

ROLE OF GENDER IN GLOBAL FISHERY VALUE CHAINS: A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE ON ACTIVITY, ACCESS AND CONTROL PROFILE

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Abstract

Women in fishing communities play multidimensional roles. Women pervade fisheries and their roles were identified as workers in both fisheries, markets, processing plants and non-fishery, mothers who give birth to successors, as caregivers of the family, as connecting agents of social networks, as representatives of local culture, as community workers and governors. The main aim of this study is to identify and measure women's involvement in global fishery value chains and investigating their activity, access and control profiles in fishery value chains in selected destinations in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Primary data were obtained from fisheries and aquaculture operations in Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Honduras. . Participant observation with experienced investigators, focus group discussion and gender resources maps were the principal data collection tools. Women play non-significant roles in capture fishery production and totally depend on religion and culture while their contribution in aquaculture production is great. Female roles were centred on household activities which take them away from direct income generation and access to the capital assets. Less educated, resource poor women are concentrated in the low value end of the value chains while the high value end of the value chains is mainly handled by the resource rich males and limited number of educated, resourced owned females. Women's engagement is less in modern value chains with few nodes than the traditional complex and lengthier value chains.

Role of gender in global fishery value chains: A feminist perspective on activity, access and control profile



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Background

- Women pervade fisheries and their roles were identified as **workers** in both fisheries, markets, processing plants and non-fishery, **mothers** who give birth to successors, as **caregivers** of the family, as **connecting agents** of social networks, as **representatives** of local culture, as **community workers** and **governors**

Objectives

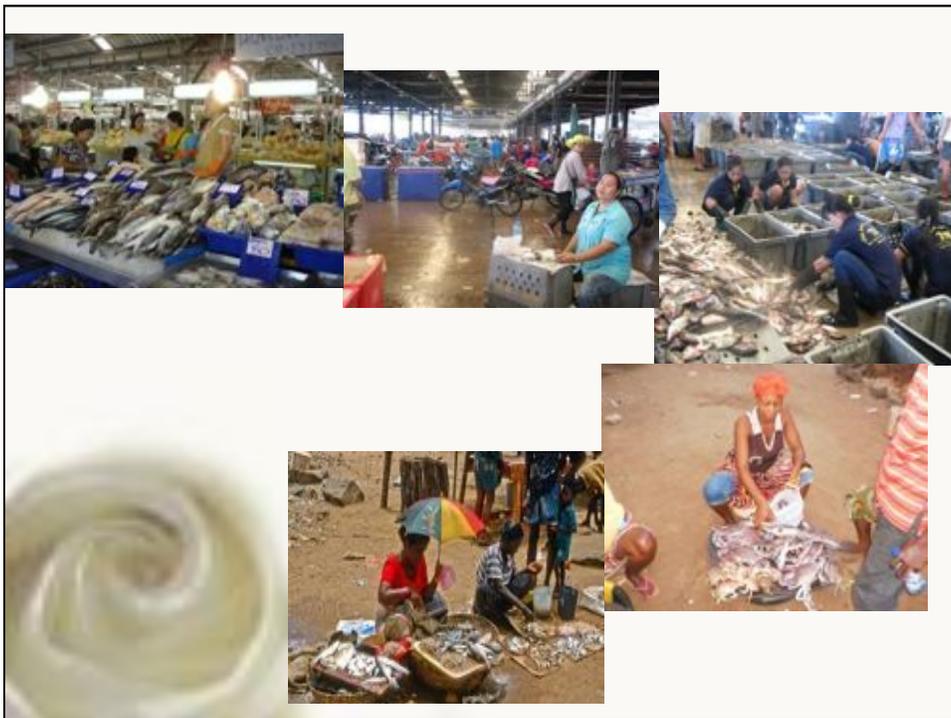
- To **identify** and **measure** women's involvement in global fishery value chains and **investigating their activity, access and control profiles** in fishery value chains in selected destinations in Asia, Africa and Latin America.



Method

- Case study approach & research locations were based on FAO: NORAD value chain project
- Both developed & developing nations
- Participant observations with experienced investigators,
- Focus group discussions and
- Gender resources maps were the principal data collection tools.

Faces of women in global fishery value chains





Data

- **Primary data:** fisheries and aquaculture operations in Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Honduras.

Thailand : Sea bass, Venamie shrimp, Tuna, Indo- Pacific mackerel

Vietnam: Pangasias, Shrimp

Bangladesh: Shrimp

Cambodia: Snake head, Reddish Pangasias

Sri Lanka: Shrimp, Tuna

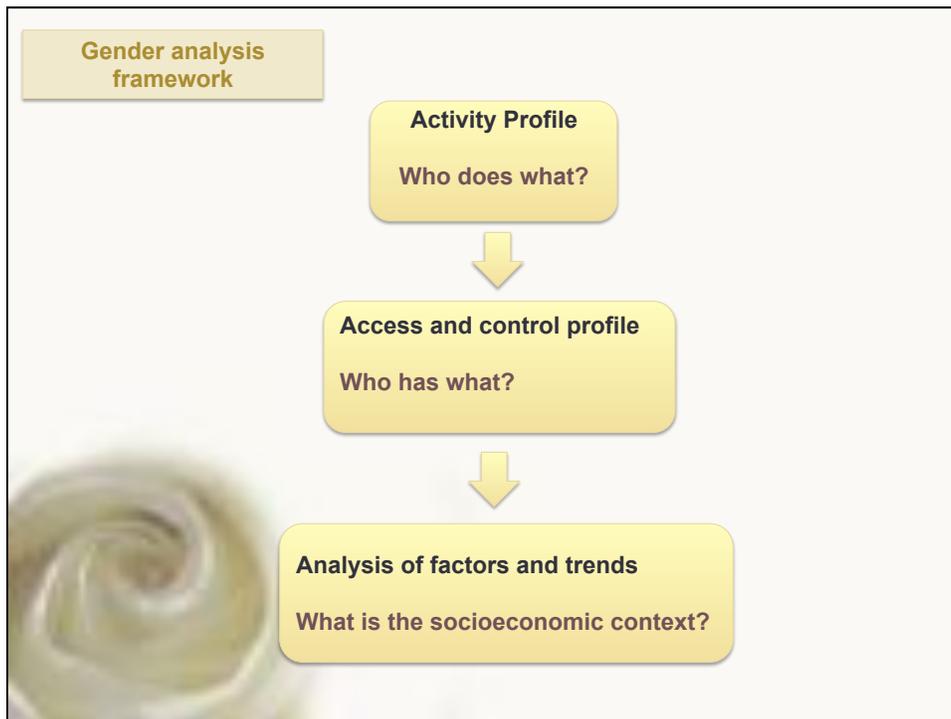
Ghana: Tilapia

Zimbabwe: Tilapia

Honduras: Shrimp, Tilapia, Spiny Lobster

Peru: Anchovy, Trout

Uganda: African cat fish, Tilapia, Nile perch



Findings

- Women play **non-significant** roles in capture fishery production
- Depends on religion and culture
- Contribution in aquaculture is great
- Women's role in fish marketing: handling, grading, packing and retailing is very important for timely distribution of the catch locally
- Female roles were centred on household activities which take them away from direct income generation and access to the capital assets.

- Less educated, resource poor women are concentrated in the low value end of the value chains
- High end of the value chains is mainly handled by the resource rich males and limited number of educated, resourced owned females.
- Women’s engagement is less in modern value chains with few nodes than the traditional complex and lengthier value chains
- The departure of women from fisheries will adversely interfere with existence of the local fishing culture and industry

Table 1: Gender Analysis

Location & Fishery	Activity profile	Access & Control profile	Factors & Trends
Thailand: Sea Bass	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investment , pond construction, preparation & seeding – male 2. Feeding - 60% female 3. Care taking – 80% male 4. Harvesting – 90% male 5. Handling & Grading – 90% female 6. Distribution – 60% male & 40% female 7. Wholesaling 60% male 8. Retailing – 80% female 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both genders have equal access rights to resources & involve in decision making • Female intervention is common in marketing • Similar wages for both • Males play key roles in special activities that require male hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing trend in female involvement in value chains • Female roles centred in processing & marketing than production • Less concern or less respect for tradition, beliefs, values & norms which hinders female participation in fishery • Improved access to education & resources make more female participation in high ends of value chains

Location & Fishery	Activity profile	Access & Control profile	Factors & Trends
Vietnam: Pangasius	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investment , pond construction, preparation – male 2. Seeding – 40-50% female 3. Feeding & caretaking – small scale 75% female engaged; large scale hired male labor 4. Harvesting – 100% male; females as collectors 5. Wholesaling – 90% males; handling & grading mainly females 6. Retailing – 65% females; transportation & delivery mainly males 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female play important roles as fishing partners with males • Males associated with more visible, commercially-oriented, large or medium scale activities • female involvement is high in small-scale, subsistence and non-commercial sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing trend in female participation in value chain activities • Cultural beliefs make females away from harvesting & large scale fishing • Female roles are prominent in marketing & educated, wealthier females placed at higher ends of the value chain

Location & Fishery	Activity profile	Access & Control profile	Factors & Trends
Cambodia: Snakehead (pond/ cage culture)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pond preparation, fingerling collection & seeding: 75% males 2. Fish stocking: both males & females 3. Feeding: 60% female 4. Fertilizing: 55% males involve 5. Care taking: 100% females 6. Harvesting: 80% males considered as men's responsibility 7. Distribution: both males & females 8. Trading, processing, maintaining fishing gear & equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males have more access & control over resources • Less female participation in decision making & management • Marketing function is leading by females • Most of the female jobs are under paid • Unequal access to resources but micro credit schemes are more focus on females 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural beliefs make females away from fishing • participation of teenage children is common

Location & Fishery	Activity profile	Access & Control profile	Factors & Trends
Honduras :Shrimp	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pond preparing, seeding –mainly males 2. Feeding & care taking – commercial scale mainly males and small scale females 3. Harvesting – mainly males with female help on handling & grading 4. Distribution – commercial scale mainly males & small scale female involvement is high 5. Wholesaling – mainly males handled in large scale 6. Retailing – principally females 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both have similar access and control rights • Male roles are dominant in commercial scale while female play great participation in small scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both play significant roles in value chains • Increasing trend of educated & wealthier females own & manage fishery business

Location & Fishery	Activity profile	Access & Control profile	Factors & Trends
Peru: Anchovy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production – 100% males 2. Processing – large scale & mainly males involved 3. Wholesale & retail – small scale & in local markets mainly operate by females 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender division is unequally distributed through value chains • High degree of female participation in wholesaling & retailing • females have poor access to resources and low involvement in decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female involvement in value chains are poor & concentrate on low value ends • Female participation in distribution & marketing is high • Traditional beliefs & attitudes brings secondary social role for females

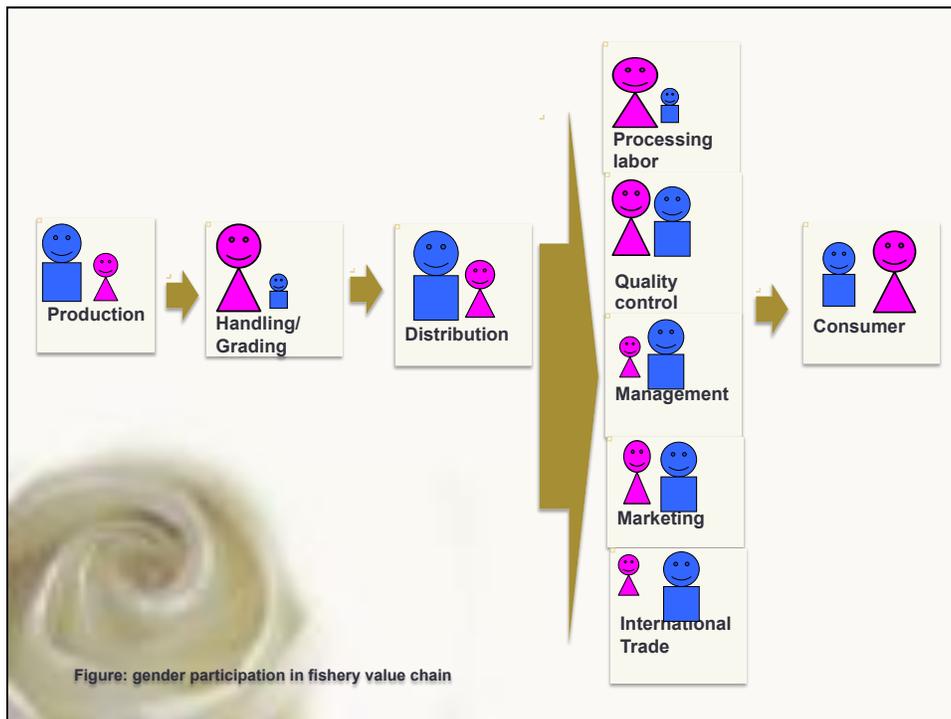
Location & Fishery	Activity profile	Access & Control profile	Factors & Trends
Kenya: Nile perch	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production – males invest in fishing boats & gear, & harvesting 2. Processing – females do small scale processing while males engage in commercial processing 3. Quality control – both males and females involve 4. Marketing – mainly females 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor access to resources is common for females due to social pressure • Less female participation in decision making & management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female participation in decision making, access to resources and engage in value chain activities poor and females concentrated at low value ends are most vulnerable

Location & Fishery	Activity profile	Access & Control profile	Factors & Trends
Uganda: Tilapia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pond/ cage construction, pond preparation & stocking – mainly by males 2. Feeding & sampling – both but female involvement is high 3. Harvesting – mainly males 4. Marketing – mainly males 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males have access to resources & education • Female roles are concentrated in marketing • Educated females play significant roles in high ends of value chains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female access to resources, decision making & management are poor • Female roles changing slowly

Table 2: Gender participation in value chain activities

	Asia	Africa	Latin America
Small-scale capture 1. Production	Male dominance; Female play supportive roles, shell fish collection	Rich & old fishers & female invest in boats & fishing gear, males as crew & female collect shell fish	Both males & females invest in boats, fishing gear, refrigeration & logistics, both engage in fishing, female collect shell fish
2. Supply & Trading	Males invest and dominate; Female participation high in South East Asia	Men invest in logistics, both engage	Both engage and manage, female manage businesses are common
3. Processing	Female engagement is high in local smoke, dry & salted fish processing; Female labour in processing plants	Female invest & engage in local processing of smoke & dry fish	Female invest in local processing & processing of smoke & dry fish for local markets
4. Retailing	Female dominant in local retailing	Female retailers common in local markets & as individual retailers	Both males & females operate retail shops or act as individual retailers
5. Wholesaling	Male dominate & manage wholesale markets; High female participation in South East Asia	Males manage & both engage in functioning	Males manage wholesale markets; but female participation is high
6. Admin, HRM, Finance	Both genders; more	No separate designated	Both engage in record

	Asia	Africa	Latin America
Small-scale Aquaculture 1. Production	Investment, ownership belongs to males; pond construction & initial preparations handled by men while females responsible for caretaking & feeding; harvesting mainly men & women presence is common in South East Asia; handling, grading & other supportive roles done females	Both males & females invest in fish farms, pond construction, initial work; harvesting mainly males & feeding, caretaking, handling & grading mainly done by females	Investment born by both wealthier males & females; pond construction, stocking, harvesting are mainly male roles & feed preparation, feeding & caretaking are female roles
2. Supply & trading	Same as small scale capture fishery	Same as small scale capture fishery	
3. Processing	Same as small scale capture fishery	Same as small scale capture fishery	
4. Retailing	Same as small scale capture fishery	Same as small scale capture fishery	
5. Wholesaling	Same as small scale capture fishery	Same as small scale capture fishery	
6. Admin, HRM, Finance	Same as small scale capture fishery	Same as small scale capture fishery	



Conclusions

- Gender roles differ – culture, values, attitudes & norms concerning resource access & control, mobility, type of technology involved, extent of commercialization & product
- Overview of the fisheries & aquaculture value chains & gender involvement – asset access & control is vital
- Female roles concerned more on lower levels of value chains having less access to resources & decision making
- Educated resource rich females concentrated on higher levels of value chains and enjoying better returns

- Deprived members have weak bargaining power, little control over resources & prices ..more vulnerable
- Males invest in production, distribution, logistics, commercial processing & control markets
- Females invest on local processing & retailing
- female engagement is less in modern value chains with few nodes than the traditional complex and lengthier value chains
- Departure of women from fisheries will adversely interfere with existence of the local fishing culture and industry

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