



# Integrating gender perspectives in aquaculture projects: Case study of Greater Noakhali Aquaculture Project

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Presented at the Special Symposium – Gender and fisheries: Solutions  
through gender research

The 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Fisheries Forum 2007

November 21, Kochi, India



# The study

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- ❑ Aquaculture's empowering effect on women?
- ❑ Factors and processes in which aquaculture extension can bring about change in women's status and decision making power.
- ❑ Case on Greater Noakhali Aquaculture Project (GNAEP) in Bangladesh.
- ❑ Based on interview of 99 women and men under the project (55 women, 44 men)



# Aquaculture systems

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- Pond poly culture by fish farming group (FFG)
  - Credit, training, household approach
- Integrated pond farming (IPF)
  - Farmer field school, focus farmers, CBO, separate training for women and men
- Carp and prawn nursery program for women-headed households
  - Making Opportunities for Women-headed Households for Improving their Livelihood through Aquaculture – MOWHILA
  - Fry production in backyard, women's groups, FFS
- Cage culture
  - Landless farmers with joint ownership of ponds, training by needs basis



# Women's involvement in aquaculture

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- ❑ Aquaculture new activity for most households.
- ❑ Women engaged in most of the aquaculture activities (including guarding ponds)
- ❑ Cage and MOWHILA women perceived that they do most of the aquaculture work.
- ❑ Time spent for aquaculture
  - IPF women 4.2 hours, men 3 hours
  - Cage women 3.16 hours
  - MOWHILA women 2.88 hours
  - FFG women 2.8 hours, men 2.67 hours



# Income increase through aquaculture activity

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- Relative importance of income from aquaculture
  - Nearly half of net HH income for MOWHILA
  - 26% for cage culture
  - 5.5% for IPF
  - 30% for FFG.
  
- MOWHILA had little alternative income source, while IPF earned more from non-agriculture income, and cage culture by vegetable.



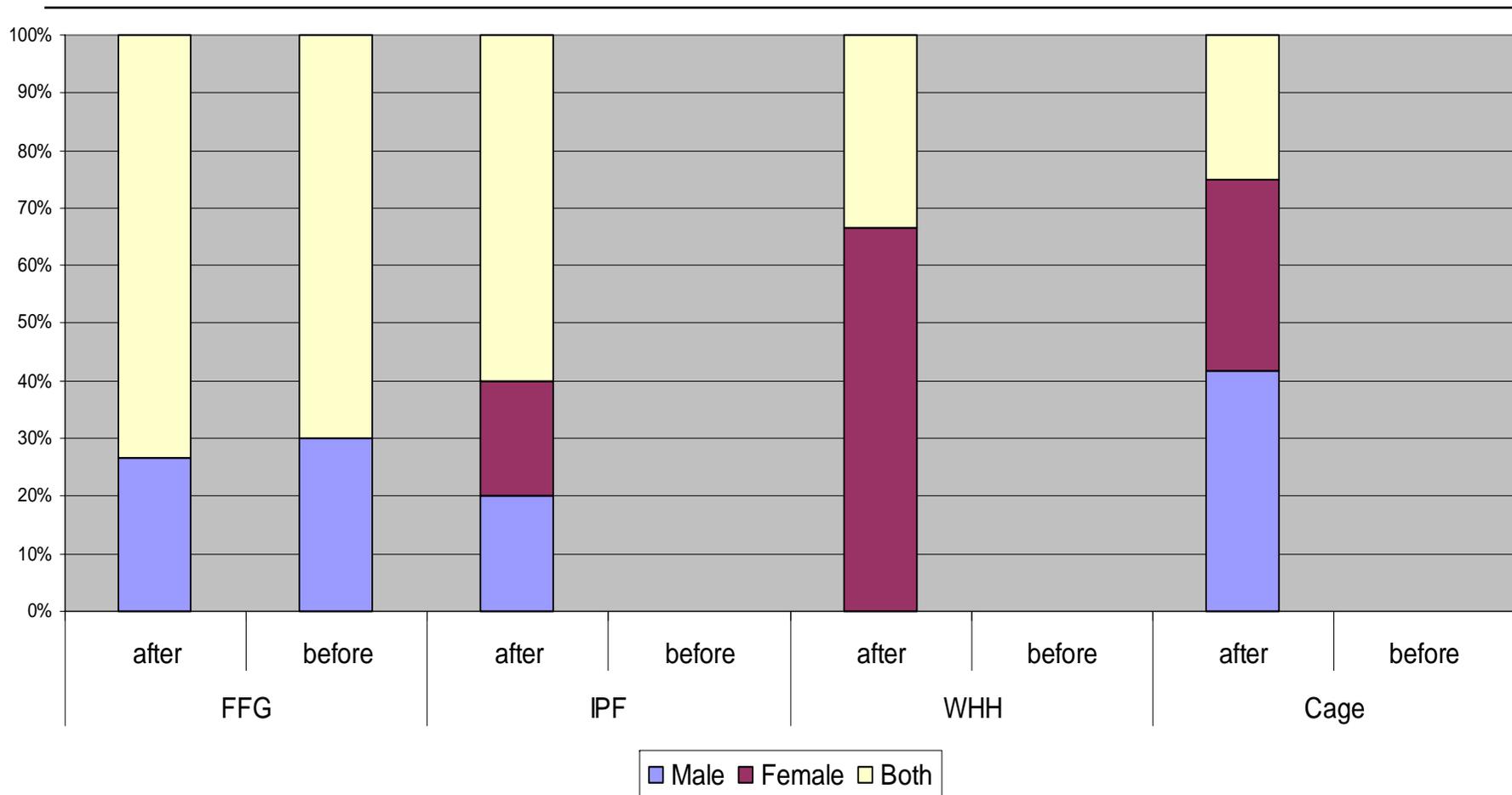
## Decision making, self-confidence and participation in community activities

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- No change in intra-household decision making pattern and division of labor for reproductive work.
- Women's contribution invisible?
- Improved self-confidence
  - 42.3% of women said self-confidence improved (MOWHILA 68%, cage 16%, IPF 100%, FFG 25%)
- Permission to go out
  - 66.2% of women replied that they need men's permission, while 79.3% of men did.
- Higher participation in community activities



## Helping community people





# Conclusion

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- Women involved in all types of aquaculture, but no change seen in division of labor or decision making patterns in household.
- Women's contribution invisible?
- Increase in mobility and working side by side with men improved their self-esteem.
  - Pond side training
  - Old settlers (cage and FFS)
  - How they think they are treated by extension workers

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- ❑ Integrating gender perspective in aquaculture extension project is not only about targeting women for knowledge dissemination, but about improving women's confidence.
  - ❑ The way to do this is culture and context specific.