

EDGING UP THE LADDER: THE WOMEN IN BAN THUNG MAHA, THAILAND

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Adopting a qualitative approach and employing several research strategies – focus group discussions (FGD), key informant interviews, and secondary data, this study attempted to unravel and understand the situation of women in Ban Thung Maha fisheries by exploring in detail, men and women's access to and control over resources, gender roles and their time allocation, gender relations, women's views about their work, the social institutions that define their roles, functions and identity, their participation in the community and longings in life.

The study contended that women in Ban Thung Maha played a crucial role in the fishing village engaging in three major roles – reproductive, productive and community management roles. Traditional stereotypes, however, hindered women's empowerment and community development. Recommendations on improving gender relations are set forth in the study.