

STATUS OF WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN FISHERIES ALLIED ACTIVITIES IN SAURASHTRA REGION OF GUJARAT

R. A. KHILERI, S. R. LENDE, VIKAS, S. A. MULEY

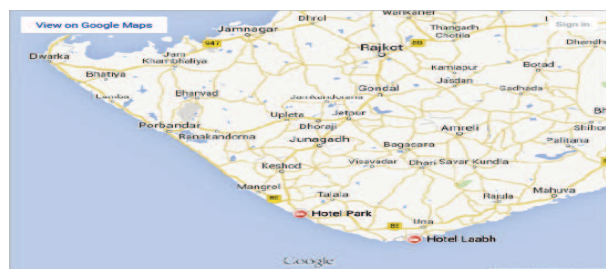
Abstract: Women play a major role in marketing of fishes. This may be a tradition evolved around the need for rest and relief for men folk after long spam of hard tail in water. The role of women is important in both maintaining family as well as fisheries related activity. In India especially in the Northern states women plays a key role in the domestic marketing of fishes. The present investigation was conducted to find out the status of women involvement in the fish marketing channel such pre processing, processing, drying and marketing along the Saurashtra coast and major fish markets of the state lies in this region. Among this Veraval, Porbandar and Mangrol are largest fish market in this region. Data collection was done using an standard questionnaire. The market channel contents involvements of women at different level like fish processing, wholesaler and retailers marketing etc. The present investigation reveals that the involvement of women's is maximum in fish marketing and fish processing sector rather than that drying sector. Finally it is concluded that marketing system is associated with a good employment generation for women while the main barrier of the development of the market are lack of infrastructure facility and poor market conditions.

Keywords: Fisheries Allied Activities, Gujarat, Saurashtra Region, Women Participation.

Introduction: The fact that women, despite the slow but emerging recognition of their silent contribution, still face stumbling blocks in their path towards development, makes this cry reverberated around the world. According to report of United Nation's though women perform 2/3 rd of the world's work but receive only 10% of the world's income and own only 1% of the total assets. About 0.5 million fisher households are consisting near the coastal region of India and a total of 3 million fisher folk inhabiting the coastal villages. The average number of sea going fishermen is 282 in per coastal village. Out of the 1.2 million fisher folk in post-harvest sector, women occupy a considerable proportion of more than 0.5 million (Sathiadhas et al., 1997). Majority of the labour force in the pre-processing and processing plants of shrimp are women. In Tamilnadu, women engage themselves in seaweed collection in addition to the traditional jobs of fish curing, marketing, net making and prawn seed collection, where the ratio of women to men is 4:1. While in case of Andhra Pradesh, the main occupation of women include collecting fish, and

molluscan shells in addition to their contribution in fish drying, curing, marketing, shrimp processing and net making. In West Bengal, fishermen spend only little time in actual fishing and engage themselves in net making, which in other states is dominated by women. In Maharashtra women play a major role in fish marketing and control the entire fisheries economy revolving around Mumbai. In Gujarat women mostly engaged in the activity such as handling, processing and local fish marketing (Ashaletha 2001). The present study was conducted to review the social status of women and role women in marine fisheries sector of Saurashtra region.

Materials and Methods: A standard questionnaire was prepared which was related to the general personal data of the respondent, their participation in fishing, processing, storage and marketing of fish, including education and social status. The questionnaires were administered to only female fisher individuals. The study covered the three main landing centre of saurashtra, Gujarat.



The random sampling selected of respondents from each of the fishing villages visited. The samples were

used as determinant of the role of women in fisheries activities. The Main sectors investigated can be

broken down into three broad areas economical, educational and sociological, with these areas significantly overlapping. Allowing an investigation which looks in to the how, where, why and why not the role of women in saurashtra fisheries (Ekundayo 1991). There were then two types of source for this study: key reports (State literature, the Fisheries Projects, Evaluation reports etc.) and key respondents (leaders from the fisheries institutions; fishing, processing industry trade associations & unions; fishing women’s group leaders etc.) The data collected were analysed inform of tables, percentages, figures, graphs such as bar charts and pie chart and also statistical analysis using Chi-square.

Results and Discussion:

Direct contribution of fisherwomen in fisheries sector: The role of fisherwomen in the post-harvest sector had been analyzed by many researchers (Madhu 1989). According to present investigation it was found that nearby 37.69 percent women are engaged in processing sector, while 31.15 percent are involved in local fish selling in market, and 11.92 percent are involved in drying section. According to survey it was found that women contribution in pre processing and processing sector is high as 26.00 and 37.69 percent, respectively (Table 1).

Sr. No.	Category	Total No.	Percentage
1	Pre-processing	130	10.00
2	Processing	490	37.69
3	Drying	155	11.92
4	Marketing	405	31.15
5	Other	120	9.23
Total		1300	100

Pre Processing: The contribution of female worker in pre-processing activities such as peeling, weighing, washing and gutting process is studied under present investigation. The findings of the regional survey (Table 2) suggested that the total contribution of women (58 %) is higher than that of male (41.66 %).

Region	Male	Female
Veraval	45	55
Mangrol	38	62
Porbander	42	58

Processing: The different age group wise contribution of women participation in processing related activity was conducted. It was concluded that the involvement of women worker is high in processing work like washing, grading and packaging etc., on the other hand men’s are involved in fish processing job like supervisor, manager, office works and other heavy works like loading and unloading of containers. Present investigation was done according to segregation of women in different age group; the findings suggested that the involvement of women worker in age group of 21- 40 years is more (50 %) than that other age group (Chart 1).

Studies from India demonstrate that migrant women between the ages of 15-30 are the preferred labourers in fish processing factories, which are mostly export-

oriented and exploitative (Siason et al. 2002). These women are generally socioeconomically poor and have had previous work experience (Nag and Nag 2007). Pereira (2002) was investigated that In Latin American processing companies, women are involved in filleting, selection of raw materials, classification of species, gutting, heading, labelling, packing and cleaning in general. These are all activities that require meticulous vision and require smaller hands. This is in conformity with the present study.

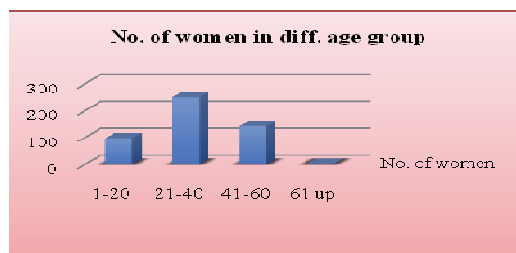


Chart 1: Number of women in different age group in processing section

Drying: According to the result obtain from present investigation the involvement of women in fish drying is comparatively less. Because women are partly perform these work for consumption in off season when fishing is totally ban or for local consumption, not for commercial basis. Even though some women are worked in the fish drying plants but the ration of the women compared with male is very less. Drying of the fishes is mainly done by using

various methods such as sun drying, salting, and smoking. Result obtained through survey of present investigation it was found that that 47 percent woman engaged in sun drying, 30 percent in salting and 23 percent in smoking (chart 2).

The findings of present investigation is similar to that of work/ survey performed scientist Kolawole et al. (2010) In Lagos State, Nigeria, women use trade triangle processing techniques such as sun drying, smoking and salting to preserve harvested fish and ensure value addition. Fifty percent of women surveyed had fish processing and preservation as their sole occupation while 47.5% reported having another occupation in addition to engaging in fish processing and preserving. According to Medard et al. (2002) methods vary partly because of taste and preference among consumers, and partly because of the level of patience demanded in the process, and the labour and capital investments required.

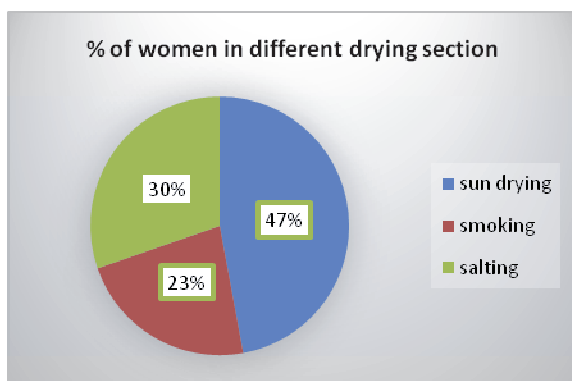


Chart 2: comparison the percentage of women in different drying section

Marketing: The local fish market is totally dominated by women as their involvement in fish

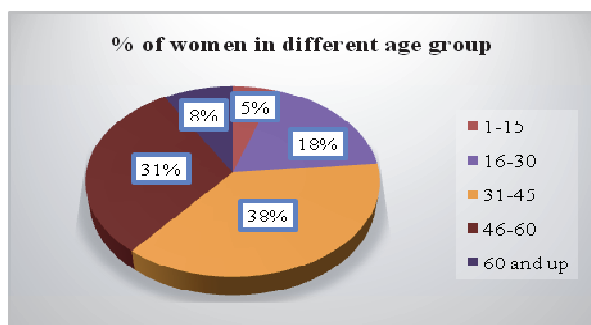


Chart 3: Comparison the percentage of women in different age group

market is related with the activities like retailing and wholesaling. As wholesalers, they purchase fish in bulk from fisherman or from fish processor and sell it to retailers. As retailers, women purchase their fish from wholesalers and transport it to their selling points. Women who sell fresh fish deal in small quantities near the landing centre, as they have no quick transport means. Fresh fish traded at the landing centre is less damaged and requires less cost, time, and labour as there is no processing involved. It requires good business arrangements with the fishers. It also requires sufficient financial resources to be able to pay the same or higher prices offered by factory traders. These are challenges for women. In fisher families, the role of women can be crucial in fish marketing as they are often the sole distributors of fish, meaning the fisher is dependent on the woman to convert the fish into money to buy other food and various necessities. Present investigation was done according to segregation of women in different age group; in the comparison of different age group we found that the women worker in age group 31-45 are more (38%) than that other age group (chart 3).

The findings of present investigation are similar to that of work performed by De Silva (2011). In fisher families, the role of women can be crucial in fish marketing as they are often the sole distributors of fish, meaning the fisher is dependent on the woman to convert the fish into money to buy other food and various necessities. Very few businesswomen have engaged in the international fish trade, as men mostly dominate this section of the value chain.





Figure A-F: A view of direct involvement of fisherwomen in fisheries sector in Saurashtra region

Indirect contribution of fisherwomen in marine sector: The woman performs dual work in maintaining family as well as fisheries related activity. The responsibility on the women's shoulders is double when compared with male. Women have to perform household management-food, childcare, education, health, sanitation and financial management. Apart from routine work from household activities some women are running petty shops, selling different inputs needed for fishing and other household articles. Also women run small mobile units for selling of breakfast and snacks to fisherman on the landing centre. This indirect contribution of fisher women is highly appreciable.

Conclusion: The depth analysis through present investigation in Saurashtra region of Gujarat concluded that it is important to promote women as social actors with the potential to improve their family situation, communities and fisheries. Also these involvements of women in fish allied activity not only helped to preserve the way of life of artisanal fishing communities but also the survival of the fishing communities possible. Finally it is concluded that marketing system is associated with a good employment generation for women while the main barrier of the sustainable development of the market are lack of infrastructure facilities and poor market conditions.

Reference:

1. Ashaletha, S., Ramachandran, C., Immanuel, S., Diwan, A.D. and Sathiadhas, R (2000) Changing Roles of Fisher Women of India Issues and Perspectives
2. De Silva, DAM (2011). Faces of Women in Global Fishery Value Chains: Female Involvement, Impact and Importance in the Fisheries of Developed and Developing Countries. NORAD/FAO Value Chain Project, Food and Agriculture Organization.
3. Ekundayo (1991). Impact of wornen fish monger on commercial fish handling and Marketing in Kainji Lake Basin. NIFFR. Annual Report pp.205-211. Fisheries, p. 21- 43, Indian Society of Fish. Professionals, India.
4. Kolawole O.D, A.F. Awujola, and S.B. Williams (2010). Indigenous fish processing and preservation practices amongst women in Southwestern Nigeria. Ind. J. Tra. Knowledge 9 (4): 668-672.
5. Madhu, S.R., 1989. Fisherwomen of the Bay of Bengal, Naga, 12(2):3-5.
6. Medard. M., F. Sobu, T. Ngatunga, and S. Chirwa (2002). Women and gender participation in the fisheries sector in Lake Victoria. In: Global Symposium on Women in Fisheries, Williams, M.J., N.H. Chao, P.S. Choo, K. Matics, M.C. Nandeesh, M. Shariff, I. Siason, and J.M.C. Wong (eds.), World Fish Center, Malaysia.
7. Nag, P.K. and A. Nag (2007). Hazards and health complaints associated with fish processing activities in India: Evaluation of a low-cost intervention. Int. J. Indu. Ergonomics 37: 125-132.
8. Pereira, C. (2002). An International Quarterly: The Status of Women in the Developing World Arien Mack, Editor Volume 69, No. 3: 781-804.
9. Sathiadhas, R., R. Reghu and Sheela Immanuel. 1997. Human resource utilisation, productivity and earnings in Indian marine fisheries. Sea Food Export Journal. XXX (4):51-55.
10. Siason, I. & Tech, E. & Matics, K.I. & Choo, P.S. & Shariff, M. & Heruwati, E.S. & Susilowati, T. & Miki, N. & Shelly, A.B. & Rajabharshi, K.G. & Ranjit, R. & Siriwardena, P.P.G.N. & Nandeesh, M.C. &, 2002. "Women in fisheries in Asia," Working Papers, The WorldFish Center, number 36247, October
11. .

R. A. Khileri/ S. R. Lende/ Vikas /S. A. Muley
 College of fisheries/ Junagadh Agricultural University/ Veraval/ Gujarat
 central Institute of Fisheries Education/Versova/Mumbai
 Nagpur veterinary college/Nagpur/ rckhileri@gmail.com