



# BEYOND NETS AND TRAPS: EXAMINING GENDER ROLES AND WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE CRAB FISHING COMMUNITY OF MANAPLA, NEGROS OCC., PHILIPPINES

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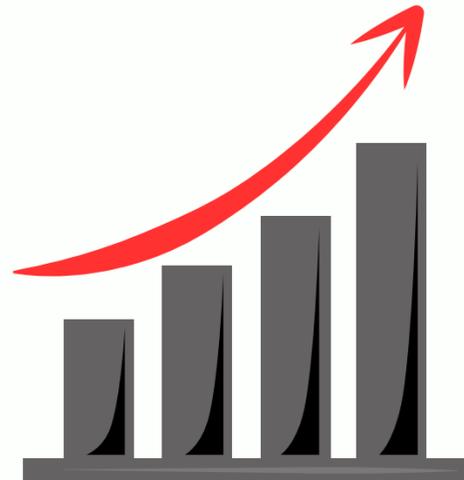
# INTRODUCTION

- Crab is one of the most important aquatic products in the Philippines. It ranked third among the exported commodities with an estimated value of USD 91.44 million (DA-BFAR, 2023).
- As part of the implementation of the Blue Swimming Crab National Management Plan (BSC-NMP) of the country, the blue swimming crab Model Villages were established to serve as a platform for pilot coordinated and science-based interventions
- There are two (2) established model villages in the country, one of which is in Barangay Tortosa in Negros Occidental, Philippines.
- **This paper examines the gender division of labor in the crab fishing operation of Tortosa, focusing on the often-overlooked roles of women, particularly the fisher's wife.**





# STUDY SITE PROFILE



Estimated population: 7,008



Three (3) active fisherfolk organizations



One (1) crab-picking plant present in the barangay



Most common source of livelihood is crab fishing using crab gill net (locally known as kurantay) and crab pots (panggal)



# METHODOLOGY

- Qualitative data were gathered through **key informant interviews (KII)** and a **focus group discussion (FGD)**.
- For the KII, a **crab fisher and a fisher's wife** were interviewed.
- **For the FGD, six (6) women** participated in the discussion.
- A separate **FGD was conducted for men** (10 participants).
- The results were presented in a validation activity that was attended by various sectors involved in the crab industry.





# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



ACTIVITY (MEN)		TIME	ACTIVITY (WOMEN)	
Crab pots ( <i>panggal</i> )	Crab gillnet ( <i>kurantay</i> )		Crab pots ( <i>panggal</i> )	Crab gillnet ( <i>kurantay</i> )
		1:00		
		2:00		
Monitor weather conditions; prepare for fishing	Monitor weather conditions; prepare for fishing	3:00	Prepare breakfast; Ready kids for school	Prepare packed breakfast; Ready kids for school
Fishing operation	Fishing operation	4:00	Fishing operation	Fishing operation
		5:00		
		6:00		
		7:00		
		8:00		
Sell catch; breakfast; prepare baits; eat lunch		9:00	Breakfast; sell catch; pick crabs; prepare lunch; household chores; eat lunch	
		10:00		
		11:00		
Fishing operation	Sell catch; eat lunch	12:00	Fishing operation	Sell catch; prepare lunch; eat lunch
	Mend nets; prepare fishing supply for next day; siesta	13:00		
		14:00		
		15:00		Mend nets; pick crabs, household chores
		16:00		
Sell catch; prepare baits		17:00	Prepare dinner	Prepare dinner
Dinner	Dinner	18:00	Dinner	Dinner
Watch TV	Watch TV; mend nets	19:00	Household chores; pick crabs	Household chores; pick crabs; mend nets
		20:00		
		21:00		
		22:00		
		23:00		
		0:00		





# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



- Men are predominantly engage in **fishing operation, gear maintenance, and fish marketing** activities.



- Women contribute significantly by **managing household** responsibilities, **assisting in fishing operations, mending nets, processing and selling value-added crab products** for additional income, and **caring for the young children**.
- Women **assist their husbands** by putting bait in crab pots and in the setting and hauling of fishing gears.



**These multiple burdens leave women with little to no opportunity at all for rest or recreation.**

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**Because of their workload, women express desires for leisure activities, time for rest, and alternative income sources.**



# Hopes and Aspirations



- For **children to graduate from college**
- To stay healthy
- To be able to **have time for leisure** activities (shot-shot)



- For **children to graduate from college**
- To retire from fishing
- To have their own sari-sari store (alternative livelihood)
- To be able to **have time for leisure** (e.g. vacation in cold places)
- To be able to have bonding activities with family and friends

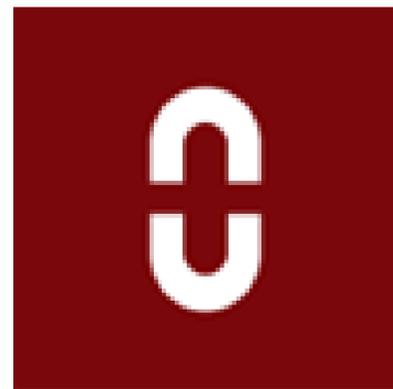
# CONCLUSION

- This paper examined the often-overlooked roles of women, particularly the fisher's wife, in crab fishing operation.
- **The dual productive and reproductive roles show the vital contributions of women, which remain largely invisible in fisheries discussions**
- These multiple burdens leave women with **little to no opportunity at all for rest or recreation.**
- This paper highlights the **need to recognize women's roles in fisheries and for a gender-responsive policies** that support women's welfare and economic empowerment in coastal fishing communities.





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