



Unsustainable Fishing and Its Impacts on Women in Small-scale Fisheries in Thailand

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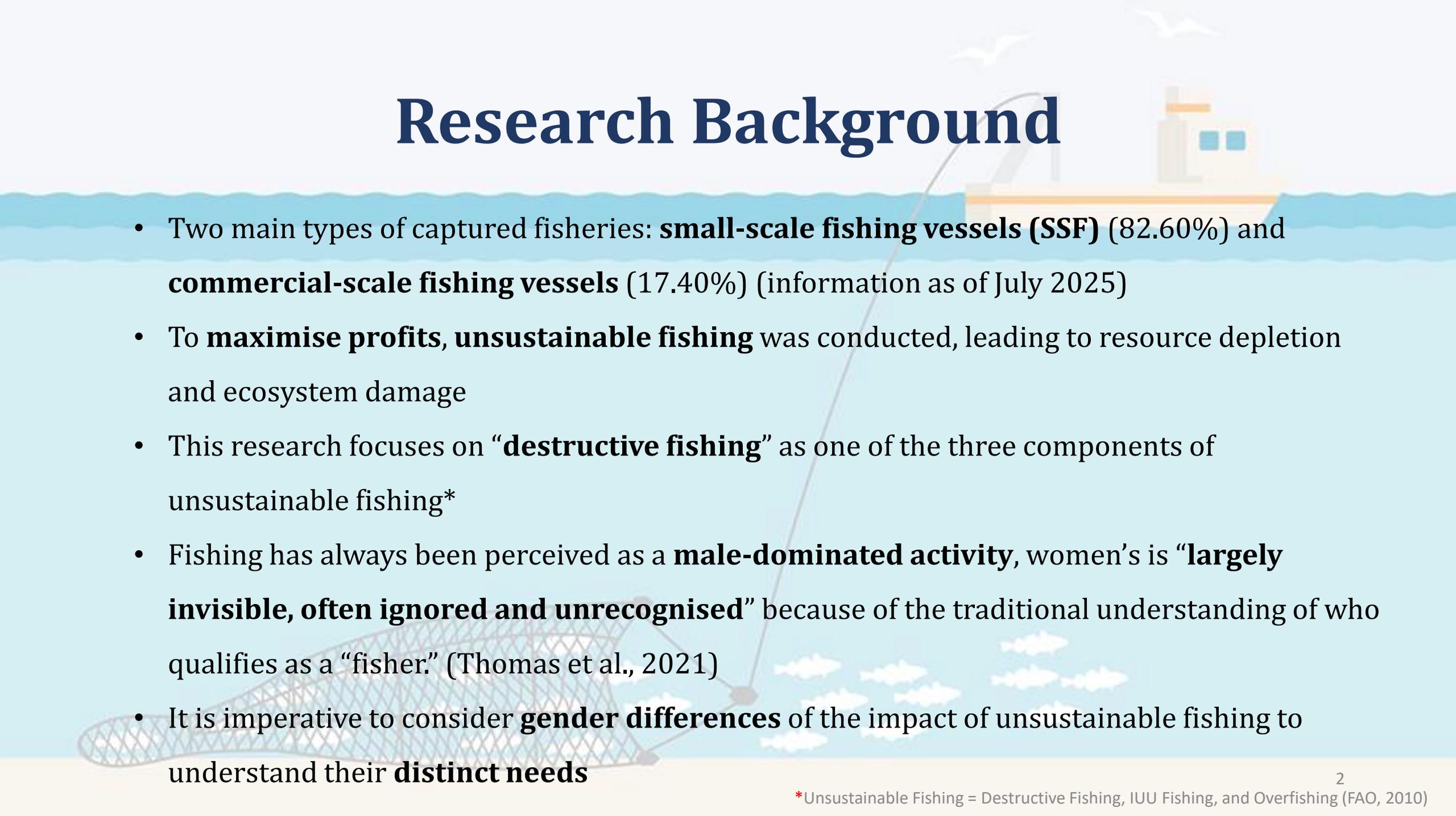
East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies

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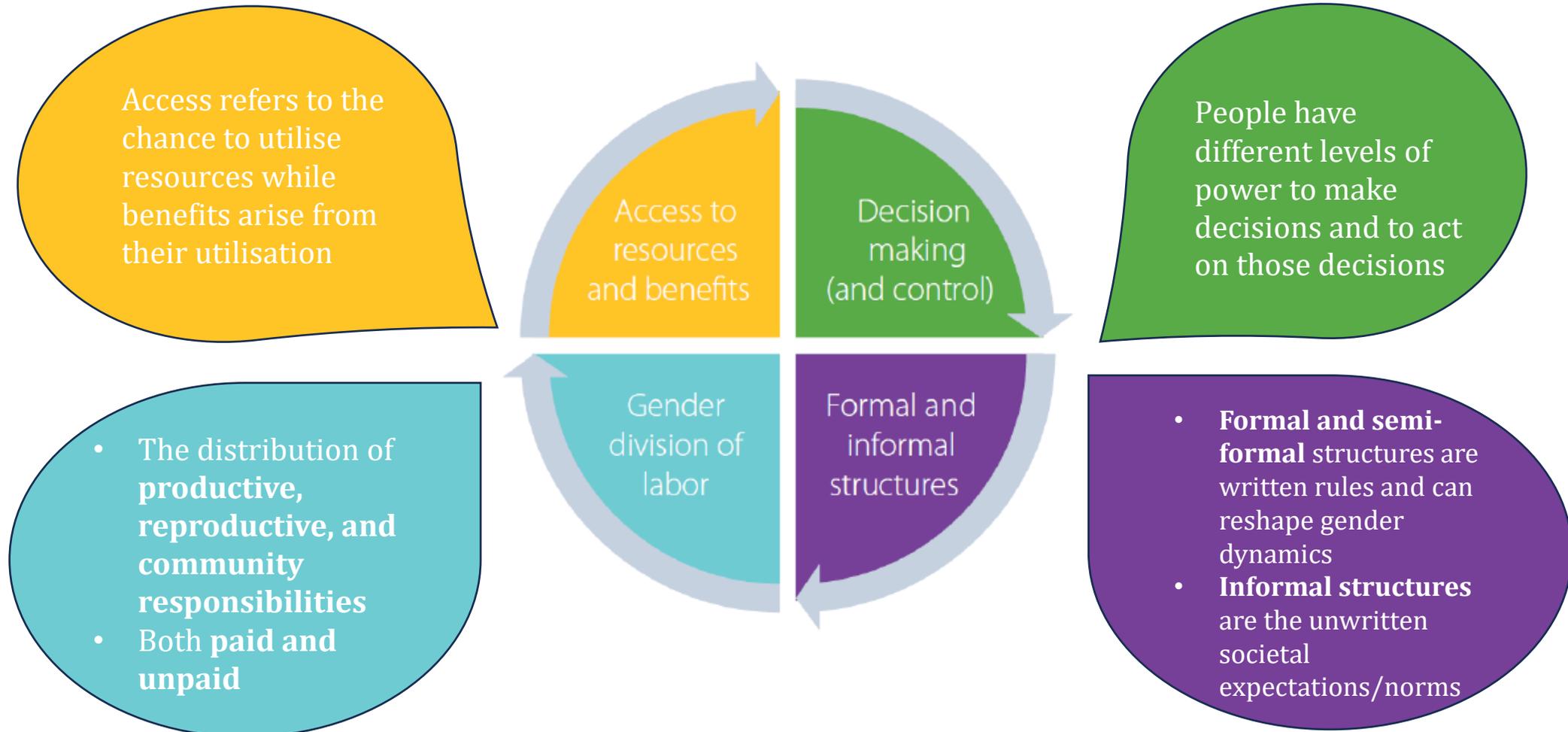
Research Background



- Two main types of captured fisheries: **small-scale fishing vessels (SSF)** (82.60%) and **commercial-scale fishing vessels** (17.40%) (information as of July 2025)
- To **maximise profits, unsustainable fishing** was conducted, leading to resource depletion and ecosystem damage
- This research focuses on “**destructive fishing**” as one of the three components of unsustainable fishing*
- Fishing has always been perceived as a **male-dominated activity**, women’s is “**largely invisible, often ignored and unrecognised**” because of the traditional understanding of who qualifies as a “fisher.” (Thomas et al., 2021)
- It is imperative to consider **gender differences** of the impact of unsustainable fishing to understand their **distinct needs**

Methodology and Conceptual Framework

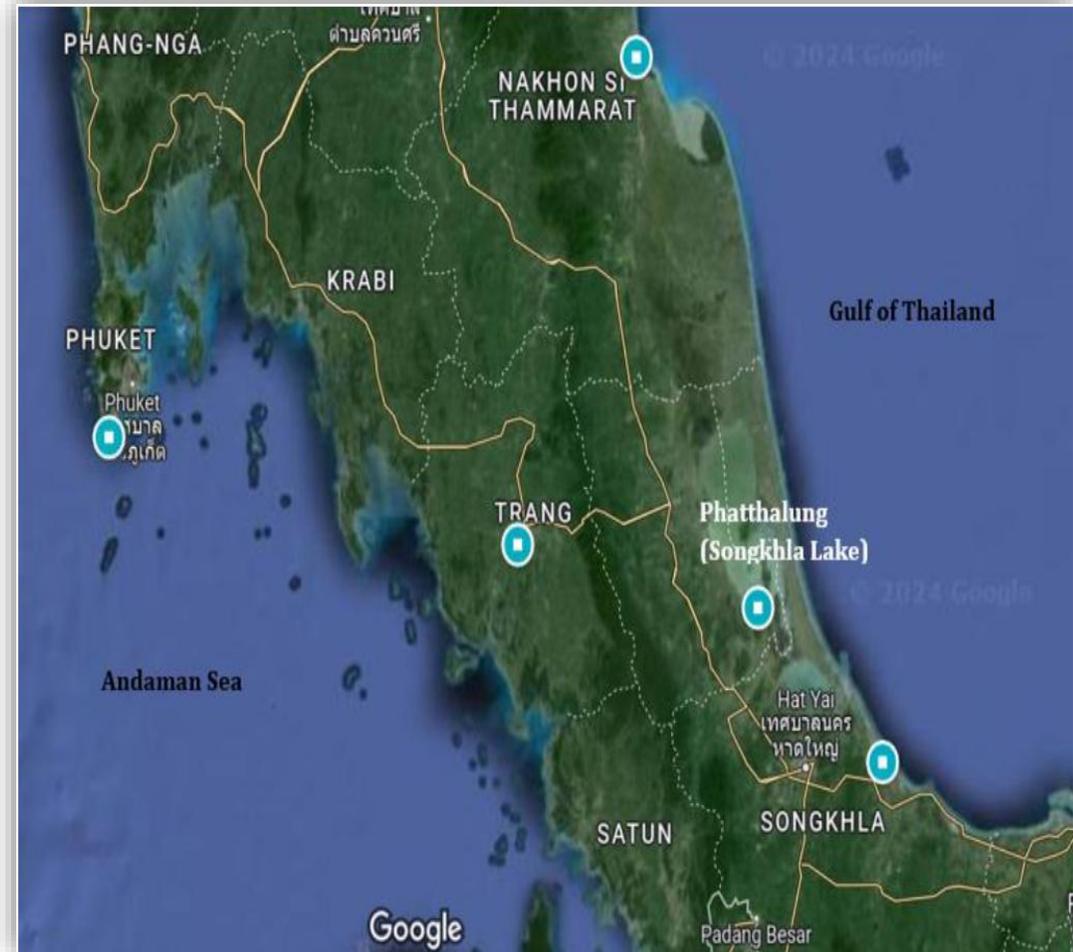
“Four core dimensions for intersectional gender integration and analysis”
by McDougall, Newton, Kruijssen, and Reggers (2021)



Methodology and Conceptual Framework

Data collection: Qualitative research methods

- Secondary data analysis
- Participatory observation & unstructured interviews
- Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and semi-structured interviews
 - 3rd to 25th February 2024
 - Gulf of Thailand, Andaman, Songkhla Lake
 - **(Fisher)women:** FGD and semi-structured interview (7)
 - **Fishermen:** semi-structured interview (2)
 - **Fish vendor:** semi-structured interview (1)
 - **Others:** semi-structured interview (6)



Source: Google Maps (2024)

Research Questions

Main research question

How does destructive fishing impact women differently in small-scale fisheries (SSF) in southern Thailand?

Sub-research questions

- (1) What is the **gender division of labour** in SSF in Thailand?
- (2) How do women in SSF **access resources and benefits** differently?
- (3) To what extent can women in SSF **make decisions and exercise control**?
- (4) In what way do **formal, semi-formal, and informal structures** impact women in SSF? How do these structures shape gender dynamics?



Findings

Material and non-material resources

- **Material resources**
 - Money (income-generating activities)
 - Aquatic animals
 - Fishing areas
- **Non-material resources**
 - Knowledge, social networks, and skills
 - Support by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)



Access to resources and benefits

Decision making (and control)

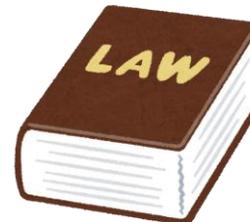
Gender division of labor

Formal and informal structures



- The **location** where women reside affects the degree of their decision-making and control
- Women tend to have **less power in making decisions** regarding **additional jobs**
- **Reproductive work** at home **limits women's agency**
- Most women have **full control** of household **money**
- Women can **exercise their agency** through the **support of CSOs**

- Productive roles
- Reproductive roles
- Community management roles



Formal structure

- The Royal Ordinance on Fisheries 2015

Semi-formal structure

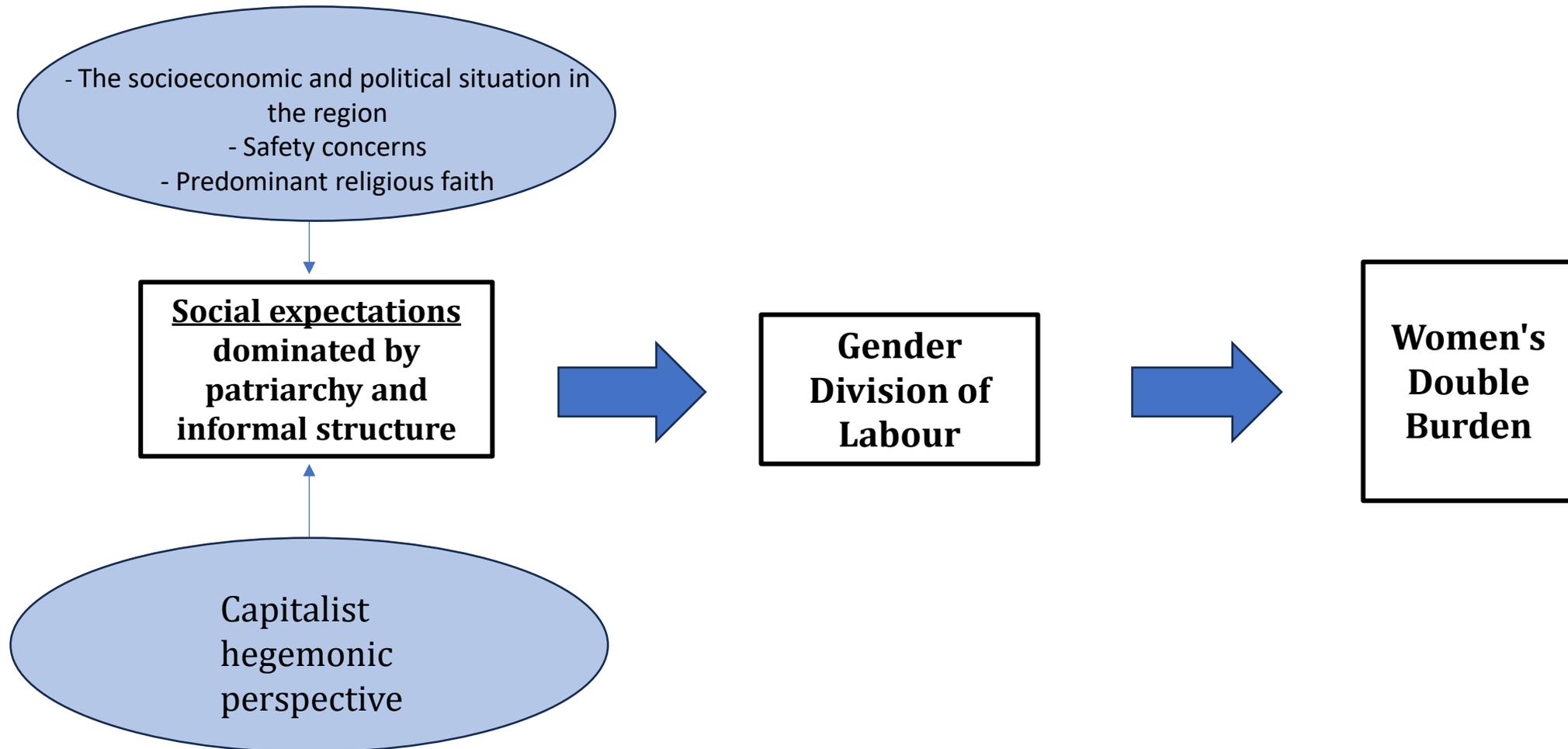
- Community law

Informal structure

- Social norms, cultures, beliefs, other unwritten societal expectations, etc.

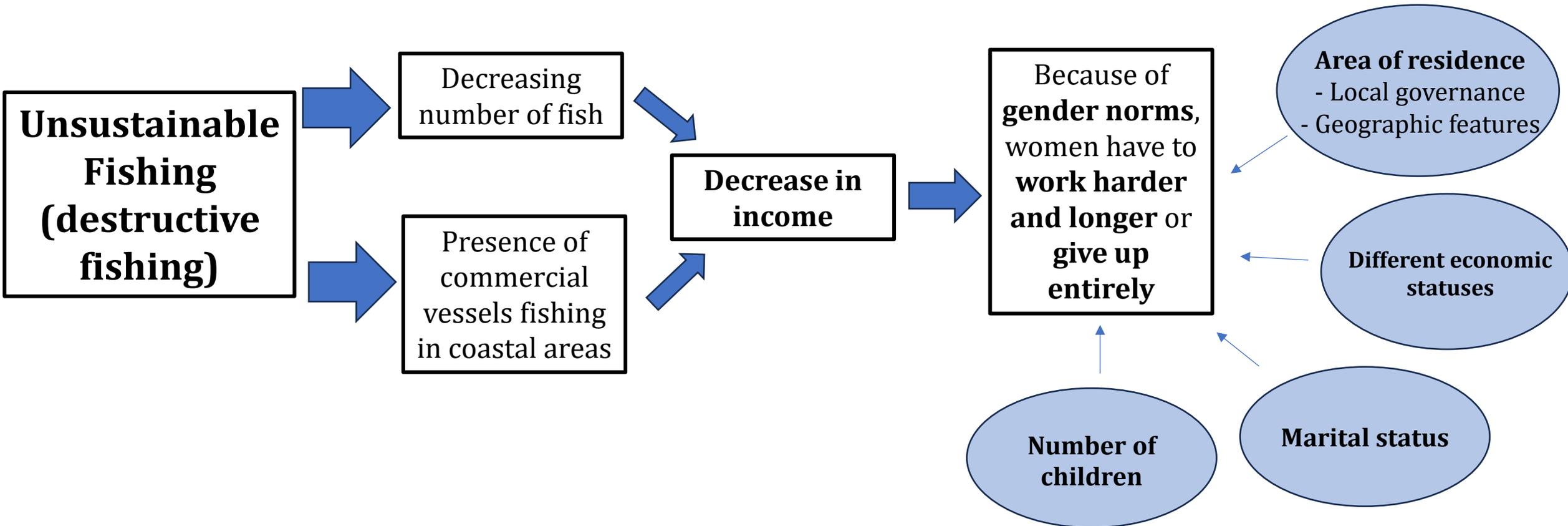
Discussion

Gender Division of Labour and Women's Double Burden



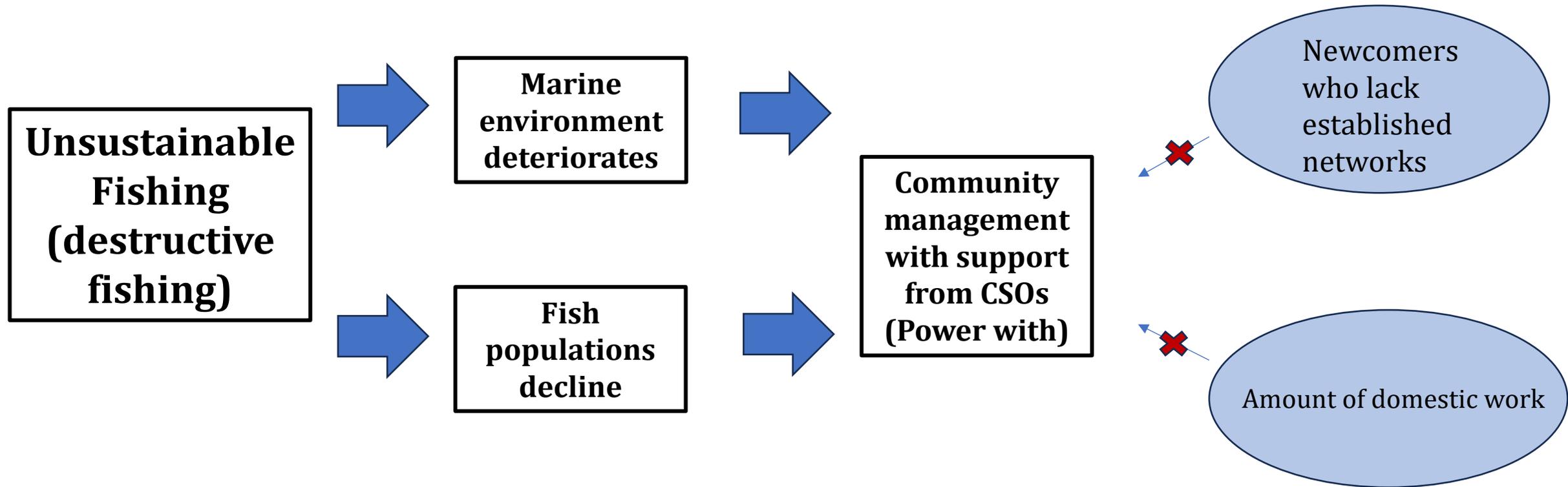
Discussion

Impacts of Destructive Fishing and Intersectional Social Factors on Women



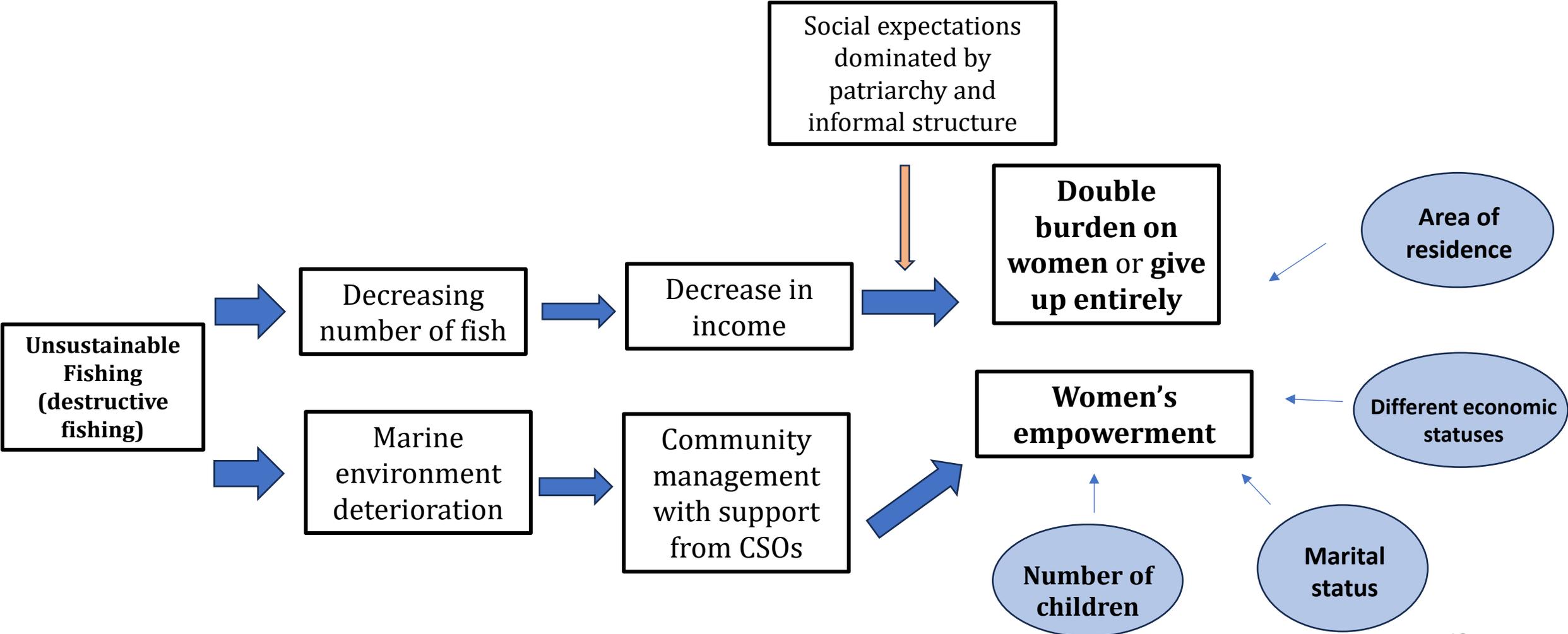
Discussion

Empowering Women Through Community Management in the Face of Destructive Fishing and Challenges from Intersectionality



Conclusion

How does destructive fishing impact women differently in SSF in southern Thailand?



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Thank you!



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