

Research Development and Extension Proposal Pangasinan State University Lingayen Campus	
Basic Information	
Research Title	Assessing Women’s Empowerment through Participation in Fisheries Development: The Case of Women Fishers, Processors and Traders of LGU-Binmaley
Proponents	Team leader: Dr. Presley V. De Vera Members: Dr. Arlene N. Mendoza Ms. Rosanta V. Alibin
Implementing Agency	Pangasinan State University
Project Duration	January 2022-December 2022
Location	Selected locales in LGU Binmaley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centers / main fishing locales • Central locales engaged in fish processing • Central live and processed fish markets
Budget Requested	P 150, 000
Technical Description	
Rationale	<p>The framework of the proposed study is based on two major underlying imperatives, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of conducting women empowerment assessment 2. Exploring the empowerment opportunities and gaps found in the enterprise of fisheries development (fish farming, processing, and trading) available to women in the community <p>Significance of empowerment assessment as a research venture</p> <p>In its broad definition and scope, empowerment assessment is a stakeholder involvement approach designed to provide groups with the tools and knowledge they need to monitor and evaluate their own performance and accomplish their goals. It is used to help certain groups or sectors accomplish their goals (Fetterman, 1994a). In this study, the focus is on the women’s sector or group. Empowerment assessment focuses on fostering self-determination and sustainability. It is particularly suited to the evaluation of comprehensive community–based initiatives or place-based initiatives (Wandersman et al., 2005). In this study, the subject of empowerment assessment are women in the community, particularly in selected areas of LGU Binmaley who are engaged in the different phases of the enterprise of fisheries development, i.e. fish farming, processing, and trading.</p> <p>Practices and use of tools for assessment have existed for a long time, but empowerment assessment was introduced to the field of evaluation only in 1993 (Fetterman, 1994b). Empowerment assessment in practice is typically applied along two</p>

streams. The first is practical and the second transformative. Practical empowerment assessment is similar to formative evaluation. It is designed to enhance performance and productivity, wherein the focus is on practical problem solving, as well as programmatic improvements and outcomes. On the other hand, transformative empowerment assessment highlights the psychological, social, and political power of liberation. People learn how to take greater control of their own lives and the resources around them. The focus in transformative empowerment assessment is on liberation from pre-determined, conventional roles and organizational or social structures or “ways of doing things.” In addition, empowerment is a more explicit and apparent goal (Fetterman, 2015). This study engages both streams of empowerment assessment since the study aims to expose and analyze the challenges that preclude women to be fully empowered in their participation in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise. In addition, the study also engages in transformative empowerment assessment through its concrete recommendation of means and measures to liberate the women enterprise stakeholders that will eventually enhance their empowerment. On this account, the study also aims to generate an actual extension program or project to address the empowerment issues and concerns of the women enterprise stakeholders.

Significance of assessing women’s empowerment

In some societies, women are still discriminated on their gender. They are not given the same right as men. Women are still paid less, and accorded lesser social and occupational opportunities, and are mostly consigned to traditional domestic roles. Women are highly restricted by their culture and family. Women’s empowerment is needed in societies to develop women’s self-esteem and also for societies to access their contributions. Empowering women is to give women significantly equal amount of rights and participation in terms of education, society, economy, politics, industry and all other social enterprises (Doeung, 2018).

Women’s empowerment is a part to encourage women to feel strong by telling them that they can do things that they want to do. Women can work outside their home, have opportunity to make up their mind. Women are not dependent on men. They can earn money to support their family by working through their abilities. As some women are not confident to work in a hard condition or a high position because they are made to think that it is not women’s job. Moreover, empowerment helps to reduce domestic violence as it promotes and gives value to women (Doeung, 2018).

The United Nations by its Sustainable Development Goals five and eight seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. It also wants a world where there is full and productive employment for all women and men; and equal pay for work of equal value (UN, 2018). The goals seek to roll back years of inequality among men and women across various facets of life. Economically, findings show that in 2018, women do at least 76% of unpaid domestic and care work (ILO, 2018a). By 2019, only 47% of women participated in the labour force compared to 74% of male participation (ILO, 2020), and women earned 21% less than men (Okesina, 2020).

Also, women are accorded only three-quarters of the legal rights that men enjoy, constraining their ability to get jobs or start businesses and make economic decisions regarding their everyday lives (World Bank, 2019). Further, the World Bank data show that of 189 economies assessed in 2018, 104 economies still have laws preventing women from working in specific jobs, while 59 economies have no laws on sexual

harassment in the workplace (World Bank, 2019). The data ostensibly show that globally, women are a disadvantaged group albeit at varying degrees. The situation is exacerbated across developing economies, especially where gender gaps exist in resource ownership. 60 to 79% of the rural workforce are women, who are predominantly farmers and farm workers, and they are also five times less likely than men to own lands (Oxfam, 2017). The implication is that women are more likely than men to be unemployed, and when employed, women are also more likely to be employed in the vulnerable informal sector at a more significant percentage than men (ILO, 2018b). The discussion so far has evidenced that women are economically, socially and politically disadvantaged, among other forms of inequalities, compared to men, especially in developing economies.

The concept of empowerment, in general, has been related to self-determination, liberation, capacity to fight for one's rights; redistribution of power or change in power relations; autonomy and control over personal/household decisions; agency or the capacity to make effective choices where such ability was previously denied; and "the extent to which some categories of people are able to control their own destinies, even when their interests are opposed by those of the other people with whom they interact" (Okesina, 2020). Other authors suggest that empowerment is a capacity that can be bestowed on an individual or something that can be externally determined (World Bank, 2011). The World Bank defined empowerment as "enhancing the capacity of an individual or group to make purposive choice" (World Bank Institute, 2007). Alsop and Heinsohn (2005), defined empowerment as the process of increasing capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes.

On the above concepts, it appears that development agencies presuppose that empowerment is what should be given or what people should receive (such as social or credit programmes). Whereas, feminist scholars posit empowerment in terms of achieving power or ability to make choices either at the individual, group or societal levels. These perspectives of empowerment have implications on how women's empowerment has been conceptualised in literature.

There has been no harmony among researchers and institutions as to a common framework for measuring or tracking changes in levels of empowerment for women (Buvinic, 2017). These varied approaches sometimes make it difficult to ascertain whether or not strategies to contribute towards empowering women are achieving desired success; or whether global efforts in this direction would be achieved. While some scholars and institutions have measured women's empowerment from a broad sense or societal level in order to gain knowledge of changes in lives of women, others have viewed the measure of women's empowerment from the local level with an approach that looks at the effects of specific programmes or projects on women (Oxaal & Baden, 1997). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) are examples of measures of empowerment in broad categories for women. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index to measure a country's social and economic development. This is a single statistic, which combines together a country's life expectancy, education and income. This was developed to measure development as not just economic advances and increases in income, but to measure the improvements in the human condition (Okesina, 2020).

This study will use specifically the Framework formulated by Okesina (2020) in assessing women's empowerment. Accordingly, this framework considers

empowerment firstly, in terms of the personal empowerment indicator, the power to choose, agency or choice, that is, the extent to which they make decisions regarding accessing resources. Resources encompass human capital (e.g., education, skills, training), financial capital (e.g., money, loans, savings, and income), social capital (e.g., networks, mentors) and physical capital (e.g., land, machinery). Women are empowered if they can make this decision independently and without systemic and patriarchal constraints. That is, empowerment begins at the point of access of resources and not at the point of use or control of resources which previous frameworks/studies have emphasised. The implication of this framework is that unlike previous studies, the importance of the initial decision to access resources will not be minimised as whoever makes that initial decision may invariably control how resources is used or managed.

Secondly, the framework considers the control over management and use of resources accessed from institutions (e.g., micro-credit/loans) or the extent to which they make decisions over use of resources (e.g., savings, income, land, etc.) and control over household spending or relational empowerment.

Thirdly, the framework also considers empowerment as an outcome or the household financial reality, whether they are marginalised, subordinated, or experience increased financial burden or not since accessing the resources (e.g. micro-credit from financial institutions). Therefore, in terms of agency, women will be said to have empowered themselves if they freely exercise choice and control to the extent of the available resources, information and other variables. On household reality, women are said to be empowered if the outcome is positive and disempowered if the reality is negative.

**Opportunities and gaps found in the enterprise
of fisheries development available to women
in the community**

Women are often excluded from fishing, and from the institutions that manage fisheries (Hasan, 2010). Including women in community-based management institutions is crucial for improving their livelihoods. Fish are a fundamental source of food for poor rural people. About 80 percent of rural households catch fish for food or to sell, and people receive about 63 percent of their animal protein from fish. Fishing has traditionally been men's work, but women and children have increasingly become involved in fishing activities. Women are gradually participating in all sorts of fisheries activities including planning to implementation, pond excavating to fish sell, prawn or shrimp collection to processing for exporting and even net making to fish drying. In rural areas, near about 30 percent of women's are somehow involved in fisheries development (Hasan, 2010).

In fisherfolks family, all family members are involved in fisheries activity. To increase the participation rate and the skill of women, NGO's are provided different types of training and loan facility. The following fisheries sectors have a high potential and easy access to the women. Already many women take part in these sectors successfully and make difference to the society as well as country. The world is advancing rapidly. This is not a time to argue on empowerment of women. Now, we have to think about the way of women's empowerment and fisheries sector is one of the renowned potential ways of women's empowerment. Because, vigorous cooperation between men and women are necessary for the sustainable development of a developing country (Hasan, 2010). The following accounts of women's participation

	<p>in fisheries development are drawn from the research findings of Hasan:</p> <p>Fish culture. In pond management and fish culture technique women participation is quite satisfactory. GO's and NGO's initiations helped to increase women's participation in fish culture and other fisheries activities. The women proved their efficiency by taking part in nursery management of fishes in different NGO assisted projects.</p> <p>Cage culture. Cage culture is an advanced technology that opens the door of opportunity to involve much more women in fish culture. Cage culture provides an opportunity of fish production to all categories of people whether they have water body or not. It also enhanced the community based fisheries management system.</p> <p>Fish collection. According the data of Fisheries Resources Survey System, there are over 4 thousand shrimp fry collectors and over 1 thousand fish spawn or fish fry collectors in countries that are mostly engaged in fisheries development. Many of the fry collectors are women or children. This fry collection work provides part-time job opportunity to the poor households.</p> <p>Fish processing plants. A large number of female employees are working in different fish processing plants. Moreover, their involvement is increasing day by day.</p>
Objectives	<p>The research essentially anchors on empowerment assessment, specifically focused on women's empowerment. The framework of the assessment uses the model of Okesina (2020) which enables a multi-dimensional evaluation of women's experiences, opportunities, and challenges in achieving empowerment. The study will analyze women's experience of empowerment set in their participation in the industry of fisheries development, which is further divided into fish culture or farming, fish processing, and fish trade. The study will carry out these analyses to determine the level of empowerment as well as challenges thereof as encountered by women in LGU Binmaley who are engaged in the enterprise of fisheries development. Personal information and variables from the women will also be determined to see their possible links to the circumstances that give rise to enhanced experiences of empowerment or challenges encountered therein.</p> <p>Given the above general aim of this study, it will be tackling the following specific objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Make a profile checklist of the respondents' socio-demographic characteristics;<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Ageb. Civil statusc. Family size (sibship size)d. Educational attainmente. Health / medical profilef. Role assumed in the fisheries development enterprise (single or overlapping)g. Number of years of engagement in the enterpriseh. Access to relevant training / coaching

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Comparative synopsis of the socio-demographic profile of women engaged in <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fish farming / culture b. Fish processing c. Fish trade 3. Self-efficacy of women engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise 4. Difference in the rate of self-efficacy of women engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise when grouped according to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Age b. Civil status c. Family size (sibship size) d. Educational attainment e. Health / medical profile g. Number of years of engagement in the enterprise 5. Thematic analysis of perceived opportunities and challenges encountered by women in <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fish farming / culture b. Fish processing c. Fish trade 6. Recommend a viable extension project to assist women along empowerment concerns in their participation in different phases of the fisheries development enterprise
<p>Methodology</p>	<p>Research design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches will be used. Inferential statistics, Variance analysis will also be used. • Research investigations and analyses aim to account for the following descriptive data: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Produce a checklist survey of the socio-demographic characteristics of women in LGU Binamely engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise b. Comparative analysis of personal variables of women engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise (fish culture, processing, and trade) c. Determine the self-efficacy of women engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise (fish culture, processing, and trade) d. Determine factors that statistically differentiate the self-efficacy level of women engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise (fish culture, processing, and trade) • Produce an inventory of opportunities and challenges of women engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise (fish culture, processing, and trade)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate the merits of research findings to design a relevant extension project for the benefit of women engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise (fish culture, processing, and trade) in LGU Binmaley <p>Research Locale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGU Binmaley <p>Respondents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Random selection of women residents of LGU Binmaley who are engaged in <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fish farming / culture Fish processing Fish trade <p>Instrumentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data-gathering will be conducted using face-to-face interview with respondents <p>Data treatment and analyses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequency count, rate and rank Statistical analysis of variance Thematic analysis
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<p>Expected Output</p>	<p>The expected research outputs include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production of data bank in the University which can be used as reference for instruction and research. Some of the valuable data sets that will be produced by the study include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A checklist survey of the socio-demographic characteristics of women in LGU Binmaley engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise b. Comparative survey of personal variables of women engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise (fish culture, processing, and trade) c. Self-efficacy survey of women engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise (fish culture, processing, and trade) 2. A framework of an extension project that can be delivered by the University for the benefit of LGU Binmaley women engaged in different phases of the fisheries development enterprise 	
<p>Potential Impact</p>	<p>In view of the expected research outputs, the following impacts are targeted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearer understanding of the conditions and circumstances of women in LGU Binmaley engaged in different phases of the fisheries development enterprise that have bearing on the status of their empowerment and participation in the industry. This impact signifies more to the pedagogical interest of university faculty teaching in the fisheries department, and future researchers in the field. 2. Enhanced experience empowerment of women in LGU Binmaley engaged in different phases of the fisheries development enterprise through effective training, counseling or coaching that can be provided by the university via the channel of extension 	
<p>Milestone</p>	<p>Targeted Date</p>	<p>Description</p>
	<p>January 2022</p>	<p>Identification of research respondents</p>
	<p>January 2022-March 2022</p>	<p>Research manuscript composition (proposal chapters)</p>
	<p>April 2022</p>	<p>Gathering of data on socio-demographic profile of respondents via face-to-face interview</p>
	<p>May 2022</p>	<p>Data gathering for the assessment of self-efficacy of women engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise via interview</p>
	<p>June 2022</p>	<p>Data gathering for the assessment of perceived opportunities and challenges to empowerment as</p>

		encountered by women engaged in the different phases of the fisheries development enterprise via interview
	July-August 2022	Tabulation and organization of all data sets collected
	September-November 2022	<p>Research manuscript composition (final chapters)</p> <p>Data statistical analysis and interpretation</p> <p>Thematic analysis of perceived opportunities and challenges encountered by women in</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Fish farming / culture b. Fish processing c. Fish trade</p> <p>Recommend a viable extension project to assist women along empowerment concerns in their participation in different phases of the fisheries development enterprise</p>
	December 2022	Composition and design of extension project
User Beneficiaries	<p>The users / beneficiaries of this research are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instructors, students, and scholars in the fisheries program 2. Future researchers in the field of fisheries, empowerment, and Gender and Development 3. Women in LGU Binmaley (and beyond) who are engaged in different phases of the fisheries development enterprise 	
Detailed Budgetary Requirement	Amount	Description
	P 60,000	Representation expenses (travel, communication etc.)
	P 40,000	Encoding/ research assistants
	P 50,000	Printing, photocopying, bookbinding and supplies
Brief Profile of the Proponents		
<p>Dr. Presley V. De Vera and Ms. Rosanta V. Alibin are faculty of PSU Lingayen Campus while Dr. Arlene N. Mendoza is a faculty of PSU Binmaley Campus.</p>		

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