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**Gender analysis among fisher folk
involved in dry fish making**

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Fisherwomen's role are dominant and permeate every sphere of post-harvest operations in the fisheries sector of India. Nevertheless fishermen do play a complementary role in these operations, more so in dry fish sector. Indian dry fish export contributes 7.86% of all forms of fish exports and earnings from this sector accrued to INR 819 crores during 2013-2014. The sector contributes significantly to the export earnings of the country, and its economic growth is defined by the gendered roles of the fisher folk population which forms the bed rock of the developmental process. Fisherwomen and men work together and have been observed to work differently across different tasks structured by gendered roles. A cross sectional study was undertaken among a sample of 32 fisher households in Dakshin Kannada district of Karnataka which has been a traditional hub for dry fish making. The following investigation attempted to study how gender intersects with access to resources for dry fish unit, their participation profile, gender needs and decision making in various phases of dry fish making. The instruments for the investigation included focus group discussions and personal interviews. Descriptive statistics such as mean, frequency and percentages were used to analyse the data. The gender needs perceived as most important by fisherwomen were marketing of finished products, site and water facilities for processing (78.13%), need for account and record keeping (71.87%), and purchase of raw materials (65.62 %) and by fishermen were marketing of finished products and drying, weighing and salting (18.75%). Roles in decision making in areas of drying (78.12%), marketing of produce (68.75%) and salting (34.37%) were perceived as female dominating activities as perceived by fisherwomen and decision making with respect to procurement of raw

materials were male dominant activities by 15.62% of male respondents. Chi –square test for testing the significance of associations between men and women with respect to access to resources were insignificant for drying, salting respectively. Z test for equality of proportions revealed that participation profiles were highly significant for purchase of raw materials, availing extension service, and marketing of finished products respectively. Decision making with respect to accounts and record keeping was found to be significant.