The Status of Abalone Cage Culture and Roles of Women to the Industry in Wando, Jeonnam Province, Korea

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I. Abalone and aquatic plant production in Wando (Background)

II. Roles of women in abalone culture and related industries

III. Suggestions for the empowerment of women
I. Abalone and Aquatic Plant Production in Wando (Background)
Korea (2010) ranked fourth in the world: **123 lb (56kg)/yr**
General Statistics of Wando

Area

- 396.13㎢ (3.23% of Jeollanam-do)
- Islands : 265 (Inhabited 55, Uninhabited 210)
- Coastline : 852.97㎞ (13.5% of Jeollanam-do)
- Sea area : 4,939.6㎢ (12.6 times of land)

Population

- **53,619** people (0.46% decrease compared to previous year)

Educational institutions

- 39 schools (Elementary 21, Middle 12, High 6) 4,856 students

Medical institutions

- 66 (Hospitals 1, Clinics 23, Dentists 10, Oriental Medicines 7, Pharmacies 25)

Fisheries Status

- Employment: **10,618 households** (16% of a total households over the country)
- Fishing boat/farming area : 10,179 (13%) / 35,342ha (14%)
- Fisheries product : 410,000 ton
- Average gross income per household: **75million won** (69,813 USD)
Since the 1970s, Wando has exported various aquatic plants to Japan. Culture techniques of aquatic plants developed through export have established abalone industry in Wando. As a result, Wando has led the development of abalone aquaculture techniques and spread them to nationwide export.
Aquaculture Production of Aquatic Plants
for the Past 10 years in Korea

Unit: 1,000 ton

- **Phophyra** sp., **Laminaria** sp., and **Undaria** sp. accounted for 98% of total domestic aquaculture production of aquatic plants.
  - **Phophyra** sp 35.8%, **Laminaria** sp 33.0%, **Undaria** sp 28.9%
- Since 2005, **Laminaria** sp. production for feeding Abalone have clearly increased.
- Other major species
  - **Capsosiphon fulvescens**, **Hizikia fusiforme**, **Enteromorpha** sp., and **Codium fragile**.
Korea: the second largest abalone production country in the world
Wando: 75-83% of nationwide abalone production
The amount of abalone cages has increased 4.2 fold for the past 9 years.
The ranges of age: 50~60yrs 32%, 60~70yrs 33%, over 70yrs 14%

According to the national statistics, nearly 80% of the fisheries workers were more than 50 years old
II. Roles of Women in Abalone Culture and Related Industries
Grading Young Abalone for Grow-out (Delicate and heedful tasks)

Preparation for Stocking Abalone Spats (Net preparation)

Roles of Women

Harvesting Aquatic Plants
- Husband: Crane operation
- Wife: Assistance in lifting ropes and collection of aquatic plants on board.

Feeding Abalone (Allocation of aquatic plants in each cage)
Routine cage management (help net lifting and facility check)

Check of befouling organisms on cage nets
Check the residual feed and health regularly

Roles of Women
Detaching fouling organisms on the abalone shell

Species: Oysters (on shell), barnacles (on shell), and mussels (on net)

Oysters are the most harmful organism to abalone and also take lots of time to be removed.
Communal Reciprocity of Labor Force in Harvest and Sales

Roles of Women

- Preparatory job arrangement for a sale
- Lifting/moving nets in the work station
- Manual detaching with a dull kitchen knife
- Placing abalone on the auto-grader tray
Roles of Women

Hanging/mending nets
Mopping-up after work
Weighing abalone before sales
Assistance in loading products on a truck
Woman Engage Rate in Abalone Farms in Wando

Engaged in farming activities 75%

Not engaged 25%

Occupation types: Self-employed 100%

Reasons for unengaged are to support children with education, temporary moving to cities, loss of ability to perform labor and/or others.
59.4% of the surveyed women took higher education
Women’s Participation Rate in Expertise Training Programs

- None: 75%
- One time: 22%
- Twice: 3%

participation rate(%)
Do You Get the Gender-Based Discrimination As a Woman?

- **Indiscrimination**: 84%
- **Discrimination**: 13%
- **No comment**: 3%

Respondents
- Indiscrimination: 84%
- Discrimination: 13%

*The women who responded feeling discrimination was over 66 years old (The influence of Confucianism)*
In the wage difference between gender, women were admitted to wage gaps because they think men have stronger and more skillful under the same conditions.

* Women’s Average daily laboring hours : 6.75hr
Most of woman respondents (90.6%) were satisfied with current living in fisheries villages.
Male Assistance in House Chores

The care of children, cleaning, laundry, study guidance, dishwashing, and waste disposal

House chore share rate by gender

- Female: 75%
- Male: 25%
III. Suggestions for the Empowerment of Women
The Roles of Women Strengthening Measures in Fisheries Communities

Social infrastructures needed to improve the quality of women’s life and empowerment

- Above all, most women wanted to have;
  - More free time in order to join social communities’ activities.
  - An half or more housework sharing by their spouse
  - More child care facilities and pediatrics

New foundation in woman’s professional training center
(Financial support of local government)

- The most beneficial curriculum development for women.
- Round-tour training program development for remote islands.
- Provide local people with education opportunities including gender recognition issues at all kinds of training course.

Central and local governments should prioritize women in various Fisheries Policy Support Projects
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION