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#### A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION ON FISHERMEN IN CUDDALORE DISTRICT

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#### ABSTRACT

Fishing is one of the oldest human occupations and a major human activity in many nations. It supports coastal areas' economies, employment opportunities, and food supplies. It is regarded as one of the most important sources of employment that provides the coastal population with a living wage. International trade had an export value of 129 billion USD in 2012, which was 37% of the value of all fish production, 70 billion USD of which came from shipments to poorer nations. According to estimates, small-scale fisheries provide nearly half of the world's fish catches when taking into account both direct and indirect contributions to food security produced through the provision of affordable fish and employment to populations in poor nations. Any business or action involved in catching, breeding, processing, preserving, reserving, storing, moving, promoting, or dispensing fish or fish products is included in this industry. Over the years, millions of individuals worldwide have engaged in fishing and fish trading profitably. Approximately two- thirds of the world's population currently lives within 60 kilometers of a coastline. Fish is one of the foods that is traded internationally the most, and the value of fish trade globally is greater than the value of trade of all other animal proteins combined. The socioeconomic circumstances of fisherman are different, though. The socioeconomic circumstances of the fishermen in the Cuddalore district are more validly explained in this article.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Cuddalore, fisherman, socio-economic conditions.

JEL CODE Q22

#### INTRODUCTION

ny industry or activity involved in raising, processing, preserving, storing, moving, promoting, or selling fish or its byproducts falls under the umbrella of fishing. It is a type of work that is done by people who are known as fishermen. This profession is practiced along every seashore. According to Ambili, C.S. (2008), a fisherman is someone who relies heavily on fishing and other associated activities for their living. Their professional endeavors produced fish for human consumption, bait, and other uses. This community has unique qualities, is geographically situated in coastal areas, has a unique way of life and culture, and shares the environment and the sea. Over the year, millions of people have profitably engaged in fishing and fish trading around the world. the activities are known by name like Mukkuvars and paravars in the southern part of the state and pattinavars in the northern paet. Mukkuvars and Paravas are the only two fishing communities in Kanyakumari. The degree of social cohesion and financial security among Tamilnadu's fishermen in Tamilnadu's Cuddalore Districts.

#### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Cuddalore Districts are located on the east coast of the Bay of Bengal, fishing and other associated occupations will inevitably develop among the residents of coastal villages who are commonly known as fishermen. Their standard of life, level of comfort, societal contributions, and financial situation all influence their ability for productivity, performance, and earnings.

Although the number of fishermen has greatly increased, the government's measures of their income, welfare, and development appear to fall short of expectations. As a result, this must be addressed. Most fishing families are below the poverty line. They were pulled down to earth by their unstable finances and low socioeconomic level, which prevented them from thriving in life. The children of fisherman strive to receive a good education, but they are unable to do so because the family head cannot set a sizable sum of money for that purpose.

All of these variables are dependent on the well-being of the fishing population, which lives in places with poor access to basic amenities like clean drinking water, sanitary facilities, and toilets.

Given the circumstances, it will be important to research the socioeconomic variables and issues facing the fishing population in the Pondicherry Region.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The prime object of the research is to ascertain the socio-economic situation of the community of fishermen in the Cuddalore Districts of Tamil Nadu.

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In the current study, the researcher employed a descriptive approach in an effort to briefly summarize the numerous socioeconomic factors affecting fishermen. The research universe for this study is the Tamil Nadu district of Cuddalore, where it was carried out. For this investigation, non- probability sampling was employed to gather data. To be more precise, non-proportional quota sampling was used in this investigation. The study's sample size is 100 fishermen from Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore Districts. To evaluate the questioner and to assess the viability and feasibility of the stud y, the researcher also conducted pre-tests and a pilot study. The data have been analyzed using simple percentage analysis. No significant studies have been conducted on the problems of the fish marketing; so there exists a wide data gap or blank past in this regard. This study must be essentially seen as a starting point in attempting to reveal the facts of a marginalized community.

#### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Since the beginning of time, those who live along the country's shore have relied heavily on fishing as a source of income. From the perspective of generating revenue and jobs, fish and fisheries play a significant role in the majority of developing and industrialized nations worldwide. It ranks right behind agriculture as one of the most ancient human economic activities. The marine environment is solely responsible for the day-to-day operations of the fishing community and is regarded as the keeper of livelihood security. The fishing industry supports the creation of jobs, exports, and the safeguarding of food nutrition. About 1% of India's overall population relies on the fishing industry as their main source of income. In terms of global rankings, India comes in second for aquaculture production and third for fish production. In 2014–15, the nation produced 100.69 lakh tons of fish, of which 34.91 lakh tons were collected from the marine sector and the remaining from the inland sector. A sizable market for fresh and processed fish and fisheries products has been developed in India as a result of the country's rapid

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economic growth and expansion of the domestic retail sector (Sathiadhas, et al. 2011). The Indian fishing industry also makes a sizable contribution to foreign exchange.

TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY THEIR AGE						
S. No.	Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage			
1	Below 30	24	24.0			
2	31 – 35	12	12.0			
3	36 – 40	10	10.0			
4	41 – 45	18	18.0			
5	46 – 50	26	26.0			
6	Above 51	10	10.0			
	Total	100	100.0			
S. No.	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage			
1	Unmarried	11	11.0			
2	Married	73	73.0			
3	Divorced	4	04.0			
4	Widower	12	12.0			
	Total	100	100.0			
S. No.	Age at Marriage	No. of Respondents	Percentage			
1	Not married	10	10.0			
2	Below 20	11	11.0			
3	21 – 25	62	62.0			
4	26 – 30	15	15.0			
5	Above 30	2	02.0			
	Total	100	100.0			
S. No.	Type of Marriage	No. of Respondents	Percentage			
1	Arranged Marriage	62	62.0			
2	Love Marriage	11	11.0			
3	Love & arranged	27	27.0			
	Total	100	100.0			
S. No.	Type of family	No. of Respondents	Percentage			
1	Joint Family	72	72.0			
2	Nuclear family	28	28.0			
	Total	100	100.00			

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY THEIR ACC

Source: Computed from primary data

The traditional livelihood of the fishermen is fishing. They must go fishing to meet their immediate needs and the needs of their families, whether they are young or old. That is also revealed in the No. 1 table mentioned above. From the age of 31 and up to age 50, 66 (66%) of the 100 respondents who participated in the survey said they went fishing. They are spread out between ages 31 and 35 (12%), 36 and 40 (10%), 41 and 45 (18%), and 46 and 50 (26%).

According to Table No. 1, the majority (84%) of them received an education, with 20 (20%) of them receiving instruction up to the middle school level, 13 (13%) receiving instruction up to the high school level, 14 (14%) receiving instruction at the higher secondary level, 2 (2%) receiving instruction at the undergraduate level, and 4 (4%) receiving instruction in technic al fields.

It can be assumed that 84 (or 84%) of them received education, ranging from primary schooling to technical education. The marital status of the respondents is described in table No. 1 above. 73 (73%) out of the 100 respondents were married, which is the majority. Four (4%) and twelve (12%) married people were divorced or widowed, respectively. Here, the term "widower" refers to males who have lost their wives. Regarding their age at marriage (Table No. 1), the majority (62%) of them stated that they were married between the ages of 21 and 25 years. The remaining 10%, 11%, 15%, and 2% of them stated that they were still single at the ages of 20 years, 26 to 30 years, and after 3 0 years, respectively.

In villages, it is typical to have planned marriages between close relatives or sects (Table-1)

However, in more recent times, about one- third of them were married in love or in planned weddings. The bulk of them-62 (62%) had planned marriages, and their parents had chosen the bridges, so the system did not col lapse.

The above table (No. 1) displays the different types of families that the respondents came from. Of the total respondents, 72% belonged to a nuclear family, and 28 (28%) were a part of a joint family system. Due to their willingness to help others and lack of changes, they developed their own families and nuclear families, however some families still use the traditional joint family structure. After their son or daughter marries, most families become nuclear.

S. No	Experience in Fishing	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below – 5 years	13	13.0
2	6 years - 10 years	16	16.0
3	11 years - 15 years	8	08.0
4	16 years - 20 years	10	10.0
5	21 years - 25 years	14	14.0
6	26 years - 30 years	25	25.0
7	Above - 30 years	14	14.0
	Total	100	100.00
	Income of the Respondents (per month)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Rs 5000 – 10000	84	84.0
2	Rs 10001 – 15000	16	16.0
	Total	100	100.0
	Sources of Income	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Fishing +Money lending	18	18.0
2	Fishing +Fish vending	61	61.0
3	Fishing +Petty Shop	6	06.0
Э			
4	Fishing +Agriculture	15	15.0

Source: Computed from primary data

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The age of fishermen when they begin a career in fishing is indicated in Table No. 2. Out of 100 respondents, 59 (59.0%) started their traditional occupation fishing between the ages of 16 and 20. Next, 35 (35.0%) started when they were under 15 years old, and 6 (6.0%) started when they were between the ages of 21 and 25. According to reports, the majority of fishermen began their careers in fishing when they were young, between the ages of 16 and 20, for a variety of reasons, including taking care of family responsibilities, being influenced by their peers, being uninterested in academics, etc.

It demonstrates that they occasionally engage in fishing on their own due to their lack of interest in education, their obligations to their families, and peer pressure, as well as their desire to live a happy life by making money and keeping it for their own expenses.

Income is very important to run families to meet out the day-to-day affairs including that of education, marriage, and health and purchase property. As far as the fishermen community is concerned, they need income for their day-to-day affairs, health and for their children's education. During the fish ban period and rough season, the boat owners can manage somehow but the fishing laborers suffer lot. The families of the fishing laborers are forced to borrow money or seek the help of their friends and relatives. Some fishermen could manage as they could do some petty jobs like running shops and involving in business like real-estate. As per the table No. 2 that the majority 81 (81%) of the respondents were able to earn more than Rs 10000 per month and 19 (19%) of them were able to earn below Rs 10000 per month. With these small earnings, they were not able to manage their family expenses.

Apart from the primary source of income through fishing, all of them had another source of income. Among them as per the table No. 2, 41 (41%) had income through secondary source like fish vending, 28 (28%) had income through money lending; 31 (31%) of them had been involving in fish net selling through their shops. It shows that the fishermen were well aware of the fact that they could not get a regular income, and for their future the fishermen were involving in other businesses that gave some additional income. It shows the income generation capacity of the fisher folk is almost necessary in all the times.

As far as their expenditure is concerned that the majority 97% of them spent more money for purchase of food grains, dress, celebration of festivals, and other levies expenditures such as drinks, picnic, pilgrimages etc., which cost about more them Rs 1 lakhs per year of the total respondents the majority 57 (57%) said that they bought jewel through their savings; 52 (52%) of them said that they used their savings for buying more than 1 property; 28 (28%) of them said that they bought 2 wheeler through their savings; 1 (1%) of them said that he bought a car. During the time of more income, they purchase assets such as jewels, vehicles, land. Later, during unexpected occasions, they get loan from bank, money lenders, etc.

When they were not able to spend within their earnings, they got some loan from many sources such as relatives, friends, colleges, money lenders, owners of the both etc., almost all of them had debt depend upon their size of the family and its occasions. In Such a way nearly 76% of them had debt upon Rs. 2 lakhs at present.

#### CONCLUSION

It is clear from the examination of primary data that if the socioeconomic circumstances of the fishing community mprove, there will undoubtedly be improvements in their standard of living as well. However, when income is really low, there are great chances of an increase in starvation, difficulties with their children's education, and a bad quality of life that results in a terrible social life that would negatively affect their life. An increase in the cost of food, essentials, health care, and education. This survey reveals that the majority of fishermen attended elementary and middle schools before starting their careers in fishing at a young age. i.e., under 15 years old, which significantly impacts their generations. Their involvement in politics was limited to voting; they were unable to assert their representation in a suitable and acceptable capacity across all political parties. Despite there being national and international policies, the fishermen's community has not been included. The Quality of Life of the fishing community will be improved if the study's recommendations are put into practice. Setting up the necessary policies and implementing them will greatly improve the quality of life for the fishermen.

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