

**WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERIES OF
THE NEGOMBO AREA**

By
D. M. P. R. Dissanayake
Department of Zoology
University of Kelaniya
Kelaniya
Sri Lanka

**Dissertation submitted as a partial
Requirement for the M. Sc. degree in
Aquaculture and Fisheries Management of
The University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.**

April 2005

Abstract

The present study was carried out in, Wellawediya, which is situated in north-western region of the Negombo estuary. Women were interviewed based on the questionnaire over a period of four months, from June 2004, to September 2004, to collect information. Fifty houses where women were involved in fisheries and 50 houses where women were not involved in fisheries were selected randomly for the study. Only the small- scale fishers, who fish in the lagoon or in coastal marine waters or involved in marketing the catch were included in the survey. The boat owners who employ fisherman were not used.

In Wellawediya village women were mainly engaged in fish processing activity (50 %), marketing the catch (31 %), cleaning nets (13 %) and collecting fish from the nets (6 %). The women who are not engaged in fisheries supported the families by preparing food and looking after the children. The mean monthly income of the families where women are actively engaged in fisheries is significantly higher than that of families where women are not involve in fisheries. At the same time, the literacy rate of the women who are not actively engaged in fisheries is significantly higher than that of families where women are involve in fisheries. But there is no relationship between the children education and involvement of the mother in fishery related activities. There were no significant relationships between the nature of the house, and type of the energy used for cooking with the involvement of women in the fisheries. However, there is a significant relationship between the source of water and having electricity at home with the involvement of women in fisheries.

Alcohol consumption by men was significantly related with the women involvement in fisheries. There are no relationships between religion and being descendants of fishing families with the involvement of women in fisheries.