

Warm Greetings to all the
participants of **GAF 4**

from

Kerala University of Fisheries and
Ocean Studies (KUFOS)

Cochin, India

.....the first State Fisheries University of India

Bow my head on the sweet
memories of Prof. NANDEESHA

ON-THE JOB EFFORT AND CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SUBSISTENCE BY THREE DISTINCT GROUPS OF WOMEN FISHER-FOLK OF KERALA, INDIA

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Introduction

- India is the second most populous country in the world with over 1.21 billion people.
- Has 2.4% of world's land area and supports 17.5% of the world's population.
- Fisheries is a major sector in the country which contributed a foreign exchange of 3509 million US\$ in 2012 and employing more than 15 million people.

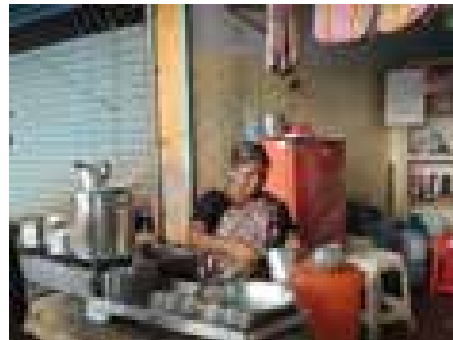
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- Her fish production has crossed the level of 9 million tones per annum (ten fold increase since its independence in 1947) out of which capture and culture contributes 45 and 55% respectively.
- Globally, India ranks second in the inland aquaculture production. She has vast inland aquatic resources and rich species diversity too. Indian marine waters support 1800 fish species including 200 commercially significant species.

*They are helpless at the sea - we have to support them
for feeding our children...*



Women in the work front



Kerala

- Kerala is a significant State in the fisheries map of India
- Vast aquatic resources coupled with rich species diversity
- 38863sq. km land area and a total population of 33.4 million.

Fisheries sector in detail

- Marine (80%) 222 fishing villages
- Inland (20%) 113 villages
- Population: 771249 and 230376
- Production-0.7million tonnes (almost 20% of national production)
- Contributes 1.26% to the Gross State Domestic Product

Male dominance

Like many other sectors
fisheries is also a male
dominant industry

Objectives of the study

- To compare the on the job physical and psychological effort taken by fisherwomen
- Contribution towards protein security
- Contribution towards subsistence
- Health issues

Population under study

- Marine
- Inland
- Tribal

Materials and methods

- Information collected using a structured questionnaire
- Marine- 300 nos.
- Inland- 300 nos.
- Tribal- 20 nos.
- Random sampling

Methodology

- Tasks undertaken and the work environment (hours of work, posture, ease of operation, environment, quality of water) on their health and livelihood.
- Their physical and psychological stress including strain and musculoskeletal injuries were also recorded and compared.
- Self reports were made use of.

Data analysis

- Simple statistical tools like mean and percentage were used in data analysis.
- Analyzed survey data revealed that in the marine sector, 100% fisherwomen are engaged in ancillary jobs including fish sorting, prawn-peeling, cleaning, drying, product stuffing and fish vending.

Results (Marine)

- It is estimated that only 19% women are engaged in hard work (carrying fish on their head for marketing) while others are doing comparatively easy work (fish processing activities) for earning their daily bread.
- About 75% are old (above 60 years) with more than 30 years of experience.

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- They are working for a period of 8 to 11 hours
- Per day income: 6.5 to 10 US\$.
- Fish intake more than 100g per day per person

Health issues

About 40% are facing health issues of various types coupled with old age problems

Fish drying



Fish selling



Fish selling



Fish drying



Selling clams



Senile smiles....



Busy minds



Women in a processing factory



Average weight is 25+ kg



Results (Inland)

- In the case of inland fisherwomen, 37% are engaged in hard work including primary fishing mainly clam collection and selling it to the consumers.
- Though it is a work of seasonal nature, the strain taken by them is incomparable with any other hard job undertaken by women anywhere in the world.

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- They earn an amount of 4.5 to 7 US\$ a day
- Working hours: 7 to 10 hours
- Fish intake: more than 50 g per day per person

Health issues

- More severe than the marine sector
- About 60% have health problems
- Arthritis, gynecological and skin issues are very common

The clam industry



Tribal fishing

Tribal couple



On fishing



Tribal huts



Tribal youth



Cast netting



Tribal boy with a Mahseer



Awareness programme



Overseas scientists in the tribal area



Results (Tribal)

- Among the tribal fisher folk, the women go for fishing along with their spouse to interior forest areas even risking their life.
- They perform duty for 16-18 hours a day
- Income levels are highly erratic (0.0 to 30 US\$ per day).

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- Psychological pressure is more in the case of tribal women
- Fish intake: more than 300g per day per person

Conclusion

- The per capita income of the three groups under study although erratic is slightly higher than the national average figure
- However, it is awfully low compared to the urban women average

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- The first two groups of fisherwomen invariably face a number of job related health problems while the third group does not have such issues
- The entire women-folk under investigation contribute significantly to the family protein diet and to the family income

Suggestions and possible
interventions..

Thank you all!!

