GAF 101: A Training Workshop: Theorizing Gender in Aquaculture & Fisheries Research

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Objectives:

• Provide a brief introduction to approaches to theorizing gender.

• Enable participants to formulate a theoretically grounded research question focused on gender in fisheries and aquaculture.
Workshop Agenda

• Introductions of Participants
• Part 1 – Theorizing Gender in Fisheries & Aquaculture Research
• Break
• Part 2 – Approaches to Research: Case Study Examples
• Part 3 – Small Group Work & Discussion
• Part 4 – Regional sources of Information available
• Lunch & Conversation
Firstly

- THEORY IS NOT A BIG SCARY THING…..
- We all do it in our everyday lives
So What is Theory and Why Do We Need It?

- Theory allows us to understand connections between events and processes.
- Between ‘private troubles and public issues’
- Theory helps us to provide frameworks of understanding.
- Theory helps us to get behind the obvious.
- Theory helps us to build alliances and develop political action.
Above all

• THEORY ENCOURAGES US TO ASK THE QUESTION…

WHY?
Why questions

- We know that by and large men fish and women process
- WHY?
- We know that more men commit violence against women than women commit against men
- WHY?
- We know that certain groups or families in communities hold more power than others
- WHY?
Before we move on...

- Don’t aquaculture and fish scientists do theory too?
- Social science deals with people, communities, groups, social structures, political economy ……
- Social science deals with the ideas people have and the ways they behave. And how that connects with social structures.
- It recognizes and respects peoples’ subjectivity, their understanding of their situation.
- Natural science deals more with things that can’t talk back.
- It loves to count and measure.
Natural and Social Science both do theory

Social science theory deals with:

• how and why people/human beings experience their realities
• understands the limitations they face
• attempts to describe the complexity of their relationships
• helps develop actions to respond to their situations
BUT

- Currently there is a remarkable lack of feminist theory on aquaculture and fisheries.
- This is going to be the job of GAF.
The Limits of Theoretical Concepts

- We have to understand the limitations of theoretical concepts in social science contexts.
- The kinds of models and frameworks we produce are not universally applicable.
- We need to understand those limitations.
- People and communities are exceedingly complex, diverse and in constant flux.
- A good concept can help us understand part of something, some of the time in some situations.
Theory

• Won’t give us all the answers – just some tentative ones, some of the time, in some circumstances, for a limited time.
Feminist Theory

- Many feminist theories and theoretical frameworks, but all the good ones share characteristics.
- Good feminist theory is not about ‘them’
- It is not about women as objects of research
- We, as women, are part of the research.
- It is impossible to be an ‘objective’ feminist researcher.
- It is also impossible to walk away.
- Feminist theory is always connected to action.
Gender

- Gender as socially constructed
- Assigned sex
- Then correlated with appropriate behavior
- Sexual division of labour, eg in fishing
- Restrictions on (especially) women’s behaviour
- Opportunities and challenges for change
A Materialist Feminist Framework for Gender Research

• What do we mean by “materialist feminism”?

• An analytical approach rooted in political economy that takes culture, cultural constructions of gender, and power relations seriously.
Material Feminist Theory of Gender

- The starting point is Gender Relations
  The hierarchical relations of power between women and men that tend to disadvantage women
- A focus on gender relations (versus gender roles) emphasizes the connectedness of women’s and men’s lives and the interaction of gender with other systems of social relations (e.g., class, caste, ethnicity, race).
MF Theory of Gender – cont.

• Ultimate objective is to create more equal and equitable relations between men and women

• Empowerment of everyone in society
A Holistic, Integrated Framework

- Economic & Environmental Factors
- Social Structures & Practices
- Cultural Norms & Ideologies
- Political-Legal Relations & Institutions

The Material Conditions of People’s Lives
Political Economy

• Resource Base
• Livelihood strategies
• Organization of economy
• Divisions of labor
• Property regimes, resource access rights, other legal institutions
• Power relations that structure and derive from divisions of labor and access to rights and resources
Scales of Analysis

• Geographic Scales:
  • Individual
  • Household
  • Local Community/Economy
  • Regional Economy
  • The State & National Economy
  • Global Economy

How does the global impact the local? How does the local mediate the global?
What is a Social Structure?

- Class
- Education
- Democracy
- Military-Industrial Complex
- Fishery
- Church
- Family
- Etc.
• Try to think beyond the individual to what social and cultural structures they may be part of.
Intersectionality

- All social and cultural and political and economic structures are integrated.
Intersecting Relations

- Long-Distance Trader
- Property & Resource Rights
- Relations within the Family
- Relations in Society

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Collective Action

- Very difficult to change as individual
- Importance of collective discussion and education
- Leading to collective action at the local level
- Trickle up and trickle down
- Also important to press for change in policy and regulation at regional and national levels
- Use of international instruments eg Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines, CEDAW
QUESTIONS?
Part II – How Do We Theorize Gender in Fisheries & Aquaculture Research?
Case Study Exercise

**Situation:** Gleaning of shells, seaweed and invertebrates is an important economic activity for women in Country X, but their earnings remain low, and opportunities for occupational mobility are limited.

The government provides little support for the fisheries sector, and a recently established Marine Protected Area now restricts the areas women can glean. Poverty among women is widespread.
Case Study Exercise

• What “WHY” questions would you ask?
• What types of information would you need to answer these questions?
• What strategies would you suggest to improve the situation?
• What is the theoretical basis of your suggestions?
Part III – Small Group Work

• Share with the group one sentence about your major interest in aquaculture and fisheries.
• Identify a short situation or case.
• Two minutes quiet reflection on “why” questions that come to mind.
• Share your “why” questions. What is important about each one?
• Choose one “why” question to formulate a theoretical research question.
• Choose a rapporteur to report back the selected situation/case and the theoretical research question you identified.
Part IV – Sources of Materials
Gender participation in fisheries management of Lake Victoria, Kenya


Gender plays an important role in the artisanal fisheries, therefore it critical for both men and women to participate fisheries management. This paper analyzes gender responses to introduced or enhanced fisheries regulations and constraints.
WorldFish focuses on gender transformative approaches that influence social norms and bridge the gaps in access to, and control of, agricultural resources, promoting gender equality and economic development.

Rural women have a major role in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, but they often have unequal access to resources and services that they need to be successful and often suffer greater poverty and hunger than men as a consequence. Closing the gender gap in access to important resources can improve productivity and increase incomes and food security.

The social norms that constrain poor women’s and men’s opportunities need to be better understood. WorldFish gender equity research is aimed at generating evidence and information on how poor men and women access and use resources, who has power and makes decisions, whose priorities are being addressed and who is impacted by, or benefiting from, different development alternatives.

Together with our partners, WorldFish is pursuing gender equity research through the CGIAR Research Programs on Aquatic Agricultural Systems, Livestock and Fish and Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security.

WorldFish’s Impact By 2024

As an international non-profit research organization committed to reducing poverty and hunger, WorldFish seeks to maximize the health, social and economic impact of our work.
Eldis  http://www.eldis.org/

**New replication grants: Financial Services for the Poor**

3ie seeks expressions of interest from researchers for replication studies under its new Replication Window 4: Financial Services for the Poor. Funding is available for conducting internal replications of seven highly influential impact evaluations of interventions of financial services for the poor. The deadline for submitting expressions of interest is 23.59 GMT, 2 August 2016. *read more*

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**Announcements**

**Funding**
- Coming soon: 3ie grants for evaluations of interventions to tackle open defecation in rural India
- Coming soon: Request for qualification for evaluation of integrated soil fertility management programme in Burkina Faso
- Coming soon: 3ie grants for impact evaluations of reforms implemented by the Supreme Court of the Philippines
- 3ie bursaries for Evidence 2016, 20-22 September 2016

**Events**
- AIDS 2016, Durban, 18-22 July
- Executive Education Course, 11-15 July 2016, New Delhi
- 6 June – 1 July: Two-week development core course and workshops by IFD
- 31 January – 31 December 2016: Effective and creative evaluation report writing, Online e-learning course

**Jobs**
- Push-button replication research consultant, 3ie, Washington, DC
- Policy, Advocacy and Communication Intern, 3ie New Delhi
- Web design and development consultancy, 3ie New Delhi
- Evidence uptake monitoring and learning consultant, 3ie New Delhi

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**Latest Publications**
FAO’s E-learning Centre


E-learning Centre
E-learning to meet the needs of agriculture and food security professionals

Gender in Food and Nutrition Security
This course provides guidance on how to design and implement agriculture policies and programmes that are gender-responsive, sustainable, contributing to gender equality, and therefore able to improve food and nutrition security.

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Audience

Audience groups include, but are not limited to:
- Policy makers and decision-makers
- Senior managers, and programme and project designers responsible for designing food and nutrition security and agriculture programmes
- Programme implementers (including technical advisors) responsible for implementing food and nutrition security and agriculture programmes
- Statistics officers and Monitoring & Evaluation officers

Content

The total curriculum consists of 14 lessons, ranging from approximately 10 to 80 minutes duration, grouped into 3 units:

Unit 1: Overview of gender concepts and principles
- Lesson 1.1: Closing the gender gap

Start course
Course is available online, may be available also for download and CD-Rom order. Please login to see the options and take the course.

Login
Register
- Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries
  https://genderaquafish.org/

- Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific – NACA

- Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
  http://www.seafdec.org.ph/

- Asian Institute of Technology
  http://www.serd.ait.ac.th/wpserd/annual-research-reports/

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) publications

- CGIAR Research on gender and agriculture
  https://gender.cgiar.org/
Presenter Information

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