Using a gender lens: Assessing an aquaculture project & exploring its influence on women & men in Odisha, India

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Background

The State of Odisha

• The total fish production: 413,000 t (2013-14)
• Overall (5 yrs: 2007/8 to 2012/13) increase in fish production – 63660 t; annual growth of 3%.
• Fish production from the inland fisheries resources has increased, the marine fish production declined during the period.
• The State Gov. of Odisha decided to increase the production to benefit its people in the state.
• Gender disparities are high in the State of Odisha, India (World Bank, 2016)
The importance of gender equality

If women had access to resources, on-farm yields could **INCREASE BY 20-30%**.

With same access to resources as men, possible yield is 20-30% higher. With current resources, the current yield is lower.

This extra output could reduce the number of hungry people in the world by **12-17%**.

Source: FAO, 2011
“The increased role of women had a substantial impact on the increasing productivity and income from ponds...”

(Murshed-e-Jahan et al, 2010)
Why is this study important

What evidence is there that the current body of knowledge is sufficient?

or do we need to think and work in a different way?

What evidence is there?
Look at the development project
Look at the context with regards to gender
Effective gender integration & address gender inequalities
Review of Past Studies

Aquaculture in small and backyard ponds
- Ideal for women
- Participation - minimize the cost of production
(Salim, Antony & Geetha, 2011)

Small-scale carp seed production through portable FRP hatchery
- Women SHGs - capable of handling the hatchery on their own after two weeks of training & produce fish seed.
- No challenges were highlighted
(Mohapatra et al. (2015))

Carp polyculture tech dissemination to strengthen livelihoods of women SHGs
- Average prod. increased 110%
- Women actively involved in all of the process of the polyculture; increase fish yield; increase consumption of fish; improve nutritional status of family
- Poor technical knowledge deterred women’s ability to farm fish
(De et al. (2012))

Missing:
- Gender issues these women beneficiaries may face
- Women’s roles and responsibilities
- Women’s ability to participate in and benefit from interventions
Social Relations Approach
Kabeer, 1994
5 Dimensions of institutional social relationship

By Kabeer, 1994

1. Rules
2. Activities
3. Resources
4. People
5. Power
The Project

- **Geo**: 10 districts in Odisha, India
- **Fish**: Carp & Mola
- **System**: Backyard & Community ponds
- **Inputs & Training**
- **Targets** women beneficiaries
Project Assessment - Gender

Method:
Interviews with Project Manager and Field Officer
Reviewed project documents

Areas of Assessment:
1. Background & Justification
2. Expected Accomplishment/Goal
3. Purpose/Objective
4. Target Beneficiaries
5. Activities

Areas of Assessment:
6. Indicators
7. Implementation Strategy
8. M&E
9. Risks
10. Budget
What we found

What is working:
• Sex-disaggregated data

What could be strengthened:
• Design
• Focus on the increasing the number of women
• Targeting & selecting beneficiaries
• Training of women & men farmers
• Gender assessment & training
Gender Scoping

Methodology

• 2 communities in Mayurbanj district, Odisha
• Backyard pond & community pond
• Team: 2 women & 2 men field workers
• Language: English – Odia – English
• FGDs & Interviews
• Translation & transcription & analysis
Themes

• Gender roles & responsibilities
• Enabling & constraining factors
• Decision making
• Access to & control over resources
What we found from scoping

Positive early outcomes
• Less time & labour intensive
  • Respect, reduced stress, self-satisfaction, consumption

Challenges and constraints
• Lack of access to:
  • Market
  • Harvesting materials
  • Infrastructure & storage facilities
  • Aquaculture knowledge & skills
  • Financial capacity
  • Resources & markets
• Harmful norms & behavior:
  • Gender stereotypes
  • Domestic violence
Key implications for the project

- Access to resources & markets
- Capacities
- Gender stereotypes
- Project assessment
- Strategic gender research

Greater gender equality

Design & test of gender accommodative & transformative approaches
Thank You

WorldFish

CGIAR Research Program on Fish