Gender inequalities in access to and benefits derived from natural fisheries in The Barotse Floodplain, Western Province, Zambia

Surendran Rajaratnam, Steven Cole & Catherine Longley
Presentation

• Introduction
• Literature Review
• The Social Relations Approach
• Methods: SGA & FVC
• Map
• Key Findings
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• GTA
Introduction

• Contribute to development planning, policy and practice using a gender analysis framework on qualitative data collected from the Barotse Floodplain, Western Province, Zambia.
• GTA to enhance women’s access to & benefits derived from the natural fisheries, improve gender relations and ensure better and more sustainable development outcomes.

Barotse Floodplain, Western Province of Zambia
• Multiple demographic, socioeconomic and climatic challenges and vulnerabilities
• Variety of livelihood opportunities: flood – provide fish & aquatic plants; water subside – fertile ground to cultivate crops
• Cattle, forest products, fish trade, piecework
Literature Review

Women & men in the Barotse Floodplain

- Men – fishers; Women – support in pre & post-harvest activities, perform unpaid tasks
- Traditional gender roles of women & men limit women’s access to & benefits derived from natural fisheries.
- 99.3% HH consume fish
- Limited number of research conducted on the region’s fisheries, even lower number on women’s involvement in fisheries

Research Questions

- What are the underlying causes preventing women from accessing natural fisheries
- How does inaccessibility to natural fisheries impacts women’s livelihoods?
Social Relations Approach

- Gender analysis frameworks use different categories and terms to understand the gender sphere.
- Harvard Analytical Framework – gender roles analysis method
- Moser Framework – developed to aid integration of gender in all types of intervention via triple role tool (productive, reproductive and community work)
- For comprehensive understanding of gender inequalities - focusing on social institutions where these inequalities are produced
- Naila Kabeer’s (1994) Social Relations Approach – provides a lens to clearly view how inequalities stem from social institutions
Methods

Social and Gender Analysis
• Qualitative data for SGA was collected from women and men in the 10 AAS communities located in four districts (Kalabo, Lukulu, Mongu, Senanga) in the BFP
• FGDs on separate group of women and men on gender norms and change
• 22 focus group discussion notes were collected and analyzed for this study.

Fish Value Chain Analysis
• Qualitative data for FVCA was collected from fishers, traders and processors in 5 fishing camps located in four districts (Kalabo, Lukulu, Mongu and Senanga) within the BFP
• FGDs on separate group of women and men on 1) gender roles (activity clock) and on decision making and access to resources.
• 20 focus group discussion notes

Data Analysis
• Nvivo 10
• Directed content analysis
Barotse Floodplain, Western Province, Zambia
Key Findings

Household/Family

• Decision making within a household
  – Men: decisions over where and when to fish as well as the use of suitable gears to use.
  – Women: decisions especially on fishing, whether to or not and how much to sell or consume or to trade.

• Income
  – controlled by men
  – women received small portion to manage HH
  – men use most of the income for personal consumption
Community

• Women & men have different roles & responsibilities in FVC
  – Men: fishers; Women: traders
  – Paddling canoe requires ‘strength’: women can’t do
  – Men fish using nets in deep waters; women fish using basket in canals & smaller streams
  – Boys & girls taught to take over the responsibilities according to their sex
Market

- Women: restricted mobility as they need to seek permission from husbands/parents
  - can’t fish in deep waters & be as mobile as men to trade fish in other villages/distant markets
  - can be attacked/robbed on the way to the market
  - engage in less remunerative income generating activities, closer to their home: farming, piecework, collecting wild fruits & forest products, brewing beer etc.

State

- Control over natural resources in BFP – BRE which is represented by village headmen who are mostly men.
Discussion

- Gender inequalities impinges on women especially more on the old & poor
- Limits women from benefitting from the resources
- Social institutions further reinforce these inequalities
- Only by looking into these institutions, social inequalities produced can be addressed (Kabeer, 1994)
- Changes in one of the institution affect the others (Kabeer, 1994)
**Gender Transformative Approach**

The key characteristics of a gender transformative approach as compared to other gender integration approach (Kantor, 2013):

- GTA seeks to understand people within their context and the way social inequalities intersect to affect their choices and outcomes.

- Provides space for women and men for an iterative process of critical learning, reflection, questioning and action.

- It engages both women and men as transformative change stems from shared vision between women and men.

- Engages with different actors across scales to redress the underlying gender norms and power relations that enables social inequalities.
Conceptual Framework

Gender and Fisheries in the Barotse Floodplain

Social Relations Framework

Role of Social Institutions in producing and reinforcing Gender Inequalities

Gender Transformative Approach
- Enhancing women’s access to and benefits derived from the natural fisheries
- Improve gender relations
- Ensure better and more sustainable development
Gender Transformative Approach

- Will be worked out with different actors across different scales in the Barotse Floodplain
- Adopting GTA requires investment in strengthening gender capacities & skills & fostering a new gender-aware way of viewing the world among DOF staff, their partners and women & men in the communities
- Once they buy-in the GTA, gender capacity building efforts can be carried out with min. hindrance
- Gender needs to be integrated into all of DOF’s programmatic activities
- They must be able to monitor and evaluate the change process over time
Thank you!
A glimpse of the Barotse Floodplain and its people
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