



Dr M.C. Nandeesha
The Man Who Brought
Gender Awareness
to the Asian Fisheries Society

Meryl J Williams

Honorary Life Member, AFS

Dr M.C. Nandeeshha [1957-2012]

- A brief professional biography
- Impact on AFS gender awareness
- His gender approach as revealed
 - In 3 publications
 - From my personal experience and observations



Dr M.C. Nandeeshha, 1996, Phnom Penh, Women in Fisheries in Indo-China Countries

- Lesson's learned from a visionary's life

Brief professional biography

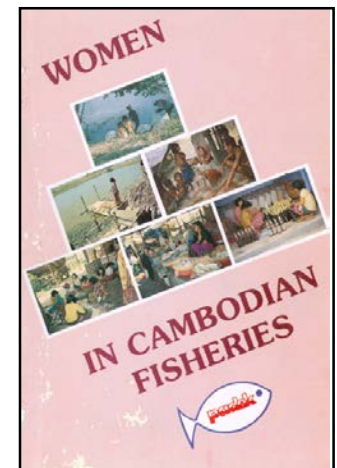
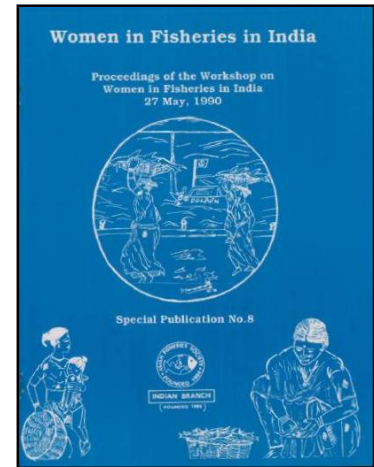


- **1985-92:** Ass. Prof, Dept of Aquaculture, Coll. Fisheries, Mangalore, **India**
- **1992-97:** Fisheries Adviser, Partnership for Development in Kampuchea (Padek), **Cambodia**
- **1998-2000:** R&D Dissemination Advisor. LIFE (Locally Intensified Farming Enterprise) Project, CARE **Bangladesh**
- **2000-01:** Project Coordinator, GOLDA (Greater Options for Local Development through Aquaculture) Project, CARE **Bangladesh**
- **2001-2008:** Professor and Department-in-Charge , College of Fisheries, Central Agricultural University, Tripura State. **India**
- **2008-2010:** Adviser and international consultant – FAO, NACA, IFAD, etc
- **2010-2012:** Dean, Fisheries Coll. & Research Institute , Tamil Nadu, **India**

- **Also:** chair/board member WAS, Aquaculture without Frontiers, AFS, AFSIB, etc

Impact on AFS gender awareness

- 1990. Women in Fisheries in India, AFSIB
- 1994. Women in Cambodian Fisheries
- 1995. 4AFF photo competition (Beijing)
- 1996. Women in Fisheries in Indo-China countries
- 1998. 5AFF WIF Asia (Chiang Mai) + photo comp
- 2001. 6AFF WIF Global (Kaohsiung) + photo comp
- 2004. 7AFF GAF (Penang)
- 2007. 8AFF GAF2 (Kochi)
- 2011. 9AFAF GAF3 (Shanghai)



Impact on AFS Gender Awareness



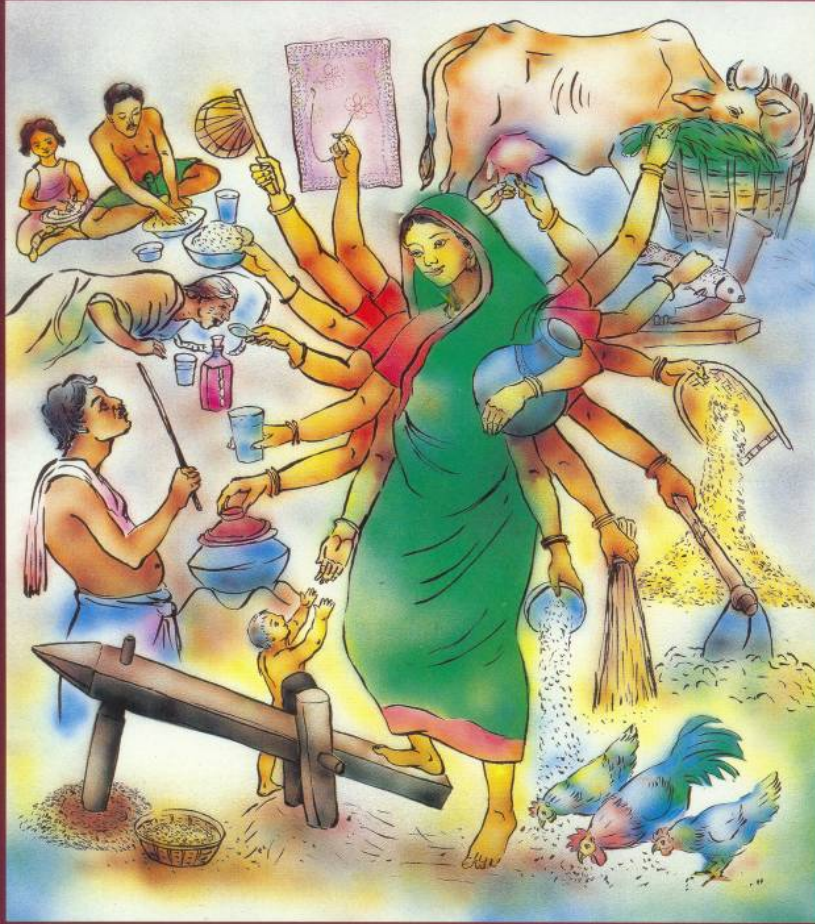
1998, 5AFF Chiang Mai: Dr M.C. Nandeeshha gives an opening address



1998, 5AFF Chiang Mai: presenter, Prof Dato Shariff (AFS Pres), Dr M.C. Nandeeshha at WIF photo exhibition

- Introduced women in fisheries thru a photo comp
- Brought in outside partners (Padek, CARE, etc)
- Regular symposia in Asian Fish. and Aqua. Forums
 - First and so far only fisheries professional society to do this
- Publications of papers from symposia

আমার বউ MY WIFE



কাজ করে না DOES NOT WORK

অঙ্কন এবং স্বত্বাধিকারী
এনজেলা গোমেজ
বাঁচতে শেখা
যশোর, বাংলাদেশ

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কেয়ার-বাংলাদেশ

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Women in Fisheries in India

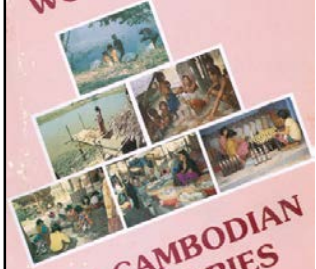
Proceedings of the Workshop on
Women in Fisheries in India
27 May, 1990



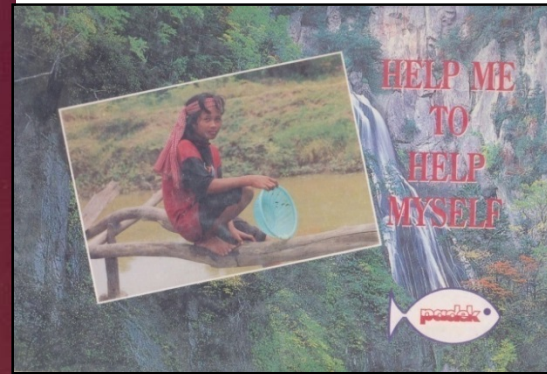
Special Publication No.8



WOMEN



IN CAMBODIAN FISHERIES



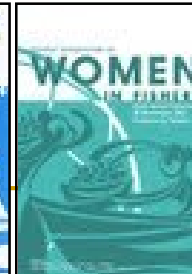
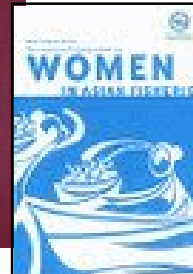
Women in Fisheries



Dr. M. P. Singh Kohli
Dr. Ms. Ratna Tewari



Indian Society of
Fisheries Professionals





3 sample publications

revealing aspects of Nandeesh's approach

1. Institutional approaches in CARE Bangladesh (1998 WIF Asia)

Debashish, K.S., et al. and **M.C.Nandeesh**. 2001. Strategies for addressing gender issues through aquaculture programmes: approaches in CARE Bangladesh

□ In: *Proceedings of the 1998 Symposium on Women in Asian Fisheries*.

■ CARE-Bangladesh focused on women in aquaculture

□ But found that extension did not include women, and almost all NGO extensionists were men, with low appreciation of women's learning styles, needs.

□ Developed a 3 tier approach

■ specific goals for the participation of women in projects' logical frameworks

■ Using extension approaches and interventions with increased benefits for women; and

■ Promoting changes and staff development for a more gender-sensitive organization.

■ Field experience revealed further that

□ Local social attitudes and types of aquaculture resulted in different gender roles

□ Tho' achieved 28% women staff, retention was low and men resisted

■ Conclusion: making change is much more than deciding to do it

2. Gender in fisheries education

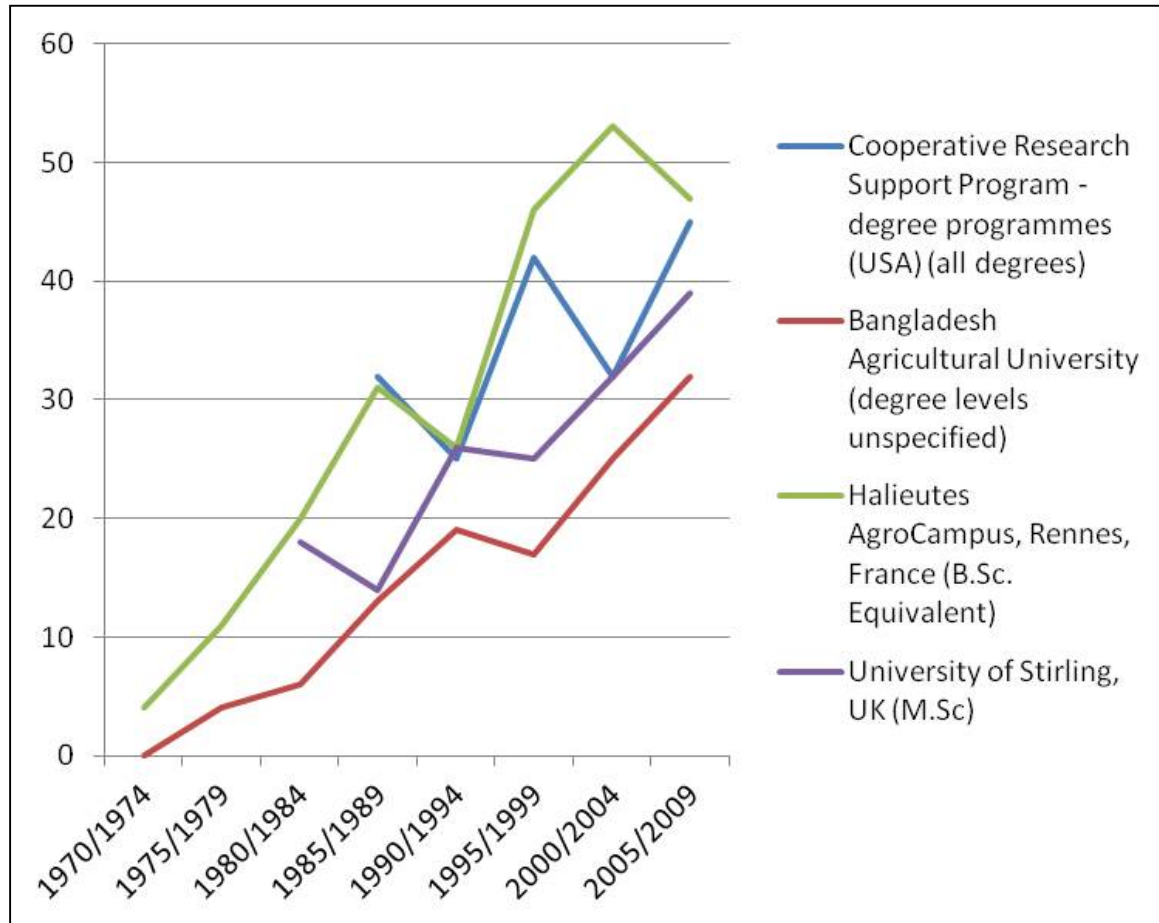
Nandeesh, M.C. 2006. Gender status in Indian Fisheries Education, Research and Development organisations

- In: 2004 Global Symposium on Gender and Fisheries

Williams, M.J., et al **Nandeesh, M.C.**, et al. 2012. Sustaining aquaculture by developing human capacity and enhancing opportunities for women.

- In: *Farming the Waters for People and Food*. Proceedings of the Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010, Phuket, Thailand.

- Both papers explored gender statistics in education (students, faculty), fisheries research and technical organizations.
- Indian study details, by state, occupation (science, administration, support), that women's participation is low, e.g.
 - 18% of university fisheries graduates, 14% of fisheries researchers are women
 - Women's participation rates vary by state, linked to female literacy and social status
- Global aquaculture study directly gathered available tertiary participation stats
 - Nandeesh used his networks to gather the available data





Selected time-series of female graduates in aquaculture courses.

3. Keeping our progress in view

Williams & Nandeesh 2012. Now is the time to move the agenda forward. *AFS News*.

- News update on recent GAF events
- Timeline of events to date, with links to outputs (proceedings, news reports)
- Table of women councilors since the start of AFS
 - The number is not increasing; we need more senior nominees!

Table 2. Women Council Members of the AFS from 1st to 10th Council

Name	Country	Council
Dionisia Rola	Philippines	First
Elvira Tan	Philippines	Second
Meng Qingwen	China	Second
Jahara Yahaya	Malaysia	Fifth
Angela Arthington	Australia	Fifth and Sixth
Kamonporn Tonghuthai	Thailand	Fifth, Sixth and Seventh
Roshada Hashim	Malaysia	Seventh, Eighth, Ninth
Fatima Md. Yusoff	Malaysia	Seventh, Eighth, Ninth
Ida Siason 	Philippines	Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth
Clarissa Marte 	Philippines	Seventh, Eighth
Zuridah Merican	Malaysia	Tenth



AFS President

Women members of the AFS Council

1 st Council (1984-1986)	12%	2 of 17
2 nd Council (1986-1989)	11%	2 of 18
3 rd Council (1989-1992)	0%	0 of 17
4 th Council (1992-1995)	0%	0 of 17
5 th Council (1995-1998)	18%	3 of 17
6 th Council (1998-2001)	19%	3 of 16
7 th Council (2001-2004)	31%	5 of 16
8 th Council (2004-2007)	27%	4 of 15
9 th Council (2007-2011)	20%	3 of 15
10 th Council (2011-2013)	13%	2 of 16

A personal view

- 1996, “first” request
- Total commitment to social justice
 - Dorm for women students
Tripura U
 - Donated 2007 GAF2 award
- Continued prompting to push the envelope
 - Exhausting to work with
 - Very productive
- Strong self-respect but did not put self first



Dr M.C. Nandeeshha & the presenter, 1996,
Phnom Penh,
Women in Fisheries in Indo-China Countries

What can Nandeeshha's life teach us?



Dr Katia Frangoudes, Dr Marilyn Porter and Dr M.C. Nandeeshha contemplate the challenges during the 2011 FAO Special Workshop on GAF, Shanghai, 9AFAF 2011.

Lessons learned from a visionary

- Social justice matters above all else
- Get your toe in the door first
 - Then ramp up
- Go to the top and always work with others
- Remember and reinforce history, progress
- Go out and ask for the information
- Be conscious of realities on the ground
 - Data
 - Institutions
 - Culture
 - Production system



Princess Norodom Marie Ranariddh & Dr M.C. Nandeesh, 1996, Phnom Penh, Women in Fisheries in Indo-China Countries



His legacy

Dr Nandeesh was a **visionary committed to social justice**, and with an intuitive understanding of how to **motivate others to act** and bring about **institutional change**

He changed the course of my professional life and that of many others

“So though Nandeesh is not with us physically, his thoughts and deeds are there to guide us through these difficult times.”

Rajeswari Dayal B. (his loving wife)

Acknowledgement

- From family archives, Mrs Rajeswari Dayal B. kindly provided the photos of Nandeeshha on slides 1, 3, and 7
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