

Rapid Care Analysis for Navolau and Nakorotubu districts in Fiji

By Marama Tuivuna¹

The Women in Fisheries Network in Fiji (WiFN-Fiji) in its capacity as a member of the Oxfam in Fiji Socio-Economic Empowerment Design – Shifting Power and Shifting Voices (SPSV) Coalition of Non-Government Organisations, piloted a Rapid Care Analysis (RCA) across three sectors and provinces in Fiji: agriculture in Nadroga, fisheries in Ra, and handicrafts in Ba. RCA is a participatory tool used to gather and analyse care work. The RCA toolkit has eight exercises that focus on achieving the following objectives: 1) explore relationships of care in the community; 2) identify unpaid and paid work activities performed by women and men, and create a rough estimate of average weekly time spent on each category of work by men and women; 3) document care for women, men, girls and boys at a household level; 4) record changes in care; 5) map care support services and infrastructure; and 6) identify and prioritise options for reducing and/or redistributing care work.

RCAs were conducted in four villages of Navolau District: Navolau 1, Navolau 2, Namuaimada and Nakorokula. Namuaimada Village was selected because WiFN-Fiji has ongoing work with women in the village who are engaged in seagrape harvesting. Saioko Village in Nakorotubu District was selected because women there are engaged in two sectors – fisheries and handicrafts. The selection of these four villages allows a comparison of differences, if any, in care work; in other words, a single economic activity in the community vs a dual economic activity in the community.

The study found that, on average, a woman in Navolau District spends 67 hours per week on unpaid care work compared with 30 hours for men, while in Nakorotubu District, women spend 80 hours per week on unpaid care work compared to 47 hours for men. In Navolau District, women spend 71 hours per week on non-work (e.g. sleep and leisure activities) compared with 94 hours for men. Similarly, in Nakorotubu District, women spend 81 hours per week on non-work and men spend 97 hours.

The two main conclusions of the study were:

1. Women in Navolau and Nakorotubu districts spend twice the amount of hours per week on performing unpaid care work than men, but have less time for leisure activities relative to men.
2. Regardless of whether a community has a single economic activity (e.g. villages in Navolau District) or dual economic activities (Saioko and Verevere villages in Nakorotubu District), women spend almost twice as many hours per week on unpaid care work than men.

The study clearly showed that the distribution of unpaid care work in these communities is uneven, being heavier for women than men. While there is gender-related inequality in unpaid care work, women in these communities highlighted that they enjoy performing these unpaid care roles and ac-

¹ Women in Fisheries Network-Fiji. Email: marama@womeninfisheriesfiji.org



tivities. Interventions to reduce or redistribute such work from women to men, to other household members, to the community and to the State would require women having a critical role in their design.

Unequal power where men are overpowering or domineering towards women and girls is evident and more prominent in two of the five villages. This observation is one of concern and an opportunity for further research and engagement. A holistic approach is necessary, if the SPSV Coalition wishes to provide programmes of intervention to change gendered norms of care work, determine how to redistribute care work more fairly, and ensure more equitable leisure time for women and men in these communities.

Further to the unequal distribution of unpaid care work, problematic care activities identified includes limited access to proper infrastructure such as access to piped water, lack of proper sanitation, not enough fishing boats and gear for women, and heavy reliance on one source of livelihood such as fishing, harvesting seagrapes and farming for income. Also, a number of solutions to problematic care activities were identified.

WiFN-Fiji has secured funding from Oxfam to address some recommendations and next steps from the RCA report. The proposed project will focus on addressing recommendations for the respective villages to improve the distributions of unpaid care work which includes but are not limited; awareness on sustainable fisheries management, human rights and social inclusion, access to water for all, and setting up a waste management system. WiFN-Fiji will engage organisation(s) when required to conduct some of the training sessions during project implementation. The project will address RCA solutions to problematic activities that will assist women and men in maximising their participation in economic activities. Also, the RCA findings will be used to influence stakeholders at regional, national and local levels.

The project's duration is from October 2020 to May 2021. The full report and infographics of the RCA for Navolau and Nakorotubu districts are available from the WiFN-Fiji website (www.womeninfisheriesfiji.org) or a copy can be requested from wifnet-workfiji@gmail.com

