

Fig.084 Illustration showing native women making baskets. While no one complaints about their tasks, there is a quite defined division of what women should do and what men should do. In seasons in which there is not so much to do however, both native men and women do things collectively.

Gender-equality Among the Natives of Lower Asia

Native women supply the camp with the "provision of the vegetable food" as well as "firewood and water". It is them who make "baskets or nets", pots and sleeping mats. Also, they make the "personal ornaments" either for themselves or their husbands. Body patterns are "always made by the women" who decorate "each other and their male relatives" with "innovative designs". In ceremonies they join other women to make up the choir. In the cool season however there is not much to hunt and also the men join the women in "looking for roots and fruits". In the hot season both men and women alike are busy "collecting honey" and later "the fruit of the Artocarpiis chaplasha". Importantly a native man is expected "to cut a canoe" and make "his own bows and arrows, his adze and knife" and "rope for harpoon lines". Native women do the "family cooking" but it is men who do the "common cooking". And in decisions that are not related to hunting, women "occupy a position of influence similar to that of the men". In particular, they have a good deal of influence "in connection with quarrels" either of individuals or of local groups to the extent that feuds between tribes are resolved with the mediation of women (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).