**Strict gender division of labor**

In many countries especially south Asia fishing fish farming is considered mainly a man’s activity. Some projects take initiative to involve and grow women as fish farmer, among fisher folk, women are not considered a farmer, they usually do minor farming task as their helper in fish farming activities. They are unaware about continuing social division of labor leaves the community with few chances to develop. The beneficiaries do not think that flexible gender division of labor is an important factor for a good production system. many women think that ‘men should buy fish fry from the market as they are not confident enough to find out which are strong enough to stock in the pond; it is not female work and only the male partner should know the technology of fish farming as their husbands understand all things better than they’.

Women are usually or traditionally responsible for obtaining feed for fish such as collecting rice bran and grass and any other available vegetables wastes and feeding the fish, pond fertilization and pond maintenance. Generally men are responsible for pond preparation, pond weeding, drying or drainage and the regulation of water into pond prior to stocking, although women often help. When a large batch of fish is to be harvested from a pond using caste nets, this is considered as men’s responsibility. Also fish farming is considered to be a male activity which needs strength and mental preparedness to face any uncertainty, loss or challenges that women could not come up with.

**Women’s participation in training and extension services**

Usually women do not speak out in mixed-sex training sessions before males who speak loudly in responding to the trainer though these sessions do enable women farmers to become informed about production and new technologies. Women members are less confident in the groups. Causes identified are women having less education or being more illiterate than men.

The causes of less attendance in training were identified as women having to work longer hours on both productive and reproductive work and thus having little time to attend training sessions and being confused about how to manage their time between home and work.

Sometimes, they women are unable to attend aquaculture training as they have to take care of small children and ill or aged member of family. Another reason for the low participation of women at training was they felt that they might not be able to take notes and follow technical knowledge because they have a lower education level. Women's lack of literacy further limits their ability to participate in decision-making processes and training and education programs. This may lead to their self- exclusion from aquaculture training.

### Women’s agency: access and control over resources and decision-making processes

Traditionally women do not have access and control over resources like land produce, knowledge, cash/credit and tools. Women are still considered dependent on their family income and resources. Even women are less knowledgeable as to which resources they control, who has power to decide whether a resource is used, how it is used and how it is allocated. In the opinion of women, men spend more of the money that they earn from fish farming for their own consumption than do women. On the other hand, women are more likely to purchase goods for children, husband and general household consumption. But they feel relieve to depend on men’s decisions on money use as they think they are less knowledgeable and lack skill in money management, yet they manage household activities in most cases smoothly with consideration as a home manager.

Buying and stocking fingerlings, for example is an important technical decision for farmer groups and the role of men focuses more on decision making in deciding the fish species, purchasing, netting, harvesting, marketing and even the use of income while women provide the labor for collecting the feed and feeding fish on a daily basis along with their other household chores. While women's labor is critical to the running of households and fish farms, they traditionally have limited roles in decision-making processes. At present, the majority of the credit is obtained from small credit bank and informal sources in which women are the primary borrower. Usually women give the credit to husband if they invest in fish farming or spend for personal needs whereas women are responsible to repay the installment money of loan.