

CAPTURING THE COMPLEXITIES OF GLOBALIZATION IN THE FISHERIES: GENDERED DIVISIONS OF LABOR AND DIFFERENCE IN INDIA

Holly M. Hapke*

East Carolina University, Department of Geography, Brewster Bldg A227, Greenville, NC 27858 – USA.
hapkeh@ecu.edu

The gendered nature of globalization has received considerable analysis across several economic sectors, and much has been learned about its general impacts. Much remains to be learned, however, about the specificities of globalization as a gendered phenomenon. Within a particular locale and/or general pattern of impact, for example, what factors shape a person or group's ability to adapt to changing economic contexts? Why are some groups and/or individuals more adversely impacted than others?

Using the fisheries sector of India as a case study, this paper delineates a framework for understanding complexity and difference within general gendered patterns of economic processes. Combining feminist commodity chain analysis, livelihoods analysis, and feminist household economy studies, I examine differential impacts of globalization rooted in gender divisions of labor, assessing their implications for fisherfolk livelihoods. While commodity chain analysis informed by the gender division of labor provides insight into general patterns of economic transformation, extending this analysis to the household and livelihood strategies provides a more nuanced understanding of how global economic processes affect households and individuals in particular ways. This approach, I argue, provides a means of incorporating and understanding the multiple facets of difference in the intersection between gender, culture, and economy.

Key words: Gender, globalization, livelihoods.