



Introduction to Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Social Science Research

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GAF 101 Training-Workshop:
Gender Analysis in Aquaculture and Fisheries Social Science Research
8th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture & Fisheries (GAF8)
21-23 November 2022 in Kochi, Kerala, India.



Outline

- Why Social Science in Fisheries Research?
- Why Gender in Social Science Fisheries Research?



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Why Social Science in Fisheries Research?

Current picture in Fisheries Research



Biology

Economics

Other Social &
Behavioral Sciences

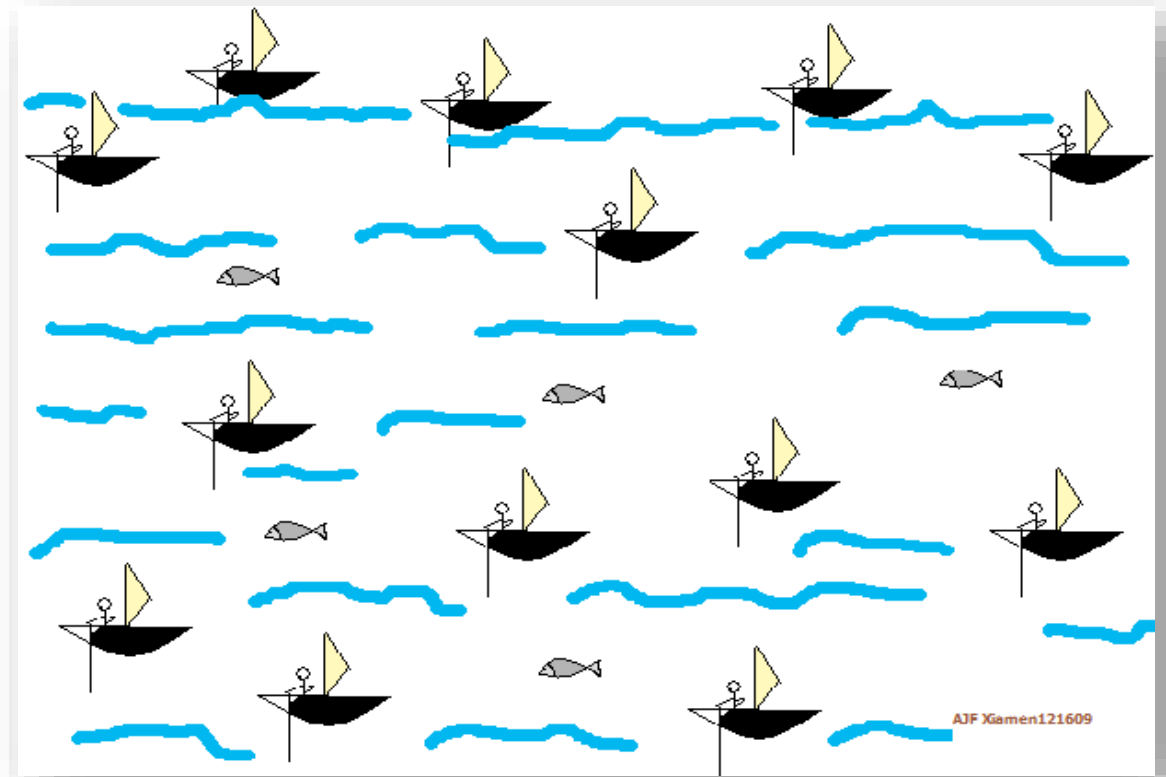


environmental degradation of coastal resources

poverty in the coastal areas

issues of food and nutrition security

low catches/incomes



Overexploitation of fisheries

intersectoral and intrasectoral conflict

Blue justice

More

We deal with wicked problems in fisheries!



Fisheries and coastal governance is confronted by problems that are particularly wicked

-Jentoft and Chuenpagdee, 2008

environmental degradation of coastal resources

Overexploitation of fisheries

poverty in the coastal areas

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Blue justice

low catches/incomes

More

We deal with wicked problems in fisheries!

- No simple solution may be found for wicked problems
- No single management tool will suffice.
- No certainties things will work as expected

environmental degradation of coastal resources

Overexploitation of fisheries

Need for interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary approach

low catches/incomes

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More

Importance of Social Science

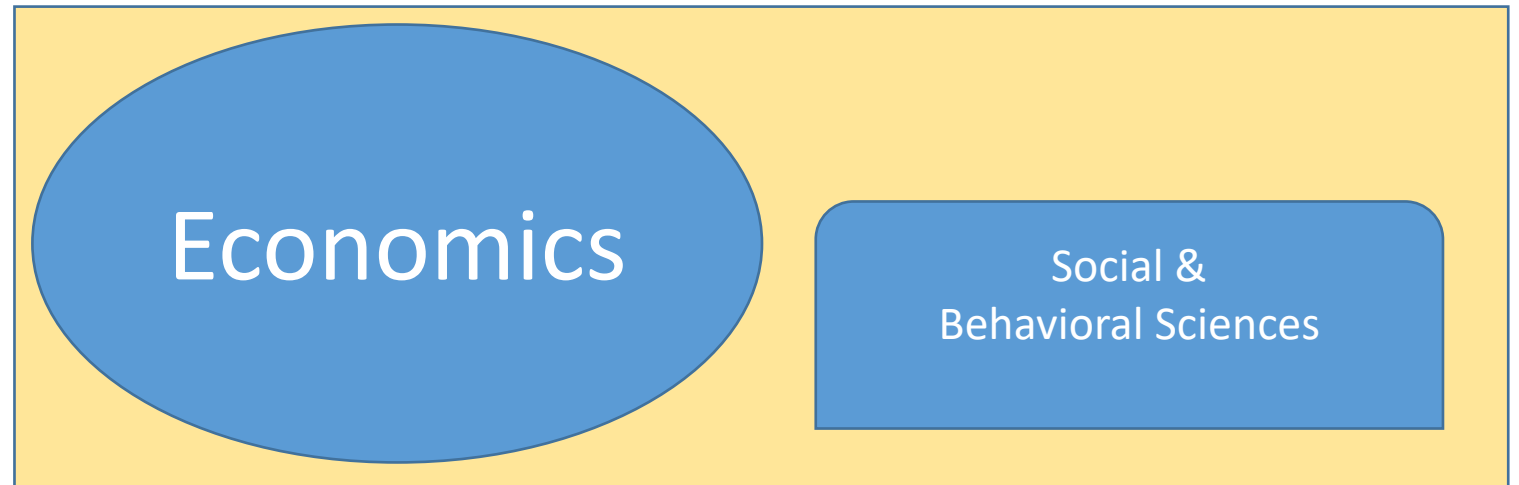
Biology

Ecology

Perspective

values, opinions, behaviors, and social contexts of particular populations.

why people do what they do, say what they say



But, Social Scientists are marginal.

Biology

Ecology

Few

Temporary

Economics

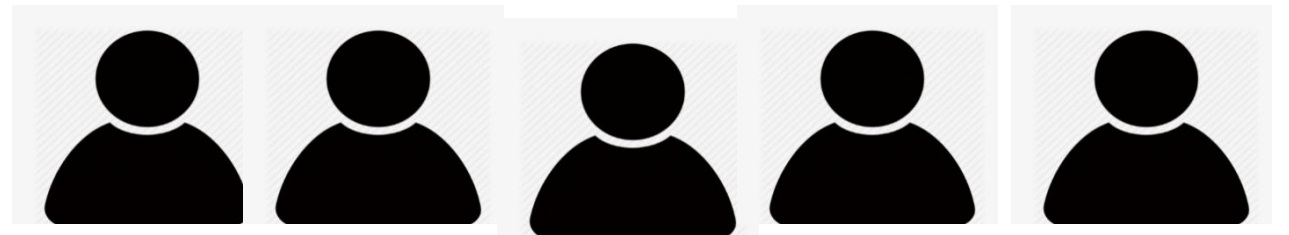
Social &
Behavioral Sciences

- environmental degradation of coastal resources
- poverty in the coastal areas
- issues of food and nutrition security
- low catches/incomes
- Overexploitation of fisheries
- intersectoral and intrasectoral conflict
- Blue justice
- More



Decades ago

- **environmental degradation of coastal resources**
- **poverty in the coastal areas**
- **issues of food and nutrition security**
- **low catches/incomes**
- **Overexploitation of fisheries**
- **intersectoral and intrasectoral conflict**
- **Blue justice**
- **More**



Now

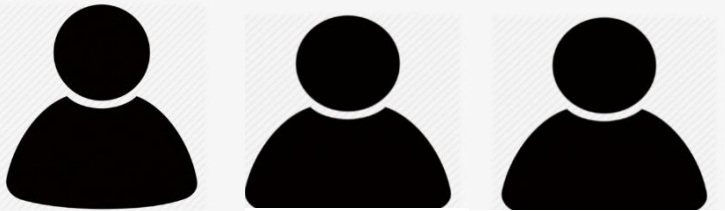
- environmental degradation of coastal resources
- poverty in the coastal areas

- environmental degradation of coastal resources

- Overexploitation of fisheries
- intersectoral and

conflict

Need for more
social science
fisheries researchers!



Decades ago



Now

Ideal Picture: The work to do!

Biology

Ecology

Economics

Social &
Behavioral
Sciences

Interdisciplinary/transdisciplinarity



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Why Gender in Social Science Fisheries Research?



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Why Gender in Social Science Fisheries Research?

- Aim: Gender equality through gender mainstreaming
- Gender issues in aquaculture and fisheries
- Ways to promote gender equality



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“Gender equality as the goal –
gender mainstreaming
as the strategy”



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- **Mainstreaming** a gender perspective is the *“process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality “*

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC 1997/2)



Gender equity and gender equality – what’s the difference?

- **Gender equity** -- “fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs.”
- **Gender equality** -- “enjoyment of equal rights, opportunities and treatment by men and women and by boys and girls in all spheres of life”.

Source: International Labour Organization. (2007). ABC of women workers’ rights and gender equality. Geneva: ILO, 221p



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Gender Equality

- Five main components:
 - **Rights** - same rights, equal before the law
 - **Opportunities** - Neither men nor women should face any barriers to learning, working, or participating in politics, the community or family
 - **Value** - contributions to the family, society, and community should be valued equally, even though those contributions may be different.
 - **Situation and outcome** -to increase the choices of men and women
 - **Agency** - can claim through their actions and voice gender equality.



Gender inequality in the fisheries sector is influenced by a set of factors, which are as follows:

1. participation of women and men in fisheries subsectors
2. women's invisible work in the fisheries sector
3. women's participation in decision-making.



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Where are the Women and Men in the Aquaculture and Fisheries Sector?



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Fishing





Mending Nets

(Municipal gears)



Photos: AFerrer

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Mending Nets

(Commercial Fishing)





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Aquaculture



Fish cages



Fry gathering



Fishpond work



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Seaweed farming





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Fish processing

Photos: AFerrer

AIGF for GAF 101 Training-Workshop, GAF8



Fish Marketing



Photos: AFerrer

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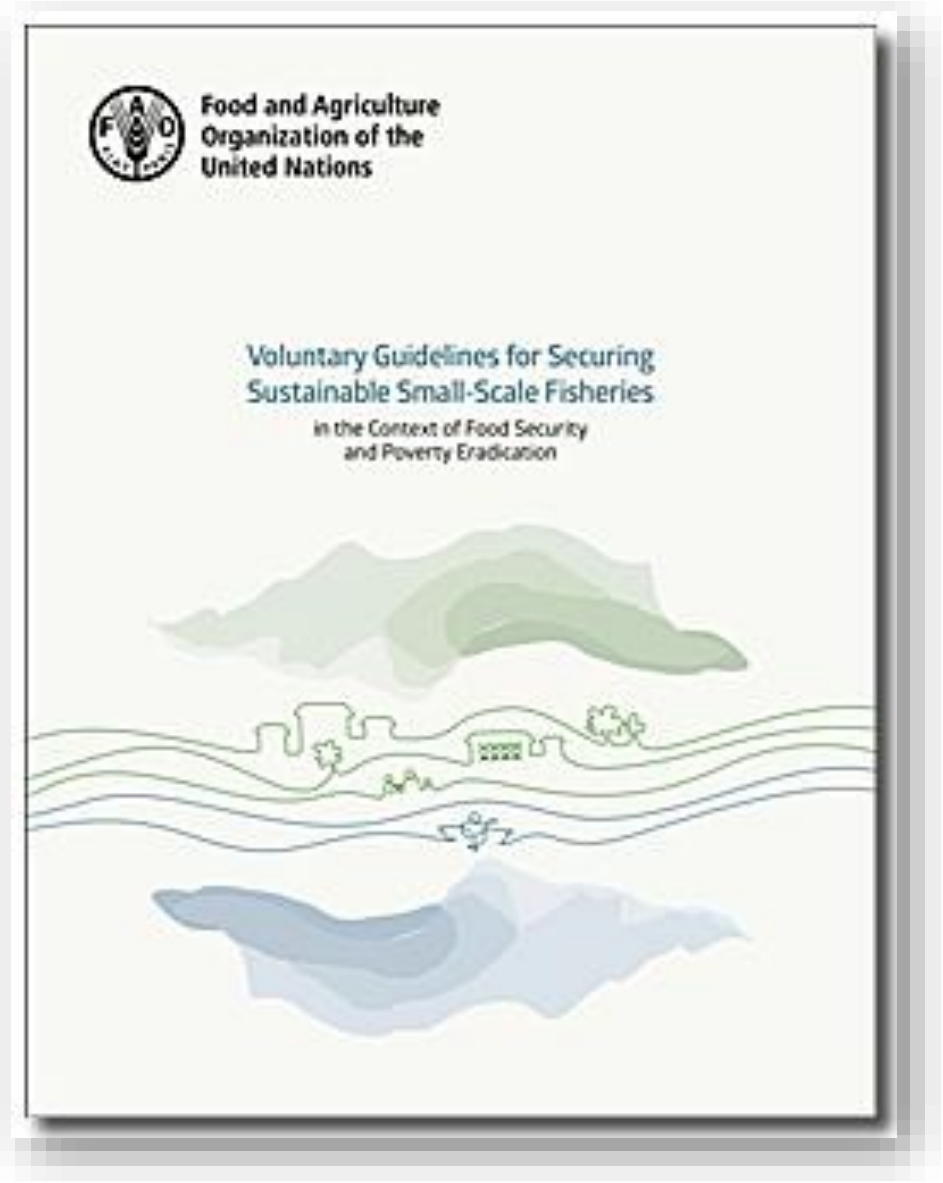
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- **International Call** to address gender issues in the fisheries sector

- Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)(FAO, 2014)

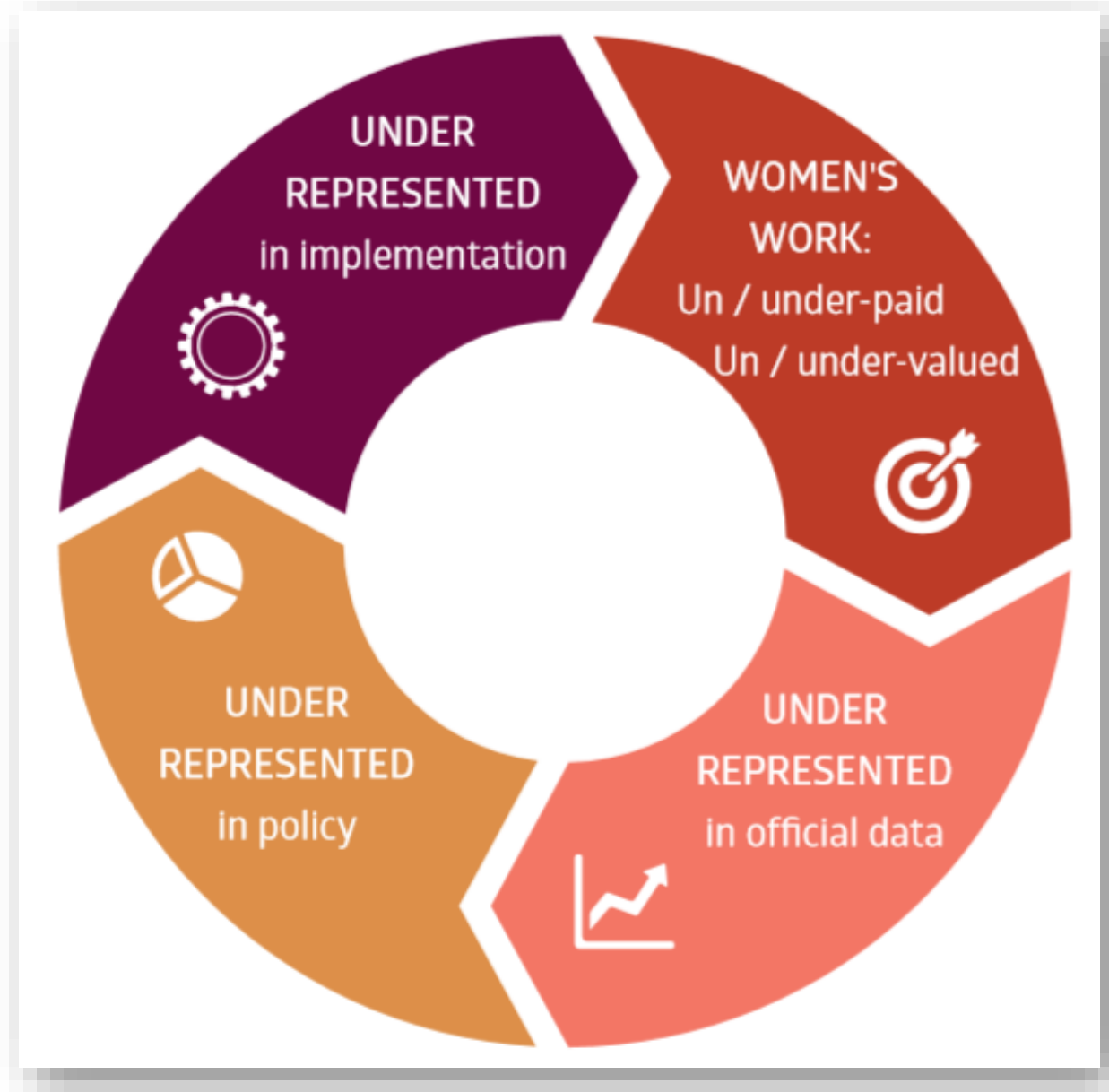
- *the first global fisheries policy to include a gender equality objective.*

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (UN, 1979),
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN, 2015),
- Committee on World Food Security (CFS).





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Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations , 2017;p5.

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Women are still ignored, invisible and unrecognised (IU) --- Briceño-Lagos and Monfort, 2021



WorldFish (2010) Study: *Gender and fisheries: Do women support, complement or subsidize men's small-scale fishing activities?*

Three Key Messages

1. Women's involvement in fisheries is **more significant than often assumed**.
2. Formal **statistics rarely reveal the extent and nature of the essential contribution of women** to men's pursuit of fisheries as a livelihood in many developing countries.
3. There are myriad ways in which **women support, complement or subsidize men's** fishing efforts.



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<https://earthjournalism.net/stories/the-unseen-women-fisherfolk-of-zambales-in-the-philippines>

In the Philippines and around the world, women working in the fishing industry often go unnoticed, despite their critical role in supporting their families' livelihoods.



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How can research pay a better attention to the study of gender issues in the fisheries?



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Count women and make them visible

- *To make the invisible visible, **gender equality must be a stated program priority** in policy, **research**, and practice, by building expertise within key agencies.*
- ***Collection of fisheries data broken out by gender** allows trends and progress to be tracked.*



- How can research pay a better attention to the study of gender issues in the fisheries?



Viewpoint | [Published: 21 September 2021](#)

Linking social wellbeing and intersectionality to understand gender relations in dried fish value chains

[Madu Galappaththi](#) , [Andrea M. Collins](#), [Derek Armitage](#) & [Prateep Kumar Nayak](#)

[Maritime Studies](#) **20**, 355–370 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

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A research on dried fish value chains with a focus on **gender and intersectionality, governance, and social wellbeing**, whose goal is to bring women's lived experiences within the fishing sector to the centre of research to help to fill some of the gaps in the knowledge.



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Research gaps and limitations

- important gaps exist
- Lack of gender-disaggregated data and oversight
- Linkages to broader issues such as social injustices, vulnerabilities, and marginalization

How can research pay a better attention to the study of gender issues in fisheries

SpringerLink

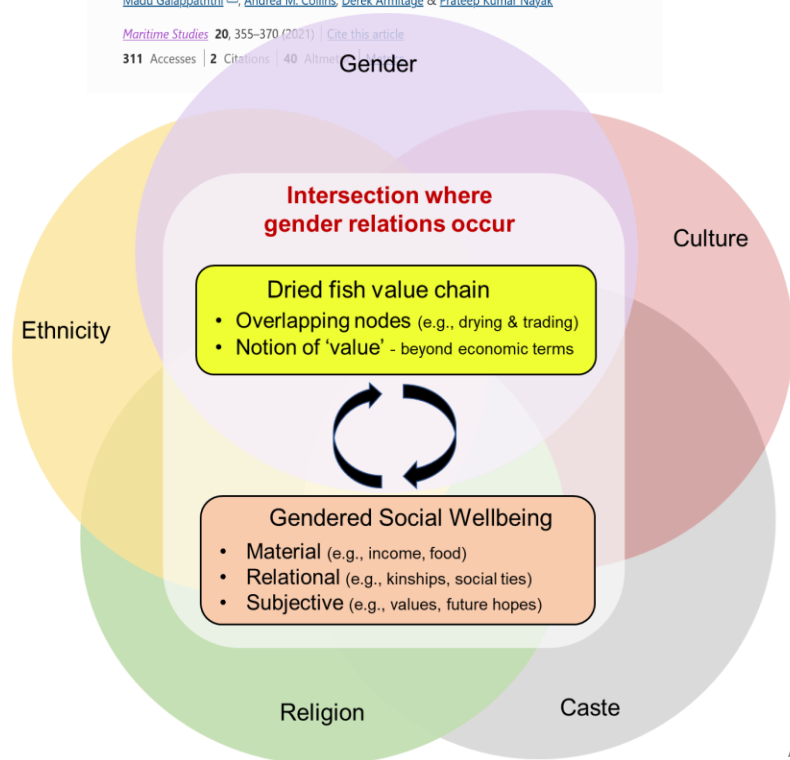
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Frameworks and approaches

• **Integrated frameworks and approaches** that help broaden the study scope and advance thinking

• **Intersectionality:** Brings attention to how gender overlaps with other societal structures of power and oppression such as ethnicity, marital status, and age

• **'Thick descriptions** of gendered experiences



- How can research pay a better attention to the study of gender issues in the country?



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- Local perspectives and understandings
 - Aiming to bring women's and men's lived experiences and struggles to the centre of research
 - Transdisciplinary approaches



Ways Forward

Galappaththi et al 2021

1. Address the pertinent and important gaps in the current body of knowledge in relation to gender inequities in fisheries;
2. Explore new and integrated frameworks to broaden the conceptual and analytical scope of study such as the intersectional lens;
3. Integrate local perspectives and understandings to help identify entry points to catalyze meaningful change and build forward better.



Ways Forward

4. Disaggregate fisheries and aquaculture statistics by sex and obtain qualitative information on the situation of women and men.
5. Move beyond the increasingly recognized reality that 'women do fish'. Focus on women and men's fishing practices.
6. More studies focusing on the value of the contribution of men and women in the fisheries and aquaculture.



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Sixth Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF6), Bangkok, Thailand (2016)

7. More studies on

- 1) violence against women
- 2) fish processing and post harvest
- 3) impacts on women of changes in resources and climate;
- 4) linkages between fisheries, aquaculture and agriculture,
- 5) household impacts of women's success in technology adoption,
- 6) how to transform gender relationships and norms,
- 7) the effect of global processes on gender relations in the fish sectors.



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Thank you.