



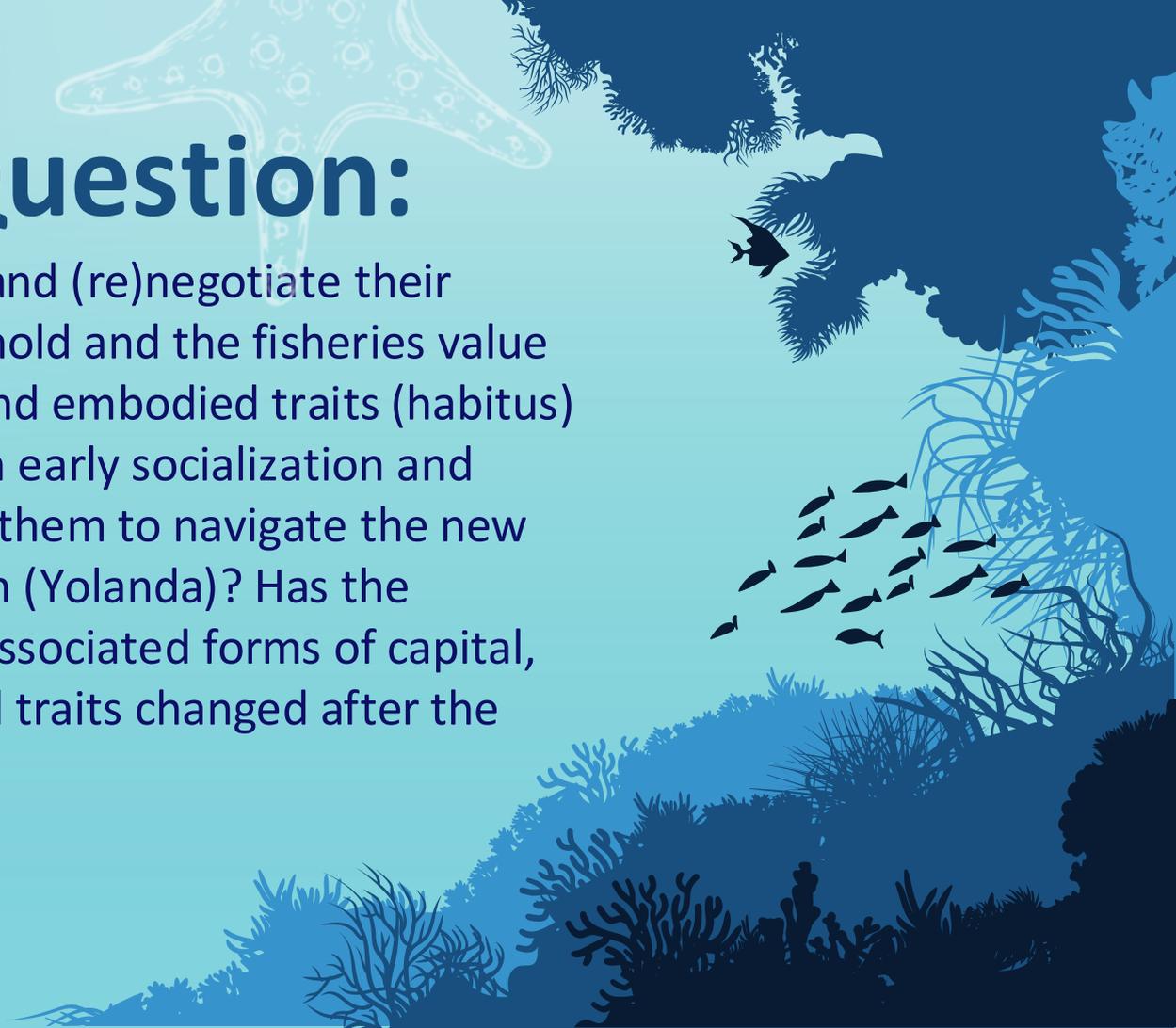
**BECOMING ‘VISIBLE’:
HOW FISHERWOMEN NEGOTIATE
POSITION IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES
VALUE CHAINS IN GUIUAN, EASTERN
SAMAR, PHILIPPINES**

Rima Jessamine M. Granali

University of the Philippines Tacloban College

Research Question:

How do women negotiate and (re)negotiate their positions within the household and the fisheries value chain? What dispositions and embodied traits (*habitus*) have they acquired through early socialization and interventions that enabled them to navigate the new field structures after Haiyan (Yolanda)? Has the valuation of the feminine-associated forms of capital, dispositions, and embodied traits changed after the Haiyan (Yolanda) crisis?



Conceptual Framework

Theory of Practice

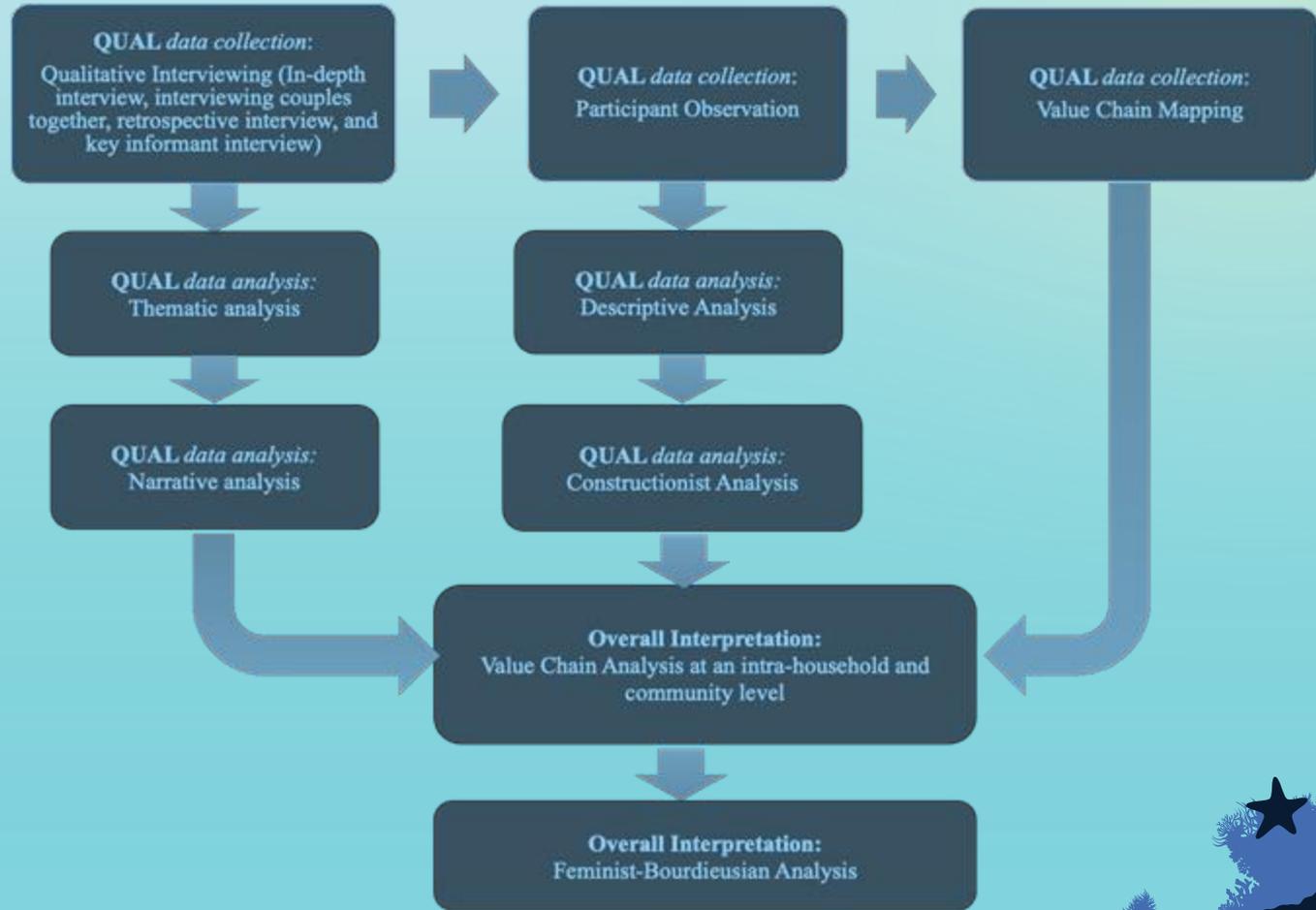
$$\text{(Habitus x Capital) + Field = Practice}$$

The study developed a **Feminist-Bourdieuian framework**, which builds on **Bourdieu's theory of practice** and **masculine domination** and incorporates **Butler's (1990) gender performativity**. To explore how crises affect the dynamic relationship between field, habitus, and capital, the framework draws from four main literature:

- (1) **Morin's (1993) "double face of crisis";**
- (2) **Emirbayer and Misch's (1998) conceptualization of agentic capacity**
- (3) **Appadurai's (2004) navigational capacity**
- (4) **Adkins' (2003) gender reflexivity.**

Qualitative Multimethod Approach

(Hesse-Biber et. al., 2015)



Research Participants: Gender-disaggregated based on Value Chain Activity

	Pre-Yolanda	Post-Yolanda	Pre-Yolanda	Post-Yolanda
Value Chain Activity	Male		Female	
Fisher	14	8	3	3
Trader	0	1	0	2
<i>Namomorsyento</i>	0	0	2	1
Vendor	1	3	8	8
Aquaculture (BFAR)	4	4	0	0
Seaweed Farming and Processing	2	1	7	8
Processing (Fish Dryer)	0	0	5	4
Processing (Crab)	0	0	1	2
Administrative (Includes business manager/ consolidator, secretary, and cashier, who manages the business component of the fisherfolk association or a private enterprise)	0	3	2	6
House manager	0	0	7	3
Transportation	4	5	0	0
Non-Fisheries Related	0	0	2	1
Total	25	25	37	37

Research Participants: Gender-disaggregated based on Leadership Positions

Leadership Position	Male	Female	Total
President (Fisherfolk Association)	2	3*	5
Vice President (Fisherfolk Association)	1	0	1
Secretary (Fisherfolk Association)	0	3	3
Treasurer (Fisherfolk Association)	1	2	3
Member of the Board of Directors (Fisherfolk Association)	3	0	3
Barangay Official	0	3*	3
Total	7	10*	17

**Note: The total is 10, instead of 11 in the number of female leaders because one of the presidents is also a barangay official.*

Double Face of Crisis and Disruption in Field Structures (Morin, 1993, p. 14)

Crisis poses the “risk of regression” and the “chance of progression.”

1. **Change in Sexual Division of Labor:** Men stayed at home to rebuild homes while women ventured to the sea for daily sustenance or served as breadwinner.

Functionalism



Dysfunction

2. **Disruption of gendered practices:** Haiyan ravaged the municipality, destroying boats, fishing gears, and key infrastructures.

Continuity



Break

3. **Acceptance and Propagation of Deviations from Norms:** Governments and NGOs encouraged women to participate in livelihood training, group enterprises, and cash-for-work activities.

Negative Feedback



Positive Feedback

Reworking of Gendered Subjectivities in Habitus

(Emirbayer & Misch, 1998; Appadurai, 2004; and Adkins, 2003)

Deregulation in the Field

Pre-Haiyan Context:

Women's value chain activities, such as preparing fishing net and selling fish, were typically regarded as extensions to their role as mothers and wives

Early Recovery Phase:

Livelihood training and job opportunities through interventions, as novel field opportunities, helped increase gender reflexivity and legitimize women's value chain activities as paid labor.

Habitus x Capital

Creating an identity apart from being a wife and mother expands the purview of possibilities for women, which enables them to demonstrate skills, earn income, and build social capital.

Reinforcing Gender Reflexivity:

- Gender and Development Training and Policies
- Women's Group Enterprises and Other Livelihood Opportunities
- Women's Inclusion in Fisherfolk's Association
- Women's Representation in the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (MFARMC)
- The COVID-19 pandemic further reinforced the gender reflexivity at sea

Becoming 'Visible': Negotiating Position in the Field

1. Re-evaluation of Feminine-associated Dispositions, Skills, and Practices

- Symbolic value attached to feminine-associated gendered dispositions and gender performances changed after Haiyan.

Value Chain Activity	Gender Association	Habitus (Gendered Dispositions)	Embodied Cultural Capital (Gender Performances)	Practices
Wholesale Post-Haiyan (Transformation)	Femininity	Having the humility to appeal to the sympathies and loyalties of other actors in the landing site	Ability to persuade actors to reconsider pricing of fish	Negotiating with fellow buyers (traders and vendors)
	Femininity	Having the generosity and time to cultivate loyalty through gift giving	Giving gifts during special occasions, such as Christmas and providing regular financial assistance	Gift giving
	Femininity	Math proficiency	Having the skills to quickly perform math-related tasks in selling, such as computing the price and bookkeeping.	Sales, accounting, and bookkeeping

Becoming 'Visible': Negotiating Position in the Field

1. Re-evaluation of Feminine-associated Dispositions, Skills, and Practices Communal Exchange Relations (Adkins, 2003)

- The new practices that emerged over an eight-year period since the onslaught of Super Typhoon Haiyan were sustained through communal exchanges based on loyalty, reciprocity, and resource sharing.

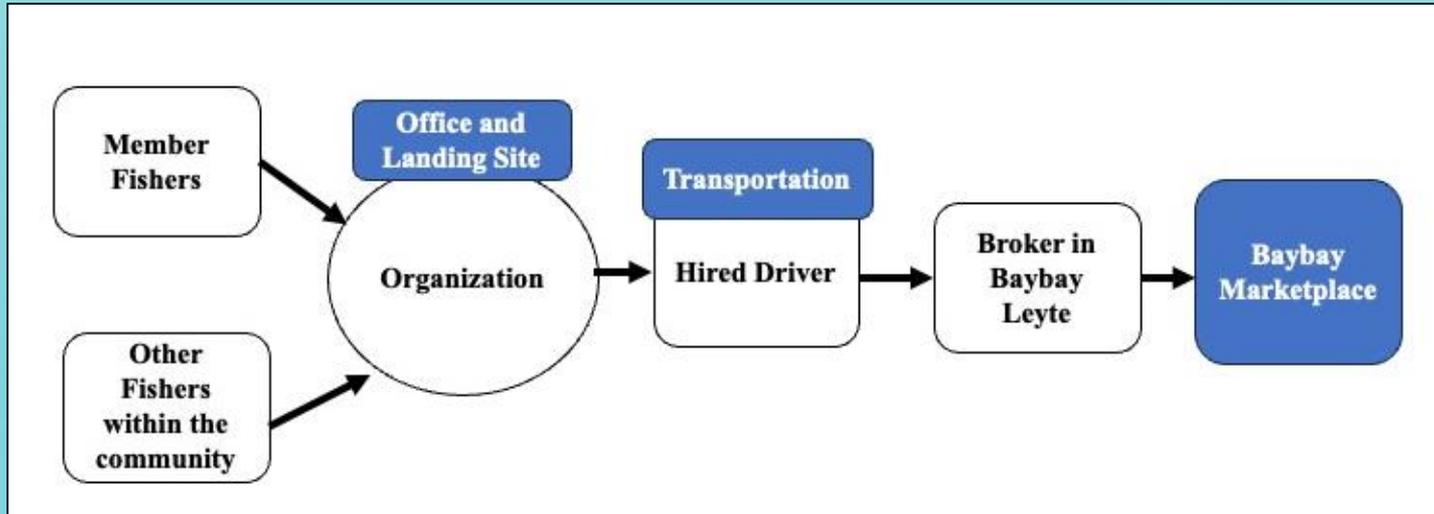
**(Habitus [actors' strategies] x Capital [performances of gender]) +
Field [exchanges between actors along the value chain] = New Practices**

- In the trader-led value chain, which emerged after Haiyan, the study found that the role of female fish vendors and traders in mobilizing emotional capital (e.g. gift giving) is vital in transposing fishers' obligation to supply fish into durable dispositions, such as gratitude, indebtedness, trustworthiness, and the value of friendship.

Becoming 'Visible': Negotiating Position in the Field

1. Re-evaluation of Feminine-associated Dispositions, Skills, and Practices Communal Exchange Relations (Adkins, 2003)

- The formalization of women's traditional post-harvest activities in an organizational value chain structure provides a promising track toward the "visibility" of women's roles and the expansion of what being a "good fisher" means.



Becoming 'Visible': Negotiating Position in the Field

2. Social Capital: Women Leaders and Their Impact on Fishing Communities

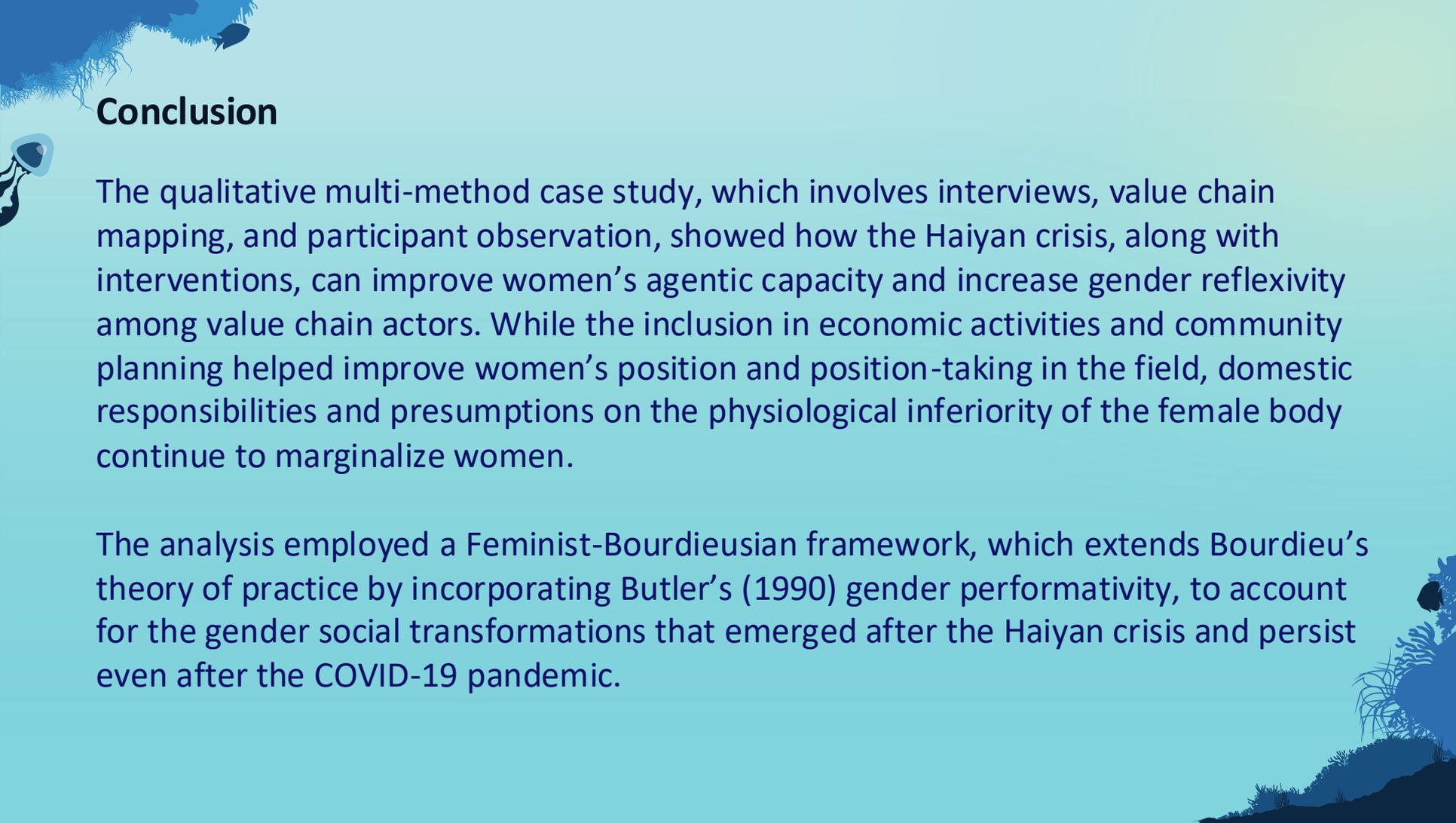
- Similar to a mentor fisher, the highest status ascribed to fishers, women as organization leaders help improve the livelihood of the fishing community through their social network with governments and non-government organizations, and skills in proposal and report writing.

3. Increased Economic and Social Capital: Changing Household Power Dynamics

- Husbands, who recognized their wives' new roles in fisheries value chains as beneficial to them and the community, started taking on household responsibilities such as cooking and washing dishes. Women's increased knowledge about laws through Gender and Development (GAD) training also helped them negotiate their position.

"We also have the power because there are laws that protect us from being abused, from being turned into punching bags... We are now equals."

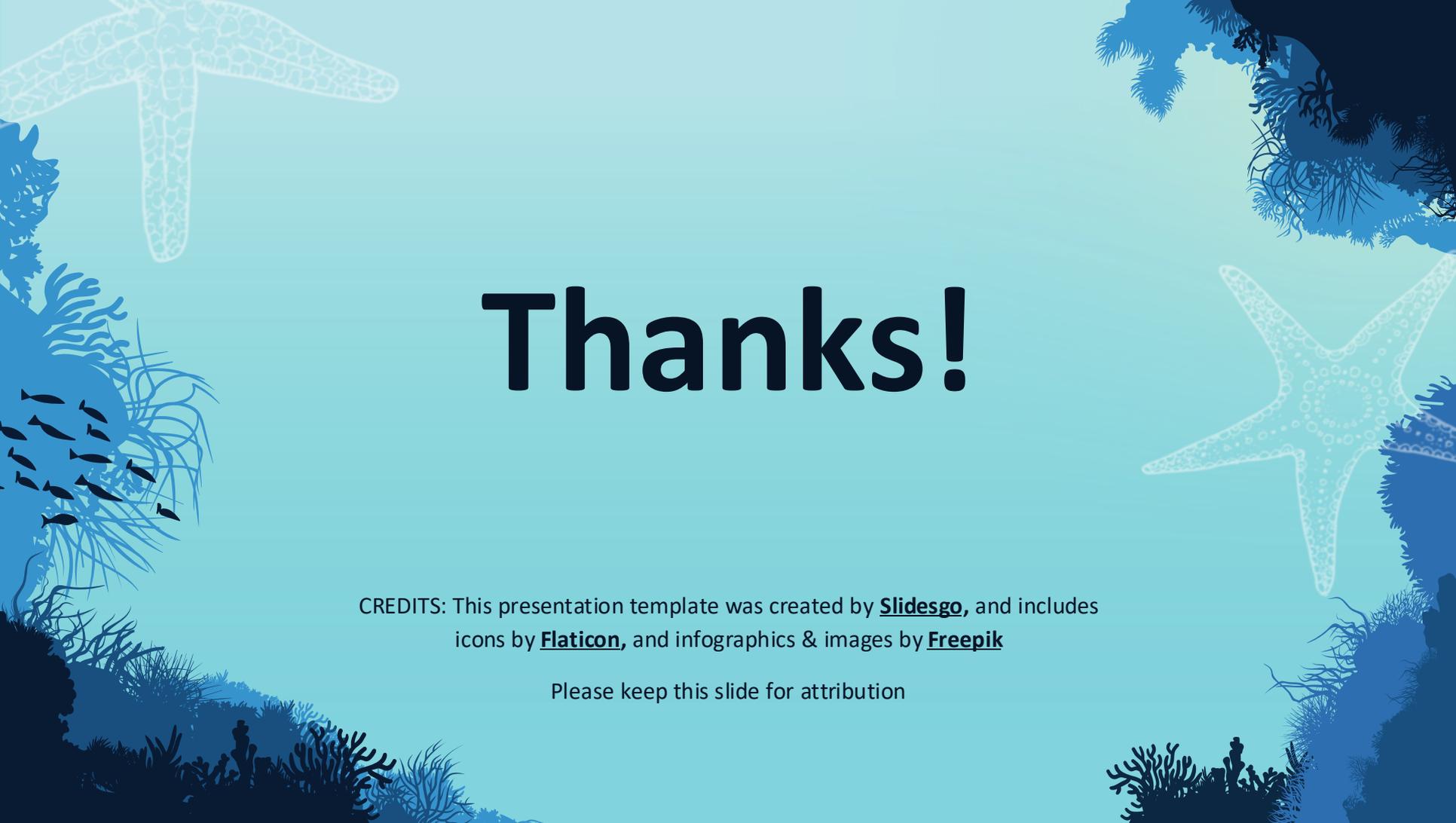
(Female Fish Dryer and Leader 54)



Conclusion

The qualitative multi-method case study, which involves interviews, value chain mapping, and participant observation, showed how the Haiyan crisis, along with interventions, can improve women's agentic capacity and increase gender reflexivity among value chain actors. While the inclusion in economic activities and community planning helped improve women's position and position-taking in the field, domestic responsibilities and presumptions on the physiological inferiority of the female body continue to marginalize women.

The analysis employed a Feminist-Bourdieuian framework, which extends Bourdieu's theory of practice by incorporating Butler's (1990) gender performativity, to account for the gender social transformations that emerged after the Haiyan crisis and persist even after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The background is a light blue gradient with dark blue silhouettes of coral, seaweed, and fish. Two large, white-outlined starfish are positioned in the upper left and lower right corners. The word "Thanks!" is centered in a large, bold, black font.

Thanks!

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