Introduction

Aquaculture has an important role in the income generation and poverty alleviation as well as household nutrition of rural people in Bangladesh. Rural women in Bangladesh are now playing a substantial role in aquaculture, but their role is not often acknowledged and documented.

The purpose of the present study is to assess the level of women participation in different aquaculture like homestead aquaculture, commercial fish culture and commercial shrimp culture in some selected areas of southwest Bangladesh.
An assessment of women's participation in aquaculture in southwest region of Bangladesh

Methodology

- Direct observation
- Household survey (Questionnaire survey)
- Focus group discussion
- Key informants interview
Results

- Women in 65% households were involved in aquaculture along with their male counterparts, among them 48% played active role and 17% played less active role.

- Women were more involved in homestead aquaculture (30%) than commercial fish culture (23%) and commercial shrimp culture (12%).

- Women frequently participated in stocking, feeding of fish, monitoring of ponds and partial harvesting with maximum involvement in application of feed.
Conclusion

- Education, motivation, need-based training, credit facilities and access to quality inputs have the potentials to increase women’s participation in all types of aquaculture production and management.
- Homestead aquaculture paved the way for enhanced participation of women in aquaculture.