

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR TO ACHIEVE GENDER JUSTICE

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The fisheries sector plays a vital role in coastal economies and food security; however, it remains characterized by persistent gender disparities, especially in developing regions. This study aims to investigate the impact of technological advancements on women's participation in the fisheries sector in Gujarat, India, with a focus on addressing systemic gender inequities.

A field-based survey was conducted involving 200 participants from selected coastal regions of Gujarat. The research adopts a mixed-methods approach to explore how digital tools, mechanical equipment, and other forms of technological innovation influence the roles, opportunities, and challenges faced by women across the fisheries value chain.

Preliminary insights reveal that while technological integration holds potential for empowering women, it may also exacerbate inequalities due to limited access to education, skill development, and ownership rights. Structural barriers such as contractual employment, health risks, and socio-cultural constraints continue to marginalize women's roles. However, when approached through an intersectional lens, technology can serve as a catalyst for enhancing gender justice and inclusive development.

This study contributes to the growing body of literature on gender and technology in fisheries by offering empirical evidence from India. It underscores the need for inclusive policy interventions that promote equitable access to technological resources and training for women. The research advocates for a gender-sensitive innovation framework to ensure the transformative potential of technology is realized across all segments of the fisheries sector.