

Chapter 27

Gender issues in fish entrepreneurship development

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Gender participation in fishery

As per the reports of FAO 59.6 million People were engaged in the primary sector of capture fisheries and aquaculture in 2016, which include 19.3 million in aquaculture and 40.3 million in capture fisheries. Out of this nearly 14 per cent were women, which is a less proportion as compared to that of 2009–2016 periods (15.2%). Decreased gender-disaggregated reporting is ascribed as the reason for decreasing trend of proportion of women in primary sector fisheries (FAO, 2018). This scenario indicate that fisheries empower women and contribute to gender equity; however, their role has largely been unrecognized (HLPE, 2014). When both the primary and secondary sectors of aquaculture and fisheries were considered, the work force was evenly divided between men and women (Monfort , 2015).

Gender reporting

Gender-disaggregated data on secondary sector fisheries has not been collected by FAO from Member Countries. Enhanced statistics on both industrial and small scale operators, together with data on the secondary post-harvest and service sectors, would greatly improve the understanding of the importance of women's contribution to fisheries and aquaculture, food security and livelihoods (FAO, 2018). Gender-disaggregated employment data were reported by Japan in 1970, and since then the reporting of sex-disaggregated employment data by FAO Member Countries has been slowly improving in regularity and quality. These data are receiving increasing policy attention and are critical in support to decision-making on gender issues in fisheries and aquaculture (Biswas, 2017).

Global inland fisheries

The World Bank (2012) indicated that about 35 million of the estimated 60 million people engaged in global inland fisheries and their value chains – about half – are women. However, their role has largely been unrecognized (HLPE, 2014). Women are strongly associated with the post-harvest sector e.g. processing, sales, distribution and marketing; however, women also fish. They obtain income, independence and power through these activities. Income earned by women often has a stronger, more beneficial impact on household incomes (Porter, 2012). In 61 countries that report disaggregated data to FAO and where women are recognized as fishers, the ratio is one fisherwoman to every 7.3 fishermen (Simmance, Funge-Smith and Gee, 2018).

Indian fishery

India is the second largest producer of fish and fresh water fish in the world. Fish production in India has increased from 41.57 lakh tonnes (24.47 lakh tonnes for marine

and 17.10 lakh tones for inland fisheries) in 1991-92 to 107.95 lakh tonnes (35.8 lakh tonnes for marine and 72.10 lakh tonnes for inland fisheries) in 2015-16. The share of fishing and aquaculture in GVA in agriculture has been showing a steady value of 5% from the period 2011-12 to the period 2015-16 (Economic Survey 2017-18 Volume 2).

Fish and fishery products are one of the most widely traded commodities in India. The estimated value of marine fish landings in the country has increased by 8.37% during 2017 over the past year (2016) followed by consequential increases in unit price at fish landing Centre, unit price at retail market, and in the producers share of the consumers' rupee (CMFRI Report)

The fisheries sector is an important source of livelihood for women In India. Among the Indian states Kerala has overtaken to emerge as the third largest in the state-wise marine fish landings in India During 2017. Four maritime states such as Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka landed more than 5 lakh tonnes accounting for 67% of country's marine fish landings during the year. The fisherwomen in Kerala play an important role in the fisheries sector in terms of their involvement in fishery related activities *viz.*, fish vending, fish drying, prawn peeling, sorting, grading, fish packing, and net making. Women are actively involved in the processing of fish catch, such as sun-drying, salting, smoking and preparing fish and fish-derived foods such as fish paste and cakes, either in cottage level industries, or as wage labourers in large scale processing industries.

Gender concept

Gender refers to the economic, social, political, and cultural attributes and opportunities associated with being women and men. The social definitions of what it means to be a woman or a man vary among cultures and change over time. Gender is a socio-cultural expression of particular characteristics and roles that are associated with certain groups of people with reference to being male or female.

Gender Analysis is a methodology that describes existing gender relations in a particular environment, ranging from within households or firms to a larger scale of community, ethnic group, or nation. It involves collecting and analyzing sex-disaggregated data and other qualitative and quantitative information.

Gender Assessment examines how a program or project addresses and responds to gender disparities and inequalities through its objectives, activities, and policies. It responds to two key questions. How will the different roles and status of women and men within the community, political sphere, workplace, and household affect the work to be undertaken? How will the anticipated results of the work affect women and men differently? And their relative status?

Gender Equity is the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure fairness, measures must be taken to compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field.

Gender Equality is the state or condition that affords women and men equal enjoyment of human rights, socially valued goods, opportunities, and resources.

Gender Integration refers to strategies applied in program assessment, design, implementation, and evaluation to take gender norms into account and to compensate for gender-based inequalities.

Gender Mainstreaming is the process of incorporating a gender perspective into policies, strategies, programs, project activities, and administrative functions, as well as into the institutional culture of an organization (<https://gender.jhpiego.org/analysistoolkit/gender-concepts-and-definitions/>).

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Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including fisheries. But the contributions of women were taken for granted for a long period (NCW, 2001). For sustainable development of the agriculture and rural economy, the contribution of women to agriculture and food production cannot be ignored (Economic Survey 2017-18 Volume 2). Recently the trend has changed. Recognizing the critical role of women in agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has declared 15th October of every year as Women Farmer's Day. Entrepreneurship development in agrarian sector is regarded as one of the major requirement. Political will is needed to implement and practice gender mainstreaming. Policy makers must be convinced of the need for change, and prerequisites for well-developed policies should be put in place. Such policies must rest on the principles of **Economic empowerment of women** throughout the value chain (FAO,2012).

Measures taken by GOI, to ensure mainstreaming of women in agriculture sector

- Earmarking at least 30 per cent of the budget allocation for women beneficiaries in all ongoing schemes/programmes and development activities
- Initiating women centric activities to ensure benefits of various beneficiary-oriented programs/schemes reach them.
- Focusing on women selfhelp group (SHG) to connect them to micro-credit through capacity building activities and to provide information and ensuring their representation in different decision-making bodies.

Restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries (Blue Revolution) is with a total Central outlay of **3000 crore for five years** objectives are to generate employment and export earnings and to ensure inclusive development and empower fishers and aquaculture farmers.

CSS encompasses inclusive development by providing special care to Fishermen Societies, Cooperative Bodies, Women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and under developed regions etc. by extending adequate financial assistance. Emphasis may also be on promoting investment & entrepreneurship development, arrangements for institutional financing, facilitating backward and forward linkages, training and capacity building etc. 10.2 The States/ UTs shall also accord high priority to the proposals of fishers, fish farmers, fishers cooperatives, SCs/ STs & women and their SHG's, cooperatives, and other weaker segments of the society so as to ensure adequate coverage of such beneficiaries as intended in the scheme

<http://www.dahd.nic.in/about-us/divisions/fisheries>

Creation of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

Special Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF). To augment fish production to achieve its target of 15 million tonne by 2020 set under the

Blue Revolution; and to achieve a sustainable growth of 8% -9% thereafter to reach the fish production to the level of about 20 MMT by 2022-23. Employment opportunities to over 9.40 lakh fishers/fishermen/fisherfolk and other entrepreneurs in fishing and allied activities. To attract private investment in creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities. Adoption of new technologies. The approval entails an estimated fund size of **Rs.7,522 crore**, comprising Rs.5,266.40 crore to be raised by the Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs), Rs. 1,316.6 crore beneficiaries contribution and Rs.939.48 crore budgetary support from the Government of India.

FIDF would provide concessional finance to State Governments / UTs and State entities, cooperatives, individuals and entrepreneurs etc., for taking up of the identified investment activities of fisheries development. Under FIDF, loan lending will be over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 and maximum repayment will be over a period of 12 years inclusive of moratorium of two years on repayment of principal. State Governments, Cooperatives and individual investors will get loans at cheap rates for fisheries and animal husbandry infrastructure.

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).

Setting up of Mobile/Retail Fish Outlet (Kiosk), (Kiosk along with one fish storage/ display cabin, one visi cooler, weighing machine, facilities/ utensils for fish cutting cleaning facilities) As per actual with a ceiling of **Rs. 10 lakh per unit**, Fish retail outlet/kiosk shall be of a minimum floor area of 100 Sq.ft (static), Priority shall be given to SCs / STs/ women / unemployed youth.

Under Beneficiary Oriented Projects Funded by DADF, Govt. of India Women & their Cooperatives can avail 60% Govt. Assistance along with 40% Beneficiaries Share. Women and their Co-operatives are one of the implementing agencies.

Fish based enterprises among women in Kerala

Value added fish products based enterprises provides better opportunities for women especially to those who are living in coastal areas to earn a livelihood out of it. Though women groups are mobilized and skill enhancement was done through training by various agencies, sustainability of such enterprise is a real challenge faced by women. (Rejula et al 2018).

In a study conducted in Kerala state for analyzing drivers and barriers of sustainability of fish based enterprises ,it was identified that, majority of women possess socio-personal traits which were found in entrepreneurs and the consortium mode of implementation helped in group formation, and implementation of the programme. But at later stage of sustenance consortium mode of operation hindered the natural growth of the enterprise. Even though Govt-Govt consortium proved successful the women involved in this group could not develop their entrepreneurial capacities. Sustainability of enterprise depends on many factors which need to be addressed by technology scientist, social scientist with the help all other stakeholders involved in it

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