

# **Understanding of Gender Situation in Small-scale Fisheries of Southeast Asia Through Fisheries Value Chain: Case Study in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand**

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Gender aspect was promoted to integrate in to development program for archiving suitable development. Therefore, Gender role in fisheries sector is important to understand. At the present, men and women have been playing an important role in the fisheries sector, which both of them have different responses depending on the situations or tasks. Therefore, the gender study in fishing community would be shown the significant difference of role, participation, accession, control, and limitation in the decision making to develop the coastal area in their community. The study sites are the coastal fishing community in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand. The results of the study found that there was equitability for men and women to access and control the use of fishery resources and right to fishing. Especially, men have been playing the role as majority in the fisheries sector on catching and processing of fish onboard; while women have taken a role in fish selling and processing. However, there was no significant difference between men and women because the responsibilities were identified by themselves accordingly with their gender.

**Keywords :** gender, roles, fisheries, value chain, and livelihood

## **I. Introductions**

The simple approach to integrate gender is gender analysis. Gender analysis is a systematic methodology for examining the differences in roles and norms for women and men, girls and boys; the differences within social groups of men and women based on caste, class, age, race, *etc.*; the different levels of power they hold; their differing needs, constraints, and opportunities; and the impact of these differences in their lives (MFF, 2018). The objectives of this study are to improve understanding about the state of women and men in fisheries value chain and to generate information on current gender related differences in relation to fisheries resource management. Value Chain (VC) is the process or activities by which a company adds value to an article, including production, marketing, and the provision of after-sales service. It is the main paradigms in development thinking and practice and is now recognized as a key concept in the development of sustainable food systems (FAO, 2014a). All parties should recognize the role of women; often play in the post-harvest subsector and support improvements to facilitate women's participation in such work. There are hardly any authentic statistics available on the number of women involved in fisheries-related work, though it is well known that women played important roles in the sector. Women engaged in a wide range of activities in the fisheries and in fishing communities all around the world. Available data does not capture the multidimensional nature of work undertaken by women of fishing communities. Not surprisingly, few policies are formulated with these realities in mind. (ICFS, 2018)



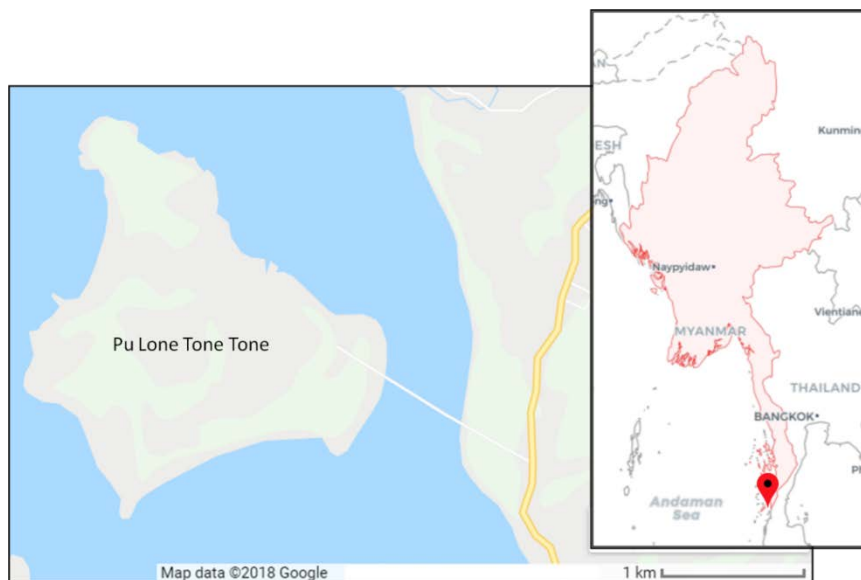


Fig 2: Study area in Kawthaung, Myanmar

### 1.3 Thailand

Mai Root Sub-district is located in Klong Yia district of Trat province in the eastern part of Thailand, it borders Cambodia, divided by Bunthad Mountain and close to the Gulf of Thailand. It is the pilot site for the gender study in Thailand and there were 83 respondents being interviewed.

The total population is about 4,680 persons; compose of 2,433 male and 2,247 females in 1,193 households. Most of the livelihoods here are Fishing, Coastal Aquaculture, Gardening of rambutan, durian, and coconut and Rice farming. The weather is characterized as tropical. The area is being influenced by southeast monsoon (Mairood Sub-district Administrative organization, 2018)

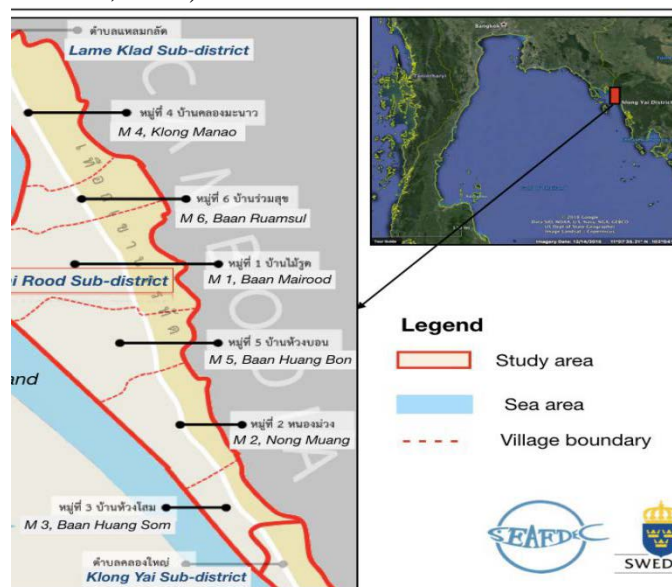


Fig 3: Study area in Trat Province, Thailand

## III. Result of gender in Fisheries Value Chain

### 3.1 Kep province, Cambodia

Results from the “Case study on Gender in Fisheries Value Chain in Kep province, Cambodia” indicated that men and women do fishing for selling and household consumption. There were more women compared to men fish by hand from the shore. This

was because it was more convenient for them and no need to go to the sea. The study found that men prepared fishing gear before going to fish because they know what they need for fishing. After men returned from the sea, women sorted types of fish and clean the fishing materials as well. Women dried the fish and shrimp, soaked mangrove crabs in salt water, and peeled crabs from its flesh. In addition, the study showed that women sell the fish caught by their husbands together with their own catch.

VALUE CHAIN							
Pre-fishing		Fishing		Fish processing		Trading	
Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare food</li> <li>• Clean fishing gears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare fishing gears and boat</li> <li>• Maintain engine</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch fish on boat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sort fish on land</li> <li>• Cut fish</li> <li>• Dry shrimp</li> <li>• Soak crabs in salt water</li> <li>• Peel crabs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unload fish</li> <li>• Transport fish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sell fish at local market</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mend fishing gears</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch fish by hand at the shore</li> </ul>					

*Fig. 4. Roles of women and men in fisheries value chain in Okra Sa and Thmey Villages, Kep Province, Cambodia*

### 3.2 Kawthaung, Myanmar

Results from the “Case study on Gender in Fisheries Value Chain at Pu Lone Tone Tone area” indicated that there is no women participation in fishing on board. Women have to go on board from one (1) week to one (1) month; therefore men have to do all activities in the sea, as the following: fixing fishing gear, repairing of engine and boat, fish sorting, fish processing, transporting and selling of fish to the carry boat event, and cook food. Women can do everything in land like fish sorting, selling and processing. Women and men were praying together before going to the sea.

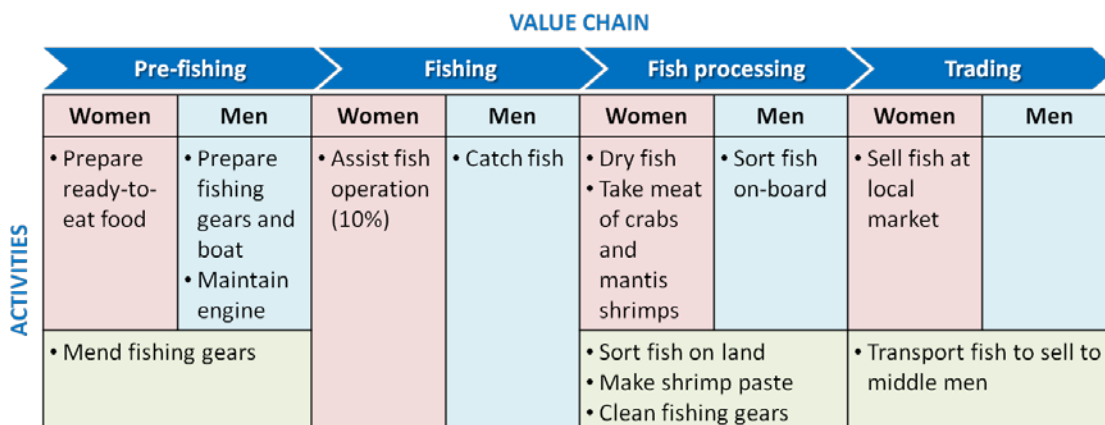
VALUE CHAIN							
Pre-fishing		Fishing		Fish processing		Trading	
Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare food ingredients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare fishing gears and boat</li> <li>• Maintain engine</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch fish</li> <li>• Cook food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sort fish on land</li> <li>• Cut fish</li> <li>• Dry fish</li> <li>• Make shrimp paste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sort fish on-board</li> <li>• Unload fish</li> <li>• Transport fish</li> <li>• Dry fish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sell fish at local market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sell fish at sea</li> <li>• Transport fish from the sea to sell on land</li> <li>• Sell fish in Ranong, Thailand</li> <li>• Buy fish at sea</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray before fishing</li> </ul>						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buy fish at land</li> </ul>	

*Fig. 5. Roles of women and men in fisheries value chain in Pu Lone Tone Tone, Kawthaung, Myanmar*

### 3.3 Trat Province, Thailand

Results from the “Case study on Gender in Fisheries Value Chain at Mairoot district” indicated that fishing and agriculture were dominant. In this area, some women go for fishing with their husband because fishing ground is not too far from home. Men and women can do mending fishing gear, clean fishing gear and sorting fish in land to process. For fish processing, both of them assist each other in making shrimp paste. As their family business,

husband is more powerful to do some process.. Both had performed selling of fish to the middleman. Activity that only women do is to cook food for fishers to eat while they go fishing. In this area, there is no activity that men can do alone.



**Fig. 6.** Roles of women and men in fisheries value chain in Mairoot Sub-district, Klong Yai, Trat Province, Thailand

#### IV. Conclusion and Discussions

Results from the “Case study on Gender in Fisheries Value Chain” showed that men and women have different roles in fishing industry. It emphasizes that both are important and when we need to deal with stakeholder in fishing communities, women should not left behind. Gender analysis revealed that gender differentiated roles are based on characteristic of fishing and there is a strong stereotype of gender division of labor delineating tasks; men and women are significantly involved in various activities related to fisheries. Venturing into the sea for fishing is a male domain. Women support men in their fishing endeavor at the sea with onshore activities such as cleaning nets and vessels, cleaning and segregating the catch, and processing and marketing the catch, *etc.*

Gender is acknowledged as very important for generating income from fishing. In this study, it showed the importance of men and women in fisheries value chain. Therefore, it is evident that “we should stop stereotyping on women as just housewives;” while men identities were strongly associated with fisheries with reinforced masculinity. This study had expected on women who engaged in small-scale fisheries, their roles, contributions and perspectives can look into policy making on fisheries management. Fishery policy makers need to better recognize the diverse roles and perspectives of men and women in fisheries in order to achieve equitable outcomes and livelihood sustainability goals in fishing communities.

#### V. Acknowledgement

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