Locating the Context of Gender in Fisheries Policies of India

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Introduction

• Globally, women in fishing communities play multidimensional roles that include livelihood, household, reproductive and community ones.

• Their involvement in fisheries value chains are often considered as invisible inspite of being active in a wide range of pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest activities both in capture and culture fisheries.
• The female workforce, particularly in the small scale fisheries sector tends to be high.

• In aquaculture, one of the fastest growing primary production sector, women's contributions is increasing.

(World Bank, 2012)
Fisheries in India is growing and is considered as the sunrise sector providing livelihood security to millions of people both men and women.
Development Will Not Cure Gender Inequality, Policy Will: Examining the Economic Survey 2017-18

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Fisheries Policies and Gender

Are issues of women being considered and given importance in the policies, schemes and programmes?

Policies impact lives of both men and women in one way or another.
Questions?

• Why policy?
• Why fisheries policies?
• Why gender concerns matter in fisheries policies?
• Public policy has the capacity to either perpetuate or eliminate discrimination and gender inequality.

• It is only by making gender a central consideration in the development and implementation of public policy that can hope to advance gender equality and women’s human rights.

• It is only through a gender analysis of policy that these differences become apparent, and solutions devised.

(Broderick, 2012)
How to apply a gender perspective in public policy?

- Asking the woman question
- Asking the man question
- Interrogating institutions and structures for hidden gender implications

(PC: https://wif.icsf.net/)
OBJECTIVES

• To review fisheries policies of National/Centre and States of India.
• To locate the context of gender in the fisheries policies of National/Centre and States of India.
Methodology
Policies at National Level

National Policy for Marine Fisheries

National Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy (Draft)

National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen

Blue revolution Scheme
National Policy for Marine Fisheries

• Enacted in 2017

• Vision:

  “A healthy and vibrant marine fisheries sector that meets the needs of the present and future generations.”

• Mission:

  “While keeping sustainability of the resources at the core of all actions, the policy framework will meet the national, social and economic goals, livelihood sustainability and socio-economic upliftment of the fisher community and is intended to guide the coordination and management of marine fisheries in the country during the next ten years.”
National Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy (Draft)

- **Under draft phase**

- **Vision**

  “Ecologically healthy, economically viable and socially inclusive inland fisheries and aquaculture that generates sustainable income, livelihoods and fish for all”

- **Mission**

  “Inland fisheries and aquaculture resources are developed, managed, conserved and sustainably utilised for improving livelihoods, food and nutrition security, and economic wellbeing through appropriate strategies and legislations, stakeholders’ participation, public-private and community partnership, market support, and strengthening research, extension and their linkages”
National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen

- Implemented in 2015-16
- Three broad components:
  i. Development of Model Fishermen Villages
  ii. Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen
  iii. Saving-cum-Relief
Blue Revolution Scheme

- Implemented in 2016.
- **Vision:**
  
  “Creating an enabling environment for integrated development of the full potential of fisheries of the country, along with substantially improvement in the income status of fishers and fish farmers keeping in view the sustainability, bio-security and environmental concerns.”

- **Mission**
  
  i. Formulation of a Neel Kranti Mission Plan (Blue Revolution Mission Plan) for tapping the full potential of the inland and marine culture fisheries of the country by developing it as a professional modern world class industry.
  
  ii. Ensure doubling of income of fishers and fish farmers of the country.
  
  iii. Ensure sustainability of, bio-security and address environmental concerns for enabling sustainability of the fishing industry.
• Various programmes undertaken by the Department of Fisheries of 29 states were reviewed from the information available on their official websites.

• The gathered information was supplemented through telephonic contacts with Department of Fisheries Officials.

• Qualitative assessment of the collected information was done by employing content analysis.

• Context of gender was located in the Indian fisheries policies and programmes at national and state level
Results
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<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Name of Fisheries policies / Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>National policy for marine fisheries</td>
<td>Gender equity mention in the 48 point which highlighted role of women in fisheries sector which include fish retailing, fish drying and other value addition activities. The government will continue to support its contribution to the roles played by the women and further enhance and support by way of forming women cooperatives, women friendly financial support schemes, good working conditions that would include safety, security and hygiene and transport facility for rural marketing encouragement to take a small scale fishing, value addition activity ad also play an active role in fisheries management.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sr. No</td>
<td>Name of Fisheries policies / Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>National inland fisheries and aquaculture policy (Draft)</td>
<td>Gender sensitive and precautionary approaches has mentioned in part of the first objective. A separate chapter discussed about the Gender and equity issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</table>
| 3.     | National Scheme of Welfare of fishermen (50:50), Central & State) - DAHDF (Inland & Marine) | - Fishermen / fisherwomen of the eligible age under the Policy are sponsored in this scheme.  
- Insurance Premium on behalf of the fishermen / fisherwomen is sponsored in liaison with the FISHCOPFED. |
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</table>
| 4.     | Blue Revolution (Marine)            | - 75 % grant- in aid to **SHGs of Women for creation of modern hygienic fish marketing infrastructure** of worth of 1cr.  
- 75 % grant- in aid to **SHGs of Women for transportation infrastructure** for fish marketing.  
- 1.25 Lakhs back ended subsidy to **Women SHGs, entrepreneurs on capital & recurring cost** as assistance for Mussel/ Oyster/Clam culture/other commercial shellfishes. |
<table>
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| 4.     | Blue Revolution (Inland)            | • 50% of unit cost subsidy to **women SHGs and fisherwomen co-operative entrepreneurs** for aquarium fabrication.  
• 50% of unit cost subsidy to **women SHGs** for backyard hatchery for ornamental fishes.  
• Training up to 5 days for **women SHGs** with provisions for TA, DA and other benefits on ornamental fish farming.  
• **30% subsidy** to **SC/ST, Women and NE beneficiaries** for development/ construction of new retail markets, complexes and retail outlets of worth 50L to 1Cr.  
• **40% subsidy on the project cost** to Fisherwomen who are involved in fish marketing and fisherwomen who are from fishermen community and members of local fishermen or fisherwomen co-operative societies. |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Blue Revolution (Inland)</td>
<td>• 30% subsidy on capital cost to SC/ST, women and NE beneficiaries for cold chain development and processing of value added products.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>• 25% subsidy to fishermen/ fisherwomen/ SHGs/ entrepreneurs for setting up of Solar drying of fish units</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Training and demonstration to fisherwomen on hygienic handling of fish and processing /value addition with facility of daily allowance of 150/day/trainee to and fro travel.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
• All the maritime states of India have adopted marine fisheries policy.

• Inland fisheries and aquaculture policy in states is questionable.

• Only Odisha state has its comprehensive fisheries policy.
8. Support for implementing policy

- **Odisha Fisheries Policy**
  - Enacted in 2015

- **Vision**
  
  “To be a pioneer in aquaculture development & fisheries extension for ensuring food security, livelihood, welfare of fishers and employment generation”

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8.4. Equity and Gender budget:

The Government will address issues relating to equity in employment and business opportunities; and ensure equity in the access, tenure, participation and sharing of benefits that accrue in fisheries. The gender concerns will be integrated in fisheries planning, decision making and implementation, to ensure sustainable social and economic development. Training and capacity building of the women fishers and fish farmers will be given adequate importance.
Fisheries Governance in India

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare

Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries

State Department of Fisheries
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Scheme/Programmes/Policy</th>
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</table>
| Odisha  | Matshyajibi Unnayana Yojana (MUY)                             | Financial Assistance to Fisherwomen SHGs under State Plan Scheme of MUY with the provision for revolving fund of Rs 5000/-.
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tamil Nadu | Savings-cum-Relief Scheme for Marine Fisherwomen (State Fisheries Policy - 2016) | This scheme is implemented under state plan. For the year 2015-16, the Government sanctioned an amount of Rs.34.98 crore as its share, Rs.34.56 crore has been disbursed to 1,92,020 marine fisherwomen of 13 coastal districts.
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<td></td>
<td>Issue of Biometric Identity Cards to marine fisherwomen (State Fisheries Policy - 2016)</td>
<td>The Government has accorded sanction to issue biometric identity cards to fisherwomen. Under this scheme, 34,130 cards have been distributed to the marine fisherwomen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>Assistance to Women SHG For production of value added fish product</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship in fisheries post-harvest activities. Women empowerment. Promotion of value added fish products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>Marketing and Value Addition</td>
<td>Federations of fisher co-operative societies, <strong>SHGs of women</strong> and entrepreneurs would be motivated to establish cooperative marketing network of skilled farmers, transporters and retailers. <strong>Women SHGs would be trained and financially supported for value addition of fish and their marketing.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bihar (Draft policy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>Matsya Mahila Swavalambana Yojana</td>
<td>The main objective of scheme is to help the <strong>fisherwomen</strong> by providing them financial support to enable to take up new post-harvest activities with no dependency on the money lenders. The quantum of assistance per beneficiary/group has been revised upwards thrice. The maximum Revolving Fund amount was Rs.1 lakh per group or Rs.10,000/- per beneficiary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State</strong></td>
<td><strong>Scheme / Programmes / Policy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Details</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bihar (Draft policy)</td>
<td>Diversification of Aquaculture</td>
<td>Specialized training programme for fisher and especially <strong>women</strong> shall be arranged for identification and culture of ornamental fishes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>Technical Support for Fish Culture And Ornamental Fisheries</td>
<td>Fisheries Research Centre at Ranchi Conducts Water and soil testing for technical scientific support to pisciculture. <strong>Women entrepreneurs</strong> can avail technical training and “start-up” facilities for ornamental fish rearing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Scheme / Programmes / Policy</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Creating employment opportunities to rural women by establishing ornamental fish hubs</td>
<td>25 units of ornamental fish rearing units is to be established in 10 selected districts of Tamil Nadu at a total cost of Rs 2.13 crore with an aim of creating employment opportunities to rural women in ornamental fisheries.</td>
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## Welfare Oriented Schemes

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>Bihar (Draft policy)- Fishers Livelihood and Welfare</td>
<td>Fisher women and children would receive greater attention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Fisheries Development schemes</td>
<td>Revolving fund assistance to fisherwomen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Post - Tsunami Sustainable Livelihood Programme for the Coastal Communities of Tamil Nadu (2007-2016)</td>
<td>Gender specific (Women) addressed part of one objective in the programme - <strong>Small scale fish vendors and processors (mainly women)</strong></td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>Maternity Benefit Scheme (2017)</td>
<td>This scheme provide financial assistance for the marriage of daughters and for family planning operation, this scheme also aims at giving moral support to the social development among the womenfolk of the fishermen community. The wives of the fishermen and the fisherwomen's who are above 19 years are eligible for financial assistance under the scheme. They are granted Rs.750/- for each of the two live births, for the pre post maternity care.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Widow Pension (2017)</td>
<td>This scheme envisages giving pension to the widows of fishermen. The rate is Rs. 400/- Per month.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Financial assistance for the marriage of daughters of fishermen</td>
<td>This is one of the prestigious schemes introduced by the Board to help. The poor fishermen who find it very difficult to raise funds for the marriage of their daughters. <strong>Financial Assistance @ Rs.1,500/- is paid as ex-gratia as per this scheme for the marriage of all daughters of fishermen.</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>Supply of Fishery Requisite kits scheme- 2017</td>
<td>Under this scheme a kit consisting of fishing net, coracle and other fishery requisites are given to inland fishermen involved in traditional capture fisheries. This scheme also given to fisherwomen who are registered and received identity card from fisheries department. The unit cost of each kit would be Rs. 10000.00 and it would be provided as 100% subsidy to the beneficiary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Socio-economic Survey-by planning department, Andhra Pradesh (2016-17)- Training and Capacity Building to fishers</td>
<td>A State institute of Fisheries department) to upgrade the professional skills among fishers, aqua farmers, fisherwomen, technocrats, academicians, entrepreneurs in the fields of Capture, Culture and Post-harvest fisheries sectors in the state.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• The national level fisheries policy documents of India have considered gender issues in their documents.

• The Blue Revolution scheme, an integrated scheme for fisheries development and management, has interventions from the government side in terms of financial support with due consideration to socio-economical and geographical backwardness.

• These interventions reflect the supportive environment provided by central government for strengthening women’s participation in fisheries.
• At State level, women specific Schemes / Programmes/Policy were found to be concentrating more on conventional women activities i.e. processing/value addition, marketing, and ornamental fish culture.

• State level policies seem to overlook the opportunities available for women participation outside these conventional sub components.

• In some states, collective approach has been taken up for empowering women in fisheries as well as to encourage them to take up fisheries related enterprise.

• Provisions in schemes are made to financially support these women collectives and support to SHGs is an example in this regard.
• At both state and central level, women specific support measures were found to be skewed towards post-harvest activities like marketing and value addition questioning enforcing stereotypes.

• Women’s participation has been good in ornamental fisheries due to favorable policies.

• The review of the central and state policies have clarified that if we are aiming for gender equality, it can be done only by making gender a central consideration in the development and implementation of public policy.
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Acknowledgements

ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai (India)
Man can never be a woman’s equal in the spirit of Selfless Service with which nature has endowed her.

...Mahatma Gandhi
No country in the world can yet say they have achieved gender equality

Emma Watson

Thank You