

Welcome



CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN WORKING IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES SECTOR IN BANGLADESH



Background

- Bangladesh, a land complicatedly connected to its numerous rivers, canals, and floodplains, has a deep-rooted reliance on its aquatic resources.
- Fisheries are thus a cornerstone of food security, particularly in rural regions, providing essential protein and nutrients and supporting the livelihoods of millions.
- Within the small-scale fisheries sector, men and women both contribute, but their roles differ significantly.
- Men commonly venture into open waters to catch fish using various traditional and modern fishing methods. While often less visible, women play an indispensable role by cleaning, processing (drying, salting, smoking), and selling fish.
- This study examines how institutional, social, and cultural factors interact to restrict their access to resources and opportunities.

Methodology

- Study Method: Qualitative Study
- Sampling Procedure: Purposive Sampling
- Respondents types: Small scale women farmers who are engaged in different tasks related to fisheries.
- Data collection method: Secondary literature review & face to face interview with the respondents
- Data Analysis method: Thematic Analysis

Findings of the Study

Major Challenges mentioned by the respondents-

- Work nature & pattern of the women's mobility
- Lack of agency of the women in this industry
- Lack of access to relevant knowledge & understanding
- Lack of access to resources e.g., finance, training, proper equipment
- Lack of access to relevant knowledge & understanding

Findings of the Study (Cont.)

One women respondent aged 30 years mentioned with regret-

“we are helping our husbands in their work in organizing fishes for the market. Sometimes, they are valuing our work, sometimes not. It totally depend on their mood, whether, they will value us as part of their business.”

Another respondent who is working with her husband mentioned-

“I am doing this as part of my regular household tasks.”

Findings of the Study (Cont.)

Another women respondent aged 25 years, working in dry fish industry as labor mentioned-

“We are working here as labor to bear our family cost and earn our livelihood. We are working hard, but, struggling everyday. If someone help us to understand the process and market, we can also start our small scale business.”

Another women respondent aged 32 years mentioned with great regret-

“We are poor (gorib), no one is seeing us. If we have the money, we will be like fish Mohajon in the market.”

Conclusion

- The study's findings underscore the multifaceted barriers hindering women's engagement and potential contributions in Bangladesh's small-scale fisheries.
- Limited access to resources and training, coupled with socio-cultural norms and household duties, restrict their ability to thrive and fully contribute to sector productivity and sustainability.
- By strategically addressing these constraints through targeted interventions, women's contributions to fisheries could significantly expand, benefiting themselves, their families, communities, and the national economy.

Thank you

