

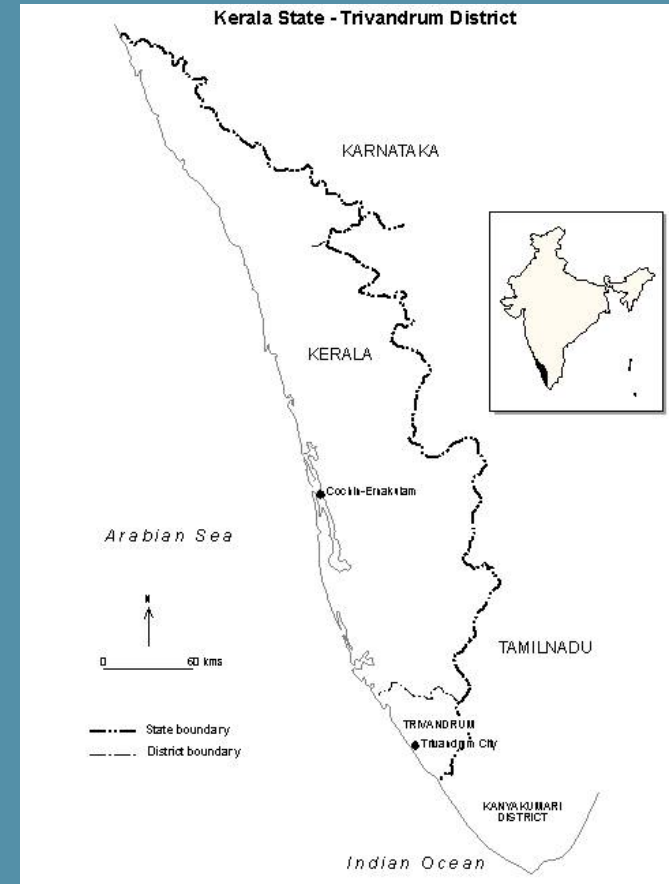
# Capturing the Complexities of Globalization

## Gendered Divisions of Labor and Difference

*Holly M. Hapke, Ph. D.  
Department of Geography  
East Carolina University  
USA*

# The Problem

- \* How can we theoretically understand gender and globalization?
- \* How might we comprehend the *nuances and complexities* of gendered economic processes?
- \* Within a general pattern of impact in a given locale, what factors shape a person or group's ability to adapt to changing economic contexts?





# The Framework:

- \* Informed by:

- Gendered Commodity (or Value) Chain Analysis
- Livelihoods Analysis
- Feminist Studies of Household Economy

- \* Multi-Scale in approach:

- How states and locales are situated in the “Global Fish Food Regime”

- \* “Local Divisions of Labor”

(Jarosz 1996; Ramamurthy 2000)



# Global Fish Food Regime

- \* Dramatic expansion of world production & trade through technological innovation & global demand from industrialized countries.
- \* Flow of trade increasingly from developing countries to industrialized
- \* Elite consumption habits shape development of national agro-food/fisheries sectors – SHRIMP is main item exported
- \* Per capita fish food supply greatest in China and industrialized countries; lowest in South America, Africa, Central & South Asia

# Fisheries Development in Kerala

- \* State-led
- \* Modern, mechanized technology to take advantage of global markets for shrimp/seafood
- \* Fishermen welfare



# Local Divisions of Labor I

## Gender Divisions of Labor:

Men Fish



Women Process; Take to Market;  
and Work in Ancillary  
Activities





# Gendered Impacts

## \* Production:

1. Stratification between producers;
2. Geographical shift in landing sites;
3. Overfishing, declining harvests for traditional artisanal sector,
4. Declining incomes from men's work ==>
  - a. attempts to intensify effort;
  - b. migration for work

## \* Processing:

1. Traditional industries in decline;
2. New processing industries have emerged (frozen shrimp)



# Gendered Impacts – cont.

## \* Distribution:

1. Commercialization & stratification of market networks;
2. Opportunities and constraints;
3. Increased household reliance on women's work in marketing to survive

## \* Ancillary Activities:

Work in netmaking/repair replaced by machine-made nylon nets







# Local Divisions of Labor II

Factors shaping livelihood strategies:

- \* Current asset base (boat ownership, other productive assets)
- \* Household size/composition
- \* Education & skill levels
- \* Work identities & family ideologies
- \* Entrepreneurial initiative



# Household Profiles

## Tracy:

Age: 60 yrs

Household Members: husband (70); son (26); 2 daughters (20, 23); son-in-law (32) and grandchild (2)

Current occupation: fish vendor (retail)

Livelihood History: fishing/fish vending; owned boat for 10 years – she managed net; then husband migrated, she returned to fish vending; now she, son, and son-in-law support household.



## Lily:

Age: 49

Household Members: husband (55); son (25);  
2 daughters married – in own homes

Current Occupation: fish vendor  
(wholesale);

Livelihood History: husband previously a fisherman, for past 27 years a porter at airport. Lily a fish vendor from age 13 – did retail trade until age 20, then formed partnership with 3 women and later began petty wholesale trade that continues today.



# Selin:

Age: 35

Household Members: husband (39); daughter (15); son (13) – both in school; father-in-law (retired)

Current Occupation: fish vendor; fishing with outboard motor boat

Livelihood History:

Husband: owns OBM (6 years), previously owned a kattumaram (8 years), previously worked for others

Selin a fish vendor from childhood; sometimes takes husband's fish; usually operates independently

