

Analysing the Fishing Community of Kashmir Through Gender Lens

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Theme– Voices of Young Gender Researchers in Fisheries



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INTRODUCTION

Indian Fisheries

Second largest fish producing country in the world - **7.56 %** of global production
Fish production (2019-20) : **14.16 MMT** ; Inland : **10.43 MMT**
(Economic Survey, 2021-22)

Gender in Fisheries

Total Fishermen : **2,80,63,537**
Male : **56%**
Female : **44%**
(Handbook of fisheries Statistics, 2020)

- India is blessed with a number of fisheries like **Marine, Inland, Brackish water, Freshwater, Ornamental and Cold water.**
- **Coldwater fisheries** occupy an essential place in Inland fisheries in India

Jammu and Kashmir

- Major contributors to cold water fish production in India- **31%** (DCFR, 2019)
- Production: **0.21 lakh tonnes**

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



Gender

Roles, behaviors, attributes, activities, and opportunities that are considered appropriate for women and men/girls and boys by society (WHO, 2018)

Gender Analysis

Study of **disparities in conditions, participation rates, needs, access to resources and development, control of assets, decision-making powers** between women and men in their assigned gender roles (FAO, 2014)

Importance

- Helps in finding **gender gaps**
- Essential tool in **planning and addressing inequalities** in programs, policies. (Srinivas, 2015 and EIGE, 2019)

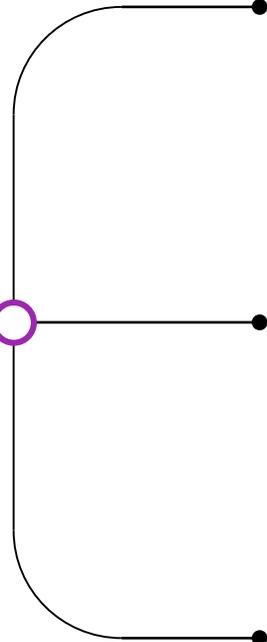
World Economic Forum

Ranked India at **135** out of **146** countries in its **Global Gender Gap (GGG) Index** for 2022

Rationale:

- Studies related to **roles of men and women in fisheries** have been studied in various countries and states of India, and detailed studies with **time use pattern and workload measurement** of men and women involved in the fisheries sector are few.
- **Few studies** in fisheries have been done with reference to fisherwomen in Kashmir like by Rather and Bhat (2017); Farooqi *et al.* (2018); Regu and Ananthan (2019).
- **Lack of comprehensive study on gender analysis** of fisheries sector in Kashmir.

OBJECTIVES



To evaluate **roles, time use pattern and workloads** of men and women in the fisheries sector

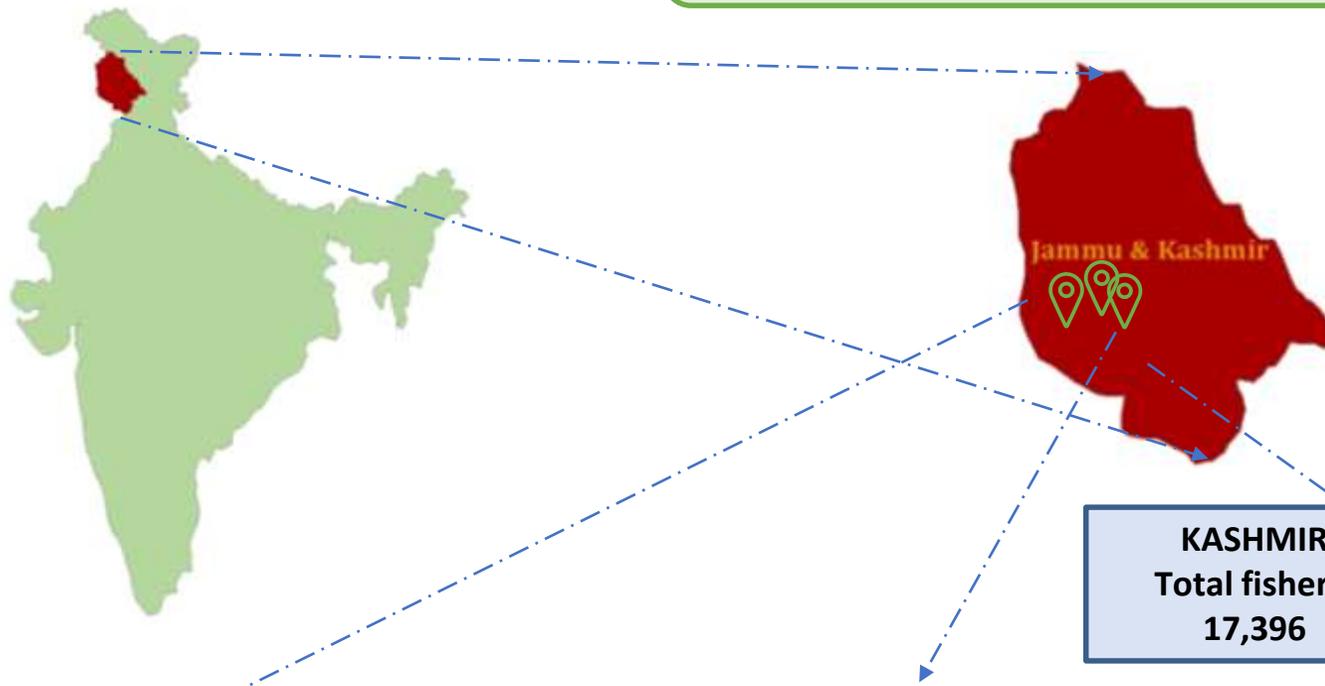


To assess **gender needs and access/control** to resources of men and women in fisheries sector



To assess **constraints faced by men and women** in fisheries sector

LOCALE OF STUDY



70% of total fish production in J&K comes from these three lakes

N (Households)= 160
Men= 160
Women= 160
Total= 320 respondents

KASHMIR
Total fishers:
17,396



Fishers: 2500
n=60



Fishers= 850
n=60



Fishers: 588
n=40

METHODOLOGY

Gender roles

Moser's Triple role framework (Moser, 1986)

Percentage analysis

Time Use Pattern

Activities: SNA, Extended SNA, and Non-SNA activities UNSNA (CEC, 1993)

Mann-Whitney U test

Workload

Rate of Perceived Exertion (RPE) (Varghese et al., 1994)

SGN and PGN

Moser framework: 5 point scale with scores

Mann-Whitney U test

Access and control

Harvard analysis tool: 5 point scale with scores

Mann-Whitney U test

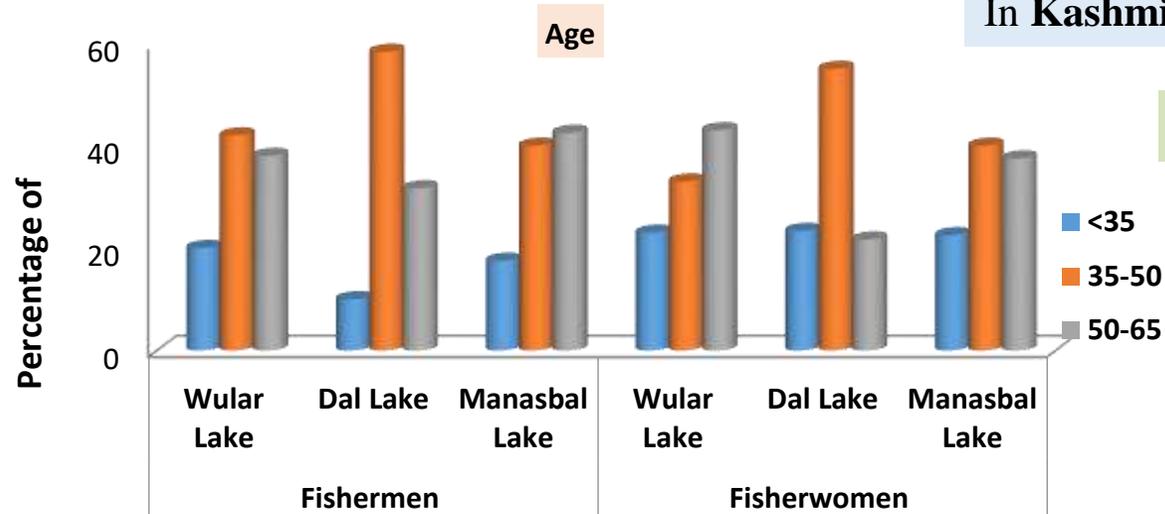
Constraints

Weighted average (WA)

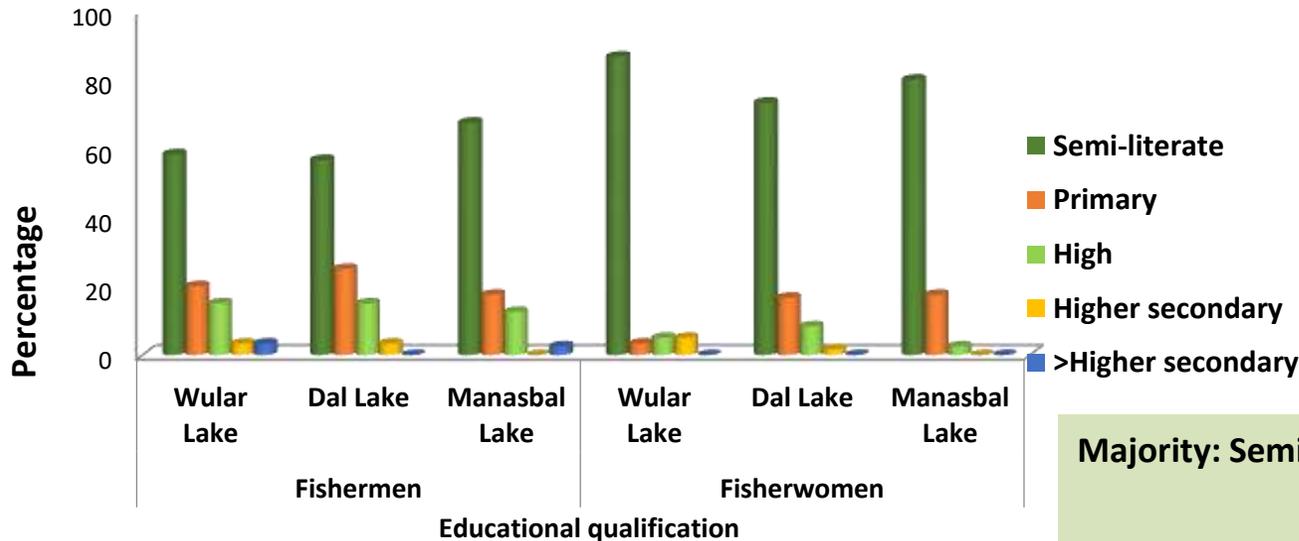
Mann-Whitney U test

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

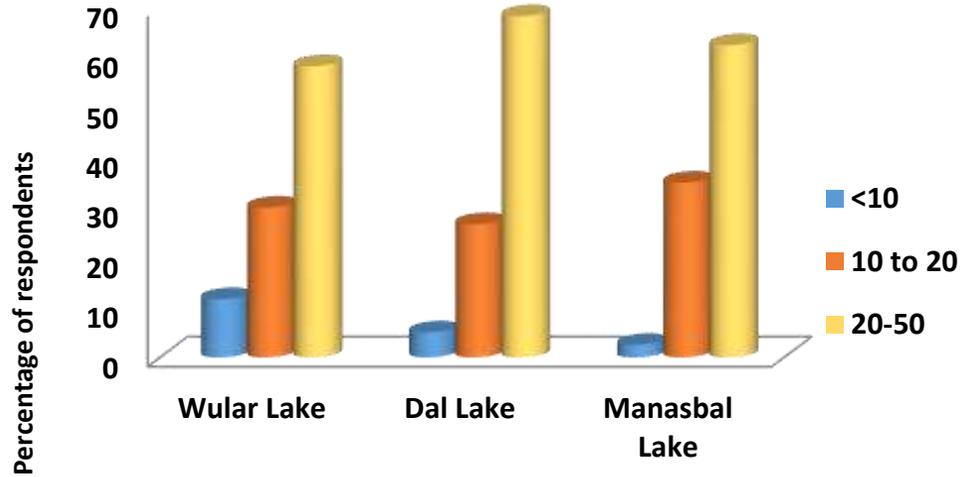
Fishers' Profile



Educational qualification



Fishing experience

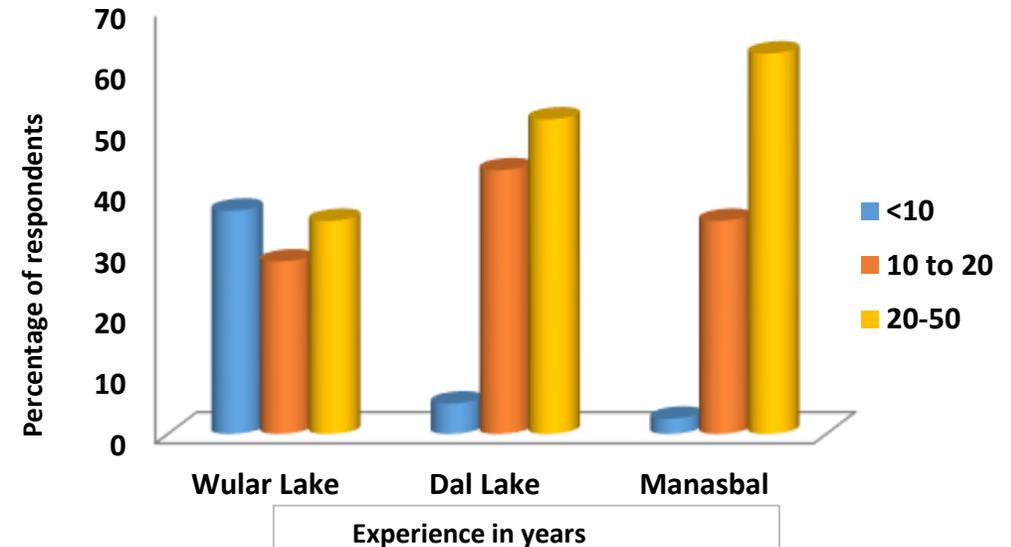


Majority: 20-50 years

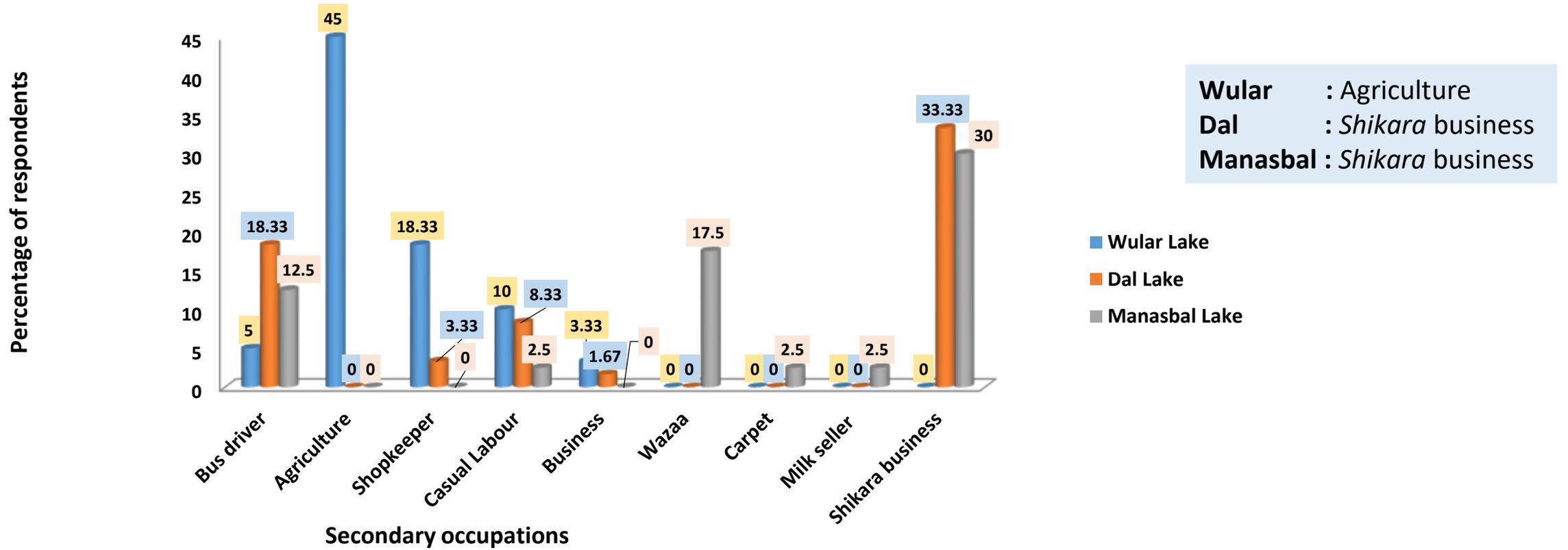
Average: 28 years

- Majority >10 years (Wular)
- 20-50 years (Dal and Manasbal)
- Average: 23 years

Marketing experience



Secondary occupation



Wular Lake

Dal Lake

Manasbal Lake

Average monthly income from fishing

Rs. 12,477.5

Rs. 12,320

Rs. 13,450

GENDER ROLES



Wular Lake

Roles	Household (%)
Reproductive	Fisherwomen (96.99%)
Productive	Fishermen (72.08%)
Social and community	Fishermen (75%)

Fisherwomen: Mainly in marketing and related activities.
 Fishermen: Mainly in fishing and related activities



Dal Lake

Roles	Household (%)
Reproductive	Fisherwomen (99.9%)
Productive	Fishermen (62.49%)
Social and community	Fishermen (61%)

Fisherwomen: Mainly in marketing and related activities.
 Fishermen: Mainly in fishing and related activities
 In **21.66%** of households **fisherwomen** involved in **fishing**.



Manasbal Lake

Roles	Household (%)
Reproductive	Women (79.3 %)
Productive	Fishermen (100%)
Social and community	Fishermen (66%)

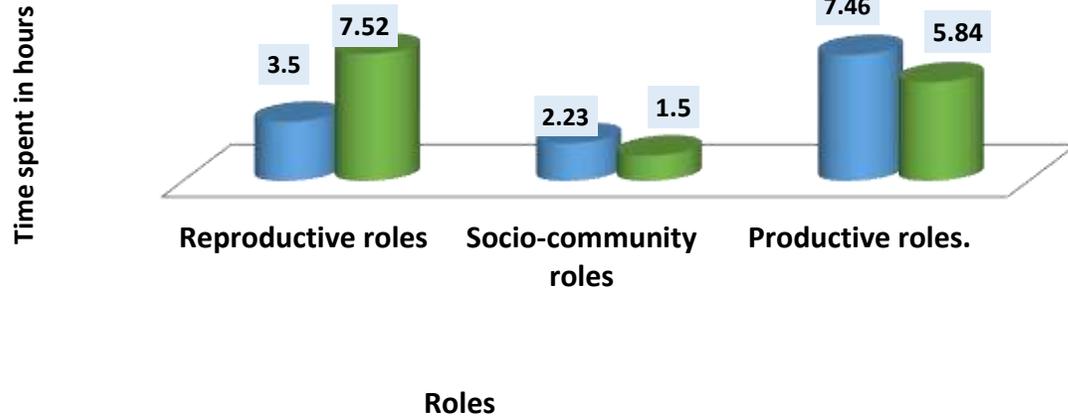
Fishermen: In both fishing and marketing activities



TIME USE PATTERN

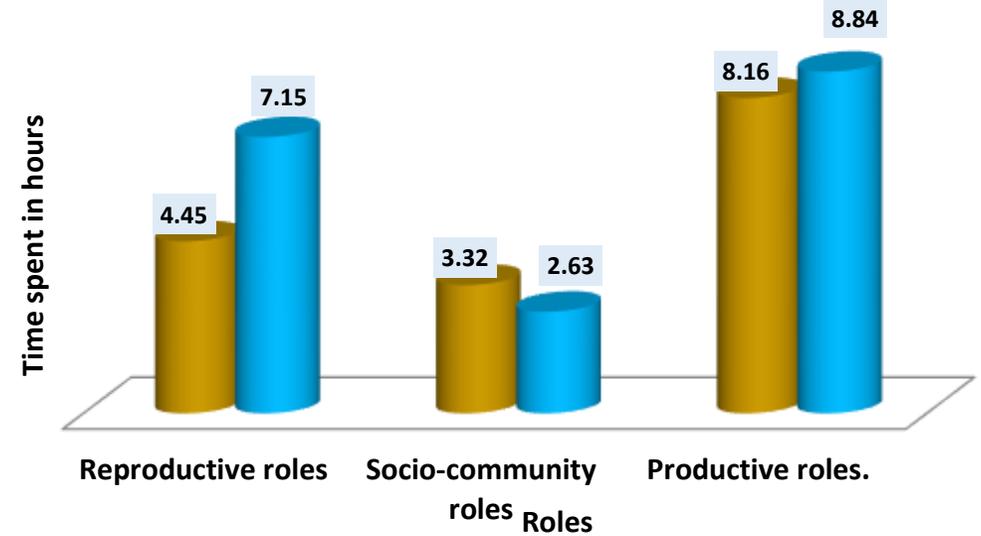
Wular Lake

■ Men ■ Women



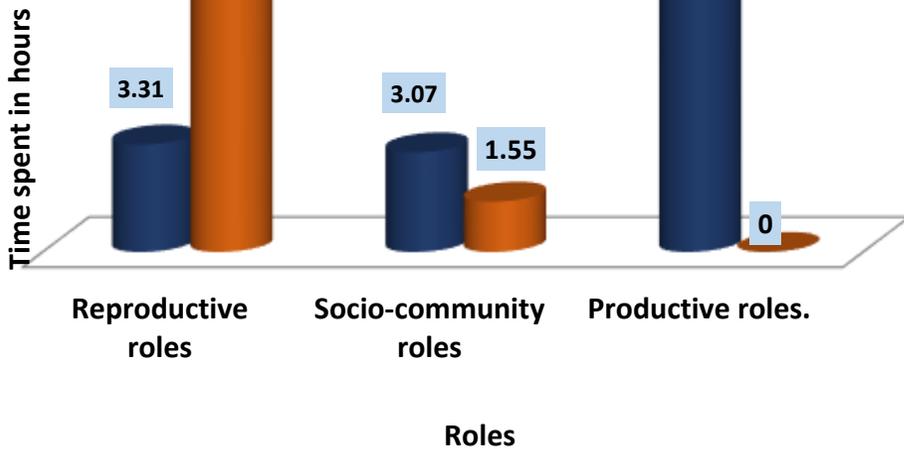
Dal Lake

■ Men ■ Women



Manasbal Lake

■ Men ■ Women



Mann Whitney U Test

Significant difference ($p = < 0.001$) between the men and women in time spent in reproductive, socio-community and productive roles in Wular , Dal and Manasbal lake.

RATE OF PERCEIVED EXERTION

Men	Women
Wular Lake	
3.03 hrs. : Very light 0.45 hrs. : Light 0.30 hrs. : Moderately heavy 2.03 hrs. : Heavy 4.88 hrs. : Very heavy	5.68 hrs. : Very light 0.60 hrs. : Light 1.27 hrs. : Moderately heavy 5.8 0hrs. : Heavy 0 hrs. : Very heavy activities
Dal Lake	
4 hrs. : Very light 1.26 hrs. : Light 1.73hrs. : Moderately heavy 0 hrs. : Heavy 5.62hrs. : Very heavy	1.14 hrs : Very light 0.05 hrs : Light 6.13hrs : Moderately heavy 0 hrs : Heavy 8.22 hrs. : Very heavy
Manasbal Lake	
3.26 hrs. : Very light 2.46 hrs. : Light 0 hrs. : Moderately heavy 1.10 hrs. : Heavy 4.57 hrs. : Very heavy	4 hrs. : Very light 0.10 hrs. : Light 5.42 hrs. : Moderately heavy 0 hrs. : Heavy 0 hrs. : Very heavy



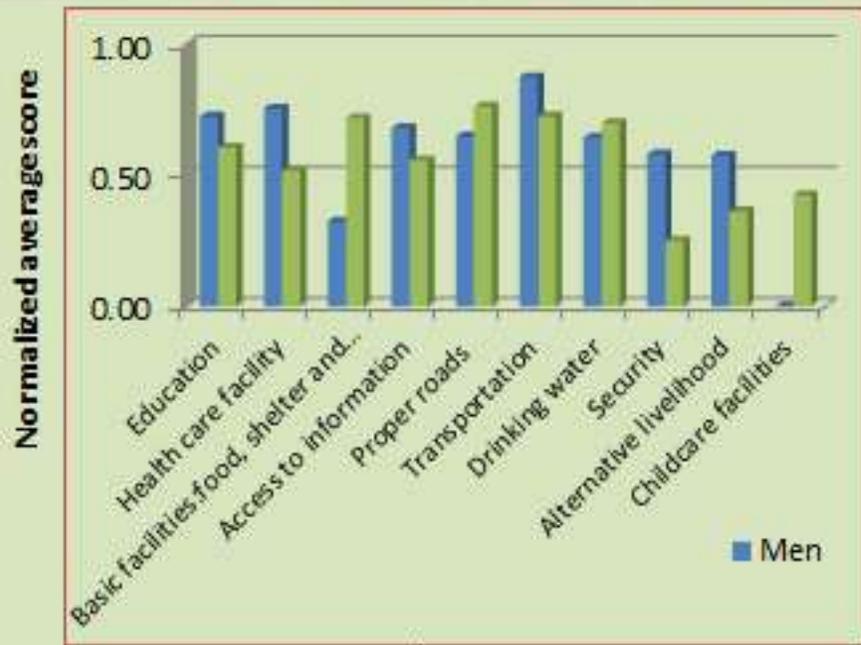
Spent most time in **Very heavy** activities



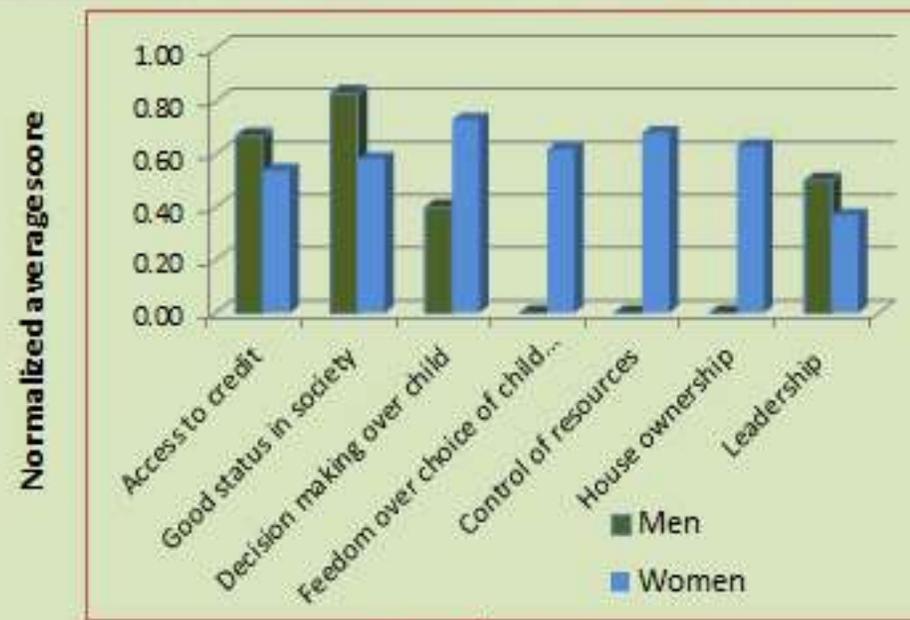
Spent most time in **heavy and very heavy** activities in Wular and Dal resp.

Yadav and Sharma (2017) reported that women were equally performing heavy activities like men in ornamental fish enterprise in Maharashtra

GENDER NEEDS



Practical Gender Needs



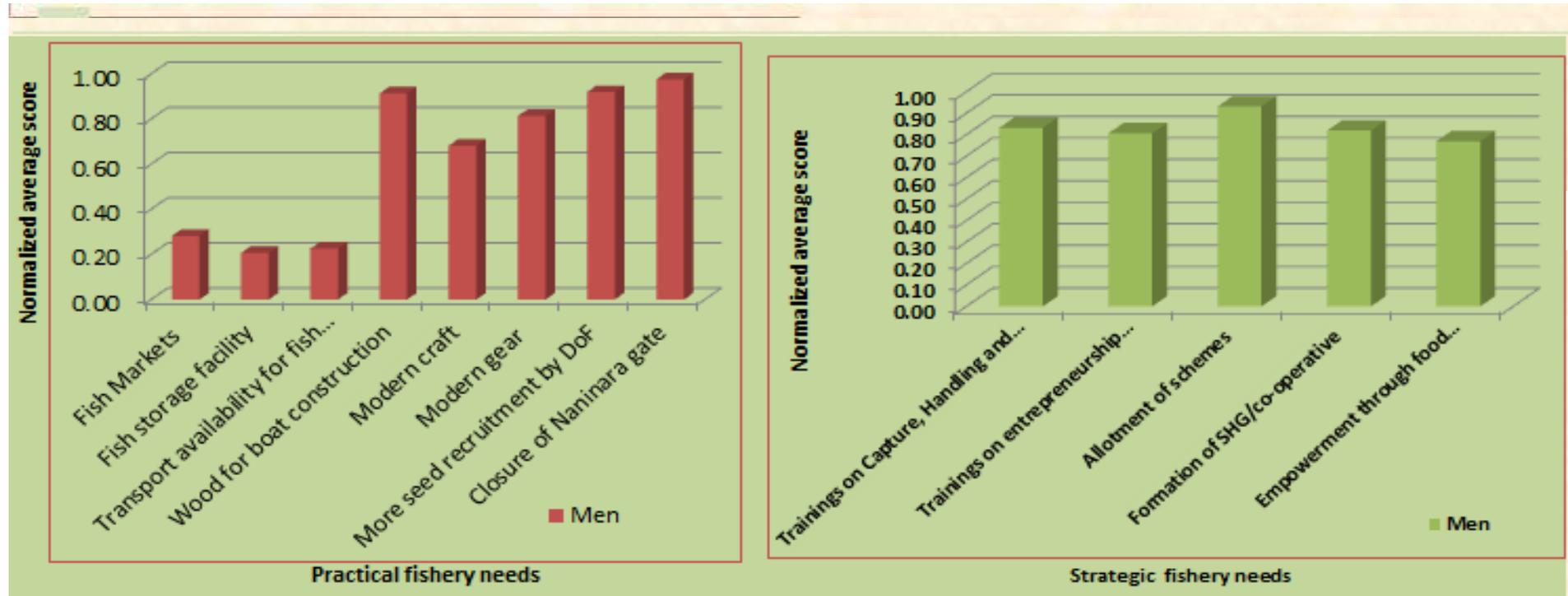
Strategic Gender Needs

Manasbal Lake

Mann Whiteny U test

- No significant difference between the fisherwomen and fishermen **PGNs** and **SNGs** in Dal and Wular Lake however, significant difference **SGNs** in Manasbal Lake.

GENDER FISHERY NEEDS

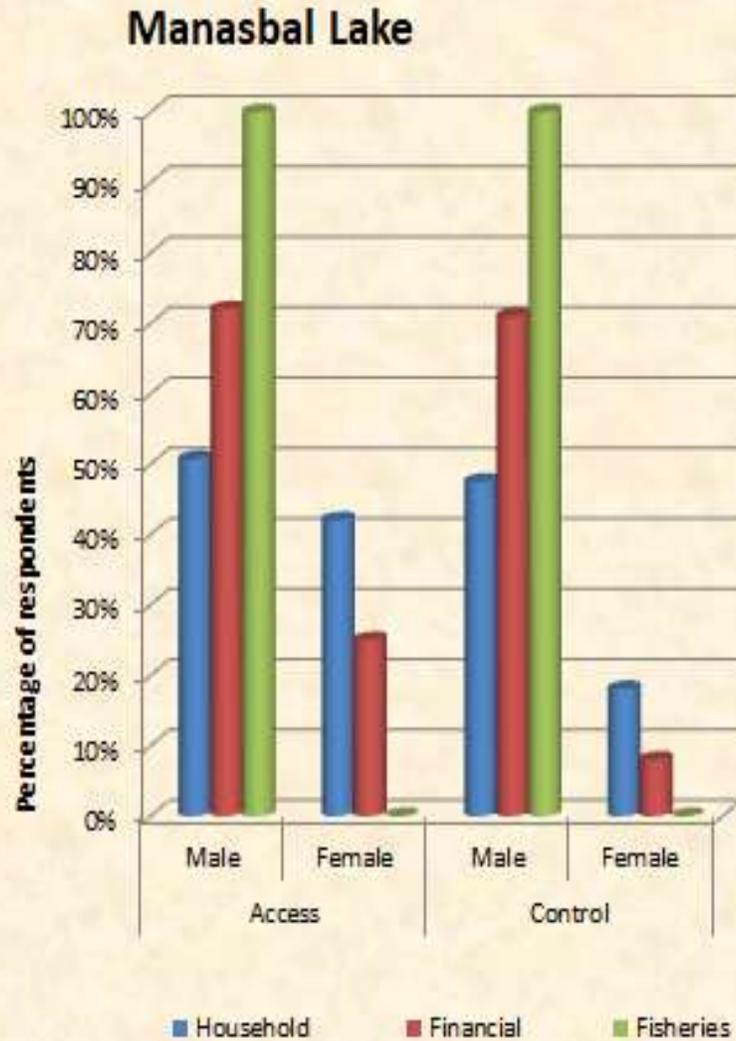


Manasbal Lake

Mann Whiteny U test

- Significant difference between the fishermen and fisherwomen in PFNs and SFNs in **Wular and Dal lake**.

ACCESS AND CONTROL PROFILE



Manasbal Lake

- **Fishermen had more access as well as control over resources than women.**

Man Whitney U test

Significant difference in access and control between men and women over the **household, financial and fisheries-related** resources in all three lakes

CONSTRAINT ANALYSIS

Constraints	Men and Women (n=280)		Men (n=160)		Women (n=120)		S/NS
	WA	Ranks	WA	Ranks	WA	Ranks	S/NS

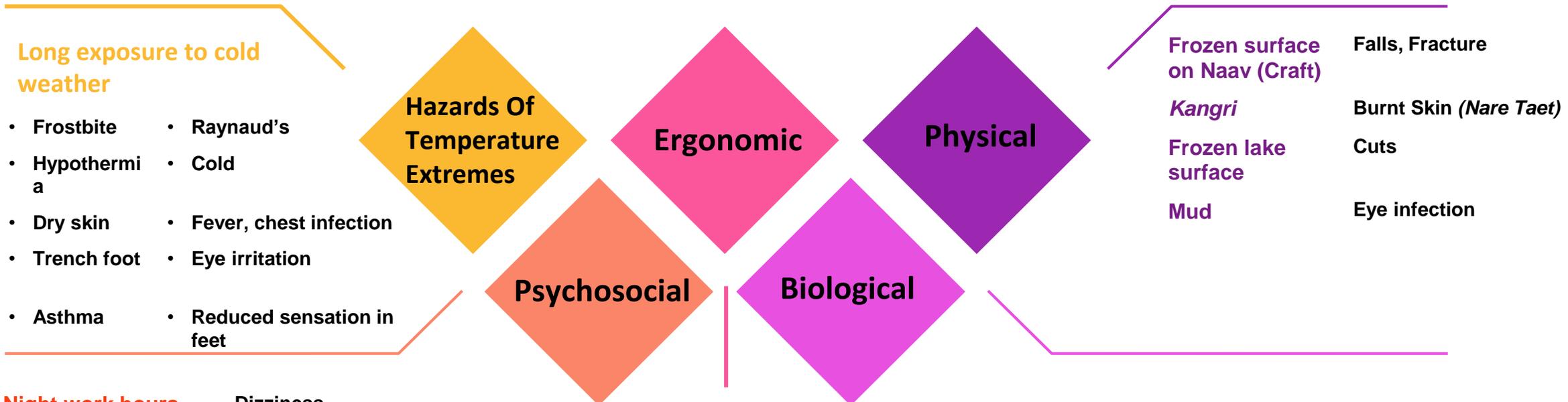
- Significant difference with reference to the WA scores and the ranks between men and women in all constraints except **political constraints**.
- Need of conducting **constraint analysis** through **gender lens** and also shows that when men and women are considered **together the constraints might not give a clear picture**.
- Constraints faced by fishers in Kashmir have been also reported by Qureshi *et al.* (2013), Malik *et al.* (2017), Mir *et al.* (2019), Farooqi *et al.* (2018), Bhat and Sharma (2021).

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS



REDMI NOTE 8
48MP QUAD CAMERA

Occupational Hazards faced by fishermen



Long exposure to cold weather

- Frostbite
- Hypothermia
- Dry skin
- Trench foot
- Asthma
- Raynaud's
- Cold
- Fever, chest infection
- Eye irritation
- Reduced sensation in feet

- Frozen surface on Naav (Craft) → Falls, Fracture
- Kangri → Burnt Skin (Nare Taet)
- Frozen lake surface → Cuts
- Mud → Eye infection

- Night work hours → Dizziness
- Political instability → BP problems, Depression
- Conflict with DoF → Stressed life
- Less catch/ income → Stress

- Force exertion → Body pain: Back, shoulder, elbow, neck, wrist pain, Sprain
- Prolong static sitting on narrow part of boat →
 - Inflammation of veins
 - Swelling in legs
 - Stiffness

- Fish and Insects bites → Pain, Itching
- Fungus → Fungal infections
- Microbes in water → Skin and Eye infection



Occupational Hazards faced by fisherwomen

Long exposure to cold weather

- Frostbite
- Hypothermia
- Dry skin
- Trench foot
- Asthma
- Raynaud's
- Cold
- Fever, chest infection
- Eye irritation
- Reduced sensation in feet

Political instability

BP problems
Depression

Conflict with DoF

Stressed life

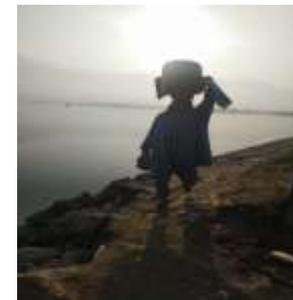


Loaded fish tubs

Body pain, Neck pain

Prolonged sitting on roadside

Knee/leg pain



Fish fin/knife

Kangri

Frozen roads/path

Cuts

Burnt Skin (*Nare Taet*)

Falls

Fish and Insects bites

Pain, Itching

Fungus

Fungal infections



CONCLUSIONS

Roles:

- **Involvement of women** is there in all 3 roles
- In Dal lake **women** are involved in **fishing**
- Men's role in **reproductive is less** and in productive is higher than women

TUS:

- Study provided an **in-depth understanding** of **local** and **distinctive gender arrangements** that operate in fisheries sector of Kashmir and **the opportunities** such arrangements present for advancing gender equality.
- Government policies will be **less effective, or may not succeed**, if the different impacts on women and men are not taken into account.
- Lack of a comprehensive gender analysis can lead to conflicting policies
- Both men and women are involved in **heavy/very heavy activities**

Gender Needs:

- **No significant difference** ($p = 0.263$) between the fisherwomen and fishermen PGNs in Manasbal Lake however, there was a significant difference between the fisherwomen and fishermen SGNs in Manasbal Lake.
- **Significant difference** ($p = <0.001$) between the men and women in PGNs, SGNs, PFNs and SFNs in Wular and Dal lake.

Access and Control:

- **Significant difference** in access and control between men and women over the household, financial and fisheries-related resources in all three lake

Constraints:

- **Significant difference** with reference to the WA scores and the ranks between men and women in all constraints except political constraints

Recommendations

- **Gender specific policies, programmes and schemes** are needed to bring **sustainable and equitable development** in Kashmir.
- **Collective voices of fishers** is missing in Kashmir. There is a need to form fisheries co-operatives/FPOs in Kashmir.
- Awareness about **different sustainable management** of fishing resource is needed.
- **Gender sensitive** management
- **State level Co-ordination Committee** should be set up for addressing inter sectoral issues.
- **Fisheries Census** should be done.
- **Well organized markets** with basic facilities should be set up by DoF.
- Integrate the **occupational safety issues of fishers in development planning** of fisheries.
- **Occupational safety** should be encouraged within the **different value chains** of fisheries.

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