The Problems of Women in Fisheries Industry and its Impact on Well Being

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ABSTRACT

Women play significant roles in all aspects of fisheries—both in the artisanal, small-scale sector and in the commercial sector—roles that remain unarticulated and unrecognized. Women’s reproductive roles are essential for nurturing and sustaining families and communities, and ensuring food security through fishing, food foraging, farming and related activities. The study has been intended to address the Socio-economic and Psychological problems, there are work family conflict and health issues also faced by women in the Industry. These women workers have a very tough life in making their basic livelihood. The 94% respondents agree that they physically drained due to work, they hardly have support from their family members. For which, they could provided an improvement in their education, child care facilities, etc.

INTRODUCTION:

An attempt has been made in this article to enquire into the problems confronted by fisherwomen in Chennai, Tamil Nadu – India, which have hindered the development of fisherwomen co-operatives. In spite of several measures undertaken by the State Governments to promote the lot of fisher groups, these efforts, however worthy, have not perceptibly improved the situation. The fisherwomen in the district have not been free from some intimidating problems. These problems have an impact upon the well-being of the fisherwomen, causing them hardship of varying degrees. The development and performance of the fisherwomen depends on how well they group the magnitude of the problems confronted by them in their business operations, and how well they tackle them.

The role of women in economic activities of agricultural households in developing countries have received increasingly greater attention from researchers and international development agencies in the last decade (Dixon, 1982; Castilli, 1985; Roach, 1986). Reasearchers and policy makers are becoming aware that women are actively engaged in may productive activities which provide added income and needed services to the household, but only few references exit describing the role of women in the fishing activity and in fishing communities (Dewes, 11982; Kalvathy, 1983; Yater, 1982).

Evidence shows that despite all the cultural and economic diversity, the position and perception of women regarding the fisheries sector presents a considerable degree of commonality. Thus, women feel unwelcome in the seagoing fishing subsector, but have little interest in participating anyway. In aquaculture women feel discriminated against, but to a much lower extent. Processing is the one sub sector where women are over-represented, but mainly because they predominate in the low-grade unskilled jobs. Women have made significant inroads into the management / administration segment, both of which are more rewarding and viewed in a more positive light. Finally, the role of women as support to seagoing spouses was found to both very important and highly undervalued by the fishing community.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

The study has been intended to address the Socio-economic and Psychological problems being faced by the women in Fisheries Industry. In addition to the socio-economic and psychological problems, there are work family conflict and health issues also faced by women in the Industry. These women workers have a very tough life in making their basic livelihood. To provide new insights into the current situation of specific females involved in various activities and to identify barriers
preventing women from becoming more involved in the industry and what might be done to overcome them.

OBJECTIVES:
1. To study the Socio-economical and Psychological problems faced by women in Fisheries Industry.
2. To examine the problems faced by women in their work place and at home.
3. To study the impact of problems on well being

HYPOTHESIS:
**Null Hypothesis H₀₁:** There is no significant difference between the family inference in the job and their support in taking care of children.

**Alternate Hypothesis H₁₁:** There is a significant difference between the family inference in the job and their support in taking care of children.

**Null Hypothesis H₀₂:** There is no significant difference between the physically drained due to work and the emotional help given by family.

**Alternate Hypothesis H₁₂:** There is a significant difference between the physically drained due to work and the emotional help given by family.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:
To examine and analyze the problems and ways and means to better the situation in view of psychological and socio-economic significance with its impact on their well-being of the fishing industry. A brief review of the existing literature on the subject in the form of empirical and evaluative studies and articles carried out hitherto in the area of fisheries sector is presented here to serve as a background and a scaffolding for the present study, to obtain an insight into it, to identify the gaps, if any, to be filled in, and to indicate the point of departure from similar studies.

The small-scale or traditional or artisanal fishermen account for 62 percent of the aggregate fish production in India, but their socio-economic conditions are still very poor (Rangarao, 1983). Fisherwomen play an important role in the economic as well as the social and domestic life of the fisherfolk. They take an active part in drying and marketing fish, net-making and collection of firewood besides attending to domestic life (Dayal, 1977). Fisherwomen display a great control over household economic transactions and also play an active economic role outside the family. The fisherwomen’s status, however, depends upon the inter play of social relations as daughter, sister, daughter-in-law, wife and grandmother, and the ideology of the community (Sridevi, 1986).

The fishing community is one of the weakest communities. Illiteracy, poverty and lack of knowledge of the latest fishing technology have resulted in their retarded growth. This distressing situation is further strengthened by a lack of institutional support. Consequently, fishermen are easily exploited by middlemen, who act as moneylenders, traders and contractors. The community faces some problems in availing itself of the financial benefits and infrastructural facilities (Rajadurai and Rajan, 2004). A study by Warren et.al., (2009) reveals that combining paid-work and motherhood remains a major source of difficulty for women. It is the mothers, rather than the fathers, who bend their jobs to meet family needs.

WORK FAMILY CONFLICT / FAMILY WORK CONFLICT
Supervisor support reduces Work Family conflict and it is particularly beneficial for those who spend a great deal of time on work and work-related activities (Fox & Dwyer, 1999). Support from a spouse/significant other is found to buffer the impact of work / family conflict on intention to leave (Nissly et.al.,2004)

While the conflict between work and family may be inevitable, researchers such as Friedman and Greenhaus (2000) suggest alternative methods for reducing the stress. For example, more autonomy in the workplace and networking with peers can increase the quality of work life. Their studies show that individuals who work for organizations that allow individuals to spend more time at home, work in virtual employment, and make flexible time arrangements, tend to perform better as a
parent than those who do not have these opportunities. Maintaining satisfaction on both fronts is important for reducing the feelings for conflict.

Firedman and Greenhaus (2000) also suggest that individuals should clarify what is important in life and continually experiment with achieving goals. They say that self-identity is the combination of family, work, leisure, and community service. While some individuals are more aware of what they value than others, self-awareness is critical to managing the conflict between the two domains. The decision making process and managing the allotted time between domains is handled best when the individual is aware of their surroundings. Self-awareness reduces the incompatibility between the work domain and the family domain.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Table 1
Table Showing Response of Respondents who are Physically Drained when I get Home from Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 frequency of respondents, where 75 respondents agree that they are physically drained due to work when they reach home. And, it was found that all the respondents preferred music, dance and watching TV in managing their stress.

Table 2
Table Showing Response of Respondents who’s Co-Workers think that Family interferes with the Job

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>No. Of Respondents</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 shows us that 62 (78%) respondents disagree that their co-workers feel about their family interference at the work and 5% of the respondents agree upon the interference of family in their work.

Table 3
ANOVA .1 – Relationship between the Family Inference in the job and Their Support in Taking Care of Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of variation</th>
<th>Sum of squares</th>
<th>Degree of Freedom</th>
<th>Variation</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Between the samples</td>
<td>246.8</td>
<td>( V_1 = C-1 ) = 4 ( \Rightarrow \frac{246.8}{4} = 61.7 )</td>
<td></td>
<td>53.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within the samples</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>( V_2 = N-C ) = 20 ( \Rightarrow \frac{23.2}{20} = 1.16 )</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 shows that with 4 and 20 degree of freedom, at 5% level of significance, the calculated value is greater than the tabulated value, the alternate hypothesis is accepted, therefore there is a significant difference between the family inference in the job and their support in taking care of children.
Table 4
ANOVA .2 – Relationship between the physically drained due to work and the emotional help given by family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of variation</th>
<th>Sum of squares</th>
<th>Degree of Freedom</th>
<th>Variation</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Between the samples</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>V₁ = C-1 = 4</td>
<td>= 40.4 / 4 = 10.1</td>
<td>0.381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within the samples</td>
<td>529.6</td>
<td>V₂ = N-C = 20</td>
<td>= 529.6 / 20 = 26.48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 shows that with 4 and 20 degree of freedom, at 5% level of significance, the calculated value is less than the tabulated value, the null hypothesis is accepted, therefore there is no significant difference between the physically drained due to work and the emotional help given by family.

CONCLUSION:
Although the role of women in the fisheries sector in Chennai is increasingly important, they are still disadvantaged psychologically and socio-economically. Work is often seasonal; they won’t have work during the rolling period due to which they opt another sector. Women working in these industries usually contribute their whole earnings for their family.

The following are the key action would improve:
- Improving the level of Education, in order to offer them concrete access to employment positions.
- Their involvement with fisheries or any other economic activity is less, due to lack of Child care facilities by providing it, would relieve women from very serious barrier.
- The attitude of men needs to be addressed through training of both spouses, to overcome the family constraints.

REFERENCES:
- Dixon, R. B. (1982), women in agriculture; counting the labour force in developing countries. Population and development Review vol.8 p.3.
- Kalvathy, M.H. (1983), Improving the status of a fishing family; the story of an Exprient, Bay of Bengal News 9, pp.20-23.