

An Economic Perspective on Integrating Gender Issues in Fisheries Management and Development in the Pacific Islands

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Background & Aims

- Gender policies not yet on the development agenda despite men and women having different impacts on economy, environment, fisheries and society
- Articulate new ways to manage marine and fisheries resources for sustainable outcomes
- Argue need for deeper insight into the role of women through an economic perspective
 - Focus on maritime regions of the Pacific

Study Question & Methods

- How do the different roles contribute to the economic performance of the sector?
- Gender issues are cross-cutting and multi-dimensional impinging on activities and performances of several sectors simultaneously
- Multidisciplinary approach within the context of NIE – to understand economic performance of informal institutions
- Literature reviews and case studies

Key issues in Pacific Island fisheries

- Fisheries – important source of livelihood and income
- Two categories of fisheries – women play key roles
- Overfishing & loss of biodiversity



Addressing over-exploitation

- A number of Projects - to control fishing pressure and protect biodiversity
- Need to recognize integrated nature of fisheries
 - EBM, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)
 - Need for cooperation- individuals, groups, nations – to act on “good faith”
- Good governance/institutions – contributes to social stability, resource sustainability and hence support economic development

Fisheries management.....

- Good fisheries management outcomes – strong moral and ethical component (McIlgorm, 2000)
- Understanding human behavior and incentives (Hilborn, 2007)

Ethical considerations

- Good governance – rules and institutions to bring about required behavior and attitudinal change
- Ethics – rules of behavior governing decision-making , having concern for others
- Values – what we learn during childhood

Capitalize on 'social capital' to reduce cost of management

- Articulate on an integrated approach to improve fisheries management
 - Changing people's behavior, attitude and action
 - Moral and social values in children
 - Early childhood development – learning environment
 - Empowering women in coastal communities
 - Marine stewardship

Individual action



Photo by Johnson Seeto, USP

- Marine stewardship – transformation of character (McIlgorm, 2000)
- Environmental education – to change behavior and attitude

Marine education and learning environment

- How to control human behavior and attitude towards the use and protection of the marine environment – ethical considerations and values to change the mindset towards voluntary action
- School and university curriculum
- Pacific Islands children – first exposure to marine environment

Children's learning environment



Cont'd



Children's learning

- Learning – process of acquiring knowledge, behavior, skills, and attitudes
- Early years are important for brain development, sets foundation for learning and life (Morrison 2008:39)
- “ A young plant can be planted, transplanted, pruned and bent this way or that, when it becomes a tree these processes are impossible” [John Amos Comenius (1592-1670)]

Women and Children



.....at the market place



Mothers have strong influence on children's lives



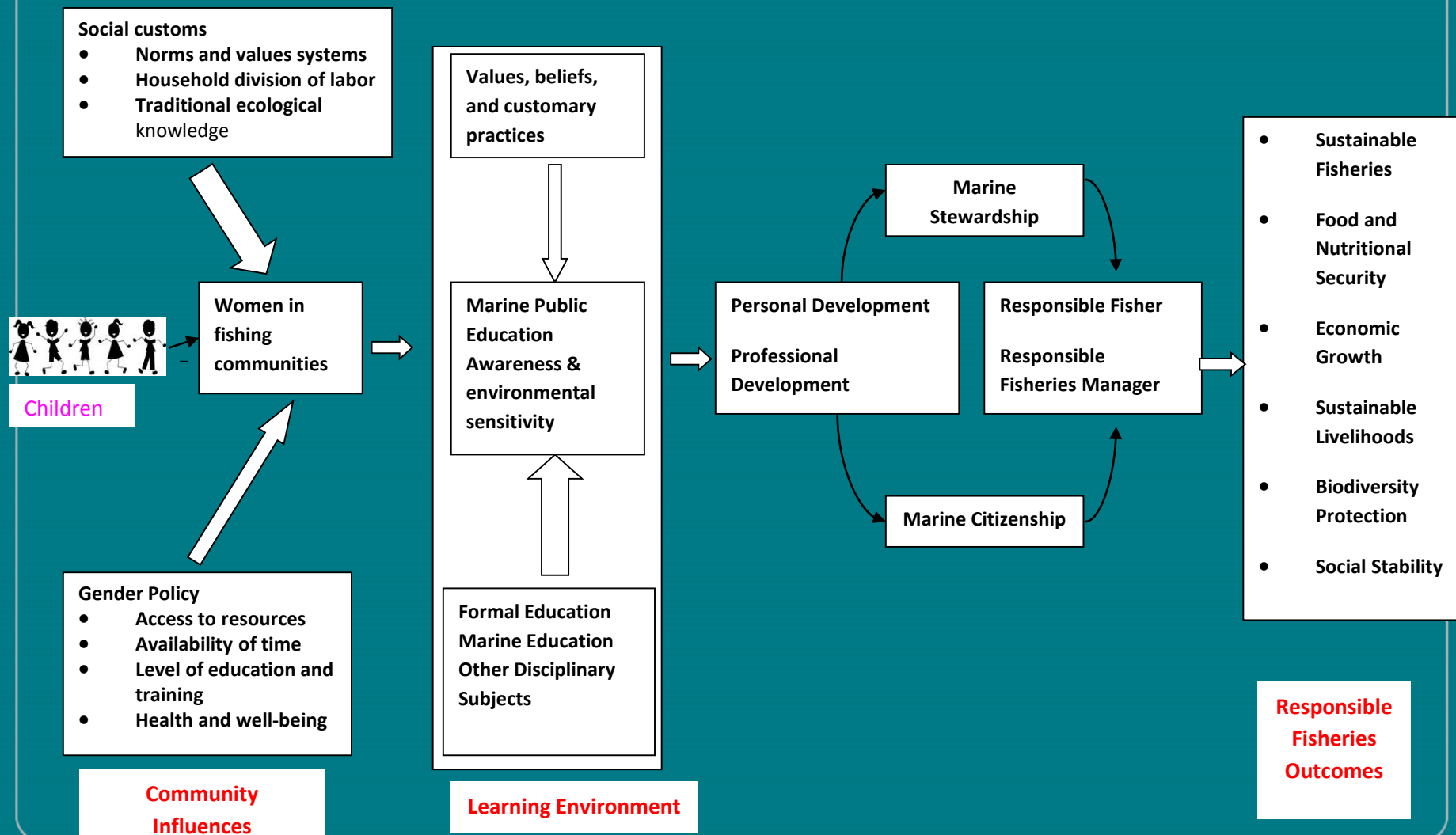
Fishing and related activities



Knowledge is transmitted through performance of daily tasks, observing, listening and imitating:

- Harvesting
- Processing
- Marketing
- Cooking
- Resource management

Conceptualizing the Role of Women in Supporting Marine Stewardship in Fishing Communities in the Pacific Islands



Subsistence & artisanal fishery

- Supply contributes to economic production
- Contribution to food and nutritional security
 - Development of rural economy: better health, reduced medical bill, self-reliant strategies

Optimizing resource benefits



- Need to increase effective supply of fish and fishery products –
- Raise consumption levels by proper handling, processing and storage
- (within the fisheries sector – women in marketing and processing)

Shore-based activities: Marketing and distribution

- Poor post-harvest, quality control, poor pricing
- Informal nature of the work does not reflect the rate of depletion, scarcity of production, unpaid nature of their labour
- Real value of coastal fisheries resources is not realized
- Potential for economic gain or current loss of value?



Observed market price distorted

- Need for cost & benefit analysis
- - seaweed in Fiji, Shell collection in Kiribati



Opportunities

- Valuation studies looking at costs and benefits of action and inaction (impacts) e.g. reflecting on – labour, production, savings, costs to economy
- Women are seen as key agents for change
- Affirmative policies to support women's education and training
- Empowerment of women to support their families and children

Constraints

- Methodological constraints for valuation of informal sector
- Gender issues are multi-dimensional & complex
- Mainstream fisheries development focused on bigger picture
- Lack of policy support and platforms for gender awareness & advocacy

Thank you for listening

- Questions?

