



Special Workshop on Challenges in the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Small Scale Fisheries (SSFVG) in India from a gender perspective

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Introduction to SSFG

- To challenge practices that are discriminatory
- To ensure women's equal participation in decision making process
- To ensure women's participation in monitoring the implementation of policies concerning them
- To provide support for creating women's organisation
- To develop policies and legislation which ensures gender equality
- To develop participatory evaluation system for improving the status of women fishworkers
- To develop better and appropriate technologies for women fishworkers

Fisherfolk Population

- ▶ 3288 marine fishing villages in India
- ▶ 8, 64,550 households and 39, 99, 214 fisherfolk population
- ▶ Average family size is 4.63
It is 5.45 for Karnataka and 3. 70 for Andhra Pradesh



FISHERFOLK POPULATION							
State/U.T.	Coastal Length (km)	Landing Centres	Fishing villages	Fishermen Families	Traditional Fishermen families	BPL Families	Fisherfolk population
West Bengal	158	59	188	76,981	53,532	48,870	380,138
Odisha	480	73	813	114,238	87,541	56,279	605,514
Andhra Pradesh	974	353	555	163,427	161,039	159,101	605,428
Tamil Nadu	1,076	407	573	192,697	185,465	127,245	802,912
Puducherry	45	25	40	14,271	14,248	10,998	54,627
Kerala	590	187	222	118,937	116,321	65,459	610,165
Karnataka	300	96	144	30,713	28,533	23,624	167,429
Goa	104	33	39	2,189	2,147	489	10,545
Maharashtra	720	152	456	81,492	74,203	15,509	386,259
Gujarat	1,600	121	247	62,231	59,469	15,784	336,181
Daman & Diu	21	5	11	7,374	7,181	333	40,016
Total	6,068	1,511	3,288	864,550	789,679	523,691	3,999,214
Andaman and Nicobar Islands		16	134	4861	-	1243	22188
Lakshadweep Islands		10	10	5338	-	1872	34811

*Subsequent reference to villages actually means Gram Panchayat in West Bengal.

Genderwise Fishing Allied activities

- ▶ 81% of the fisherfolk engaged in marketing of fish were women
- ▶ 88% of the fisherfolk engaged in curing and processing were women
- ▶ 89% of the fisherfolk engaged in peeling were women
- ▶ 57% of the fisherfolk engaged in fish seed collection



GENDER-WISE FISHING ALLIED ACTIVITIES

State/U.T	Marketing fish		Making/ Repairing Net		Curing/Processing		Peeling		Labourer		Others*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
West Bengal	4,745	3,075	5,241	13,178	420	2,123	478	1,054	12,789	3,388	700	85
Odisha	10,996	21,641	10,896	6,976	1,556	6,936	539	1,661	16,648	11,059	526	227
Andhra Pradesh	4,289	35,035	11,947	2,135	1,252	15,596	308	2,596	16,580	47,561	1,224	1,566
Tamil Nadu	4,228	33,212	4,467	2,528	990	6,135	401	2,675	9,058	3,770	1,523	2,554
Puducherry	95	3,737	387	3	4	175	4	37	817	402	210	139
Kerala	4,242	16,176	2,185	1,183	908	4,769	360	9,457	9,716	4,675	561	175
Karnataka	2,485	12,382	1,790	-	144	1,272	127	931	6,234	7,704	486	722
Goa	54	1,427	117	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Maharastra	7,303	38,668	7,062	7,415	427	9,127	466	6,027	17,403	11,470	1,628	4,280
Gujarat	2,116	15,859	3,829	4,324	618	978	589	3,961	8,391	10,367	467	295
Daman & Diu	99	1,442	413	628	23	14	14	14	561	550	2	4
Total	40,652	182,654	48,334	38,370	6,342	47,125	3,286	28,413	98,197	100,949	7,327	10,047
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1789	1271	2691	143	226	47	359	278	437	147	441	4
Lakshadweep Islands	1022	28	537	79	597	1809	2	2	479	105	120	573

* Includes persons engaged in auctioning, ice breaking, collection of bivalves, collection of other shells, collection of seaweed, collection of ornamental fish etc.

Housing

- The average size of a family in coastal village is 4.63 people
- Only 66% of families live in Pucca houses-dwelling designed to be solid and permanent
- Pucca houses are mainly in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat



INFRASTRUCTURE - HOUSING

State/U.T	No of villages	No of families	Housing	
			Kutcha houses	Pucca Houses
West Bengal	188	76,981	66,284	10,697
Odisha	813	114,238	86,988	27,250
Andhra Pradesh	555	163,427	48,427	115,000
Tamil Nadu	573	192,697	45,062	147,635
Puducherry	40	14,271	3,940	10,331
Kerala	222	118,937	17,477	101,460
Karnataka	144	30,713	3,757	26,956
Goa	39	2,189	15	2,174
Maharastra	456	81,492	7,732	73,760
Gujarat	247	62,231	17,312	44,919
Daman & Diu	11	7,374	846	6,528
Total	3,288	864,550	297,840	566,710
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	134	4861	2284	2109
Lakshadweep Islands	10	5338	591	4334

Education

- ▶ More men have gone to school than the women
- ▶ Only 50% of the women have gone to school whereas the national level is 64%
- ▶ More girls from Goa, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra going to school
- ▶ only 30% girls from Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat going to school



INFRASTRUCTURE - EDUCATION

State/U.T	No of villages	No of families	Education			
			Primary	Secondary	College	Technical Institutions
West Bengal	188	76,981	1,198	238	9	-
Odisha	813	114,238	810	255	49	31
Andhra Pradesh	555	163,427	571	99	9	9
Tamil Nadu	573	192,697	502	149	23	14
Puducherry	40	14,271	39	8	4	2
Kerala	222	118,937	469	182	38	58
Karnataka	144	30,713	721	188	63	12
Goa	39	2,189	93	47	8	6
Maharastra	456	81,492	713	245	93	58
Gujarat	247	62,231	626	190	32	14
Daman & Diu	11	7,374	78	34	3	6
Total	3,288	864,550	5,820	1,635	331	210
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	134	4861	234	165	7	4
Lakshadweep Islands	10	5338	36	14	7	3

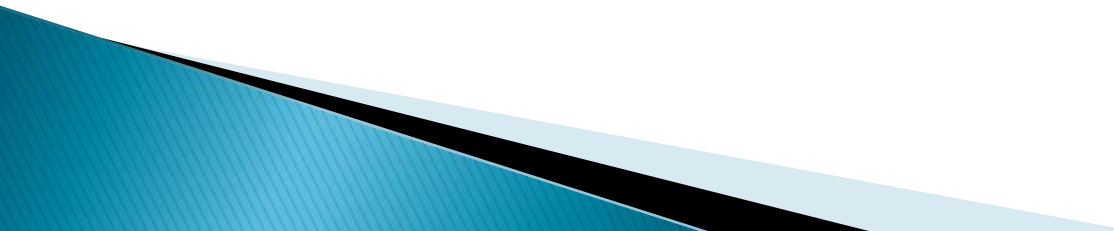
Infrastructure /Facilities

- ▶ 27% of coastal villages have access to hospitals
- ▶ 88% villages have access to electricity

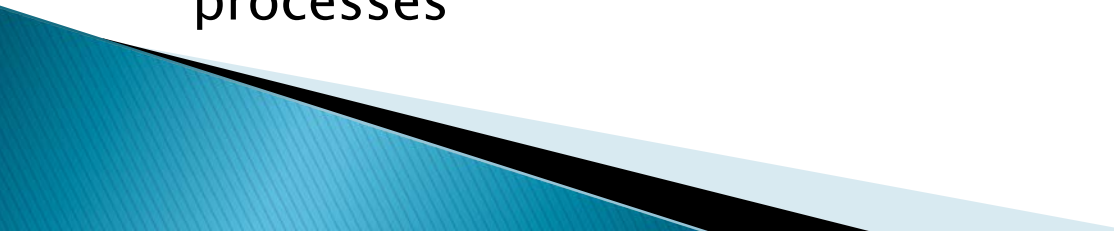


INFRASTRUCTURE /FACILITIES (IN THE VILLAGES)														
State/U.T	No of fishing villages	Villages having							Number of					
		Electricity	Bus stop/stand	Hospitals	Police station	Post offices	Mob.Phon e coverage	Interne t Facility	Banks	FisheriesCo-operative societies	Other co-operative societies	Comm unity Centers	Cinema Theatres	Liquor shops
West Bengal	188	148	59	52	14	130	181	15	45	100	118	47	5	20
Odisha	813	517	145	35	96	172	722	26	121	230	427	219	43	501
Andhra Pradesh	555	547	276	30	7	85	532	4	40	358	2,819	267	7	246
Tamil Nadu	573	546	401	140	46	140	549	111	132	580	1,108	274	35	106
Puducherry	40	37	34	11	2	5	33	13	15	25	36	45	2	45
Kerala	222	222	206	167	56	159	192	147	289	276	255	153	57	128
Karnataka	144	140	127	84	46	124	139	135	211	58	175	119	16	171
Goa	39	39	37	21	11	22	31	29	51	11	42	61	2	3254
Maharastra	456	456	422	254	133	305	389	193	354	236	160	829	45	285
Gujarat	247	238	197	94	77	164	212	83	216	79	65	158	20	0
Daman & Diu	11	11	11	10	9	9	11	11	22	16	9	24	2	180
Total	3,288	2,901	1,915	898	497	1,315	2,991	767	1,496	1,969	5,214	2,196	234	4,936
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	134	101	88	164	35	54	105	29	69	-	-	102	0	13
Lakshadweep Islands	10	10	2	13	10	10	10	7	12	-	29	17	0	0

Implementation of SSFG will help fisherwomen in many ways

- ▶ To increase investment in health and education
 - ▶ Access to housing, sanitation, drinking water, social security measures
 - ▶ Access to the entire value chain from production to processing to marketing
 - ▶ Better quality and safety of fish for sale, minimisation of losses and value addition
 - ▶ Better drinking water and toilet facilities at market places
 - ▶ Better market information for fish vendors
 - ▶ Improved access to savings, credit programmes, insurance schemes, alternative income generating activities
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Implementation of SSFG will help fisherwomen in many ways (cont...)

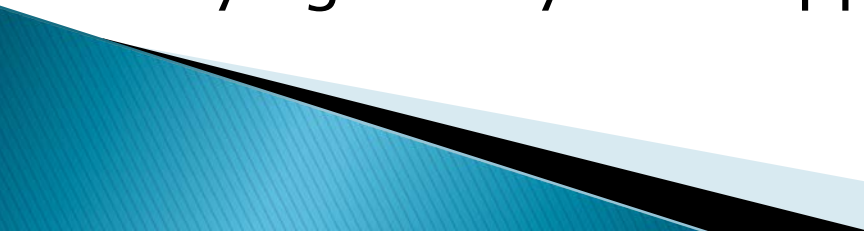
- ▶ Better coordination among Government agencies at local, state and national level
 - ▶ Better coordination among Departments and Ministries like Health, Education, Water Resources, Commerce, Food processing
 - ▶ Better coordination among Trade Unions, Fishworker organisations, Community organisations and Trade associations
 - ▶ Fisherwomen would require national and state level platforms
 - ▶ Better legal protection from eviction of coastal land and fish drying areas
 - ▶ Development of professional skills in the community organisations for better participation in decision making processes
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Issues and Recommendations: Markets

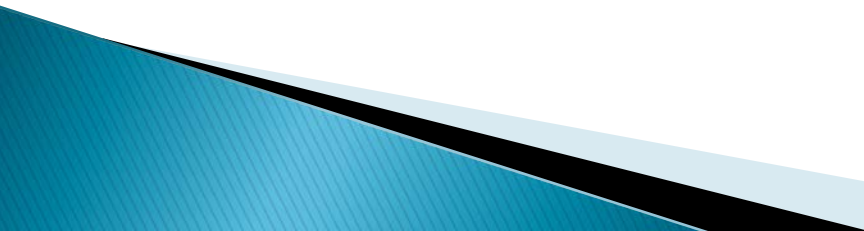
- ▶ Provision for drainage systems, storage systems, drinking water, electricity, rest rooms, crèches, and toilets
- ▶ Better protection against fluctuating prices
- ▶ Credit facilities to registered organised groups
- ▶ Better linkages between different markets
- ▶ To set up fish parlours
- ▶ Protection against theft and violence
- ▶ Displacement in retail markets due to redevelopment of markets



Issues and Recommendations: Markets (cont...)

- ▶ Redevelopment of the wholesale market in Mumbai
 - ▶ To develop Model markets like Goa market
 - ▶ No need of issuing of licences to sell
 - ▶ Men are taking over space in redeveloped markets
 - ▶ Lack of availability of fish at local landing centres
 - ▶ To develop initiatives like Godavari Maha Samakhya where 20, 000 women are under one group and the formation of 1700 SHGs with the support from the Government
 - ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government has provided a big fish drying facility and supporting GMS with funds
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Issues and Recommendations: Access to resources

- ▶ Stopping of leasing of coastal lands by forest department and maritime boards
 - ▶ In Cuddalore even burial ground access has been prohibited by the department
 - ▶ Issuing of identity cards for crab catching in West Bengal and Seaweed collection in Tamil Nadu is done by 3 departments together
 - ▶ No access to traditional seaweed drying areas in Ramnad Islands
 - ▶ Develop storage facilities in fishing harbours
 - ▶ Don't promote harbour based fishing
 - ▶ No to FDI in retail marketing
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Issues and Recommendations: Access to resources (cont...)

- ▶ To promote Small-scale fishing boats rather than deep sea fishing boats
- ▶ NO to destructive fishing techniques
- ▶ Higher taxes should be levied on deep sea fishing vessels
- ▶ Better participation in decision making process of fisheries management measures like MPAs
- ▶ Better skill development training institutes
- ▶ Single women workers require relief during ban and during fishing holidays

Issues and Recommendations: Housing, Water and Sanitation

- ▶ Lack of protection of housing in coastal areas from cyclones, storms
- ▶ Demarcation of fishing villages in urban areas and villages
- ▶ Housing Insurance for calamities like sea erosion cyclones
- ▶ Representation of fishing community representative in Coastal Zone management committees
- ▶ Schemes are available for housing but poor implementation

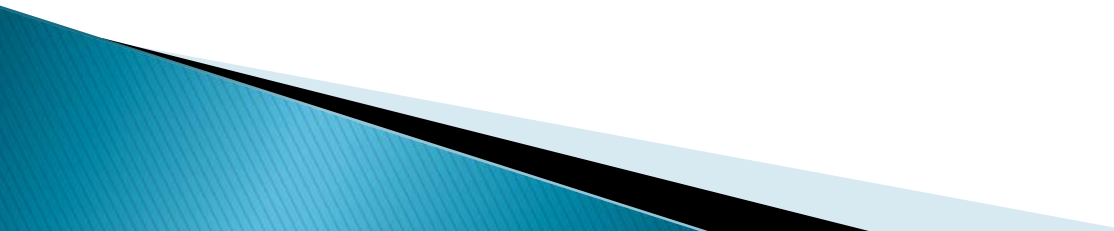


Issues and Recommendations: Health

- ▶ Mobile medical camps for women sitting long hours in markets
- ▶ Better health check up facilities for women seaweed divers, shrimp seed collectors etc to understand occupation related diseases like Urinary tract infections, skin diseases
- ▶ Better facilities for disposal of fish wastes
- ▶ Pensions for widows



Issues and Recommendations: Violence and harassment

- ▶ Child marriages and increase in expenditure spent on social events like marriages
 - ▶ Increase in Mechanization of fishing vessels and corresponding increase in the demand for dowry
 - ▶ Protection in market place from abuse of men
 - ▶ SNEHA resolutions against dowry passed by fishing community panchayats
 - ▶ Awareness raising programmes needed
 - ▶ Like sexual harassment committee in the organised sector informal sector too needs monitoring committees
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Conclusion

- ▶ Need a National Platform for Fisherwomen to address issues related to gender, community, market and fishing related issues
- ▶ To develop Fish landing centre based women's cooperatives



“To call woman the weaker sex is a libel; it is man’s injustice to woman. If by strength is meant brute strength, then, indeed, is woman less brute than man. If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man’s superior. Has she not greater intuition, is she not more self-sacrificing, has she not greater powers of endurance, has she not greater courage? Without her, man could not be. If nonviolence is the law of our being, the future is with woman. Who can make a more effective appeal to the heart than woman?”

-Mahatma Gandhi

<http://www.mkgandhi.org/momgandhi/chap60.htm>

Thank You

Translation of summary of SSF Guidelines by John Kurien

[https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1067-SSF%20Guidelines%20\(Summary\).html](https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1067-SSF%20Guidelines%20(Summary).html)

Translation of full text of SSF Guidelines in different languages

<https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1069-SSF%20Guidelines%20Translation.html>