

# Workshop: Integrating Gender in Fisheries Economics Research

## KEY QUESTIONS FOR GENDER-INFORMED RESEARCH

### Overall guidance: Use a framework to support project conceptualization

Apply an intersectional gender lens to shape the framing of the research, its design and analysis, as outlined in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

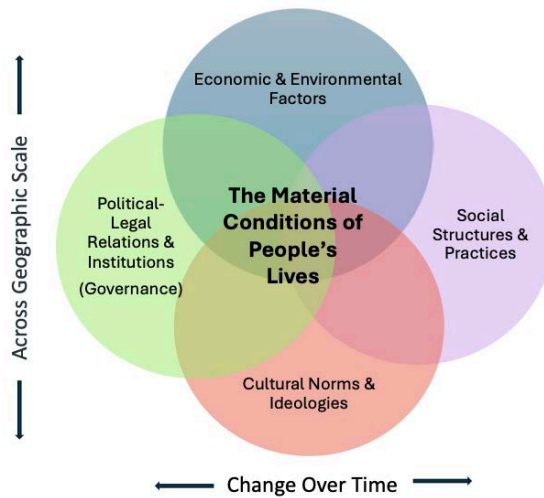
**Figure 1 - An Intersectional Perspective on Economy**

**Economic/Environmental:**

Resource base; organization of economy; livelihoods; access to resources & education; divisions of labor (productive, reproductive, community); wages; employment; mobility; markets; trade networks & value chains

**Political-Legal:**

Rights of property, inheritance, voting, participation in governance, household decision-making; Power relations that structure access to rights and resources



**Social:**

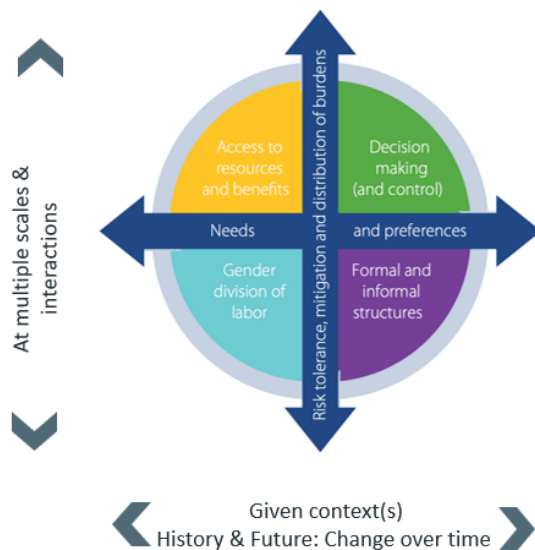
Kinship, descent, systems; marriage/sexuality; household composition; family structure; social groups; social norms; social privilege

**Cultural:**

identities; moral authority; norms, ideologies & beliefs; constructions of power and authority; notions of space (public/ private); mobility; social status

Source: Hapke, H. 2018

**Figure 2 – Gender in Research: An Analytical Lens**



- Identify main axes of marginalization/power
- Ask *Who, Why* and *So What* regarding:
  - 4 key analytical dimensions
  - AND...
  - Distribution and mitigation of risks and burdens
  - Responsiveness: differentiated needs and preferences
- In relation to **scale(s)** and **time**
- In a given context(s)

Source: Adapted from McDougall et al., 2021

## **2. Key questions to ask in support of an intersectional gender-informed perspective on fisheries and aquaculture economics**

The following questions may be integrated within the overall research questions, and/or used to inform the design of the data collection, analysis and interpretation.

### **Economic/Environment Questions – Divisions of Labor and Access/Benefits:**

- a. What is the resource base? How is the economy/sector organized? What economic activities underpin local livelihood strategies? What opportunities exist for engaging in these or expanding the scope of available activities?
- b. What divisions of labor (gender, race/ethnicity/caste) characterize the economy/sector (within household, local economy)? Who earns income? Who performs care work? What are the implications of how paid and unpaid work are valued and distributed?
- c. In what spaces do economic activities occur, and who has access to those spaces?
- d. Who has access to land (and ponds, coastal areas, etc.)? With what implications? Who has access to resources including: information; credit; technologies including gear? Who does not? With what implications?
- e. Who controls income and manages finances?
- f. How are the benefits from resources shared (along gender and social lines)? Why? With what implications?
- g. How are fish supply/commodity/value chains constituted (including pre-harvest, harvest, processing, marketing, ancillary activity, and consumption nodes)? Who are the key actors in each node and how are they connected to each other?
- h. How is trade structured? Whose interests do specific trade practices serve? What are the gendered impacts of trade reform and performance in terms of work, wages/earnings, ownership or control over assets, technical change, use of technology?
- i. How are environmental risks and harms (e.g., of a policy, programme, or of climate, etc.) distributed/borne by different groups? Why and with what implications? How are economic risks and harms distributed/borne by different groups? Why and with what implications?
- j. What is the nature of mobility and migration in the given context and in what ways is it gendered and/or socially differentiated? How does mobility and migration affect households, the communities, resource use and livelihoods?

### **Political-Legal-Institutional Questions – Decision-making, Formal and Informal Structures:**

- a. How are resource rights defined and operationalized? Who controls access to resources/property (within household, community, nation-state)? What legal institutions enforce these rights regimes?
- b. In what ways are local resource/property rights regimes gendered? In what ways do they support or constrain men and women's livelihood activities and efforts? What kind of strategies do women and men employ to strengthen their positions?
- c. Who decides about and what shapes women's mobility – ie What informal (norms) and formal factors (rules) or other (eg time burdens) shape women's mobility and access to economic resources and activities? E.g., How is space defined in terms of gender (e.g., private/public; masculine/feminine)?
- d. Whose interests do national economic production and trade policies serve? How are political-legal institutions underpinned by social relations and cultural ideologies?

### **Social Questions – Social Power:**

- a. How is the community organised? Who are the major social (socio-economic) and gender groups, how are they related to one another? What are the dominant norms relating to interactions of people of different race/ethnicity, caste, class, etc.)? What implications do these have for people of different genders and groups, including what work they engage in, decisions they make (control) and economic and other outcomes?
- b. How is the household organised? How do kinship systems and gender structure household relations? How do kinship and descent systems structure property and inheritance rights?

- c. Which gender and social groups are more powerful, and which are less [overall and in relation to fisheries/aquaculture?] Who has more power and privilege? What sort and how is it exercised? Who has less? How does this shape these different groups' experiences, including their livelihoods and income? Their voice in decisionmaking at different scales? Their health and other aspects of wellbeing?
- d. What is the impact of economic change on households and individuals (e.g., on household composition) and how does it shape or is it shaped by social change?

### **Cultural Questions:**

- a. What are the prevailing norms/ideologies around gender (or race/ethnicity, caste, class, etc.)? What characteristics/behaviors/activities are associated with “feminine”? with “masculine”? What are the dominant norms around gender (what women ‘should do/not do’, what men ‘should do/not do’ and do these differ across different social groups? What implications do these have for people of different genders and groups, including what work they engage in, decisions they make (control) and economic and other outcomes?
- b. What cultural factors shape women’s mobility and access to economic resources and activities? E.g., How is space defined in terms of gender (e.g., private/public; masculine/feminine)? How is sexuality understood in a cultural sense, and how does this influence women’s ability to move through social space and engage in particular economic activities?
- c. How do cultural ideologies shape ideas about work and economic roles?

### **Intersectionality:**

- a. How does gender intersect other social identities or other axes of social power/marginalization – e.g., class, race/ethnicity, class, caste, religion, nationality, age, sexuality, (dis)ability – to shape individual and community experience and power relations at different geographic scales over time?

### **Change over time:**

- a. What is the impact of economic change on households and individuals (e.g., on household composition) and how does it shape or is it shaped by social change?
- b. What historical, economic, political or cultural factors account for the current power relations and (in)equities?
- c. What are the origins of the given social reality? How has this changed over time? What factors have driven the change? (Who did what to cause the change?) What social, cultural, economic, and political structures or institutions were involved? Which individuals were involved? Who won/who lost over time and why?
- d. How does the **present** compare to the past?
- e. What is the likely **future** trajectory vs the desired future trajectory and what are the implications of each for different gender x social groups

### **Geographic Scale Questions:**

- a. What important political economy trends have emerged at the regional, national and global levels and how have these impacted local communities and economies? In what ways are individuals and households linked to regional, national and global political economies? In what ways are local situations connected to larger-scale political economies? In what ways do local situations mediate meso- and macro-scale processes?

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