

INVISIBLISATION OF WOMEN FISHWORKERS IN TAMILNADU

A Gandimathi, Coastal Action Network

WHO ARE STAKEHOLDERS ?

Knowledge Partners

Technical Partners

Development Partners

Community Partners

Financial , Legislative and Policy

TRANSFORMING PROFILE OF FISHING SECTOR

- Mechanization
- Modernisation
- Industrilaisation
- Commercialisation

PLACING WOMEN FISHERS IN TRANSFORMATION

☐ Pre Tsunami

☐ fishing as a way of life.

☐ Post Tsunami

☐ Self-employed category to casual labour

☐ Women headed families

☐ Triple burden – childcare, livelihood, household chores

Stakes on governance

- ❑ Shift of role from Custodians to Owners of the coast by the State
- ❑ Constitutional rights : Fisheries as a State subject, but at present, being handled by Union.
- ❑ National laws superceding regional laws.
 - ❑ Example: industrial and infrastructure projects.
 - ❑ Local government: Collector being the land commissioner on landward side, he is the director of state environment monitoring system.
- ❑ He is the inspector of panchayats, having veto power to cancel resolutions at panchayat level.
- ❑ Governance is not in hands of people. Devolution is diluted
- ❑ Governance rests with bureacrats and corporates.
- ❑ Coastal communities, Fishing communities, Farming communities are expendable commodities.

BE in a nutshell - implications

□BE – Promoting Global investment Capital on Coastal and Ocean Resources violating customary rights over commons and governance

TN Policies

- 1983 - TNFRMA
- 2007- Social Security Act (Welfare). Welfare Board formed
- no reservation, do delimitation of coastal constituencies
- No separate fisheries ministry at the union level.
- 63% of fishing families do not have permanent patta. Some have “assignee pattas”. They live on costal poromboke lands, or temple lands.
- Subject to vulnerabilities due to climate change in the form on frequent floods, cyclones, inundation.

Existing Gaps

- Recognition of fishing community as prime rights holder
- Redistribution of Resources
- Representation of communities in protection and promotion of resources.

