

ORL-GA&F-03**Gender Assessment in Fisheries and Aquaculture Higher Education in Nepal**

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Aquaculture and fisheries is a technical subject and is suitable to both male and female. It develops skills and provides opportunities to empower economically and make them financially self-dependent by farming and catching aquatic organisms, engaging in their value chain development and education, research and extension. Present study assesses gender equality, gender related challenges and ways out among fisheries students and teachers in the Agriculture and Forestry University, and Tribhuvan University. Primary data were collected using questionnaire interview among Fisheries students (20) and faculty members (7) while secondary data were collected from records of the concerned universities.

Women were slightly less (15%) represented in aquaculture and fisheries education programs in universities (Table 1). Gender gap in students was found to be 14.6% while it was 16.7% in faculty. However, ratio of male and female among student (1.17:1) and faculty (1.20:1) were almost same.

Table 1. Number of male and female student and faculty in the Agriculture and Forestry University and Tribhuvan University

University	Student/Faculty	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture and Forestry University	Student	34	27	61
	Faculty	2	3	5
Tribhuvan University				
Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science	Student	4	4	8
	Faculty	3	-	3
Central Department of Zoology	Student	3	4	7
	Faculty	1	2	3
	Total	47	40	87

Unequal opportunities, unfair access to resources, ignoring voice of women, underrating work of women, physical work in water were and comparatively less opportunity major challenges for faculty members. Faculty members expressed recognizing voice of women, providing equal opportunities to both male and female, promoting equal representation of women in decision making positions, providing gender related training and facilitating women in their professional career development through funding could be the ways to address the challenges. Students mentioned least challenges contrast to faculty. Students expressed recruiting more female faculty and they serving as role model to mentor students, increasing female targeted scholarships, research grants, providing gender sensitive workshops and training, career counseling and improving female friendly infrastructure and facilities on campus could improve gender equality among students.