

An assessment of women's participation in aquaculture in southwest region of Bangladesh

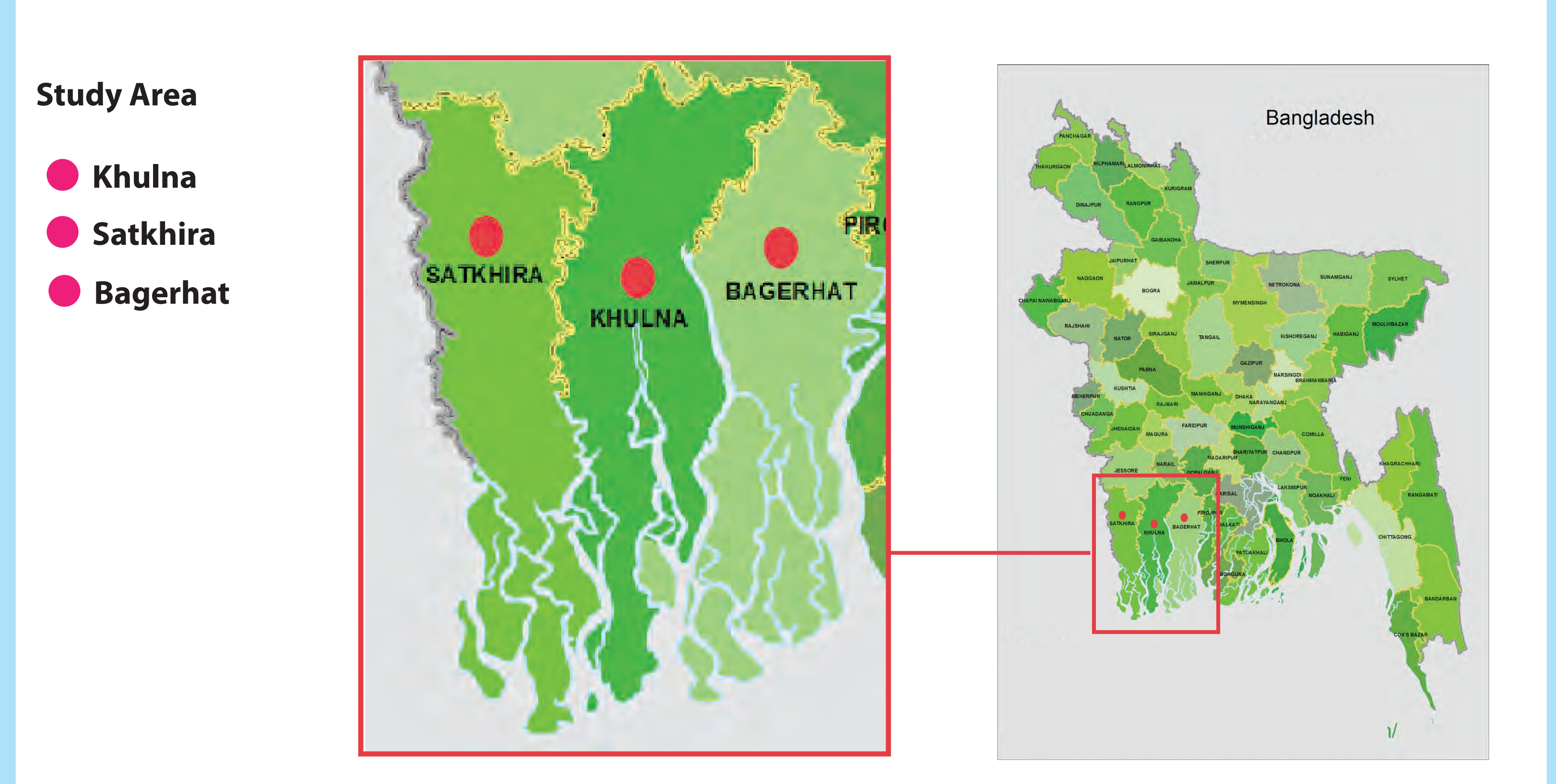
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INTRODUCTION

Aquaculture has an important role in the income generation and poverty alleviation as well as household nutrition of rural people in Bangladesh. Rural women in south-west Bangladesh are now playing a substantial role in aquaculture, taking part actively in all range of activities related to aquaculture production. Although being active in aquaculture, their role is not often acknowledged and documented. The purpose of the present study is to assess the level of their participation in aquaculture production activities in some selected areas of south-west Bangladesh.

METHODOLOGY

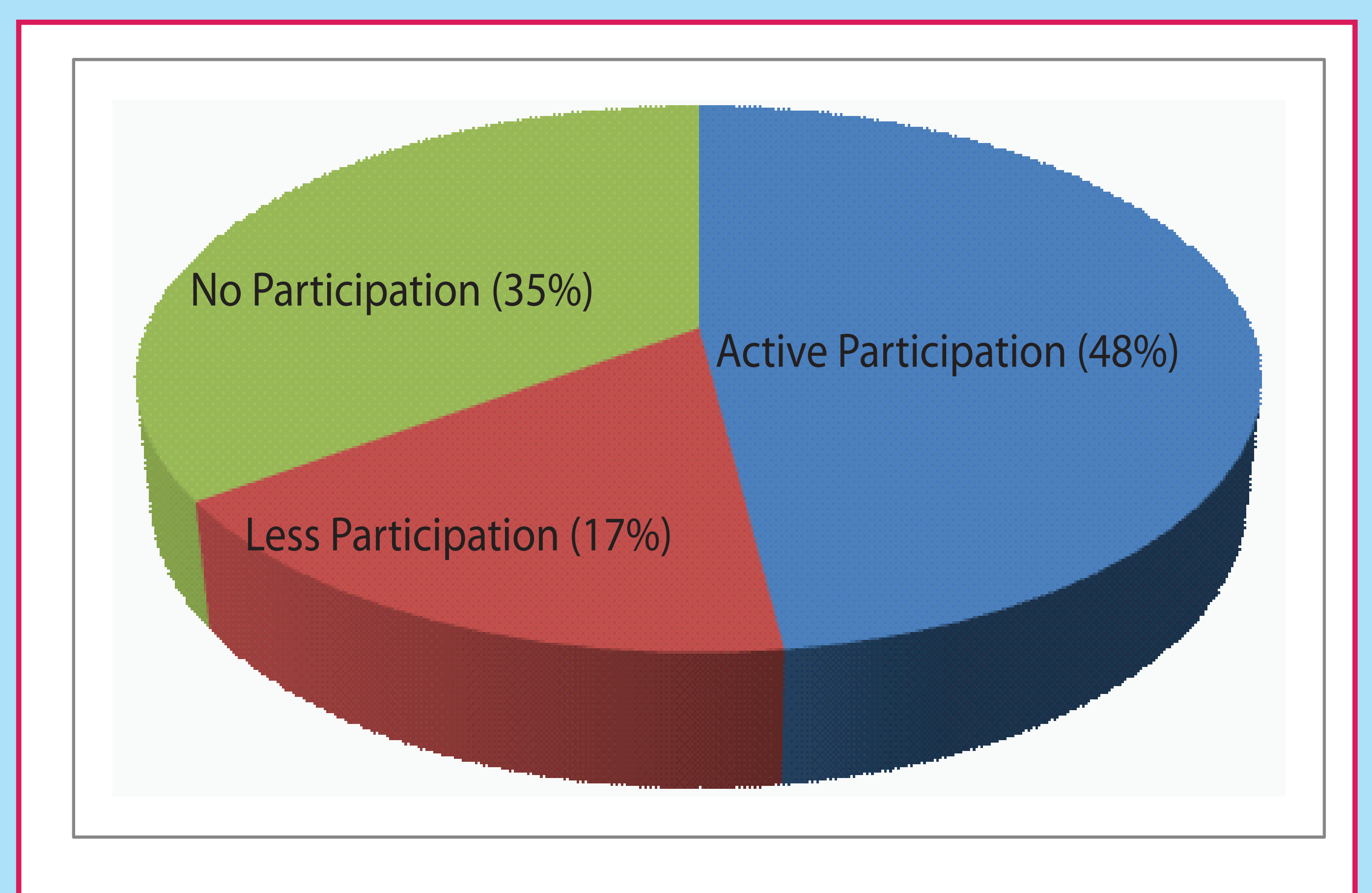
- Direct observation
- Household Survey (Questionnaire survey)
- Focus group discussion (FGD)
- Key informants interview (KII)



RESULTS

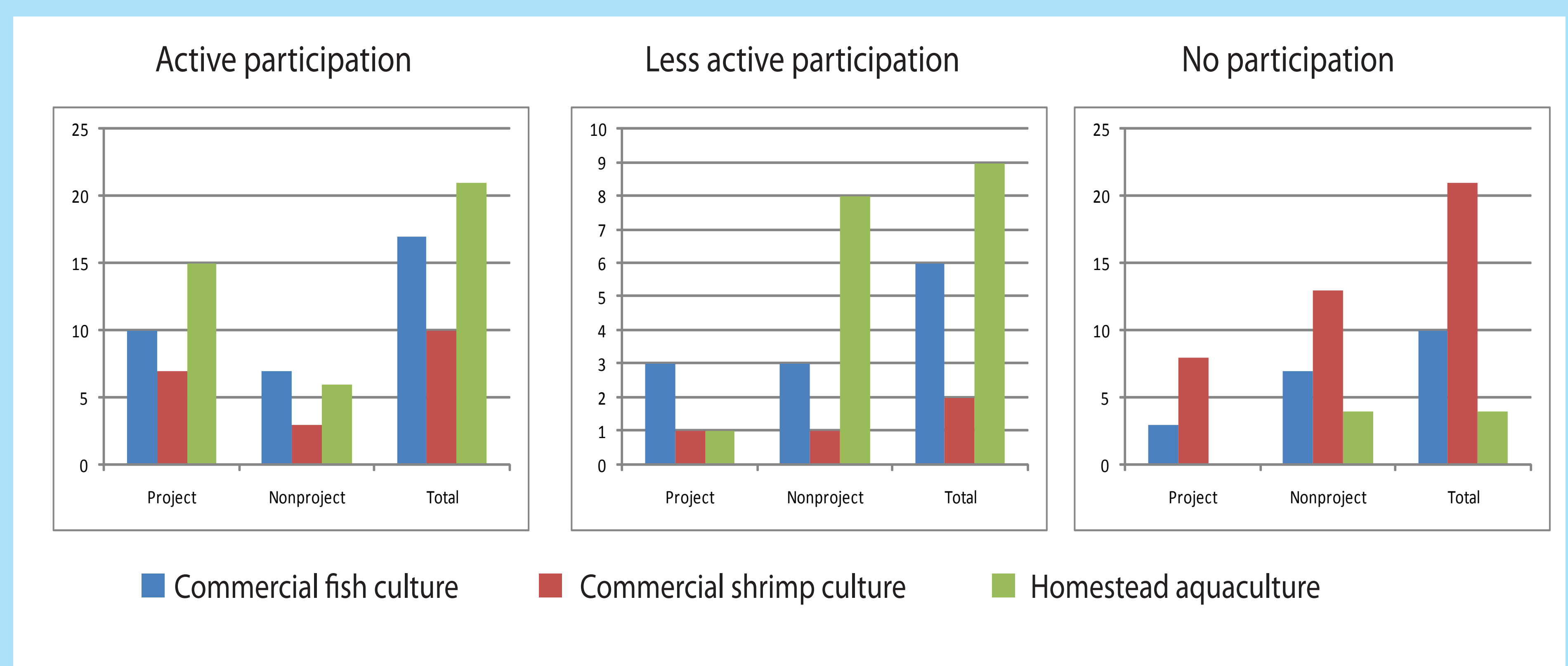
1 Involvement in aquaculture

The study reveals that women in 65% households were involved in aquaculture along with their male counterparts, among them 48% played active role in aquaculture production and management activities.

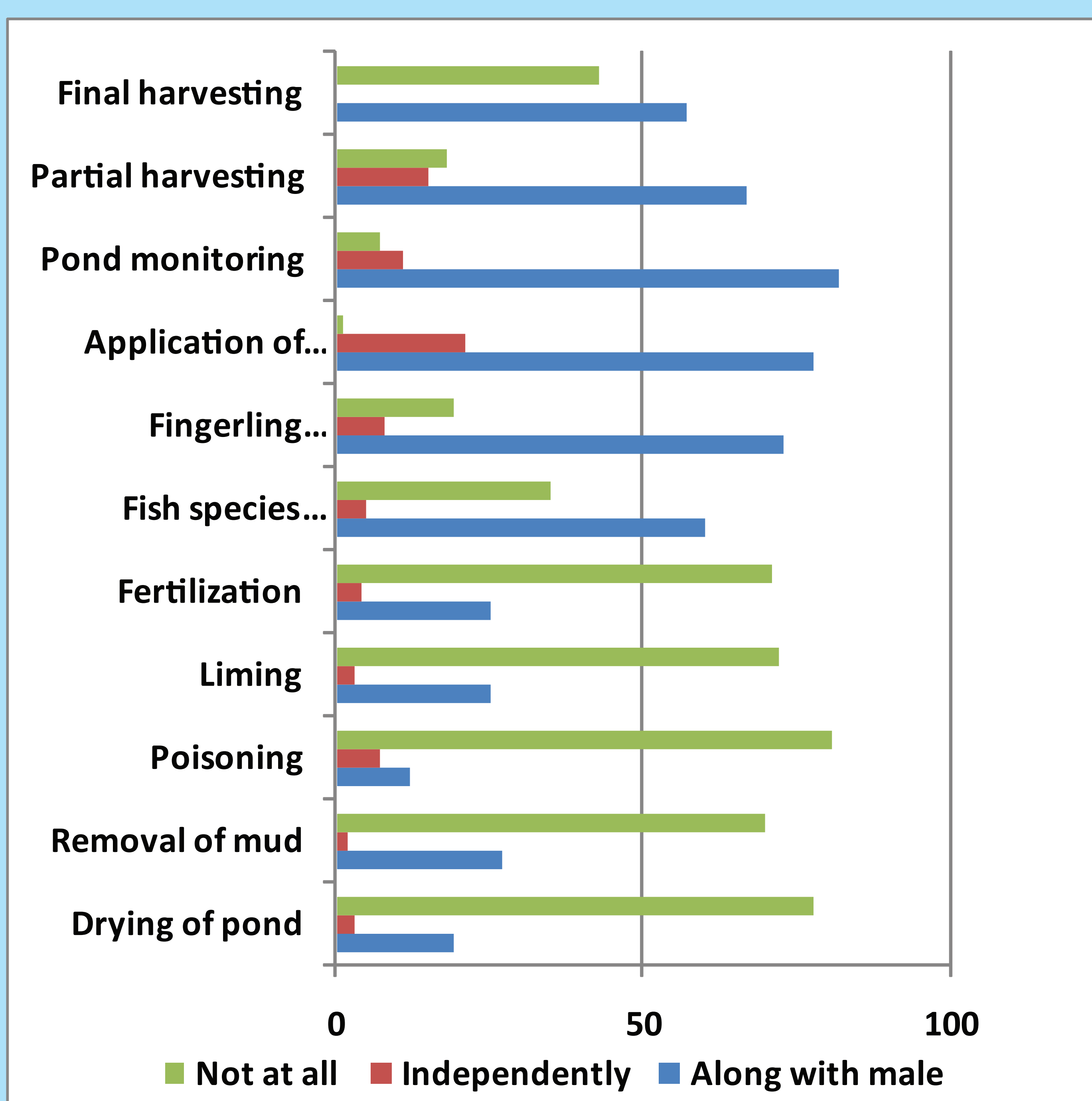


2 Participation in different types of aquaculture

The women participation was observed to vary with types of aquaculture and the inclusion in project. Women were more involved in activities of homestead aquaculture (30%) than that of commercial fish (23%) and shrimp culture (12%).



3 Participation in different activities of aquaculture



4 Factors influencing the participation

Factors	Influence
Family size	+
Pond size	+
Membership of Cooperative	+
Training received	+
Pond distance from homestead	-

5 Factors hindering women's participation in aquaculture

Socio-cultural Constraints

- Lack of decision making power
- Social insecurity
- Dominancy of male
- lack of access to markets
- Lack of information and networks
- Congenital custom
- Restriction of mobility
- Religious misinterpretation

Practical Constraints

- Lack of time
- Limited access to quality inputs
- Inaccessibility to credit

Knowledge Constraints

- Lack of education and skills
- Limited access to training
- Lack of awareness
- Inaccessibility to extension services

Conclusion

Education, motivation, need-based training, credit facilities and access to quality inputs have the potential to increase women's participation in aquaculture production and management