



Analysing Social Participation Of Fisherwomen Involved In Post-Harvest Activities Of Marine Fisheries

Gadde Sri Harsha¹ and Annapurna Kalal²

¹PhD Scholar, Department of Extension and Communication Management, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka-580005, India

² Rtd. Professor, Department of Extension and Communication Management, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka-580005, India

Abstract:

Fishing is a critical livelihood for millions in coastal regions globally, including India. The Indian fisheries sector, employing over 28 million people, is often seen as male-dominated; however, women play a vital role, particularly in pre- and post-catch activities. Despite their significant contributions, women's roles are frequently undervalued and underreported. This study examines the social participation of women in marine fisheries in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Data were collected from 120 female fisheries workers through a pre-tested interview schedule. Findings reveal that most women are middle-aged and illiterate, with minimal access to mass media and extension services. Their social participation is primarily observed in community festivals and ceremonies. The study highlights the need for recognizing and supporting women's contributions to enhance the sector's resilience and sustainability.

Key words: Marine fisheries, Mass media participation, Social Participation, Extension contact

Introduction:

Providing sustenance for millions of individuals and families, fishing is a cornerstone of subsistence in numerous coastal regions worldwide, including India. The fisheries sector, a critical element of the Indian economy, provides employment to more than 28 million individuals and supports entire communities (CMFRI Census, 2021). In contrast to the widespread belief that fishing is primarily male-dominated, coastal regions exhibit a more intricate reality. Women constitute nearly half of the 3.52 million individuals who inhabit coastal villages (CMFRI Census, 2021). Men are frequently associated with direct fishing activities, but women are essential in pre- and post-catch duties, which contribute to the sector's resilience and functionality. The Indian marine fisheries sector is plagued by enduring challenges that are founded in

social, cultural, and economic biases, despite the substantial presence and contributions of women. Women's diverse contributions are frequently overlooked and underreported, as they are frequently restricted to processing and marketing positions. Vipinkumar et al. (2013). Hence the study was conducted to know the social participation of women involved in marine fisheries.

Methodology:

The study was conducted in 2020–21 in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. A total of 120 female marine fisheries workers were selected at random from the list of responders. The data was analyzed using frequency percentages obtained from a pre-tested interview schedule.

Results and discussion:

1. Age:

The study found that half of the women were middle-aged, with 40.83 percent classed as young. Only a small percentage (09.17%) of the population was classified as elderly. The findings are congruent with those of Sriharsha et al. (2022).

2. Education:

More than half (57.50%) of respondents were illiterate, with 19.17% having completed high school. Only 10.00 percent of respondents had completed middle school, and 09.17 percent had finished basic school. Only 3.00% of people had completed their PUC (Pre-University Course), and only 0.83% had received formal education up to the degree level.

Mass Media participation

**Table 1: Mass media participation of women involved in post-harvest activities of marine fisheries
n=120**

Sl. No	Mass media	R	O	N	Owned/Possessed
		f (%)	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)
1	Radio	00 (0.00)	00 (00.00)	120 (100.00)	00 (00.00)
2	Television	21 (17.50)	73 (60.83)	26 (21.67)	94 (78.33)
3	News paper	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	120 (100.00)	00 (00.00)
4	Magazine	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	120 (100.00)	00 (00.00)
5	Social media	00 (00.00)	11 (09.17)	109 (90.83)	11 (09.17)
6	Mobile phone	11 (09.17)	76 (63.33)	33 (27.50)	87(72.50)

Note: *Multiple responses R-Regular, O- Occasional, N-Never

Table 1 shows respondents' participation in the mass media. Table 1 shows that 60.86 percent and 17.50 percent watched television occasionally and regularly, respectively. The majority (63.33%) occasionally used mobile phones, while 27.50 never did. Only 9.17% used their cell phones on a regular basis. The vast majority of respondents (90.83%) never utilized social media. Only a small percentage of

people (09.17%) used social media on occasion. One hundred percent of women never utilized the radio, newspapers, or magazines. The results were in line with the findings of Roy et al. (2015).

Extension contact:

Table 2: Extension contact of women involved in post-harvest activities of marine fisheries

n=120

Sl. No	Extension workers/ Agents	R	O	N
		f (%)	f (%)	f (%)
1	Asst. director of fisheries	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	120 (100.00)
2	Deputy. director of fisheries	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	120 (100.00)
3	Extension officer	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	120 (100.00)
4	Fisheries officials	00 (00.00)	44 (36.67)	76 (63.33)
5	NGOs	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	120 (100.00)
6	Others (Gramsachivalayam Volunteer)	16 (13.33)	104 (86.67)	120 (100.00)

Note: *Multiple responses R-Regular, O- Occasional, N-Never

It is evident from Table 6 that, a little more than one third (36.67%) of the respondents had occasional contact with fisheries officials, remaining (63.33%) of them had never in contact with fisheries officials. Majority (86.67%) had occasional contact with Grama sachivalayam volunteer and 13.33 per cent had regular contact with them.

Hence from above results cent per cent of the respondents never contacted any extension worker other than fisheries officials and Grama Sachivalayam Volunteer. The results were in line with the findings of Roy et al. (2015).

Social participation

Table 3: Social participation of women involved in post-harvest activities of marine fisheries

Sl. No	Social participation	R	O	N
		f (%)	f (%)	f (%)
1	Marriage ceremony	61 (50.83)	58 (48.33)	01 (0.83)
2	Naming ceremony	31 (25.83)	85 (70.83)	04 (03.33)
3	Baby shower ceremony	20 (16.67)	94 (78.33)	06 (05.00)
4	Festivals within the community (Dussehra, Diwali, Ganesh Chaturthi, visiting church etc..)	43 (35.83)	71 (59.17)	06 (05.00)
5	Others (Celebrating flag festival, Banyan tree pooja festivals etc..)	15 (12.50)	56 (46.67)	49 (40.83)

n=120

Note: *Multiple responses

R-Regular, O- Occasional, N-Never

Regarding social participation Table 7 indicates that, half (50.83%) of the women regularly participated in marriage ceremonies and occasionally by 48.33 per cent and never by 0.83 per cent. Majority (70.83%) occasionally participated in naming ceremonies and one fourth (25.83%) regularly participated and very few (03.33%) of them never participated in naming ceremonies. More than two third (78.3%) of them occasionally participated in baby shower ceremonies, whereas 16.67 per cent regularly participated and 05.00 per cent never participated. With respect to festivals within the community, more than half (59.17%) of them participated occasionally and regularly by 35.83 per cent. Very few (05.00%) never participated. Less than half (46.67%) of the respondents occasionally participated in other social functions like celebrating flag festival, Banyan tree pooja and such other festivals. However, 12.50 per cent regularly participated. The results were in line with the findings of Siddeswari et al. (2020).

Conclusion:

This study underscores the crucial yet often overlooked role of women in the Indian marine fisheries sector. The findings highlight significant gaps in education, media access, and extension contact among female fisheries workers, which hinder their social and economic empowerment. To foster a more inclusive and resilient fisheries sector, it is imperative to address these disparities by enhancing educational opportunities, improving access to information and extension services, and promoting greater social participation. Recognizing and supporting women's contributions can lead to more sustainable and equitable development in coastal communities.

References:

Roy, A., Pandit, A., Sharma, A. P., Utpal, B., Sucheta, M. and Dipak, B., 2015, Socioeconomic status and livelihood of fisher women of Hoogly estuary. *J. Inland Fish. Soc. India.*, 47(1):49-56.

Siddeswari, G. K., Gopal, S. PV., Sailaja, V. and Reddy, R. B., 2020, Socio psychological characteristics of the practicing women entrepreneurs emerged out of self-help groups in Andhra Pradesh. *J. Pharm. Innov.*, 10 (1):14-21.

Sriharsha, G., Kalal, A., Basavakumar, K.V, & Nagnur, S. (2022). Socio-economic profile and constraints faced by fisherwomen in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. *The Pharma Innovation Journal*, SP-11(8): 417-421.

Vipinkumar V. P., Meenakumari, B., Jayasankar, P. and Shanthi, B., 2013, The paradigm of mainstreaming gender perspective in marine fisheries sector of India, 2(12):1-20.

