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**CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE**
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
AND FOOD SECURITY



Women workers in small scale fisheries in India



Women Work in Fisheries, Too!
November 29, 2021



Shaping the Future | Gender Justice for Sustainable Aquaculture and Fisheries



- Introduction
- Some statistics
- Women in fish harvesting
- COVID Impact
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

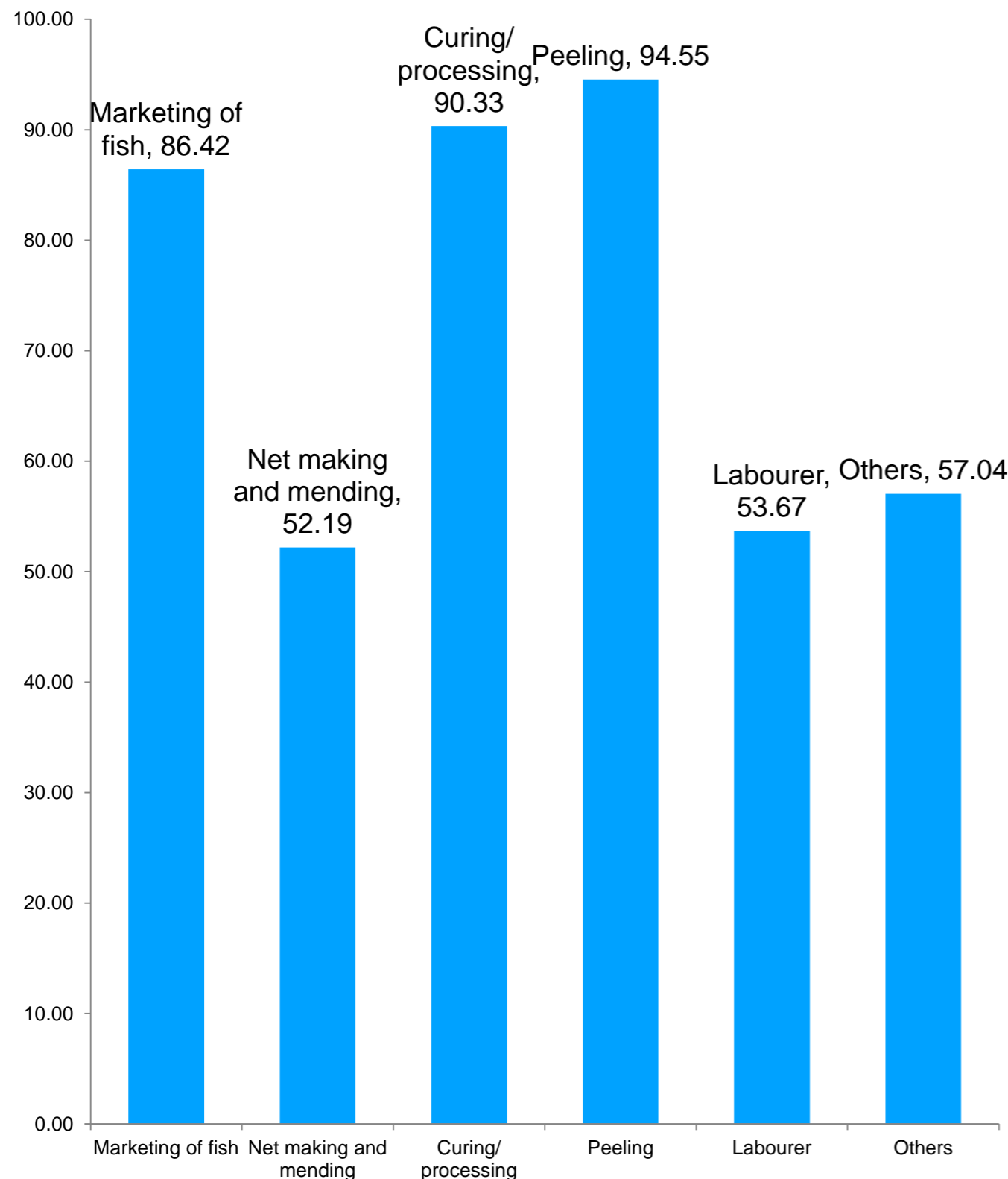
Topics

Introduction

- Women - 50% of the workforce in fisheries and aquaculture
- The Illuminating Hidden Harvest - globally about one in 4 workers in small scale fisheries is women



How many women?



- Women - about 49% of adult population in marine fishing villages
- Adult population, 81.16% of men and 32.55 % women employed in the sector
 - Not reported - active fishing
 - 58% - fish seed collectors (most of them part-time)
 - 74% of all allied workers

Where?



Diverse work
profile



Where?



Pictures courtesy
(Fermentation and
fish paste making):
Dr. Shaikhom
Inaotombi, Gender in
Aquaculture and
Fisheries: The Long
Journey to Equality
Asian Fisheries
Science Special
Issue 29S (2016):
181-191, Asian
Fisheries Society
ISSN 0116-6514



Do women fish?

- There is no official data of women in fish harvest, either as a crew member or as a licensed fisherwoman.

- **subsistence**

- /səb'sɪst(ə)ns/

- *noun*

- 1. the action or fact of maintaining or supporting oneself, especially at a minimal level

- "the minimum income needed for su



Women in small scale fish harvesting

- Evidence from small scale fisheries
- Women fish in various water bodies
 - Reservoirs
 - Lakes/ rivers
 - Kole lands
 - Estuaries & Backwaters
 - Beels & ponds

Types of fishing

- Gleaning
- Coracle fishing
- Gill net fishing
- Fishing using traditional gear



Women in small scale fish harvesting

- Reservoirs



Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir, Karnataka, India (Velumani et. al., 2018)



Tribal fishers in Idukki reservoir

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/where-tribespeople-fish-for-a-living/article27153494.ece>

Women in small scale fish harvesting

- Lakes/ rivers



Wular Lake (Jammu & Kashmir) (Regu and Ananthan, 2021)



Loktak Lake (Manipur) (Gurumayum et al., 2006)

Women in small scale fish harvesting

- Estuaries & Backwaters



Gill net fishing in Vembanad backwaters, Kerala

Activity	Man	Woman
Fishing	✓	✓
Sorting of catch	✓	✓
Marketing	✓	
Net mending	✓	✓

(Gopal, et.al, 2021)

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Fishing	✓	✓
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Marketing		✓
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(Priyanka and Ananthan, 2021)



Gill net fishing, Raigad, Maharashtra

Women in small scale fish harvesting

- Beels & ponds



(Regu and Ananthan, 2021; Gopal, et.al, 2012)

Women in small scale fish harvesting

- Kole lands(alternate rice-fish)/ prawn filtration-farming areas/
paddy fields



(Gopal, et.al, 2019)



Women in small scale fish harvesting

- Kole lands(alternate rice-fish)/ prawn filtration-farming areas/
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(Gopal, et.al, 2019)



Women in small scale fish harvesting

- Kole lands(alternate rice-fish)/ prawn filtration-farming areas/
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(Gopal, et.al, 2019)



Women in small scale fish harvesting

Community fishing



Picture courtesy (Long Khonba Community fishing): Dr. Shaikhom Inaotombi

Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries: The Long Journey to Equality Asian Fisheries Science Special Issue 29S (2016): 181-191 □Asian Fisheries Society ISSN 0116-6514



(Gopal, et.al, 2019)

Women in small scale fish harvesting

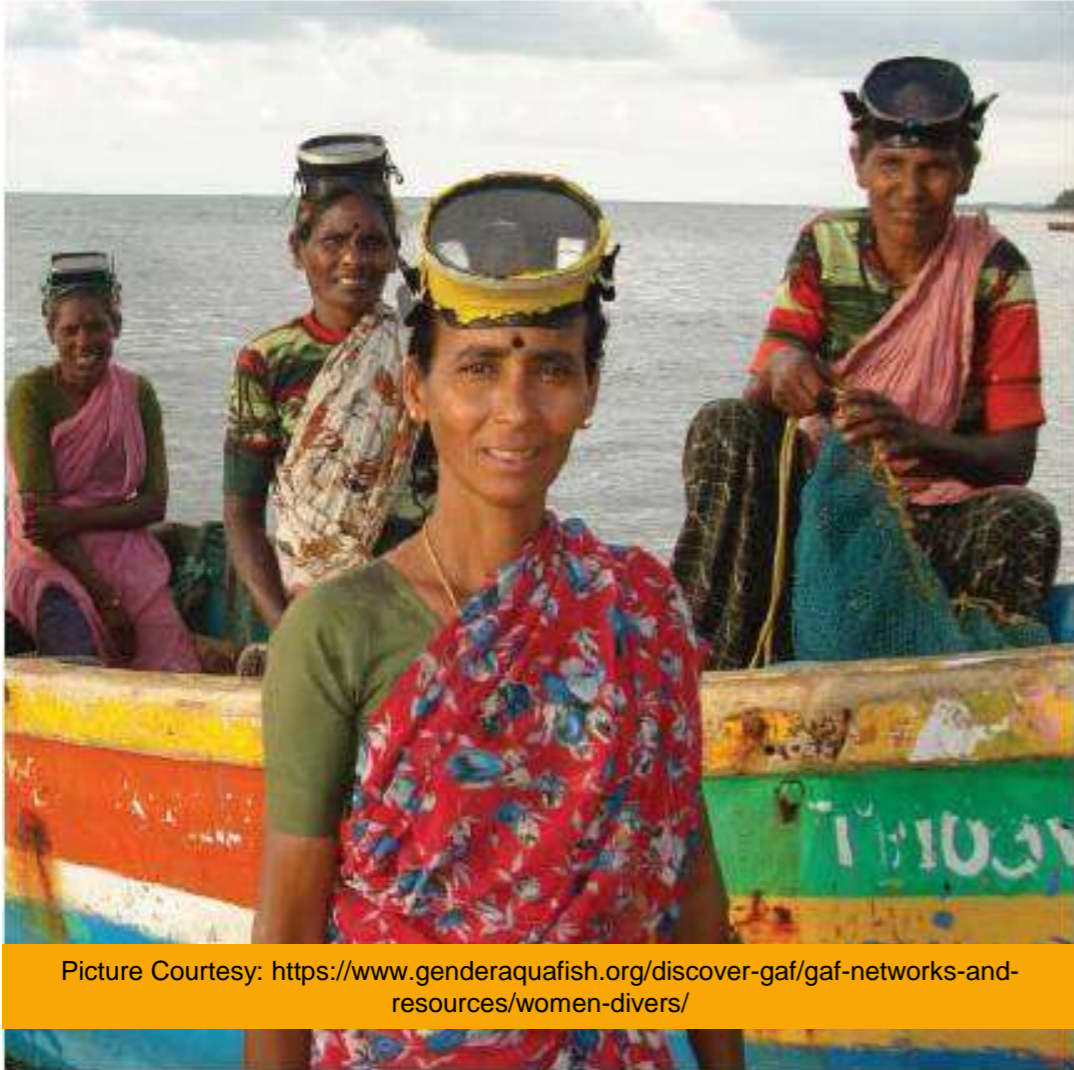
- Coastal creeks



(Priyanka and Ananthan, 2021)



Women in small scale fish harvesting



Picture Courtesy: <https://www.genderaquafish.org/discover-gaf/gaf-networks-and-resources/women-divers/>

- Marine – seaweed harvesters and farmers



Picture Courtesy: Dr. Swathileakshmi P S, ICAR-CMFRI

Impacts of COVID-19

EVERYONE IS HELPING OUT AT HOME, BUT WOMEN STILL DO MUCH MORE

Caring for children, including feeding, cleaning, physical care



Women		Men
36%	Increased	30%
36%	I don't usually do it	48%



Teaching

Women		Men
32%	Increased	29%
40%	I don't usually do it	44%



Playing with, talking to and reading to children

Women		Men
34%	Increased	28%
36%	I don't usually do it	42%



[Source: COVID-19: How women are bearing the burden of unpaid work | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](https://www.weforum.org/publications/2020/07/covid-19-how-women-are-bearing-the-burden-of-unpaid-work/)

....PERSISTENT ISSUES HAVE BEEN EXACERBATED DURING THE PANDEMIC

Impacts of COVID-19

THE HINDU

MENU
HOME NEWS OPINION BUSINESS SPORT ENTERTAINMENT CROSSWORD+ SCIENCE

STATES ANDHRA PRADESH KARNATAKA KERALA TAMIL NADU TELANGANA OTHER

NEWS STATES KERALA

KERALA

Kerala fisherwomen land in deep waters

Navamy Sudhish


KOLLAM, AUGUST 12, 2021 21:51 IST
UPDATED: AUGUST 13, 2021 11:20 IST

SHARE ARTICLE

They are aghast at the lukewarm response of government to incidents of ill-treatment

COVID-19 related curbs, difficulty in commuting, and arrival of sophisticated supply chains and apps during the pandemic have made life difficult for women engaged in fish vending across the State.

While incidents of police brutality and ill-treatment by protocol enforcers are on the rise, the women say they are




https://directory.fish/wsi-awards-2020-video-prizes/

Watch on YouTube

In the Life under Covid category, two Indian films stood out, with first prize going to *Overcoming Tribulations: the Story of Ramani*, described as 'a very powerful and poignant story of Ramani fish seller in adapting to the dramatic 2020 Covid19 pandemic, and adapting with audacity in buying a scooter so rare for a woman in India and bravery.'

WSI Overcoming tribulations: The story of Ramani Mani

Watch later Share



During the lockdown our life was very difficult as there was no income.

Watch on YouTube

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

NATION WORLD STATES CITIES BUSINESS SPORT GOOD NEWS MOVIES PHOTOS

STOCK MARKET BSE 59488.63 ▲ 75.36(0.13%) NSE 17719

Home > Cities > Thiruvananthapuram

Fish vendor harassment case: Rights panel books Attingal municipal staff

Officials had thrown vendor's fish on road; fisherwoman's right violated, says order

Published: 13th August 2021 07:03 AM | Last Updated: 13th August 2021 07:03 AM

By Express News Service

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The State Human Rights Commission has registered a case against Attingal municipal officials who had thrown the fish kept for sale by fisher vendor Alphonsa on the road at



Impacts of COVID-19



Women being trained in using the kiosk at CIFT under the SAF collaborative program

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thiruvananthapuram/free-bus-service-for-women-fish-vendors/articleshow/85723115.cms>

City **Thiruvananthapuram** Mumbai Delhi Bengaluru Hyderabad Kolkata Chennai Agra Agartala Ahmedabad Ajr
CIVIC ISSUES CRIME POLITICS SCHOOL AND COLLEGES KERALA ELECTIONS PHOTOS WEATHER EVENTS

NEWS / CITY NEWS / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM NEWS / Free Bus Service For Women Fish Vendors In Kerala

Free bus service for women fish vendors in Ke

TNN / Updated: Aug 29, 2021, 12:50 IST

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ARTICLES

 Free bus service for women fish vendors in Kerala

 Covid-19: Weekly TPR over 20% in 36 local bodies of Thiruvananthapuram

 Maharashtra govt warms up to blockchain tech for tamper-proof...

 Kerala: AICC approves new district Congress committee...



Three KSRTC low-floor buses will operate from 6am to 10am from fishing harbours to various markets in Thiruvananthapuram

Moving away from ‘over simplification’

Maritime Studies (2020) 19:509–524
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40152-020-00200-3>

RESEARCH



Gleaning: beyond the subsistence narrative

Ruby Grantham¹ · Jacqueline Lau^{1,2} · Danika Kleiber^{1,2,3}

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© The Author(s) 2020

Abstract

Coastal resources are important for the wellbeing and livelihoods of people in coastal communities across the world but are used and valued differently by different people at different times. As such, managing coastal resources equitably requires understanding how and when different people value ecosystems. Gleaning is an important activity in many coastal communities. However, the values of gleaners, and women in general, are often left invisible in coastal ecosystem service assessments and rarely examined in different seasons. Here, we use an exploratory case study to elicit the seasonal values of gleaning to women in a coastal community through an in-depth mixed method case study in Timor-Leste. We found that women gave a variety of instrumental and relational reasons for gleaning and that gleaning values shifted across seasons. Notably, subsistence was not a priority for all gleaners. Instead, there were a diverse range of reasons perceived as important for gleaning including to socialise or to spend time in nature. Our findings highlight the need to move beyond oversimplified understandings of gleaning as simply a matter of meeting basic material needs. The diverse and seasonal value priorities of gleaners in our case study indicate the importance of socially and temporally disaggregated assessments of coastal ecosystem services that account for relational values to support more accurate depictions of coastal livelihoods and equitable management in coastal areas.

Keywords Gleaning · Small-scale fisheries · Ecosystem values · Seasonality · Wellbeing · Gender

Introduction

Coastal zones are complex social-ecological systems that support the wellbeing of millions of people, many of whom live in the Global South. Accounting for and sustaining the diverse contributions of coastal ecosystems to human wellbeing is thus particularly important especially in the context of in-

the rural poor in coastal regions of developing countries. Gleaning makes a substantial contribution to catches and food security benefits, particularly in the context of seasonal availability and accessibility of other coastal fisheries (Chapman 1987; Kleiber et al. 2014; Tilley et al. 2020), which are influenced by the spatiotemporal distribution of resources, weather economic constraints and regulations (Gill et al. 2019).

Conclusions

- Women are engaged in various activities in small-scale fish value chains
- Their work makes significant contributions to household income and nutritional security
- Women are a major workforce in fish harvesting all across the country
- Impacts of different stressors different on men and women



Recommendations

- Gender should be central to policy development in the sector
- Recognition of all women workers as fish workers
- Comprehensive census to generate on-the-ground factual information on women and their contributions
- Gender inclusive and sensitive policy and programs, especially for mitigating disasters and other risks
- Needs of women fishers to be taken into account when fisheries related infrastructure is being developed (markets, landing centres etc.)
- Ensuring equal access to all resources

Women in small scale fish harvesting

Rekha, the only licensed fisherwomen in India

Source: [Home](#) / [India News](#) / Meet India's first and only licensed fisherwoman, KC Rekha
[INDIA NEWS](#)



Meanings of रेखा (Rekha) in English

noun

alignment(f)

contour(f)

curve(f)

line(f)

lineament

rule(f)

streak(f)

stroke(f)

trait(f)



Nikita Gopal* & P S Ananthan
nikiajith@gmail.com

Thank you!



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