Gender Analysis: A Socioeconomic Status of Fisherwomen Households in the Coastal States of India (CI: M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai)

Focal Point
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This study was undertaken as per the suggestion made by the World Bank by procuring the primary data collected by MSSRF, Chennai supported by World Bank. The primary data collection was undertaken by MSSRF during 2011-12 in five selected states and data was computerised in excel which was supplied to us in February 2014. The Division by utilizing the in-house research staff analysed the data by keeping in focus the following important objectives:

- The contribution of fishing and related coastal ecosystem services to the family income.
- To quantify the direct economic benefits received from derived from ecosystems
- Decision making role of women in various paid and non-paid activities.
- Occupational health risks faced by women in their income generating and household activities.

In addition to developing state wise status report of the households and profiling fisherwomen based on various development parameters, the study also attempted to compare the socio-economic status and gender disparity between the states.

Methodology
Individual state level village data on Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha submitted by MSSRF to World Bank of the study on “Appraisal of occupational hazards, entrepreneurial capacity and decision making role of women in coastal communities of India, 2011” are used as a reference document for collecting the base information about the sampled fishing villages. The coded data files were used for analysis and comparative study across five coastal states of India viz. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Odisha. It is to be noted that all the respondents in the undertaken survey were women. The focus of analysis was set on following three important issues:

- Different coastal ecosystems and its importance to fisher-household livelihood
- Occupational health risks and its socioeconomic impact
• Decision making and Participatory role of Women in paid and un-paid activities

Average household income with respect to coastal states was used as a principle parameter in analysing the socio-economic characteristics.

Some of the socio-economic characteristics used to distinguish the states are education, age at marriage, debt status, debt purpose, debt source, saving status, gender wise preference for savings institution, insurance status/coverage, state govt. insurance entitlement, assets ownership, sanitation availability and its uses, health status, access to different health services, reasons for not using govt. health facilities, avg. household income with respect to different fishing areas, avg. daily income from fishing and non-fishing sector, status of fisherman, status of fisher women in decision making, participatory role of women in fishing activities.