

ENGENDERING GLOBALIZATION IN THE FISHERIES: A THEORETICAL APPROACH

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The intensification of global economic relations within fisheries over the past several decades has spawned an effort to assess the impacts of globalization on local fisherfolk communities. With a few exceptions, however, relatively little attention has been paid to the gendered nature of globalization within the fisheries sector despite the fact that such trends bear significantly on food security and poverty reduction in local fishing communities. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the gendered nature of globalization and its impacts on fisherfolk livelihoods.

Drawing on recent research in the international political economy of agriculture and field research conducted in Kerala, India, the paper examines how globalizing trends and processes impact local labor processes, how local norms and ideologies of gender and identity give specific form to such impacts, and how the livelihood opportunities of various groups of individuals and households are thereby affected. The analytical framework adopted in this study is multi-scalar in approach and integrates insights from commodity chain analysis, livelihoods analysis, and feminist household economy studies. An intended outcome of the analysis presented is to suggest how the utilization of such a framework offers a means by which we might theoretically understand the gendered nature of globalization in resource-based economies.