

Linking social wellbeing and intersectionality to understand gender relations in dried fish value chains

Madu Galappaththi (she/her)
PhD Candidate



Outline

- Dried fish value chains and gender aspects
- Study of gender in value chain research
- Social wellbeing
- Intersectionality
- Integrated framework
- A case application



Photo: Madu Galappaththi

Dried fish value chains

- A sub-sector within small-scale fisheries, particularly in Asia and Africa
- Organized a series of activities or nodes (Porter, 1985)
- Employs traditional low-cost low-tech methods such as sun drying, salting, and smoking
- **Gaps** in dried fish research and policy



Photo: W.C. Hiroshini

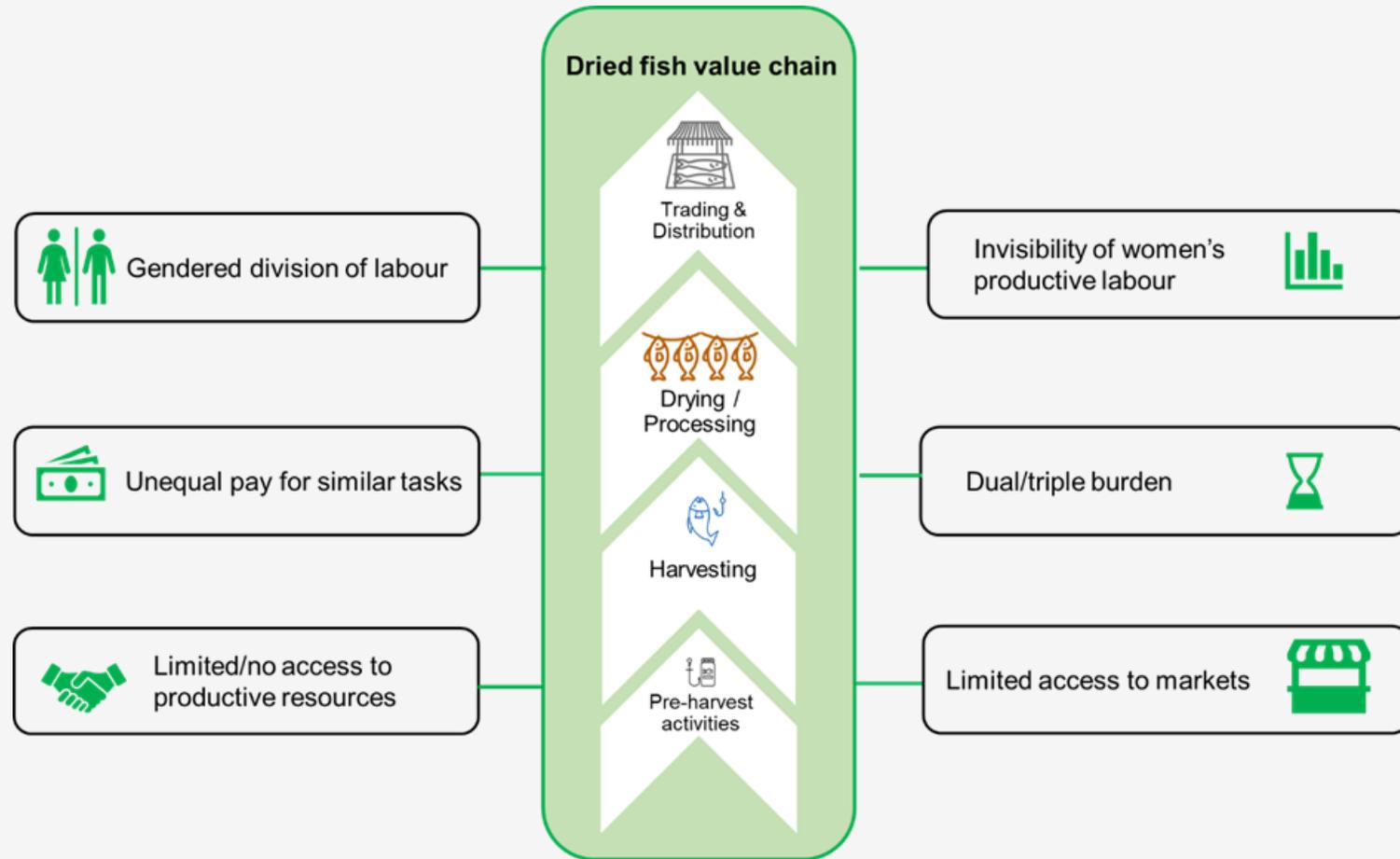
Gendered aspects within dried fish value chains

- Women predominantly occupy the fish drying node and sometimes also involve in other nodes
- They obtain significant and diverse **benefits** (e.g., income, food, social ties, and cultural values)
- Despite the benefits, women face significant **constraints** compared to men



Photo: driedfishmatters.org

Constraints that perpetuate gender inequity



Study of gender dimensions within value chain research

- Adoption of a gender perspective is not new
 - Economic empowerment, access to productive resources, agency and bargaining power
 - Social upgrading (Barrientos et al., 2011)
 - Linkage between productive and reproductive spheres (Dunaway, 2013)
 - Households and diverse forms of labour (Dunaway, 2013)
 - Broader conceptualization of 'value' (Fabinyi et al., 2018)
- Within dried fish - need for a more contextualized understanding of how people benefit
- **Notion of relationality** is the point of departure

Social wellbeing

- Emphasizes the range of benefits (e.g., material goods, kinship ties, cultural values)
- Three-dimensional view of social wellbeing: Material, relational, and subjective (McGregor, 2008)
- Attention to **meanings and social connections** that lie beyond material benefits



Photo: Lakshitha Fernando

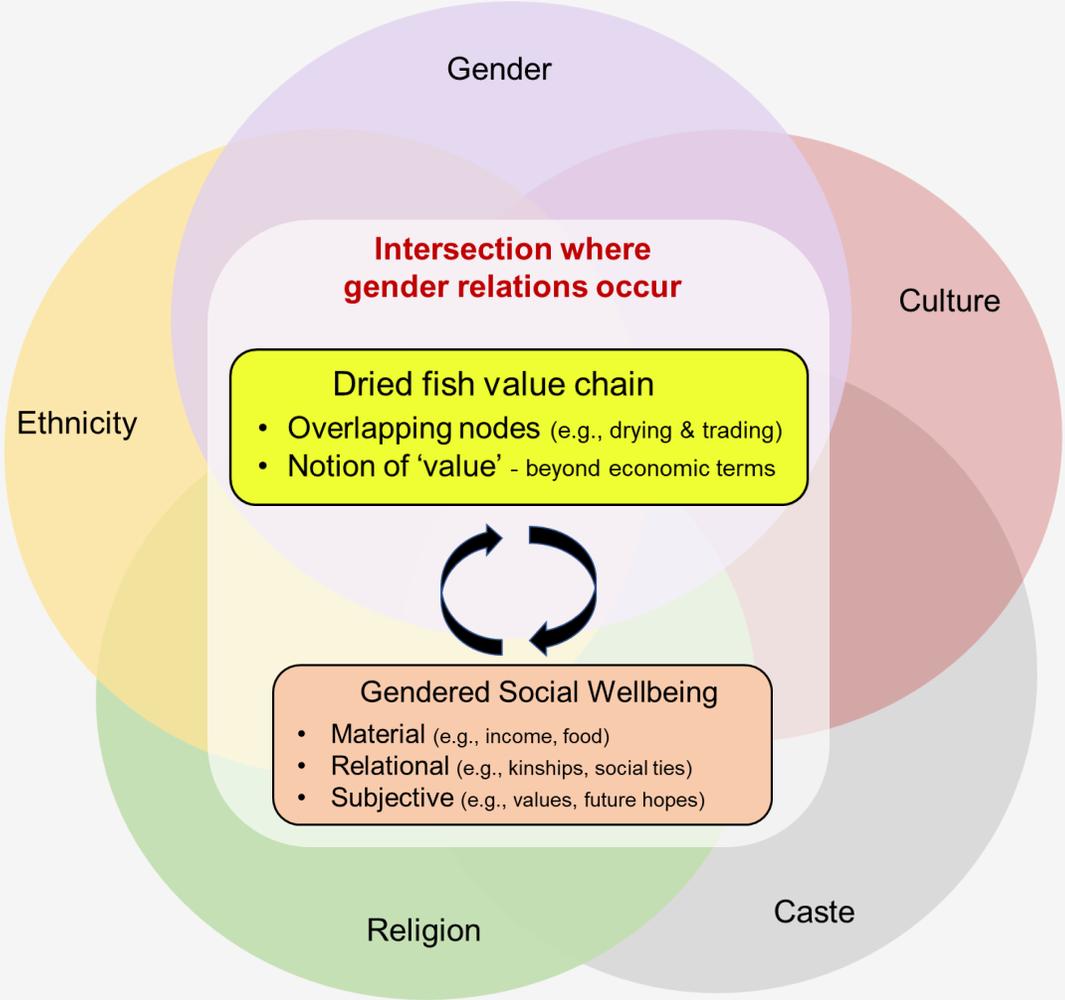
Intersectionality

- How systems of power and oppression intersect and shape people's lived experiences (Crenshaw, 1991, 1989)
- Attention to marginalized and disadvantaged groups
- Within dried fish value chains, relational structures intersect with gender to **uniquely position women and men**



Photo: Madu Galappaththi

Linking the concepts



Toward a 'thick description'

Dried fish in Nazirartek, Bangladesh (Belton et al., 2018)

- Seasonal fish drying workforce is made up of:
 - local inhabitants
 - Bengali migratory workers
 - Rohingya refugees
- All these workers are extremely poor
- About 1/2 of the total female workforce are Rohingya women
- About 1/3 of Rohingya women are widowed, abandoned, or divorced
- Rohingya women experience:
 - a disproportionate denial of work by supervisors, who are men from local groups
 - at increased risk for sexual exploitation at work

Acknowledgements



HeForShe
UN Women Solidarity Movement
for Gender Equality



@Madu_G_
@DriedFishUM