

“GENDER IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE” CERTIFICATE COURSE FOR THE FISHERIES STUDENTS IN INDIA

G.Arul Oli*, N.V. Sujathkumar, M.Nagoor Meeran, R.Jayaraman and M.C.Nandeeshha
Fisheries College and Research Sciences University, Thoothukudi – 628 008, Tamilnadu, India.
gvarul2001@gmail.com

Gender equality is a foundation to achieve sustainable development. One of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is achieving gender equality in all countries and cultures at the earliest possible time and accomplishing this goal is acknowledged as a key to achieve the seven other goals. It has been shown that enhanced access to education, technology, information, inputs, and other resources contribute to empowerment of people. India is one of the countries where gender inequalities are seen in many areas.

Sensitization and awareness creation on gender issues is inadequately addressed in fisheries in India and this has been hampering gender balanced development. With men dominating in most of the activities in fisheries education, research and development areas, lack of knowledge on gender issues confronting the sector, progress in each of the areas has been slow. In order to address this issue at an early stage of people shaping their thoughts and career, a certificate course on Gender in Fisheries and Aquaculture has been formulated targeting primarily student communities.

In India, there are currently seventeen Fisheries Colleges established under the Agricultural Universities system. Annually about 400 graduates pass out from these institutions and they are employed largely by the Department of Fisheries of the respective states. In addition, graduates are also employed by the Central Government for various positions and private sectors. In the existing undergraduate syllabus there is not enough provision to teach issues related to gender in fisheries and aquaculture at greater depth. With the reduction of number of years of class room based study to three years, time available for introducing a new course on gender and fisheries has become difficult. Hence, the present course has been designed as a non-load course that students can take at any time and complete before completing a four year program. In addition, the present certificate course has been developed in such a manner to help the professionals to complete this course through distance mode of study. The course is designed to cover six months duration to fit into the prevailing semester system.

The course is proposed to start at the Fisheries Colleges and Research Institutes. It is also proposed to be expanded to other Fisheries colleges by making the course available on the e-learning platform. The course is planned to be launched on 8th March 2011. This paper will present the syllabus covered, conduct of course through class room approach as well as distance mode and the method of evaluation adopted.