

# ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR FISHERWOMEN IN KERALA

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## WOMEN

- ➔ Equality to women is a constitutional fundamental right
- ➔ Empowerment of women is determined largely by her economic, social and political identity and their weightage
- ➔ Gender disparity in all spheres of life is a reality and the benefit of economic development over the years in India has not yet wiped out this menace.
- ➔ Globalization also promoted uneven distribution of benefits leading to wider economic disparities, feminization of poverty, and gender inequality especially in informal economy of rural areas including coastal sector

## OBJECTIVE

*TO HIGHLIGHT,*

- ★ **FISHERWOMEN'S INTRA AND INTER-SECTORAL DISPARITIES IN WAGE STRUCTURE**
- ★ **NEEDS AND CONSTRAINTS OF WOMEN IN FISHERIES SECTOR**
- ★ **NUTRITIONAL, HEALTH AND ERGONOMIC ISSUES OF FISHERWOMEN**
- ★ **ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

## STUDY AREA

### FIVE COASTAL VILLAGES OF KERALA

- AROOR
- ANJILIKKAD
- NEENDAKARA
- THEKKUMBAGHAM
- POOVAR

## STAKEHOLDERS

- ✓ PEELERS
- ✓ PROCESSING PLANT WORKERS
- ✓ CLAM COLLECTORS CUM PROCESSORS
- ✓ VENDORS
- ✓ DRYERS AND CURERS



Women have limited role in capture fisheries and their full time involvement is more of a seasonal nature.

■ In marine fisheries - seaweed collection, collection of bivalves and seeds

■ Brackish water sector- in collection of clams and shrimps.

■ Fresh water fisheries -fishing using scoop nets, traps and fish vessels in addition hand picking methods

Major health problems among fisherwomen as diagnosed by the medical officer were backache, myalgia, anaemia, numbness of extremities, breath problems and joint pain

- DISGUISED UNEMPLOYMENT
- CONTRACT SYSTEM AND LACK OF JOB SECURITY
- LOW WAGE RATE
- LACK OF SUPPLEMENTARY AND COMPLEMENTARY OCCUPATION
- SEASONALITY OF PRODUCT
- LACK OF REGULAR WORKING HOURS



**Shrimp peelers have to work in cold condition for hours together in bending posture and hence they are having numbness at the extremities of fingers and backache.**



- ❖ **Lack of open and clean space.**
- ❖ **Drying in open beaches and contamination from microbes**
- ❖ **Improper storage facilities**
- ❖ **Infestation from maggots and insects**
- ❖ **Seasonality of fish availability**
- ❖ **Lack of alternatives during monsoon months**
- Low quality raw materials**
- ❖ **Less credit facilities**



**Fish curers and processors are affected mostly with backache**

**The clam processors were severely affected with pain at the shoulder and backache.**

- ▶ Long working hours
- ▶ Lack of depuration facilities
- ▶ Manual shucking of shells
- ▶ Low demand and price in internal markets
- ▶ Poor awareness of scientific processing
- ▶ Low income and poor credit facilities



In the case of fish vendor, as they carry loads for long distance, their head and shoulder are mostly affected.



- Competition from men
- Inadequate transportation and lack of automation
- Exploitation by middle man
- Seasonality of products
- Lack of storage in marketing centres
- Long working hours
- High indebtedness and poor credit facilities

# CONSTRAINTS FACED BY WOMEN IN POST-HARVEST FISHERIES

## RAW MATERIAL

- Seasonal availability
- Uncertainties of catch / scarce supply of fish
- High perishability
- Intense competition
- Non availability of ice
- Losses due to spoilage
- Poor quality
- Lack of cold storage facility at markets

## GENERAL

- ∅ Low income
- ∅ Lack of transportation facilities
- ∅ Inadequate facilities for women at markets and landing centre
- ∅ Declining fish catches
- ∅ Have to support families
- ∅ No alternate income source
- ∅ Use of inappropriate tools and accessories
- ∅ High interest rates



## **TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS THE STRATEGIES TO BE FOLLOWED ARE:-**

-  Establishing community curing/ processing /drying yards**
-  Introduction of platform/rack drying methods**
-  Adoption of scientific clam processing**
-  Promotion of value addition in fish marketing system**
-  Introduction of special transportation facilities for fisher women**
-  Introduction of special loan facilities**
-  Appropriate adoption of waste disposal system in peeling sheds and processing plants**

## INCOME LEVELS OF WOMEN INVOLVED IN DIFFERENT PROCESSING ACTIVITIES

SL. NO	ACTIVITY	AVERAGE ANNUAL WORKING HOURS	AVERAGE INCOME PER HOUR (RS)	AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME (RS)
1	PEELING	1620	6.00	9720
2	CURING	1944	12.00	23328
3	DRYING	729	4.40	32076
4	SORTING	1960	4.20	8232
5	VENDING	3600	16.60	59760
6	VALUE ADDITION	900	20.00	18000

⊗ **Cereal consumption is adequate compared to the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA)**

⊗ **Deficit observed with pulses, green leafy vegetables, other vegetables, fats and oils, fruits, sugar, milk and milk products**

⊗ **Vitamin deficiency particularly of Vitamin B2 and Vitamin C**



## **ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**With increasing phase of automation, motorization and communication, women can also go for active fishing in the coastal inshore sector if adequate training is given.**

**Involvement of women in all types of aquaculture practices should be encouraged.**

- **Integrated fish farming in the backyard ponds.**
- **Ornamental fish culture**
- **Monoculture of pearlspot or poly culture with Mugil cephalus, milkfish and shrimp**
- **Oyster culture, mussel culture, pearl culture, crab fattening and culture**

Ø House-based ventures are more preferred by women and finds suitable to their present social fabric.

Ø Aqua-feed making using the indigenous resources as a cottage industry may be developed to suit the needs of the aquaculture industry.

# CAPACITY BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT



**Location specific and need based training programmes should be organized.**

**Promotion of diversified small scale industries producing value added products will accelerate earnings in exports, and provide a multiplier effect on employment and consequent economic independence and empowerment .**



Men-women partnership business enterprises appear to be more remunerative than “women-only” enterprises and advisable for reducing gender disparities.

**THANK YOU**

