

**ENHANCING WOMEN'S
ROLE IN FISHING
COMMUNITIES IN MALAYSIA:
A GENDER PERSPECTIVE**

Outline of presentation



Profile of women's in the fishing sector



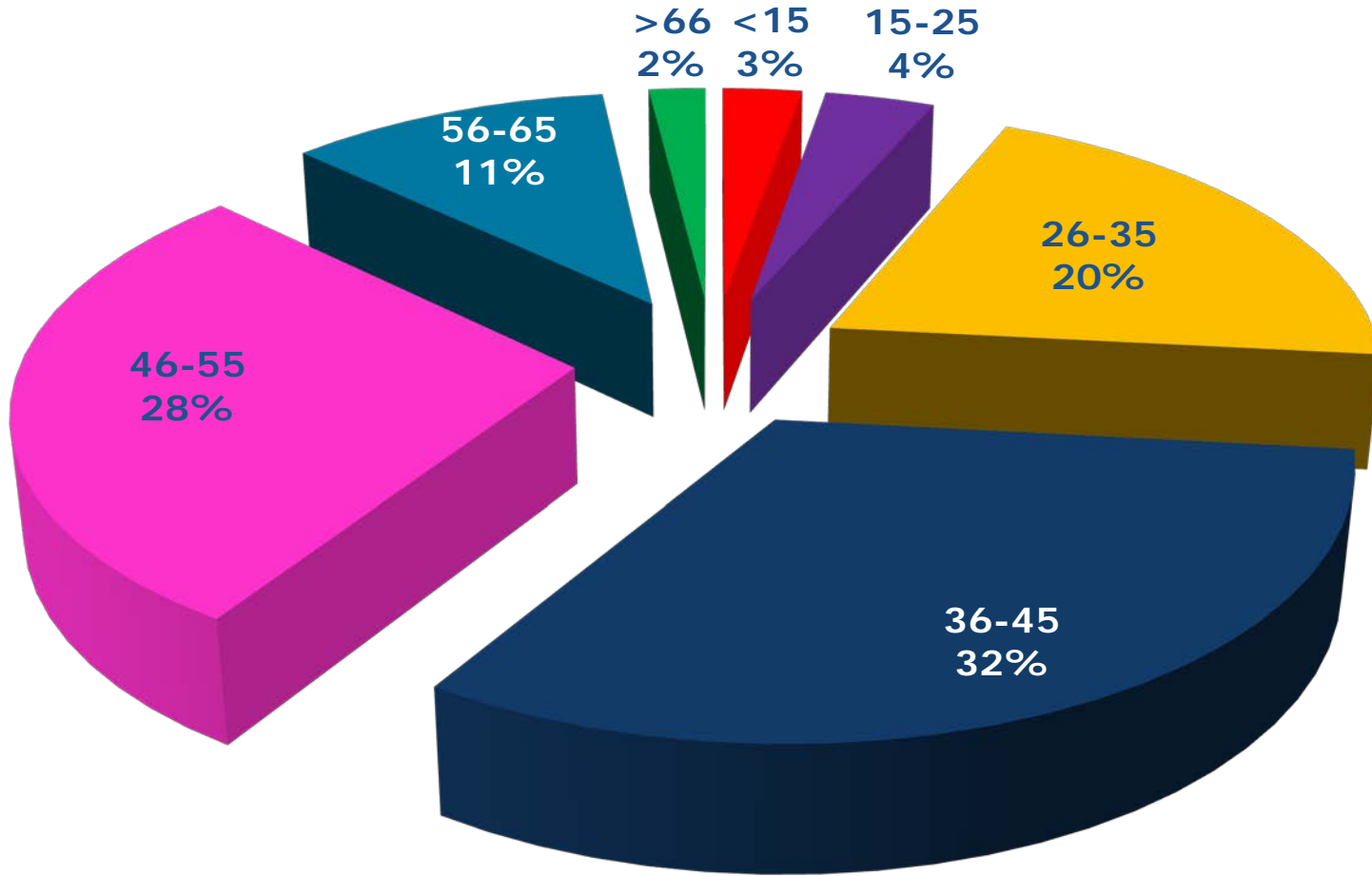
Women's concern



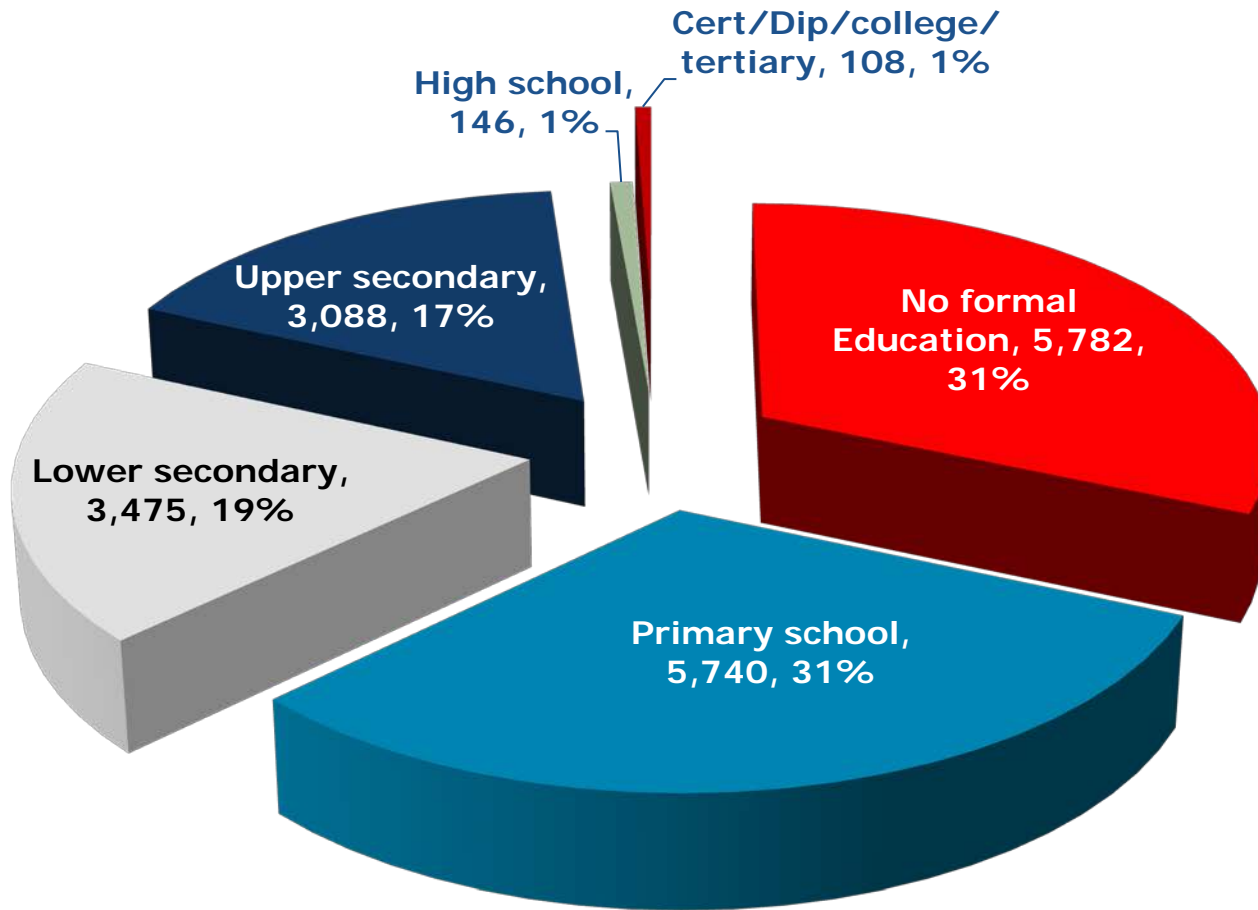
Empowering women in fishing sector

Profile of Women in the Fishing Sector

Age Group



Educational Attainment



Types of Training

Types of courses	Details
Food processing	Fish floss (serunding ikan), fish cake, fish ball, fish crackers (keropok), surimi, nugget, sausage, grilled fish
Marketing	Marketing the group's products
Quality control	Good Manufacturing Products (GMP), to ensure cleanliness during food production and good management of premise
Image Building	Customer delight, in terms of appearance, language and ethics
Machine operator	Operating machine used in the food processing

WOMEN'S CONCERNS

Women's Concerns

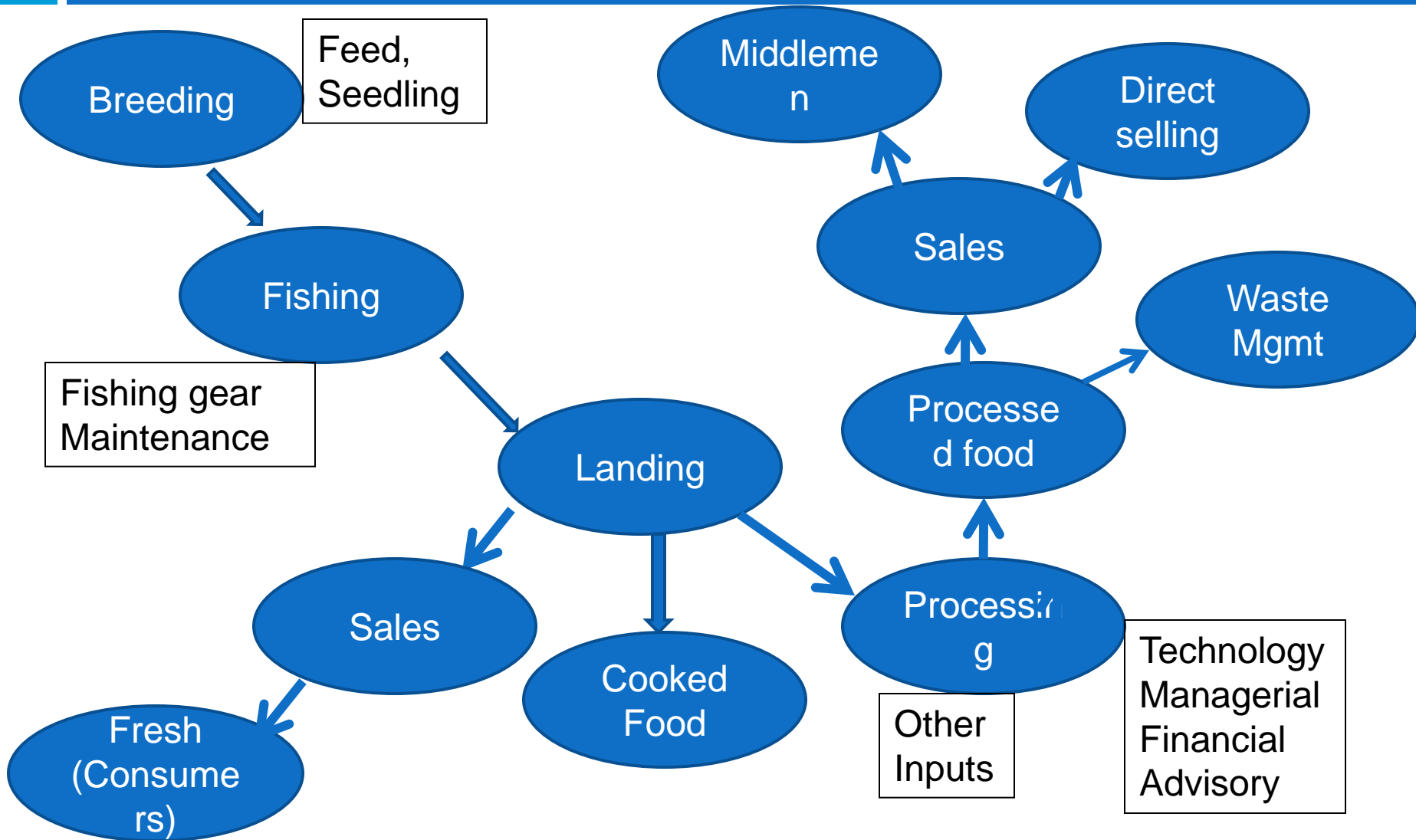
- Life depend on the catch from sea. Seasonal nature of the catch need to have fish processing facilities
- Lack of access to basic infrastructure
- Limited employment opportunities due to isolation
- Difficult to market produce due to lack of affordable transportation
- Have skills such as cooking, sewing, craft agriculture but no capital and limited market.
- Female headed households have to go out to the sea to support own living
- Willing to work to improve their livelihood

ENHANCING WOMEN'S ROLES

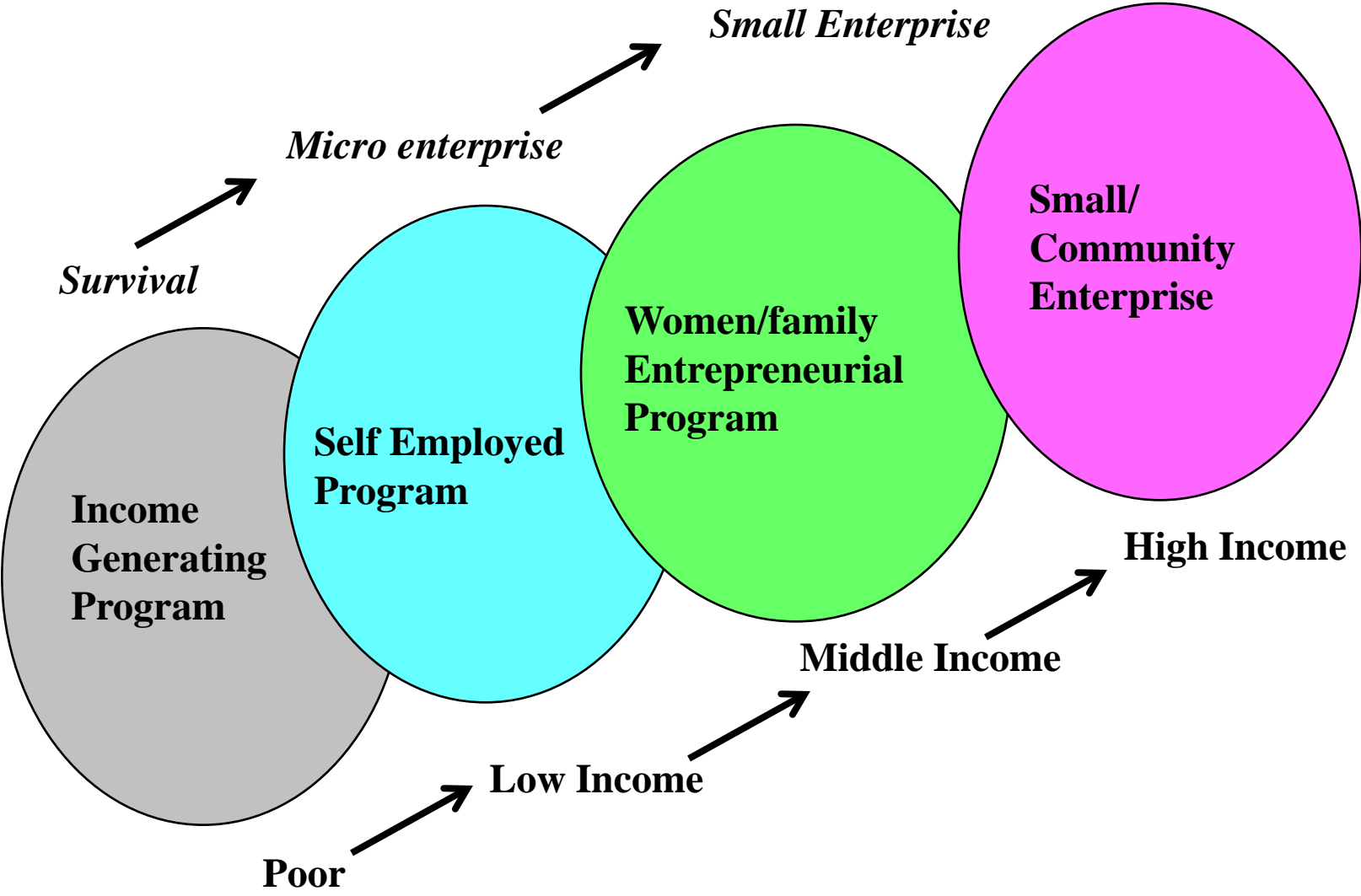
Women's Role

- **Reproductive roles:**
 - ▣ **Access to basic services**
 - ▣ **Support system family care**
 - ▣ **Access to household technology**
- **Community roles**
 - ▣ **Leadership and soft skills**
- **Productive roles:**

Value Chain in Fishing



Women Entrepreneurial Development



Common Constraints Faced by Women Entrepreneurs

- ◆ **Financial: lack access to credit. Very poor had micro credit while non poor depend on own saving**
- ◆ **Accessibility to training: location and duration**
- ◆ **Marketing limitation**
- ◆ **Quality control/legal requirement**
- ◆ **Lack of appropriate technology**
- ◆ **Lack managerial and technical skills**



Enhancing Women's Productive Roles

- Upgrading their traditional subsistence activities such as fish processing, preservation and fermentation into income-generating production.
- Activities in aquaculture such as collection of fish fries, prawn seeds etc., stocking of the pond, feeding and poultry-rearing (chicken and duck) by the fishponds.
- Promoting home-based cottages industries such as batik making, weaving, silver making, basket making, sewing, local handicrafts and other agro-based industries such as fruit preservation, copra and coconut-oil making.
- Agro tourism



Product distinction: market niche



Home-based, individual or small group activities



Making beef floss

Concentrate on activities with lowest capital, skill entry and labour intensive

Or workshop beside their house



◆ **Appropriate technology**

◆ **Managerial and technical skills**











Conclusions

- **Increase productivity and efficiency in productive and reproductive roles will enhance women's role in the society**
- **Women have the potential to contribute significantly to improving families' level of living**
- **Gender sensitive policies and programs are prerequisite to WED efforts**
- **Political will and commitment from all parties needed.**

