Opportunities in Alternative Livelihood for Women in Coastal Villages of Kuching, Sarawak

Dr Aazani Mujahid (MYS)
Interim Vice Chair CTI-CFF Women Leaders Forum
Institute Biodiversity & Environmental Conservation, UNIMAS
UNIMAS Gamification Centre

Women Work in Fisheries, Too!
November 29, 2021
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Introduction

Kampung Pasir Panjang ~60 houses
Kampung Pasir Pandak >300 houses
2 pre-K & K; 1 Primary school L1-6

Case study of the coastal villages within half hour of the city centre (Kuching)

Hundred other similar villages along 750km coastline of Sarawak state
**Status quo**

Reflection on local perspectives from interview surveys, focus group discussions

Participatory survey of 20 institutions/ agencies involved in fisheries & marine conservation in 2019


**ACES**

Social Resilience through Play

ACES model has community-centred aspects to co-creates with youth, teachers, community groups; bridge formal and informal educational contexts and spaces towards an inclusive, safe, and resilient society.
Status quo

Women perspectives are often overlooked

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**Status quo**

Majority small scale artisanal fisheries
Small enterprises
Daily-wages, short-term contracts

![Image of bar chart showing primary source of income in the household, with categories such as fishing, fish processing, fish trading, private sector, government, and self-employed, differentiated by men and women. The chart highlights the relative contributions of each category to the household income for both genders.](chart_image)
**Status quo**

Women fishers are less educated

![Bar chart showing education attainment of respondents](chart.png)
Status quo

Women do involved in fisheries field for example in aquaculture they involved in net sewing and feed making for the fish.

The job in fisheries may be challenging to some women in term of energy.

Maybe more on individual preferences, women are likely to work in other fields than fisheries.
Attitudes of Women

Financial literacy
Importance of education
Young marriages
Trans-generational homes

Women fishers are strongly impacted by cultural norms.

The position of the man is in general over powering the female. And the acceptance in general again of that situation.

Lack of information on women benefits in the workplace (such as law, regulations etc.) is lesser in male dominated industry.

The fishing communities seem very male-dominated. There is a general lack of gender balance though so this is not specific to fisheries only.
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Alternative livelihoods

'Food' culture
- fisheries products
- Durian products
- everyday snacks

Home economics is important for Women fishers

Entrepreneurial>>>Domestic

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Aazani Mujahid
7 h • 🌊

PSA: Fresh tempoyak from Pasir Pandak. Helping villager to advertise. PM siapa maok I help deliver if 2x above.
Alternative livelihoods

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Alternative livelihoods

The role of the middle man culture intermediate between the producer of goods and consumer.

Fatin Syafiqah Binti Azezi, 2021, unpublished
Impacts of Covid 19

Trans-generational homes

Access to communication technology

Women find information about market prices from other fishers & retailers
Policy Implications

ISSUES & CHALLENGES TO EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN FISHERS

URGENT TO ADDRESS
- Little formal education (past formative years)
- Little access to new skills or technologies
- Lack of partnership in nurturing family/ maintenance of household
- Lack of socio-political power/ representation
  - Little access to economic resources
- Lack of laws, regulations and other appropriate measures to be inclusive of women in the workforce

MID-URGENCY
- Little access to reliable stable jobs
- Discriminatory practices by employer
- Lack of control to healthcare including reproductive health
- Lack of affirmative action in grassroot levels
Conclusions/ Recommendations

Partnership and collaboratively co-creating innovative solutions can bring meaningful progress in addressing socio-economic and environmental issues.

Access and support to education – providing inclusive & equitable knowledge and skills can promote sustainable development in the marine and fisheries sectors.

Women and community at the HEART- an approach required to embed interventions into local cultures, customs, and needs.

Revival of neighbourhood initiatives

Microfinancing initiatives
Dr Aazani Mujahid (MYS)
maazani@unimas.my
or http://bit.do/Aazani