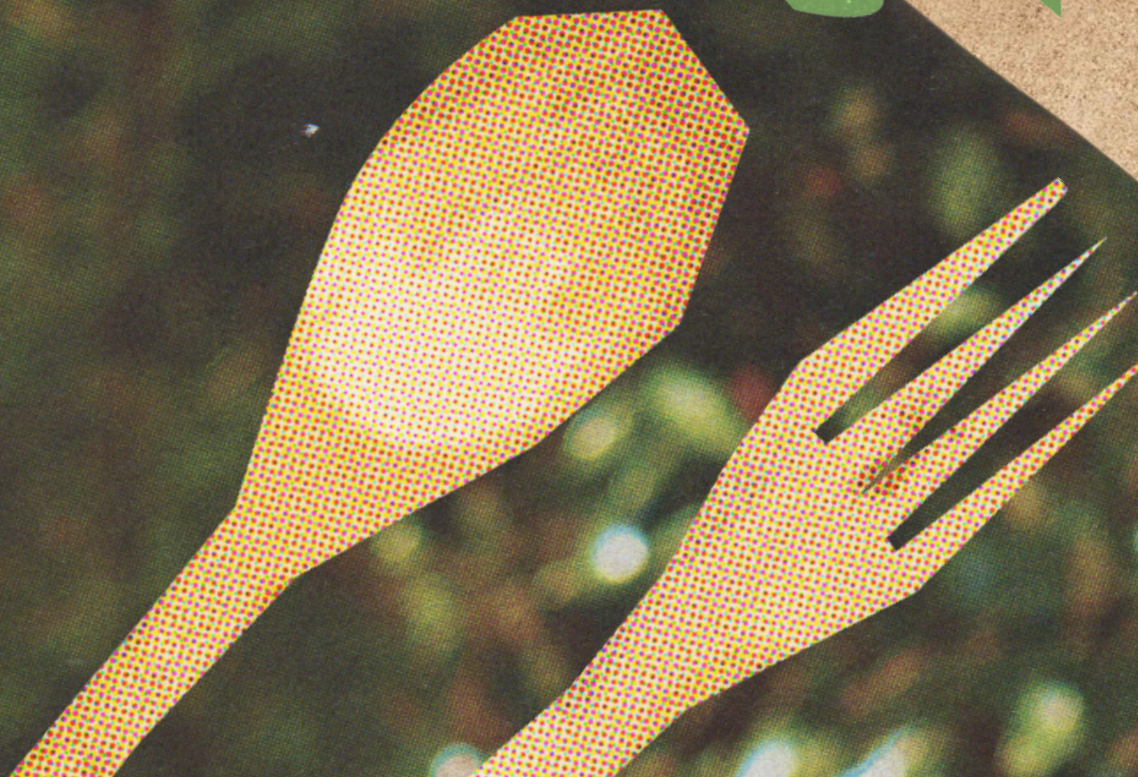
- Negative perception of plastic use and consumption
- Positive perception of reducing plastic use and waste



PLASTIC (RE)USE AND CLEAN UP



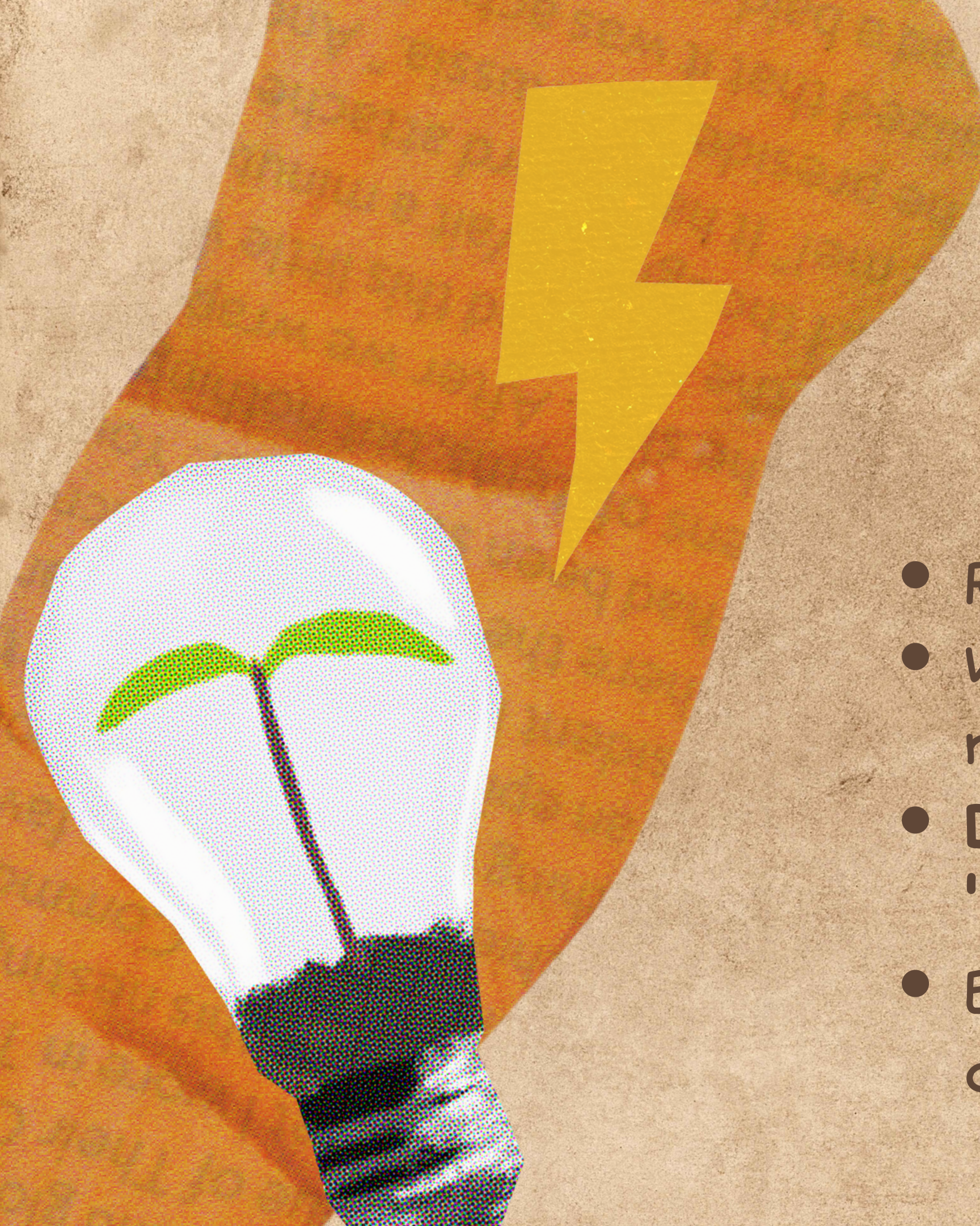
- Women are more likely to use, reduce, and segregate plastics
- Buying habits: prioritizing retail over bulk, disregarding product packaging, and use of eco bags (except Barugo)
- **Environmental Awareness = Aesthetics** (limited understanding of plastic harm)
- Women *try* to segregate but it can be an added burden



WHAT DO WOMEN PERCEIVE AS THEIR ROLE/S IN PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION, REUSE AND RECYCLING?

- Women's segregation of plastic is viewed to be tasks tied at the household level
- Men's plastic segregation is tied to paid work (e.g., IWCs)
- Socialized belief (e.g., gender traits and qualities) of the gender division of labor





WOMEN VIEWED AS 'ROLE MODELS' IN THE HOUSE AND COMMUNITY

- Recycling as part of family activities
- Women educate their children on recycling and segregation
- Deeper inculcation of women's 'nurturing' and 'reproductive' roles
- Extends to the community, as they are often community managers

HOW DO THEY PERCEIVE OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PLASTIC VALUE CHAIN AND THEIR ROLE/S?

- Government is viewed to be the best stakeholder to change the game (i.e., GAD)
- Cooperatives and associations can better build skills, knowledge, and value chains
- Private sector can improve junk shops



WOMEN iNDiViDUAL WASTE WORKERS

- **Stereotypes:** Still solely responsible of 'nurturing' the family despite working together
- **Discrimination:** Waste collection and segregation as a job is belittled (especially for women who 'must be clean')





WOMEN INDIVIDUAL WASTE WORKERS

- **Health:** Lack social protection and safety hazard subsidy to protect themselves from environmental harm
- **Finance:** Lack the necessary entrepreneurial skills and value chain to sustain their livelihood

A hand holding a lightbulb with a green plant growing inside it, and a yellow lightning bolt above the hand.

SO WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

- Women bear the disproportionate burden of plastic reduction and because of that environmental impacts of plastic waste
- Women IWCs' experience of the gender division of labor impacts their vulnerability as informal workers

A hand holding a lightbulb with a green plant growing inside it, and a yellow lightning bolt above the hand.

SO WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

Gender equality in the value chain can be attained once we address the practical gender needs (e.g., basic needs and livelihood) and strategic gender interests of women (e.g., policies, awareness-raising)

WHERE DOES THIS ALL FIT IN THE ECOSYSTEM OF TRANSFORMATIVE FEMINIST GOVERNANCE?

- Government is viewed to be the best stakeholder to change the game (i.e., GAD)
- Cooperatives and associations can better build skills, knowledge, and value chains
- Private sector can improve junk shops



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Double down on solid waste management policies to redistribute care work
- Consider engaging IEC materials and scale deep in comms strategies to educate the people



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consult with women IWCs ways to improve their livelihoods in the plastic value chain
- Include more men and boys in gender-transformative programs to educate them on gender issues



"EMPATHETIC
RESPONSES SHAPE
ENVIRONMENTAL
DIFFERENCES"





THANK YOU

Let's take care
of our Earth