

DECREASING TREND IN PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN FISH MARKETING IN PATNA, BIHAR

Bibha Kumari

*Department of Environment and Water Management,
A. N. College, Patna, Bihar, 800013, India
Email: bibhak136@gmail.com*

In the fisheries sector, participation of women is generally after the fish is harvested.. This may be a tradition evolved around the need for rest and relief for the men folk after long spell of hard toil in the waters. Fish retailing has been mainly women's domain all over the country, both in the inland and marine sector. Women take the twin responsibility of fish trading and taking care of family. The Government of Bihar, India has earmarked areas for fish markets in the city of Patna, but often the space is constrained and consumers find it difficult to purchase fish from there. Many fish vendors thus occupy the pavements in different locations. This is also a cause for concern.

In Patna, the proportion of women in fish market has been decreasing over the past decade or so. The main reasons are insecurity, lack of basic facilities, literacy etc. Harassment from different quarters, such as the male retailers, administrative and the municipal authorities etc. have been reported. In fact maximum women vendors accepted that lack of protection was the main problem they faced in their work. Some women fish vendors were mobile vendors because they felt that this was a safer way to ward off harassment. Apart from these issues, women have practically no technical knowledge on fish handling, preservation and pre-processing, which could be used for developing their trade. .