Gender Perspectives in Fisheries and Aquaculture

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Current status and challenges in regards to gender perspectives and women’s participation
Invisible fisheries

Biased sampling leaves out gleaning & invertebrate fisheries, part time fishers and processors and marketers

Women and men participate in all aspects of the small-scale fisheries value chain around the world, often in ecologically, economically, and culturally distinct ways

The WorldFish Center 2010; Kleiber et al. 2015
Tenure Rights

- Fishing policy can deny women equal tenure rights.
- It can displace women fishers.
- Women less likely to be granted lease or tenure over fishing resources.
- Women may be denied membership to fisher groups that are given tenure rights.

Creation of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem displaced women seaweed collectors

Rajagopalan 2007

Oman women are barred from obtaining fishing licenses

Anderson 2016, personal communication
Access to fishing, marketing and marketing resources

- Ownership
- Exclusion e.g. market
- Access to inferior products and innovations than men.
- Less access to credit or financial resources than men.
- Control over credit
- Women more vulnerable to ecological change

In Kenya, both women and men participate in marketing fish, but men have access to the larger and more valuable catches

Matsue et al. 2014

In Bangladesh men do not allow women to control, access, use or even look after certain fishing resources like fishing boats in fear of destroying them or because socio-cultural norms do not allow women to utilize those resources

Choudhury et al 2018
Recognition of and Opportunities for Fisheries Labor

“Gender neutral” policies that do not take unequal gender roles into account may give women fewer opportunities than men.

Men and women face different risks due to access to different roles in the value chain.

Since 1986, EU Members States have acknowledged women’s labor contributions by giving them the legal status of ‘assisting spouse’, with corresponding social rights such as maternity leave and pensions.

Frangoudes and Keromnes 2008; Frangoudes 2013

Women and men’s fisheries labor are also often given different cultural and economic value, with women’s work often going uncounted and not considered in fisheries governance, despite being vital to small-scale fisheries.

Frangoudes 2013; Kleiber et al. 2014; Santos 2015
Equal Pay for Fisheries Labor

Women’s fisheries labor is often unpaid, or paid less.

Women’s labor in fisheries often goes unpaid because in many cases it is characterized as being part of women’s household duties

Williams 2015

“The men of course get more salary than us, around BDT 6000 (USD$ 77). Of course they will get higher salary than us. They work harder. During shipment they have to toil really hard.”

18 year old female shrimp factory worker, Bangladesh in Choudhury et al 2017
Education

Differences in access to education can impact women and men’s fisheries labor

“Men are stronger and smarter than women”

21 year old male shrimp factory worker, Bangladesh in Choudhury et al 2017

Small-scale fisheries sit within gendered social and cultural systems that perpetuate well-being disparities between men and women and introduce vulnerability within processes of ecological and social change

Gopal et al. 2015
Violence

Shifting gender roles in fisheries related to changes in resource availability can also lead to increases in gender based domestic violence.

It is essential to understanding the centrality of gender to other intersecting issues, particularly human rights and well-being, food security, and climate change.

Badjeck et al. 2010
Gender and Food Security

Women’s fisheries work is a key part of household food security strategies
(Kawarazuka & Béné 2010)

Women often primarily responsible for daily household food consumption

Directly through fishing (Bleige Bird 2007; Santos 2015)
Indirectly through fisheries income (Gnimadi 2004)

Women sometimes expected to eat less or last (D’Souza & Tandon 2015)
Policy Coherence

Gender equity and equality cohere strongly with international CEDAW policy.

Major barriers may be in the will and capacity to implement existing policy.

While the implementation from ratifying nations has been variable, its influence on national gender policy and women’s rights is noticeable (Cho, 2014), including recognition of the need for widespread cultural shifts to achieve social equality for women throughout the world.

Kleiber et al 2017
Research and Monitoring

- Lack of sex disaggregated data collection

- Lack of prioritization, money and training for gender research and researchers

According to Arviat men, fishing for char along the shoreline is predominantly men’s work.

According to Arviat women, it is predominantly women’s work.

- Tyrrell 2009
Capacity Development

• Lack of technical and formal fisheries training programs that are targeted to or include women.
• Women are often not recognized as stakeholders and must contend with cultural barriers to their full participation in decision-making.
• Capacity development should include increase training for gender work in fisheries institutions.

Gender differences in power and decision making exist in small-scale fisheries contexts and those differences influence representative, fair, and sustainable small-scale fisheries governance

Ram-Bidesi 2015

92.6 percent of the women preferred training by female extension agents.

- Adeokun & Adereti 2003
Gender is everywhere*

*if you look
3. Change our understanding of fisheries

What happens when you add in 50% of the population?
Women fish all over the world
Women fish. A lot.

- Women: 26% (296) of the total catch (78 tonnes)
- Men: 74% (293) of the total catch (78 tonnes)
Women fish for food (too)

If no money to buy then we glean
- Respondent 2011

If it's windy days I go gleaning so that we'll have viand
- Respondent 2011

If we can't glean we don't have food
- Respondent 2011

EATEN CATCH

(293)

80%

10 tonnes

(296)

20%
Women fish different animals

16%

66%

(n=296)

53%

24%

(n=293)

ALL

43%

35%

Kleiber et al. 2014
Community Based Fisheries Management

Counting the voices of women & men

"Men would be best to participate in meetings because it’s about their fishing"

- Respondent, Philippines 2011
Both communities to each side of us had an MPA in their gleaning area, we changed ours so that people could have a place to get food.

- Barangay Captain 2011
Science and Nature

Ocean acidification & food security

Gender based violence & climate change

Reproductive health & conservation

Gendered socio-ecological impact of the global sea cucumber fisheries
Key actions, strategies as well as targets and indicators for reflecting gender perspectives in fisheries and aquaculture
We are just getting started

4. Gender equality and equity is fundamental to any development. Recognizing the vital role of women in small-scale fisheries, equal rights and opportunities should be promoted.
Moving beyond “women fish”

What is the capacity of national fisheries ministries to integrate gender?

What approaches work best?

integrative, accommodating, transformative?

Moving fisheries past eco-feminism

Intersectionality

Relationships of power

Interactions with the respect of cultures
Fisheries – Gender Strategic

Catch volume by women and men
Species caught by women and men
Where women and men fish
  Distance from their house
  Habitats fished
Traditional fishing methods of women and men
Contribution to household income by fisheries (total value chain)

Data Source: Case Study
Other Implementation Capacity Indicators

- Dedicated gender staff
- Gender buy-in by staff
- Frequency of gender trainings
- Collection of sex-disaggregated fisheries statistics
  - With gender sensitive data collection methods
- Inclusion of women’s fishing in coastal fishing definitions
- Monitoring of women’s fisheries (species and methods)
- Social network analysis of partnership groups with a gender focus

Data Source: Survey / Policy Analysis
Livelihood - Gender Integrated

Gender integrated livelihood assessments

Livelihood strategies of women & men

% of livelihood activities directed to women & men

Women & men receive equitable income increases from livelihood projects

Creation of equal numbers of women’s & men’s groups

Data Source: Project Reporting
Livelihood Gender Strategic

Ability of women & men to make strategic life decisions
Look for unintended consequences.
Test accommodating vs. transformative approaches

Data Source: Case Study
Nutrition – Gender Integrated

Gender integrated nutrition assessments
  Food diversity of women & men
  Micronutrient deficiency of women & men
Proportion of catch for subsistence / selling / given away etc.
  Mapping the fish from sea to table (tummy)
Gender specific barriers to fish consumption
  Availability, knowledge, cost, time?
What roles do men feel they have in ensuring first 1000 day nutrition?

Data Source: Project Reporting
Nutrition - Gender Strategic

Gender roles around food preparation

- What are the gender roles and norms around food preparation and consumption?
- How can we avoid reinforcing gender roles?
- How can we work to transform gender roles if it can lead to better and more equitable outcomes?
- What approaches work best?

Data Source: Case Study
Gender blind
Ignores roles, rights and responsibilities associated with women and men as well as power dynamics between and among women and men, girls and boys.

Gender aware
Examines and addresses gender considerations by adopting a gender-aware approach.

Exploitative
Exploits gender inequalities or stereotypes.

Accommodating
Works around existing gender differences and inequalities.

Transformative
Critically examines gender norms and dynamics.

Reinforces gender norms and dynamics
Includes women to contribute to project goals
Supports changes to constraining gender norms and dynamics
### Moving Forward

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<tr>
<th>Reach</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Empower</th>
<th>Transform</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reach women and men as participants</td>
<td>Deliver access to resources and benefits to women and men</td>
<td>Strengthen the ability of women and men to make strategic life choices</td>
<td>Change gender norms</td>
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Thank You

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Research partner