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**ABSTRACTS**



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## Gender differences in Indian marine fisheries - a comparison of census statistics

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India is among the top ten fish producing countries in the world with 4 million people carrying out fishing and allied activities for their livelihood. The fisheries sector has long been considered a male domain throughout the world. In India, women had a high level of involvement in the workforce of the marine fisheries sector and their engagement in fishing allied activities such as marketing, labour, processing, making or repairing of nets, is more significant than often presumed. According to the marine fisheries census 2010, women comprise 67% of the labour force in fishing and allied activities in India. It is very evident that women dominate in marketing and processing activities in marine fisheries as 82% of the fisherfolk engaged in marketing and 89% of the fisherfolk engaged in processing are women. An analysis was carried out to find out the gender differences in fishing allied activities by evaluating the dissimilarity indices and the way in which they have changed over the past two marine censuses 2005 and 2010. One of the common measures used for assessing segregation between two groups is the Index of Dissimilarity which ranges from 1 to 100. As measured by the index, the level of occupational difference declined from 44 to 39 in 2010. It is also observed that gender concentration of some activities like marketing and processing activities increased over the period. Substantial differences were noticed in allied activities and the degree of these differences varied depending on several factors such as education, religion, ownership of crafts and family size.

**Keywords:** Gender differences, census statistics, marine fisheries, India