



Influence of Women involvement in Fisheries on Socio-economics in a Coastal Fishing Community in Ambalangoda, Southern province of Sri Lanka.



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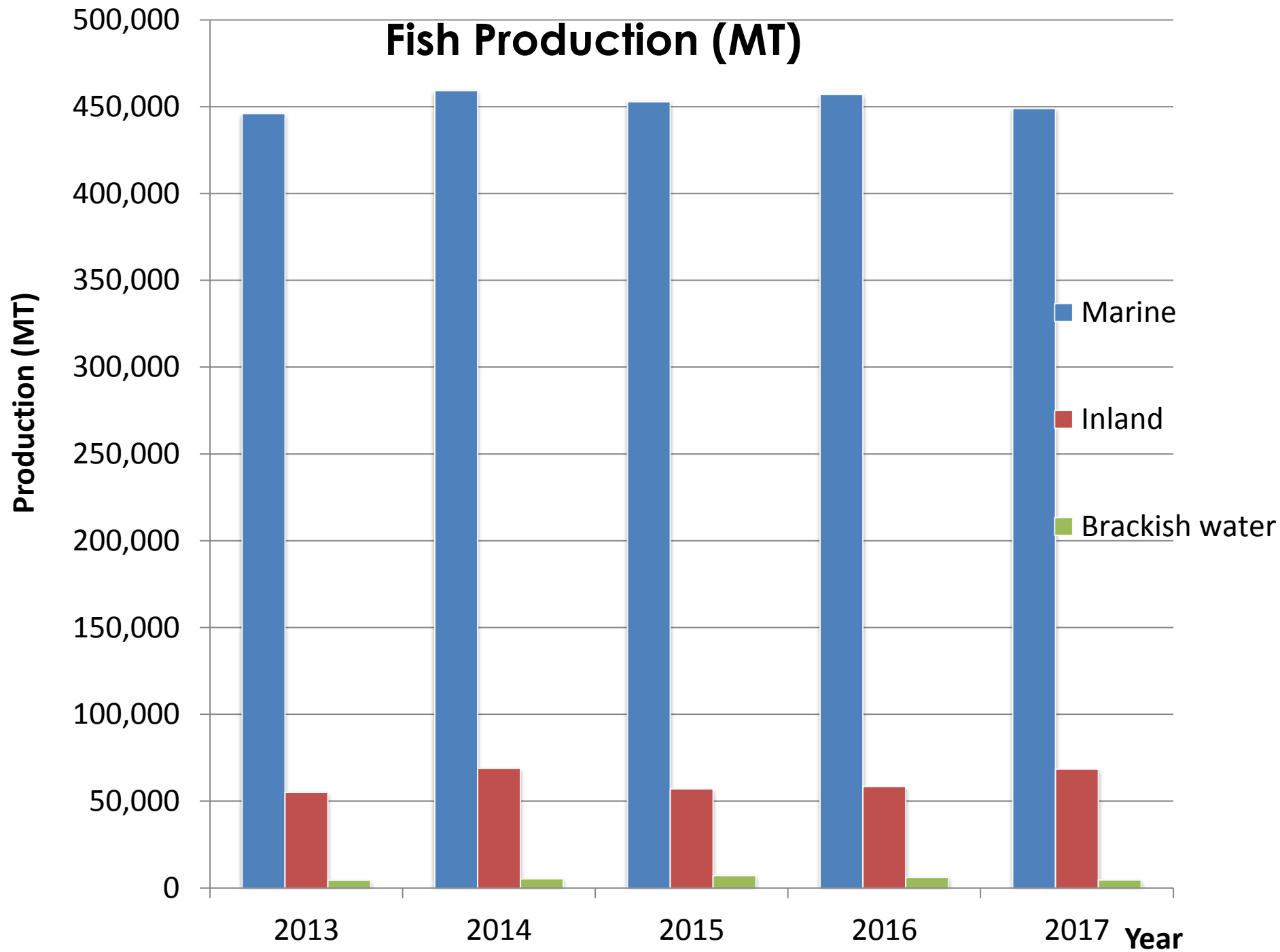
01.Introduction

- Sri Lanka is an island in the Indian Ocean.
- Location: latitudes 5-10⁰ N, longitudes 79-82⁰ E.
- Land area- 65 610 km²
- Population : 21.2 Millions (2016)
- Fisheries sector highly contributes to the national economy.
- Fisheries in Sri Lanka – Marine

Inland

Brackish water

Fish Production (MT)



Fisheries Resources in Sri Lanka

Marine Resources

Territorial Sea	12 nm
Contagious Zone	24 nm
Coast line	1,585 km
Continental Shelf	30,000 km ²
Exclusive Economic Zone	200 nm
Deep Sea	FAO 51 & 57

Inland & Aquaculture Resources

Lagoons & Estuaries	158,000 ha
No. of Perennial Reservoirs	736
No. of Seasonal Tanks	12,000



Coastal fisheries in Sri Lanka

- Coastal Fish production – 2.74 million MT (2017)
- Coastal fisheries - pelagic / demersal fisheries.
- OFRB and NTRB dominant fishing vessels.
- Small-mesh gillnets, beach seines ,long liners and pole & liners use for harvesting of fish.
- > 80% fish production comes from Gillnets.
- 1 337 fishing villages with 1.3 million households.
- South west coastal line - 62 fishing villages with 24 500 fishing populations.

- Ambalangoda - Active fishermen 275 engaged in the coastal fisheries & 134 engaged in fishery related activities.



Role of women in Coastal fisheries

- Fish sorting, gutting and processing.
- Help their husbands to drag boats ashore.
- Engage in beach seining & some women own beach seines & boats.
- Marketing.
- Supervise the marketing of catch.

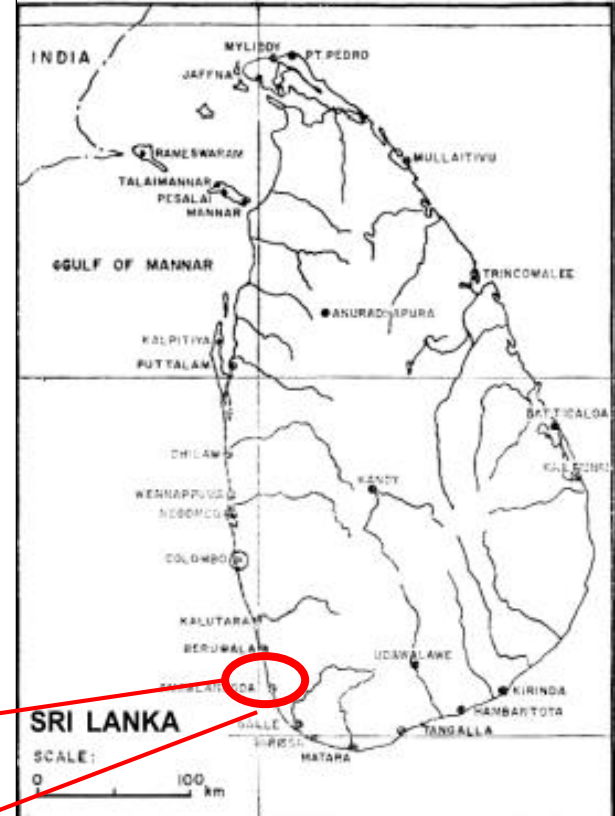
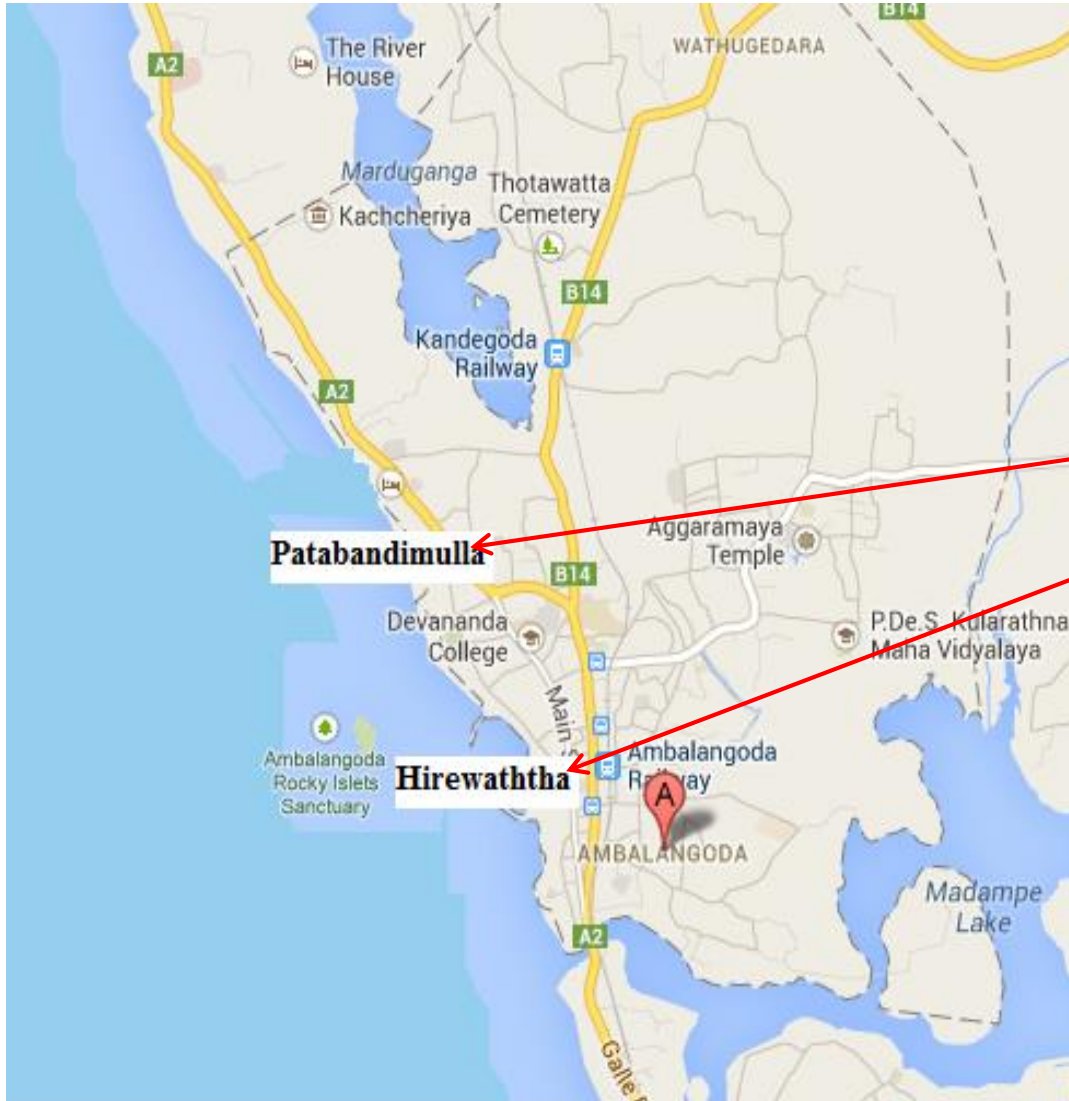
Constrains:

- Although the fishery related activities that women carry out in Sri Lanka are documented (Saison *et al.*, 2002), their contribution to the fisheries sector has not been studied in detail.
- Shortage of literature regarding systematic studies of the contribution of women to fisheries in SL.

Objectives

- To obtain socio-demographic characteristics of women in the selected coastal fishery community.
- To assess women's contribution to socio-economic development of fishery families.
- To identify women's potential to contribute to fishery related activities.
- To identify obstacles and opportunities for women to be involved in fisheries activities.
- To suggest mechanisms that could be used to get maximum input of women in fisheries activities.

Research Area



Hirewaththa & Patabandimulla
fishing villages ($6^{\circ} 23'N$; $80^{\circ} 06'E$)
in Ambalangoda - South West
coast in SL.

Background of this Area

- ✓ Role of women
 - Fish processing, retail sales of fish, collecting the fish into the baskets and removing fish from the nets.
 - Responsible for the care of the children & household duties.
 - Some women - engage in the coconut fiber industry & in handicrafts such as mat & basket weaving and lace making.

- ✓ Average monthly income of the family - **170 US \$**
monthly expenditure - **160 – 165 US \$**.

- ✓ Expenses -food and repayment of debts
substantial amounts spent on alcohol, tobacco, kerosene for cooking & lighting.

- ✓ The expenditure on children's education & clothing is minimal.

- ✓ Additional sources of income - toddy tapping, manufacture & sale of handicrafts & coconut fiber based cottage industries.

- ✓ 37 fishermen migrate every year from the this area to the east coast during the southwest monsoon from April to October.

02-Sampling & Data Collection

- Preliminary survey:
 - using secondary data sources
 - for identifying considerable numbers of families - women are involved in fisheries.
- Identified families were separated into two categories:
 - Women involved in fishery sector
 - Women not involved in fishery sector
- 100 households from each category was selected using random sampling method.
- Survey: Data collection was done through a questionnaire.
- Families of coastal water fishing and other fishery related activities were included in the study.

Data analysis

- The results were analyzed using student's t-test & Karl Pearson's Chi square test

03.Results & Discussion

1. Demographic Characteristics of the Two Study Groups

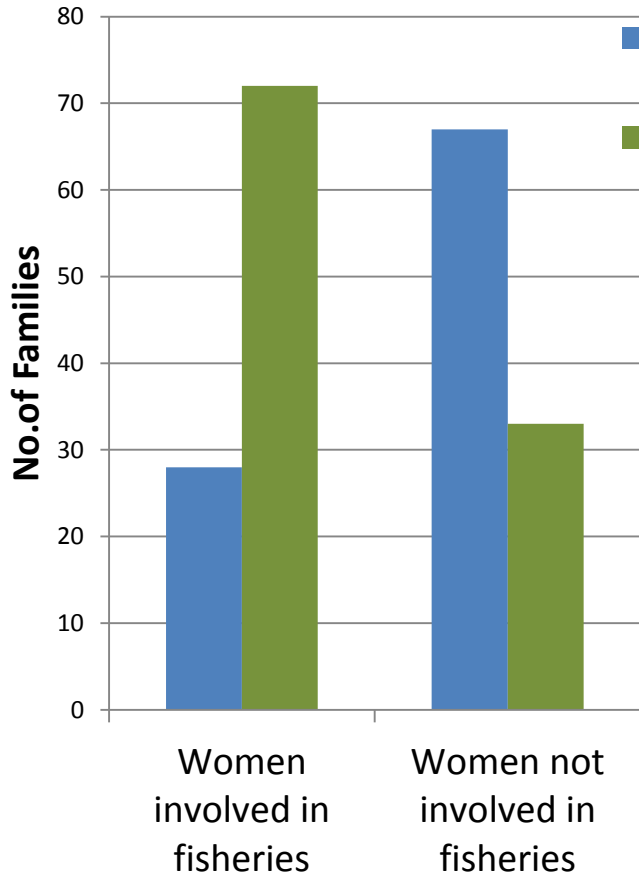
- **No significant differences –**

Civil status, religious affiliation & descendent from fishing families.

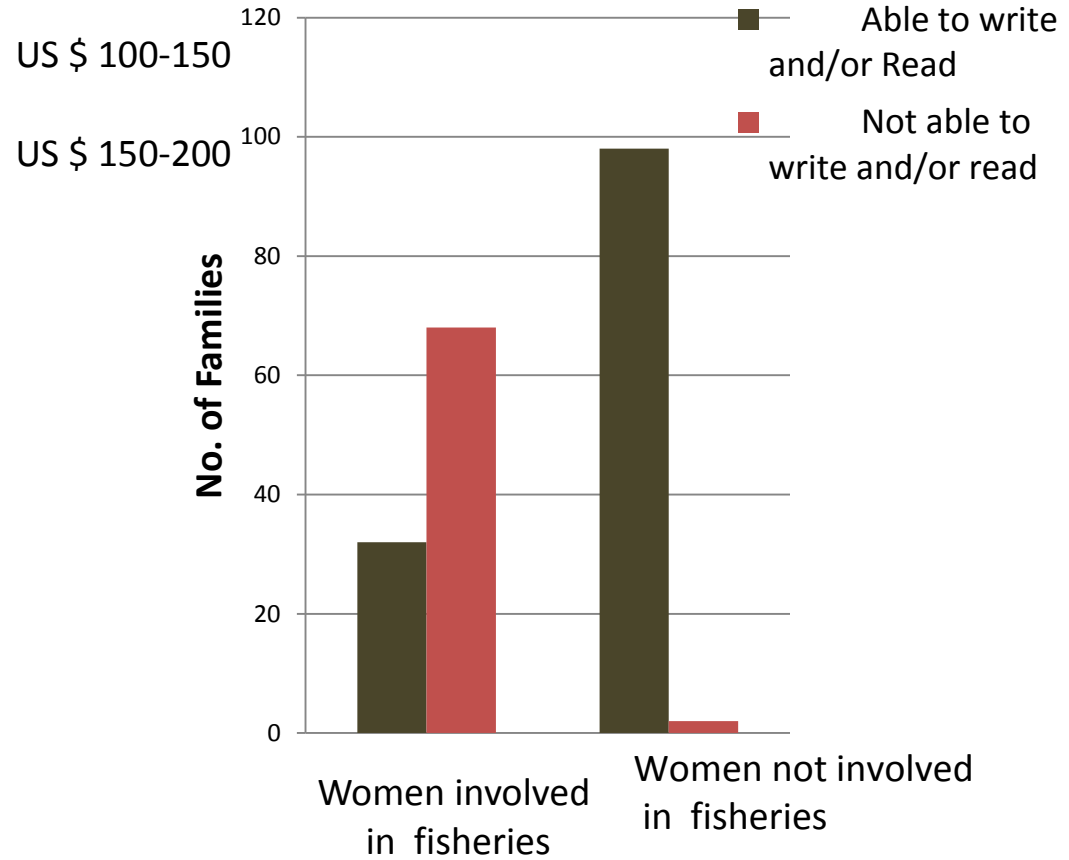
- **Significant differences –**

Family size composition, literacy level, education of the children, monthly income, regular liquor consumption habits of husbands, loan taken from the banks & repayments between two groups.

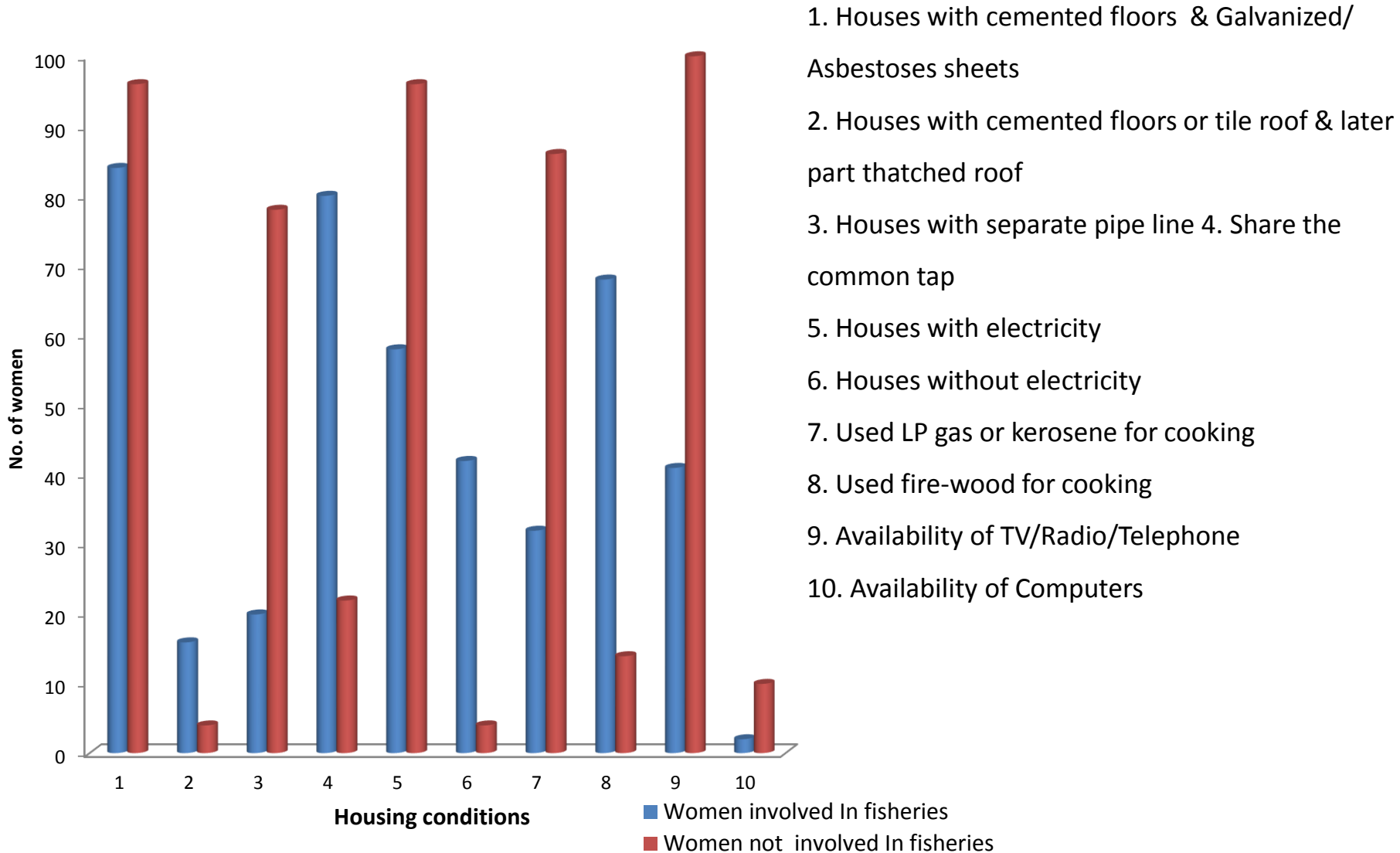
01. Monthly Income of the Two Study Groups (US \$)



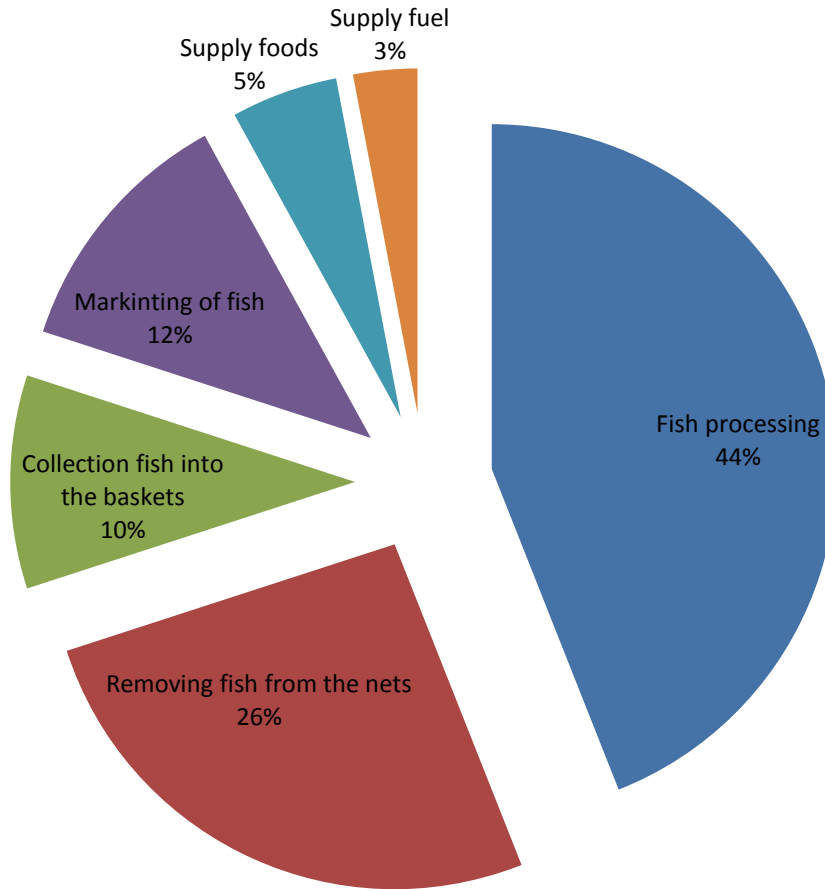
02. Literacy condition of the Two Study Groups



02. Housing Conditions of the Two Study Groups



03. Women involved in Fishery Activities



Activity	Working duration	Income /day
Degutting	9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	US \$ 5
Salting and drying fish	7.00 a.m.- 7.00 p.m.	US \$ 5 -6
Marketing	5.30 a.m. - 9.00 a.m.	US \$ 5-10
Removing fish from the nets	5.30 a.m. - 7.30 a.m.	US \$ 3 - 4
Collecting fish	7.30 a.m. - 8.30 a.m.	US \$ 1 - 2
Food supplying	5.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon	US \$ 4.5
Supplying fuel	Through out the day	US \$ 5

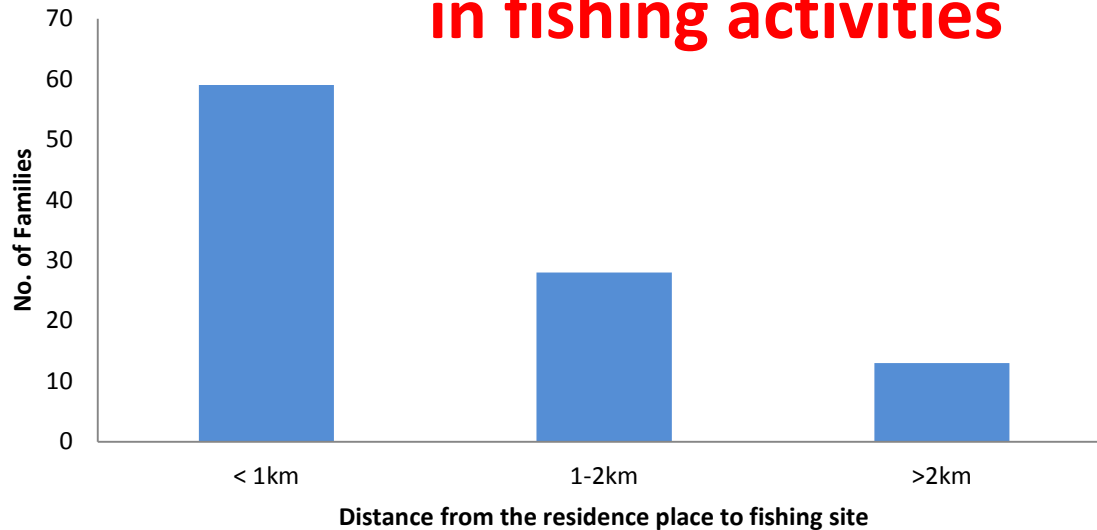
Fish processing activities



✓ Income -seasonally

✓ Women labour - involved in salting and collecting fish as appears to be exploited by the employers with gender discrimination.

04. Relationship between distance & engagement in fishing activities



- ✓ 59 % of women - near to the fishing site involved in fish processing activities and ancillary support services.
- ✓ 28 % of women - within 1-2 km from fish landing site and engaged in removing fish from the nets and collecting fish into baskets.
- ✓ 13 % of women- far away from the landing sites and they have involved in marketing activities

04.Conclusion

- **Specific problems identified in these two areas:**
 - ✓ Illiteracy
 - ✓ Lack of; financial assistance, insurance schemes for fisheries families, fisheries extension services, infra- structure, credit and capital facilities
 - ✓ Poor sanitation facilities
 - ✓ Unexpected natural disasters
- The major constrains faced by the women;
 - Non-involvement in the decision making process
 - Gender discrimination
 - Unavailability of organized markets

Income

Women engage in fisheries > not engage in fisheries

Living conditions of families

Women engage in fisheries < not engage in fisheries

- Reasons:**
- Thinking pattern
 - Low literacy rate
 - Large family size
 - Higher number of loans taken from banks

Recommended Action:

To get maximum input of women in fisheries activities

- Connect with governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and universities.
- ✓ Financial handling
- ✓ communication skills development
- ✓ Adult education
- ✓ Post harvesting & marketing programmes

Thank You!



Acknowledgement

- Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Ministry of Ocean & Fisheries in South Korea
- World Fisheries University
- Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development in SL
- Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources in SL