

Women in Fish-preneurship

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Introduction

Entrepreneurship has been universally recognized as the mainspring behind economic development of nations. (Baumol, 2002; Wennekers & Thurik, 1999). The factors contributing to entrepreneurship is still a debate and within that the role of personal and environmental conditions facilitate or hinder initiation, growth and sustainability of entrepreneurship. Growth of entrepreneurship in any country is primarily indicated by the number of potential entrepreneurs, who play a crucial role in the economy. Because of the same reason, they are considered as a national asset. By providing employment opportunities and giving more income to those involved and ultimately to the nation, entrepreneurs help progress of the nations and this is more significant to the developing nations. Women also have a major role in developing entrepreneurship. In countries like India, where women comprise almost half the population,

Women are involved in many fisheries activities, although their degree and type of participation is variable depending on local cultural conditions. In small scale aquaculture, rural women's involvement could augment fish production, uplift their social and economic conditions and promote gender equality. This will enable them to participate productively and independently to improve their family's nutritional and living standards. The contributions of women to fisheries are often invisible, ignored, and unrecognized even though they represent 47% of the global fisheries workforce, especially in pre- and post-production activities. In some cases, they may even be the main source of family income as urban male migration and other social problems have led to an increased number of permanently or temporarily women headed households. Women outweighed men in fishing allied activities accounting about 67%. Among the major fishing allied activities, women dominated in peeling (96%), curing/processing (84%) and marketing (79%).

As international development agency USAID explained, *The Hidden Half*, "Without [women], boats would remain unprepared on shore, fish would not be processed for market and communities would be left uncared for.

Fisheries Sector- The existing issues

The catch from marine sector declines and at the maximum, it remains stagnant due to the following reasons

Entrepreneurship in Production Sector (Mainly men)

- Overfishing from sea
- Ocean Acidification
- Ghost Fishing
- Plastic pollution
- Habitat Destruction
- Declining catch /unit effort
- Class conflicts
- Occupational migration

- Job displacement(women)
- Low income to primary producers

MARINE

- Fishing- M
- Craft making- M
- Ancillary equipment making (winch, propeller, etc)-M
- Gear making- M...F
- Maintenance of fishing equipment -M
- Cage culture of marine spp etc-M..F
- Feed manufacturing -M...F
- Culture of Sea weed, Pearl etc- M...F
- Ornamental Fish rearing- M...F

INLAND

- Fishing- M
- Hatchery- M...F
- Culture of shrimp, fish, Crab, Mussel/Clam etc- M...F
- Feed manufacturing -M...F
- Manufacture of aquaculture equipment- M

Entrepreneurship in Processing Sector (Mainly women)

- Fish sorting - F
- Transportation- M
- Trading –M...F
- Ice manufacturing –M
- Preprocessing- F
- Processing –M...F
- (Making frozen/chilled fresh fish/ dry fish/value added product making etc)
- Fish value addition-based business (novel)- M...F
- (M- Male dominant, M- Male non-dominant. F- Female dominant and f- female non-dominant)

VALUE ADDITION- a special focus

Why to invest in food processing sector?

According to Ministry of Food Processing, with a huge population of 1.08 billion and population growth of about **1.6 % per annum**, India is a large and growing market for food products.

Its 350 million strong urban middle class with its changing food habits poses a huge market for agricultural products and processed food. Food processing industry will show the annual growth of **40-60 % in next five years**

Women as entrepreneurs

Female entrepreneurs represent the fastest growing category of entrepreneurship worldwide Maria et al (2020)

Earlier definitions frequently related entrepreneurship with creating new business (Yalcin and Kapu 2008) or maintaining existing business (Jones and Butler 1992; Lazear

2005); or both (Hebert and Link 1989; Lumpkin and Dess 1996; Sharma and Chrisman 1999; Bolton and Thompson 2004)

But when woman turn out to be entrepreneur, either as solo or group, the essential entrepreneurial qualities and skill sets, the pre-requisites for establishing the enterprise, the nature of support required from the growth of entrepreneurship eco system etc changes considerably.

The distinguishing Features of the Women Initiated Enterprises in Fisheries (WIFE) were identified and compared with those of well-defined entrepreneurship features

- Objective: **Passion** vs profit
- Growth- **Rapid** Vs slow
- Leadership Traits: **Change** Vs no change
- Team Traits: care about **wins or profit** Vs care more about recurring duties and obligations.
- Management Strategy: **High risk& meticulous plan** throughout Vs **Comfortable with routines in long run**
- Idea- **Innovation** Vs **Proven**
- Market share- impact on a large number of people& their market share is usually quite **high**. Vs Smaller share of the market & provide service to a small number of people.

So, if there is such a perceptible difference, when can a woman be called an entrepreneur?

A woman can be called as an entrepreneur when she is a *confident, creative and innovative* woman desiring economic independence individually and simultaneously creating employment opportunities for others.

Thus, the women, mostly in group, when attempt to start a business, they are usually necessity entrepreneurs or venturing a small business or livelihood.. It's not out of passion, out of absolute necessity. Hence, women from coastal areas, when venturing into an already problematic sector, for making a livelihood, the outside environment, comprising institutions like financial, infra structural, market, technology, social support and information should provide a customising hand holding environment for them to sustain and grow. Such a supportive "Entrepreneurial eco system" is highly essential, especially in a developing country like India, to foster women entrepreneurship in fisheries.