

A Role of Women Activities for Enhancing the Community Fisheries Development in Cambodia

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Abstract: Community Fisheries (CFi's) was introduced in Cambodia in late 1990s to improve x management of local fisheries and also to ensure local food security. A study aims to describe x role of gender equity member in the community fisheries in Cambodia. Interviews and documentations of fisheries community members with 527 were conducted. The results showed that x women play important role with 63.4 percent in community fisheries based on activities such as, women would go for fishing more often than before, they had surplus of fish catch for processing, so women handle the processing, women now can play important roles in fisheries eco-tourism activities, women now can play important roles in fisheries conservation activities, and women play important roles in providing ideas for fisheries management. However, thirty six percent was men, who still play important roles in community fisheries activities and men still play important roles in fishing. To sum up, the role of women activities for enhancing the community fisheries development in Cambodia is very important.

Key words: role, women activities, community fisheries, Cambodia

1. Introduction

Community Fisheries (CFs) have been recently constituted by the Cambodian Government to address the needs for local and sustainable management of fisheries resources. Local women are being urged to participate in these institutions by various state and non-state programmes. However, actual social conditions and practices of people demonstrate that women are not actively involved in de facto fisheries management with its complex mosaic of rules, rights and roles. The importance of the role of women in fishing communities and fisheries management is not documented enough. The research aims to describe the role of gender equity member in the community

fisheries but it has been accepted that women are equally involved in every aspect of fisheries-related activities.

2. Methodology

This research was conducted in the three main region's representatives such as Tonle Sap, Mekong and Coastal region as showed in Fig. 1. Farmers whose community fisheries were targeted for interviews. The total sample number was 527 in this study. Two kinds of data, primary and secondary, were required for the research. Primary data comprised information from interviews. Semi-structured interviews and observation were used as the method for households' survey through questionnaires. Secondary data were quoted from technical papers, book, journals, and other publications. The collected primary data was installed and analyzed with SPSS version 16.

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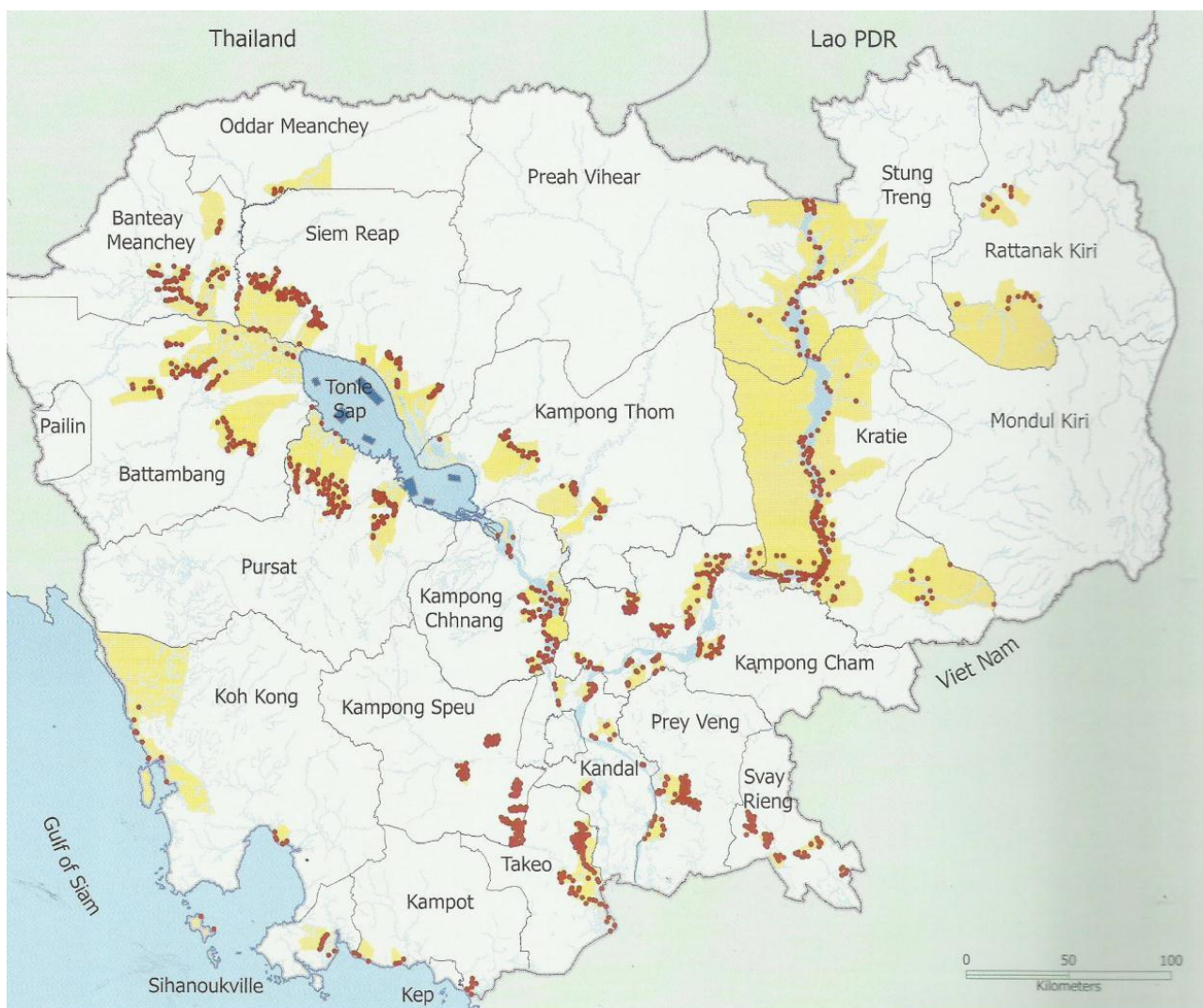


Fig. 1 Study area.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Sex of Interviewees

The gender of interviewees was showed in Table 1. There were 67.9 percent for male and 32.1 percent for female.

Table 1 The gender of interviewees.

	Frequency	Percent
Male	358	67.9
Female	169	32.1
Total	527	100.0

3.2 Age Group

The age group of interviewees was show in Table 2. The age group of interviewees was the highest in age group 31-50 with 56.5 percent followed by age group 51-60 with 24.7 percent.

Table 2 The age group of interviewees.

Age group	Frequency	Percent
20-30	43	8.2
31-50	298	56.5
51-60	130	24.7
Above 60	56	10.6
Total	527	100.0

3.3 Regions of Community Fisheries

The region of community fisheries was showed in Table 3. The location of community fisheries was in Tonle Sap with 44.4 percent, Mekong 36.1 percent, and coastal 19.5 percent. There are three regions of community fisheries were conducted with total 527 interviewees.

3.4 The Women Played New and Enhanced Role in Different Fishery Activities

After Community Fisheries (CFi) formation has women in family played any new and enhanced roles in different fishery activities? (e.g., involve in more fishing, fish processing, etc) was showed in Table 4. The women played new and enhanced role in different fishery activities was 63.6 percent in yes and 36.4 percent was in no. Women should be involved in the CF because they have a very close relationship with resources in the community since they are the ones who collect them in the inundated forest as fishery resources [1].

Table 5 shows reasons of the women played new and enhanced role in different fishery activities. The reasons of the women played new and enhanced role in different fishery activities because x women go for fishing more often than before with 36.2 percent, had surplus of fish catch for processing so women play roles to handle this work with 13.5 percent, women now can play important roles in fisheries eco-tourism

Table 3 The regions of Community Fisheries (CFi).

	Frequency	Percent
Tonle Sap	234	44.4
Mekong	190	36.1
Coastal	103	19.5
Total	527	100.0

Table 4 Shows the women played new and enhanced role in different fishery activities.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	335	63.6
No	192	36.4
Total	527	100

Table 5 The reason of the women played new and enhanced role in different fishery activities.

	Frequency	Percent
Women go for fishing more often than before	191	36.2
Had surplus of fish catch for processing, so women play roles to handle this work	71	13.5
Women now can play important roles in fisheries eco-tourism activities	4	0.8
Women now can play important roles in fisheries conservation activities	25	4.7
Women play important role in providing ideas for fisheries management	27	5.1
Women play key roles in Community Fisheries (CFi) activities, arrange Community Fisheries (CFi) meetings...	7	1.3
Others	13	2.5
Total	338	64.1

activities with 0.8 percent, women now can play important roles in fisheries conservation activities 4.7 percent, women play important roles in providing ideas for fisheries management with 5.1 percent and women play key roles in community fisheries activities arrange community fisheries meeting with 1.3 percent. To sum up, the reasons of the women played new and enhance role in different fishery activities was 64.1 percent. According to Kurien (2017) [2] stated that the gender and age profile of the community fisheries membership were more or less the same across the three regions of Tole Sap, Mekong and Marine. However, the role of the women in the community was singled out by focus group discussions (FGD) for the crucial role they play. Normally women joined the CFi that status as fishers were recognized thus providing them with a strong voice in CFi decisions. Thereafter, the role of women as a key factor in both conservation efforts and in the negotiating and educating of illegal fishers, was highlighted. To sum up, for the success of Community Fisheries in Cambodia, the role of the women cannot be disregarded. According to Kawarazuka and Bene (2010) [3] stated that women have been well-known in improving families' food security and nutritional outcomes.

The increasing of involvement of women in CFi activities, particularly in savings groups and information dissemination. Table 6 shows that women

do not played new and enhanced role in different fishery activities. The women do not played new and enhance role in different fishery activities because of men still play important roles in community fisheries activities with 6.1 percent, same before 5.9 percent, men still play important roles in fishing with 15.7 percent, not any activities more suitable for women with 4.0 percent. So, the women do not played new and enhanced role in different fishery activities was 35.1 percent. The World Wide Fund for Nature (2015) [4] stated that “fisheries is important for the livelihoods of Cambodia’s rural poor once it accounts for about 75 per cent of Cambodia annual protein”. The Council for the Development in Cambodia (2015) [5] also reported that “fair distribution with sustainable use of fishery resources are crucial to improve the food security and livelihoods of rural Cambodians”. For women, those resources are really important to them as they play a key role in their family. From the interview with the community members, one of the women said that fishing is important to the poor particularly the poor women who do not have any skill to earn money and there are no other resources.

Gender issues in Cambodia are being promoted much more and this is leading to more improvements. Nowadays, women can go to school, work and do anything that men do. The challenge is security. It is not secure enough for girls or women to go out alone.

While talking about the activities in her community, women believe that there should be a continuing effort to motivate women to not only raise idea but to

Table 6 The women do not played new and enhanced role in different fishery activities.

	Frequency	Percent
Same before	31	5.9
Men still play important roles in Community Fisheries (CFi) activities	32	6.1
Men still play important roles in fishing	83	15.7
Not any activities more suitable for women	21	4.0
Others	18	3.4
Total	185	35.1

participate more during discussion process too. Due to gender norms and levels of education, most technologies or a technology that became commercially profitable were taken up by male members of the household, thus restricting women’s activities [6].

3.5 Different Roles Played of Men and Women in the Community Fisheries (CFi) Governance and Management

In your opinion what are the different roles played by men and women in the Community Fisheries (CFi) governance and management showed in Table 7. The different roles played of men and women in the community fisheries governance and management because of men can patrol at night time (patrolling activities) with 46.3 percent, women play important roles in keeping an eye on conservation zone, where is nearby home with 1.1 percent, men and women have equal right 17.6 percent, men play important roles in stopping illegal fishing activities 3.0 percent, women

Table 7 The different roles played of men and women in the Community Fisheries (CFi) governance and management.

	Frequency	Percent
Men can patrol at night time (patrolling activities)	244	46.3
Women play important roles in keeping an eye on conservation zone, where is nearby home	6	1.1
Men and women have equal right	93	17.6
Men play important roles in stopping illegal fishing activities	16	3.0
Women join short training and meetings	131	24.9
Women play good roles in advertising, disseminating and educate people on Community Fisheries (CFi) by-law, regulation and legal fishing activities	13	2.5
Woman is still playing good roles as cashier and accounting	2	0.4
Women play actively in Community Fisheries (CFi) admin work	2	0.4
Woman is still playing good roles in reporting and keeping Community Fisheries (CFi) document	1	0.2
Others	19	3.6
Total	527	100

joint short training and meeting with 24.9 percent, women play good roles in advertising, disseminating and educating people in community fisheries by-law, regulation and legal fishing activities with 2.5 percent, women is still playing good roles as cashier and accounting with 0.4 percent, women play actively in community fisheries administration work with 0.4 percent, women is still playing good roles in reporting and keeping community fisheries document with 0.2 percent. According to Kurien (2017) [2] reported that women are visible and prominent in the establishing and managing a saving group because of the traditional norm that financial management is a woman’s responsibility in the household. While this may still be true, it sees that the women in the CFI’s have found other activities to involve themselves in.

3.6 The Participation of Women for Collective Activities of the Community Fisheries (CFi)

The participation of women is most valuable in collective activities of the Community Fisheries (CFi) shows in Table 8. The participation women for collective activities of the community fisheries because of women fish processing group for quality products, one community fisheries one products with 15.9 percent, whole seller for fish catch with 11.4 percent, fisheries eco-tourism activities with 0.2 percent, community fisheries accounting and money keeping

Table 8 The participation of women for collective activities of the Community Fisheries (CFi).

	Frequency	Percent
Women fish processing group for quality products, one Community Fisheries (CFi) one product	84	15.9
Whole seller for fish catch	60	11.4
Fisheries eco-tourism activities	1	0.2
Community Fisheries (CFi) accounting and money keeping	36	6.8
Community Fisheries (CFi) admin and logistic work	1	0.2
Women play good roles in conflict resolutions	1	0.2
Others	3	0.6
Total	186	35.3

with 6.8 percent, community fisheries administration and logistic work with 0.2 percent, women play good roles in conflict resolutions with 0.2 percent. So, the participation of women for collective activities of the community fisheries was 35.3 percent. Women should be involved in CF especially since women can solve problems through peaceful approaches whereas men often prefer using physical forces [1]. Community fisheries associations to manage natural resources effectively and sustainable and thereby improve livelihoods with the full participation of women [7].

3.7 The Young Women/Men Interest in Any Activities of the CFI

The young women/men in family express interest in any of the activities of the CFI shows in Table 9. The young women/men interest in any activities of the community fisheries was 38.8 percent and 61.5 percent was not interest in any activities of the community fisheries.

Table 10 showed the reason of young people express interest in any activities of CFI. The reason of young people express interest in any activities of community fisheries because of young people understood their values to involve in community fisheries activities with 21.4 percent, willing to work for better fisheries resources management with 4.7 percent, understanding their next role provided by old people with 0.2 percent, help each other for better living through sustainable fisheries management with 2.1 percent, help to make community fisheries boundary demarcation with three percent, patrolling activities 2.8 percent, dissemination campaign/events for stopping illegal activities with 3.4 percent, arrested illegal fishers with 1.3 percent.

Table 9 The young women/men interest in any activities of the CFI

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	203	38.5
No	324	61.5
Total	527	100

Table 10 The reason of young people express interest in any activities of CFi.

	Frequency	Percent
Young people understood their values to involve in CFi activities	113	21.4
Willing to work for better fisheries resources management	25	4.7
Understanding their next roles provided by old people	1	0.2
Help each other for better living through sustainable fisheries management	11	2.1
Help to make CFi boundary demarcation	16	3.0
Patrolling activities	15	2.8
Dissemination campaign/events for stopping illegal activities	18	3.4
Arrested illegal fishers	7	1.3
Total	206	39.1

The reason of young people does not express interest in any activities of CFi was showed in Table 11. The reason of young people does not express interest in any activities of CFi because of having no time with 49.7 percent, absence of community fisheries members with 3.0 percent, no many young people at village with 2.7 percent. In conclusion, the reason of young people does not express interest in any activities of community fisheries was 60.2 percent.

Applying a community science approach has improved the knowledge and skills of women and enabled them to participate more effectively in aquaculture activities. This is illustrated by the daily recording of activities by men, women, and children. Engaging households in the recording of data also provides equity of knowledge between women and men, and a better understanding of the costs, benefits, and opportunities between genders [8].

Table 11 The reason of young people does not express interest in any activities of CFi.

	Frequency	Percent
No time	262	49.7
Absence of of CFi	16	3.0
No many young people at Villages	14	2.7
Others	25	4.7
Total	317	60.2

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

The importance of the role of women in fishing communities and fisheries management is not documented enough, but it has been accepted that women are equally involved in every aspect of fisheries-related activities. The role of women in community fisheries was 63.6 percent. So, main activities of women were going for fishing more often than before, having surplus of fish catch for processing so women play roles to handle the processing, being able to play important roles in fisheries eco-tourism activities, being able to play important roles in fisheries conservation activities, and playing important roles in providing ideas for fisheries management. However, thirty six percent was men, who still play important roles in community fisheries activities, and men still play important roles in fishing. Greater involvement of women in community fisheries can give them greater financial independence, often a greater say in household decision making and more money going directly to the family's food. However, in many countries women already have strong and often controlling position in family financial matters.

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