

# Shifting of Women fish vendors from the fish selling sites of Patna, Bihar.

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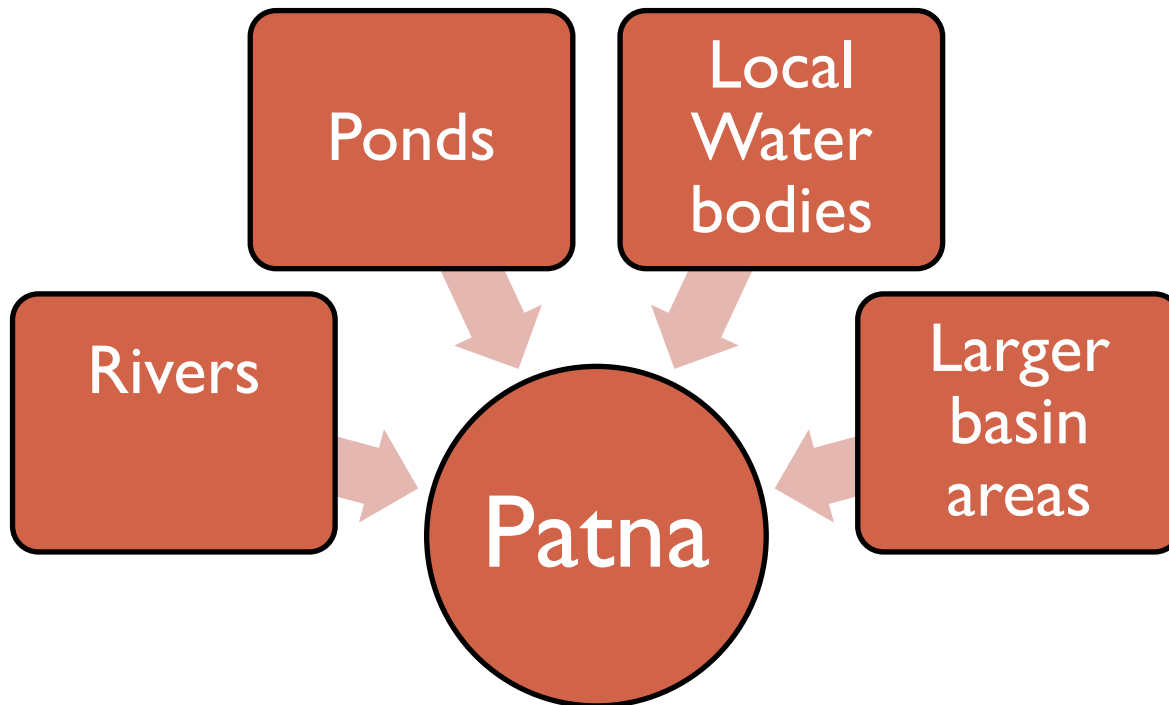
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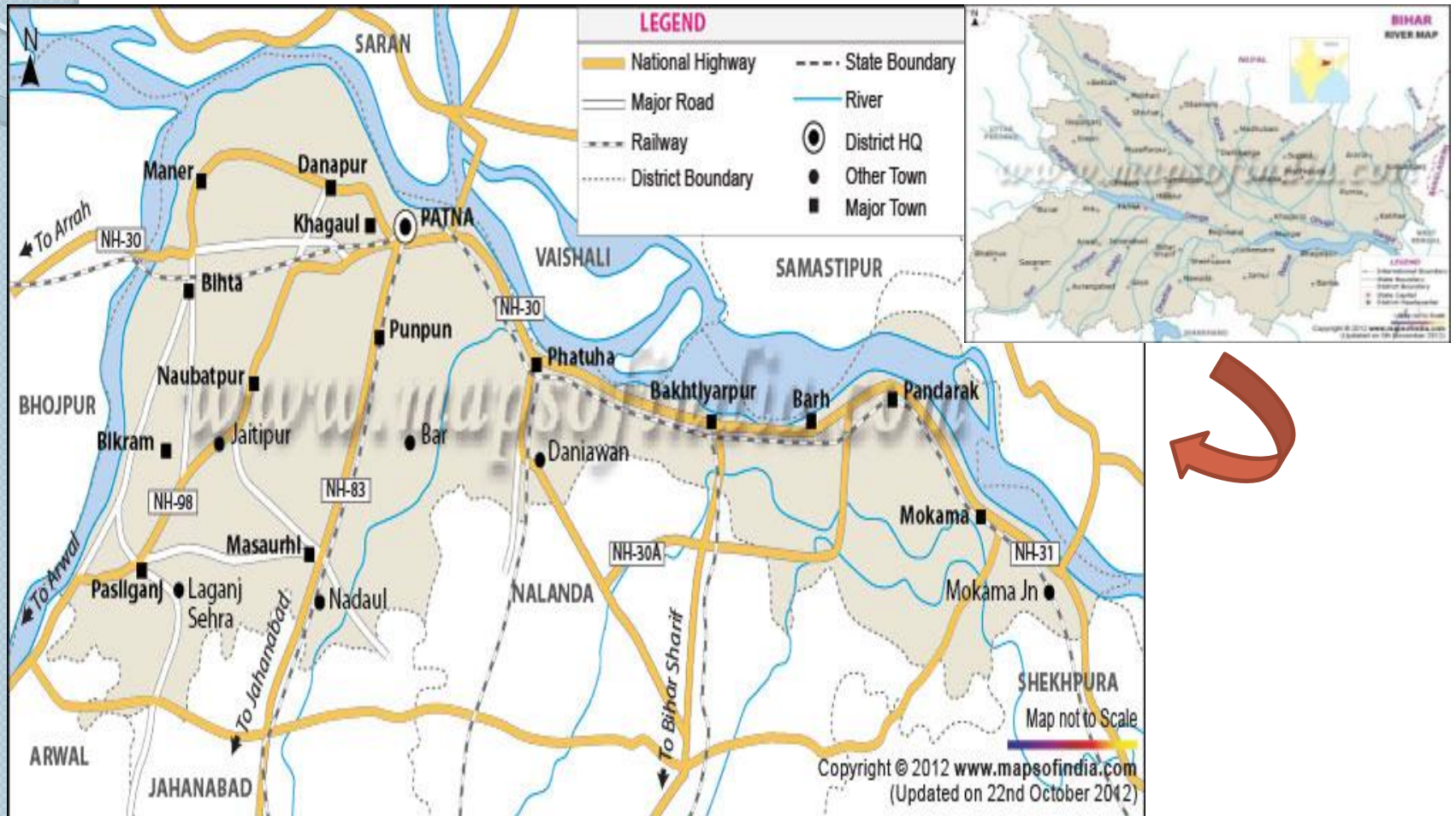
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# Introduction: About Patna, Bihar

- Capital of Bihar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city of North India
- Largest riverine area of the world
- Fish capture / Fish Culture (few)



# Rivers around Patna



Curtsey: [www.mapsoftindia.com](http://www.mapsoftindia.com)

# Fishery community around Patna,

- Status: Mostly in “Below poverty line” (**BPL family**).
- **Resident:** Some are Urban , Maximum are living in the surrounding area/village
- Literacy rate : **39% (slowly increasing)**
- Profession: Fish catching & marketing as whole sale (Men) ; retail/trading (men & women)  
Fishery worker/labour (men)
- Other engagements - works in Agriculture field, Grocery shop, labour in construction sites, Sand removal, etc.

# Contribution of women

- Women play a crucial role in fisheries, particularly in the post – harvest sectors like marketing, processing etc.
- In Patna: Women participation in fish marketing is notified everywhere.
- In spite of low/no literacy, they are confident and expert of negotiation during purchasing and selling of fish. And efficient in the calculation of the amount even in the fraction of weight of fish.



# Present status : Patna Fish market

- Urbanization & high population: Increasing the demand of fish, day by day
- Market area: Authorized market places are limited and situated in main town.
- Street market: Everywhere to fulfill the demand of consumer.
- Fish vender: Mostly Male from surrounding area/village;
- Women participation; available but lower than men.
- Migration : fisher community from village n surrounding area towards the urban area as a fish vendors. (mostly male... females stay at village)

# Women status: Fish market

- The past recorded data and recent status is indicating that the presence of women in fish market were declined with comparison to men. (Kumari, 2014, GAF5; Meghna et al.,2018, GAF7))



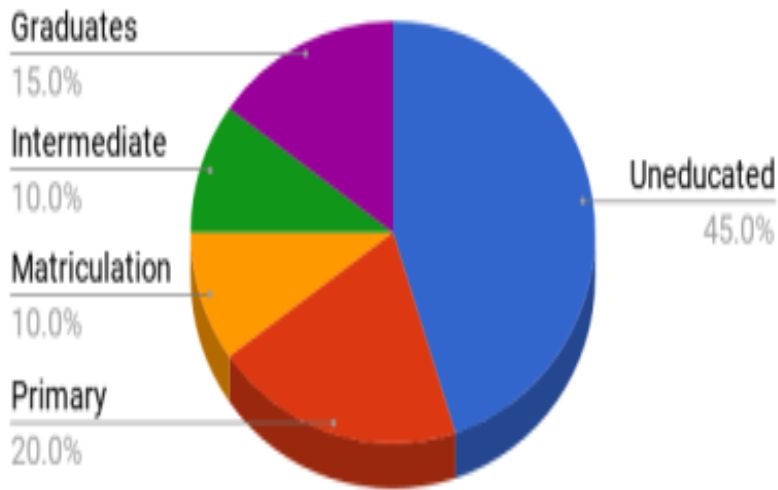
# Reasons of shifting of women from marketing / trades

- **Literacy (very low or no);**
- Lack of knowledge and awareness
- Difficult transportation and Communication facility
- Inter market competition
- Gender based discrimination dominance
- Safety & Security
- Overall condition of market (Space, facility etc)

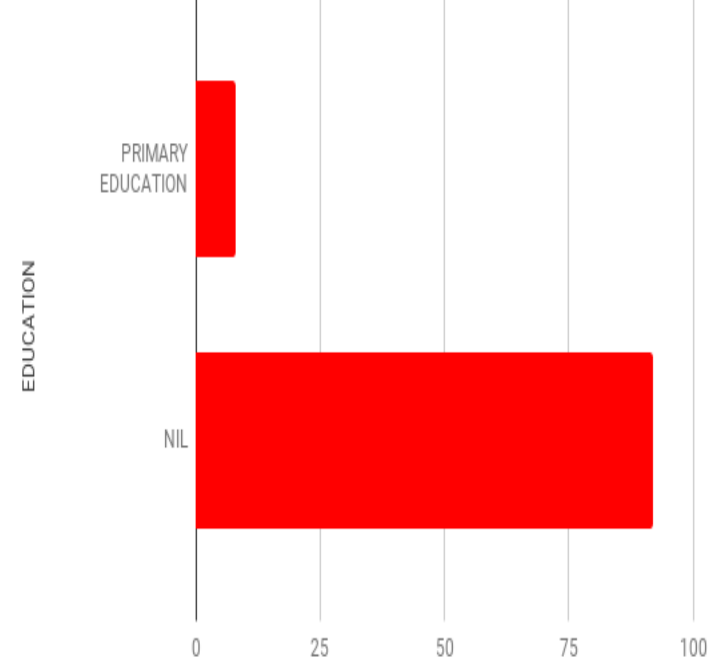


# Literacy status of fish folks in the fish market of Patna

Literacy Status Of Persons Involved In Fish Markets



EDUCATION STATUS OF FISHERWOMEN



# Inadequate facility in the Market

- No adequate market place according to the population of consumer.
- Footpath and open fish markets are more. (Unauthorized and uncertain)
- No proper water supply even in main fish market.
- Drainage and sanitation condition are worse.
- No adequate number of toilet facility in the Main market.
- Poor infrastructure
- Poor transport facility.. Etc..

# Women vs. Men Fish vendors



Due to Gender based discrimination dominance

- Maximum space of main Fish market of Patna Occupied by Male folks.
- Male folks are more efficient in Inter Marketing Competition, where as
- Women participations declining in the fish market. They are compel to sale on street or foot path (unauthorized & uncertain)
- In spite of Women are skilled in : negotiation, cool behavior, compromising attitude, maintaining more hygienic condition.
- Their presence slowly declining day by day.

# Lack of Facilities in the Market



# Case study: During ban of fish selling in Patna

- It was 15 days of Ban of fish selling in Patna (Due to formalin treatment)
- Majority are facing the situation of unemployment.
- Some of them have started daily wages labor work, (men)
- Worsen condition of women as they were depends on daily income for their livelihood.
- Lack of awareness about the formalin, fish processing techniques and fisheries related employment opportunities among the fisher folks has also aggravated the situation.
- Fish selling ban by government has negatively impacted the socio-economic condition of all the people involved in this business

# Present status of River



# Migration and their impacts..

- Available resources play a crucial role in uplifting the economic status and livelihood. If these resources are at risk, it will affect the lives and livelihoods.
- Changing hydrology, apart from deteriorating environmental conditions, has been to a large extent responsible for change in the fishery scenario.
- This change has also affected the income levels of riparian fishers.
- Increasing Fishery community population and shrinking of resources compel to migrate to other place for different job.

# Impact.....

- Migration is a well-known livelihood strategy among the populace dependent on common pool resources for their livelihoods.
- Many fishers have started leaving the fisheries and migrating to distant locations in search of construction and farm labor jobs, which further adds to their overall vulnerability and poverty.
- Women stay at home and looking the family and domestic responsibility.
- Absence or least presence of women fish vendors in the market will affect the traditional value of community (post harvest work) and it will also increase the poverty situation.



# Action to promot and protect the role of women

- Intensive program for literacy. Because Literacy status plays a vital role in an efficient participation and operational skill in all income generating activities.
- Training programme (as per their own convenient time.)
- Regular arrangement for Skill development program (personal as well as professional)
- Strengthen the 'extension service system and human resource development' to improve the knowledge, skill, attitude and practice of women to sustain in the fish market

# Action.....

- Insure the **adequate** , safe & secured and hygienic market place,
- Regular awareness program for government strategies and policy. ((They should know about the food safety & security policy..))
- **Need to fill the gap between government policy & regulation and the relevant fisher communities.**
- Insure the engagement of male folks in fish culture program.
- If we will adopt some favorable strategies and implementation steps, definitely women will be back again in their own role.

**THANKS**

