

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE, ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT

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*In India the fishermen community is also one of the areas where in very less interest is given. The present study analyse the livelihood and socio-economic status of marine fishing communities in the north canara coastal place of Karnataka state. In depth structured interview was used to collect information in 5-study areas (station) of Uttar Kannada (North Canara) coastal area. For the present investigation station was selected starting from karwar to bhatkal covering a 140 kms stretch of coastal line. Though the fishing activity is environment friendly and creates a balance in the marine world and becomes a reason for livelihood of millions yet due concern towards the same is not done! Today, the fishermen community is in the area of great trouble. In the study we have covered the north canara or Uttar Kannada district.*

**KEYWORDS**

fishermen, livelihood, economic status.

**JEL CLASSIFICATION CODES**

Q20, Q22, E02.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The agricultural farming and fisheries have involved rather parallel in the history of human civilization. Interest in fish eating dates back to the dawn of history. It is believed that hunting of fish was not uncommon in prehistoric times. At the dwelling sites near a river or a lake of cave dwellers of the late Old Stone Age (40000bc) heaps of refuse of shellfish and sea fish have been found. The ancient hindu scriptures like epics, puranas, and shastras mention about the fish stock and its protection. Koutilyas arthashastra written between 321 and 300 B.C. refers to fishing operations, fish eating habits of the iron pillar edicts of emperor Ashok the great dating back to 246 B.C. are reported to contain rules barring the killing of fish during certain phases of the moon.

As a matter of fact, Asia is the world's largest continent with 4.2 billion people or constituting 60 % of the world's population. And Within Asia, India is second most populous country in the world with 1.21+ billion people or more than 17.5% of the world's population (FAO, 2012). In India 65% of the people are still dependent on agriculture as their livelihood and employment source which includes fisheries as one of its components. As far as health facet is concerned, fisheries serves as a valuable and cheap source of protein of the country. According to 2001 census India's total population is 1,02,70,15,247 of which 59,59,144 people are fishermen. In 2002, there were 38 million commercial and subsistence fishermen and fish farmers all over the world. Of this total, 74% were engaged in capture fisheries and 26% in aquaculture. The world total fishery production of 133 million tonnes equated to an average productivity of 3.5 tonnes per person. By 2006, the number of world fishers increased to 43.5 million and the total fishery production was 143.6 million tonnes with an average productivity of 3.3 tonnes per person (FAO, 2012).

India has enormous potential resources teeming with fish. A large part of the country is maritime, engages in traditional fishing in marine water from ages. The inland fishing is also an old practice in the extensive network of fresh water. Indian fisheries, developed over the year and stand great scope for further expansion by way of more rational and more full exploitation of these resources. Fishers in the state are not homogeneous – a number of critical factors distinguish one group from another. And yet they share two important features: they are all heavily dependent on fishing as a livelihood and a large majority of them are poor, suggesting that most of the troubles that afflict fishing communities are directly attributable to the poor conditions of their livelihoods.

The prime objective of the study is to find out social and economic conditions of the fisher folk of uttara kannada or north canara district. The research paper tries to analyse the life style and living conditions of the fishermen. It is a comprehensive study of randomly selected fishermen from the district and an attempt to find an optimum solution for the problems of the fishermen.

**2. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY**

**2.1 Study Area:** - The survey was conducted in the 5-study areas (station) of north canara coastal area. For the present investigation station was selected starting from karwar to bhatkal covering a 140 kms stretch of coastal line. The Uttara Kannada district is located between north latitudes 13° 55' 02" to 15° 31' 01" and east longitudes 74° 0' 35" to 75° 10' 23" falling in the survey of India degree sheet Nos -48 I, 48 J, 48 K, 48 M, and 48N. The district is having geographical area of 10222 sq. kms.

**2.2. Data Collection Method:** For the purpose of research In depth structured interview was used to collect information in 5-study areas (station) of Uttar Kannada (North Canara) coastal area from 320 sample fishermen. For the present investigation station was selected starting from karwar to bhatkal covering a 140 kms stretch of coastal line. data were collected from different fishermen and fish traders like whole sellers, retailers, businessmen, and other allied associates. Data were collected using by questionnaires and some Focus Group Discussion (FGO) with the fishermen and the women in the study area. The survey was conducted over a period of 6 months from August 2014 to Feb 2015. The information was collected on sources of fish, problem of fishing or trading, daily retail price indexes and is there any fishermen co-operative society, and number of family members, sex composition, age structure, income pattern, educational status and income holders' dependents.

**2.3 DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS OF THE STUDY AREA:** The entire stretch is divided into 5 parts or five talukas of north canara of uttara kannada district viz., Karwar, Ankola, Kumta, Honnavar and Bhatkal.

3.0 ANALYSIS

TABLE 1

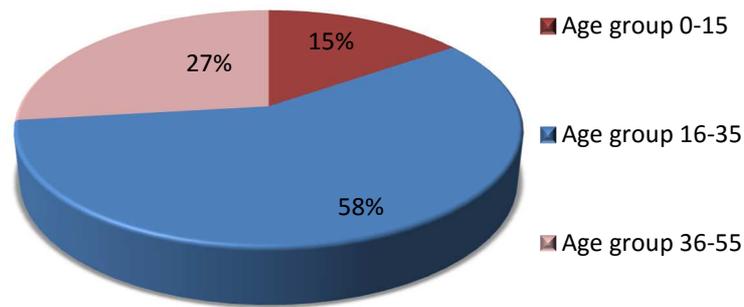
Sl. No.	Station	Latitude	Longitude	District
1	Karwar	14° 48' N	74° 11' E	Uttara kannada
2	Ankola	20.700 N	77.000E	Uttara kannada
3	Kumta	14° 26' N	74° 27' E	Uttara kannada
4	Honnavar	14° 17' N	74° 29' E	Uttara kannada
5	Bhatkal	13.9670° N	74.5670° E	Uttara kannada

3.1 **Age structure:** According to the survey age structure of the fishermen of study area people lying the age group between 0 – 15, 16 –35 and 36 – 45 year age group. In this study we found that 16 – 35 year of age group are more in number and their role in fishing is more active. The next groups are 35 – 45 year age group are also engaged but comparison to former low. Below 15 year age group may be regarded as occasional working age group.

TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF AGE GROUP OF SAMPLES OF FISHERMEN OF THE STUDY

Sl. No.	Station	Total Sample Size	Age group		
			0-15	16-35	36-55
1	Karwar	90	12	58	20
2	Ankola	65	7	30	28
3	Kumta	45	6	28	11
4	Honnavar	55	11	32	12
5	Bhatkal	65	13	37	15

FIG. 1: AGE GOUP DISTRIBUTION AND DEPENDENCY OF FISHING ACTIVITY ON DIFFERENT AGE GROUP

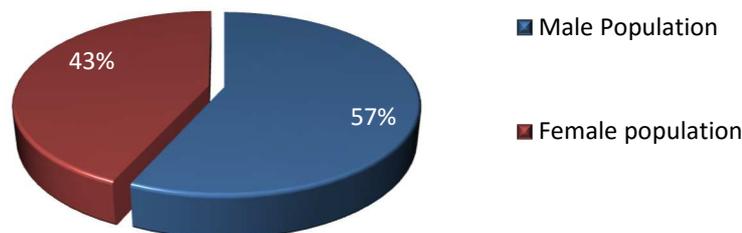


3.2 **Sex composition and sex ratio:** The study has been made over 70 families with population of 320 people. In a random sample of 320 people 187 were male and 143 were that of female.

TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF SEX RATIO OF TOTAL POPULATION

Sl. No.	Station	Total family	Total Population	Male Population	Female population
1	Karwar	18	102	64	38
2	Ankola	14	69	27	42
3	Kumta	15	64	34	40
4	Honnavar	11	44	31	14
5	Bhatkal	12	41	31	9

FIG 2: DISTRIBUTION OF SEX RATIO OF TOTAL POPULATION



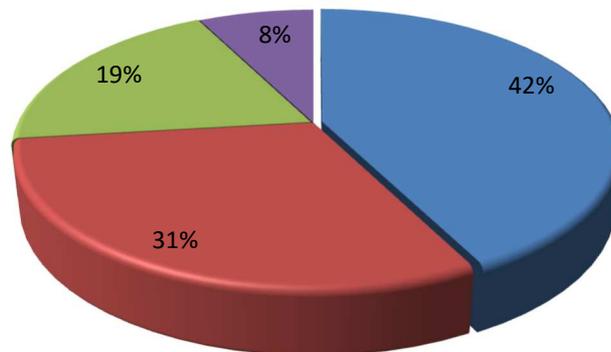
**3.3 Community features or religion:** In the social organization of fishermen were found to belong to Kharvi, Harikanta, Gabit, and Ambig caste following Hindu religion. These communities are of prime dwelling category and some Muslims, Christian and bramins also do fisheries. These communities used to catch fish from Arabian Sea and from some small inland rivers.

**TABLE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY OF FISHERMEN IN NORTH KANNADA DISTRICT**

Sl. No.	Station	Total Sample Size	Caste Category			
			Kharvi	Harikantra	Gabit, Ambig	Others
1	Karwar	90	42	28	13	7
2	Ankola	65	33	17	13	2
3	Kumta	45	18	14	11	2
4	Honnavar	55	21	16	15	3
5	Bhatkal	65	22	23	10	10

**FIG 3: DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY OF FISHERMEN**

■ Kharvi   ■ Harikantra   ■ Gabit, Ambig   ■ Others

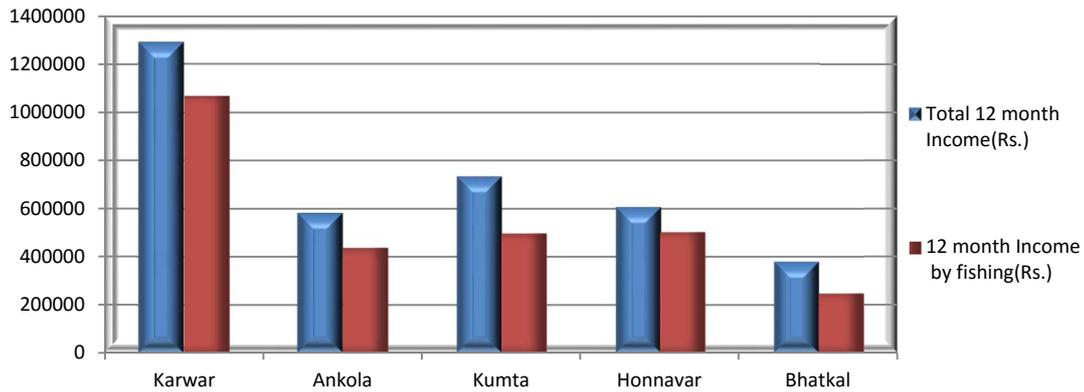


**3.4. Income and living standard:** Although fishing is the major and in some cases, the only source of income of traditional fisherman, the fisher folk occasionally undertake a variety of fishery related and non-fishery related activities, which constitute a substantial part of their annual income. this income augmenting opportunities however, are very limited. There are very limited options for non-fishery related activities such as wage labor in the other sectors like agriculture, construction, live stock and poultry raising, etc. From the interviews, fishermen mentioned that their daily fishing income fluctuated between Rs. 70/- to 100/-. Estimation of annual income-by-income level, as done here. Allows differentiation of livelihood dependency of fisher communities of the area. Overall it can be stated that the majority of people living here are dependent on fish resources. The income of marginal fishermen has decreased over the years due to reduced availability of fish. These reduction or production in fish reduce because of environmental degradation like late rain, heavy river siltation, agricultural, dam formation and industrial pollution, etc. further intensify the problem.

**TABLE 4: INCOME LEVEL OF FISHERMEN FAMILIES INHABITING THE STUDY**

	Station	No. of families	12 month Income	12 month Income per family	12 month Income by fishing	per family 12 month Income by fishing
1	Karwar	18	1288800	71600	1068840	59380
2	Ankola	14	581000	41500	436800	31200
3	Kumta	15	732000	48800	496500	33100
4	Honnavar	11	605000	55000	501600	45600
5	Bhatkal	12	378000	31500	246900	20575

FIG 4: STATION WISE INCOME LEVEL OF FISHERMEN FAMILIES INHABITING THE STUDY AREA



**3.5. Using Equipment or fishing nets:** In this district Fishermen are using some peculiar type of nets; more than seven types of nets are being used by the folk. As per the survey of fisheries department of Uttara Kannada District, totally (25048+) nets are operated in different types of fishing. Usually cast nets are very famous and it is used by single person. This type of net helps poor fishermen to maintain his day-to-day life (6127) whereas Trawlers and Dragnets are more or less (3205 & 3106). They are normally being used in mechanized fishing by fishermen. Now-a-days 40% of the total catch is done by these nets. Purse-science nets ranks very low in the list (359). This net is very big and mainly used in Pures-Scienc boats. The cost of boats is very high. In North kannada coast very less number of Purse-science are operating. During the fishing season huge quantity of fish is caught by the purse-sciences.

#### 4.0 LITERACY AND EDUCATION OR EDUCATIONAL STATUS

The literacy level of fishermen is very low. It is found that the majority is of illiterate whereas only few fishermen have their education up to primary level and some only write their name and give a signature. Children are also educated till the primary or 5th class and then onwards they drop-it in order to earn some money. On the contrary women folk is illiterate who don't even know to read and write their name.

#### 5.0 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Employment opportunities can be generated not only from fish production but employment would also be provided through different allied occupations viz., hatchery management, seed production, fish marketing, net making, packing of fish, ice factories, boat operation and also in other ancillary industries like basket making, pattal making, transport of fish etc. Fishermen would be getting better remunerations which will ensure increase in their per capita income. Adequate storage, transportation and marketing facilities for efficient disposition of fish will further add to enhance revenue. By evaluating the magnitude of costs, benefits, impacts and distribution of these impacts through individual and group responses it was intensely felt that the fishermen do not receive what actually they deserve. At present fishermen do not get their actual price due to lack of transportation and malpractice in the marketing system. At a policy level, mechanism should be developed so as to distribute revenues equitably.

#### 6.0 TECHNOLOGICAL EXTENSION SERVICES AND INNOVATION IN TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE PRODUCTION

Deficiency of proper equipments or instruments, which are necessary for fishing, hinders the socio-economic growth of fishermen. In many cases these are formed of illiterates / semi literate, indigent fishermen who lack the knowledge of latest fishery technology and proper attitude to fishery development and also lack resources to make use of it. In the absence of proper techniques and skills they cannot lead towards their development. Proper training programs supported by financial input may improve the situation.

#### 7.0 CONCLUSION

The fishermen of Karnataka especially ok Uttar Kannada district, on the one hand are facing climate problem i.e., change in unexpected underwater currents these days due to human activities like global warming etc. on the other side they are in dearth of fisheries amenities, proper guidance and are jeopardized by the traders. In that case both government and local rich men need to work on the issue and solve the problems of fishermen.

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