

The role of Women and their rights in Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Africa

Hoki Massaquoi*

* Sierra Leone Standards Bureau

Abstract

The role of Women and their rights in Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Africa. Generally speaking, the word "Gender" refers to the socially constructed roles and status of women and men, girls and boys, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. Thus, In 2008, it was estimated that 200 million people directly or indirectly were dependent on fisheries. The fisheries sector has long been considered a male domain, a sense of adventure and risk valued by men. Women's involvement in fisheries is more significant than often assumed or emphasized in Africa. According to estimates (BNP) women comprise 47% of the labour force in small-scale capture fisheries-related activities, pre- and post-harvesting work. Women are engaged in small-scale local fisheries, gleaning for shellfish, net repairs, fish processing and local marketing. Also, women are more actively engaged in inland fishing such as fishing ponds, lakes, streams and rivers. In Africa, very few women have the opportunity to upgrade their activities through training and improved technology which is the most important roles of women in the fish processing Industry. Also, Aquaculture is the fastest growing segment of the global agricultural or food production industry, and women are playing a leading role, especially in developing countries like Africa(example, Johanna from Namibia). So, What are women doing to cut down on poverty by half in 2015 in terms of Fisheries and Aquaculture development in Africa. If nothing, this is the time for action.