



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

## STUDY ON FISHERMEN'S PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

Indian marine fisheries have expanded four-fold in the last 50 years in the form of open-access commons. Although studies predict that fish stocks are on the decline there is little evidence that these declines are being countered by changes in either fishing regulations or fishing practices. Fishermen rarely comply with regulations, instead operationalizing and directing the fishery on their own. In these circumstances understanding how fishermen perceive and use resources has significant management and policy implications. Our study examined fishermen's perceptions about the state of fish stocks and documents current fishing practice and management strategies in India. We surveyed 342 fishermen in two states, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. We found that 86% of fishermen perceived a decline in catch and 69% perceived a decline in bycatch. Fishermen adapt to these declines by increasing fishing area and time spent, changing their gear, and overlapping in fishing zones. The convoluted interactions between ineffective community and state regulations guiding their actions has prevented fishermen from developing successful models of sustainable fisheries management. We identified non-compliance with regulations and government incentives as an important livelihood opportunity. Non-compliance drives change in fishing practice by giving fishermen the flexibility to respond to perceived fish catch dynamics by modifying their practices. We recommend strengthening local fishing communities by enabling them to enforce fishing regulations locally and by scaling back of existing government incentives, to protect the sustainability of these fisheries.

## INTRODUCTION

During 19th century, the fisheries was the only source of sustenance for a segment of the population living in the coastal region, and on the banks of rivers, lakes and canals in India. Fishing in general was a hereditary profession carried on from generation to generation with almost all the members of the family taking part in it to varying degree. The socio-economic condition of fishermen was very poor. The fishermen belonged to the lowest stratum of society and fishing was generally regarded as one of the meanest of all trades and profession.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Jansen et.al (2021)** suggest that during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, parents experienced increased levels of stress, and this stress was associated with the way they interacted with their children around food.

**Venkatesh, S (2011)** This study analyses the livelihoods of marine fishing communities in the Indian coastal state of Orissa using the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA).

**Kekula, E. (2009)** A livelihoods analysis of coastal fisheries communities in Liberia. The fisheries sector, both marine and inland (including aquaculture), in Liberia, has a significant potential to make substantial contribution to national socio-economic development, economic revitalization and reduction of poverty in the short, medium and long term.

**Swathi.R (2018)** Kerala state in South India has an elongated coastal line of 590 km on the western part of the state sharing the border with Arabian Sea and decorated with world famous beaches.

**Shanmugarajah Srikanthan (2013)** This study analyses the impact of climate change on fishermen livelihood development. Climate change is defined a change in the statistical properties of the climate system in particular region when considered over long periods of time, regardless of cause.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To study on challenges faced by fishermen in Kanyakumari district- Post Covid 19.
- To study the life pattern of fishermen in Kanyakumari district.
- To analyses the factors affecting the livelihood of fishermen in Kanyakumari district.
- To analyses the awareness toward the government schemes provided.
- To understand the training needs of fishermen to improve their business.
- To provide suggestions to improve the livelihood of fishermen.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Population describes whole universe of the study. In this study the population is all the livelihood of fishermen. The target respondents for this study are the livelihood of fishermen. Convenient sampling method is adopted to collect samples for questionnaire from respondents.

## SAMPLE SIZE

120 samples were collected from the fishermen working (fishing) in Kanyakumari costal region.

## PERIOD OF STUDY

The period of study is from December 2020 to February 2021.

## TOOLS FOR THE STUDY

The following tests and statistical tools were used for the analysis of the data.

- ✓ Percentage analysis method
- ✓ Chi-square method
- ✓ One Way ANOVA

## PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS

Table 4.1.1 Age of respondents

Age of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Below 28	52	43.3
28-38 years	28	23.3
38-48 years	11	9.2
48-58 years	17	14.2
58 and above	12	10.0
Total	120	100.0

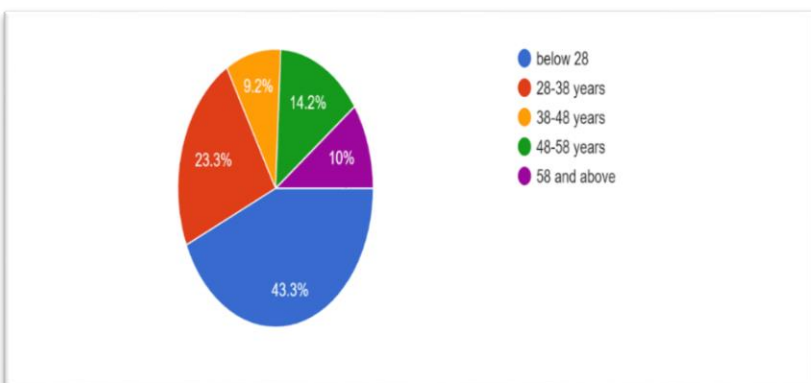


Chart 4.1.1 Age of respondents

## INTERPRETATION:

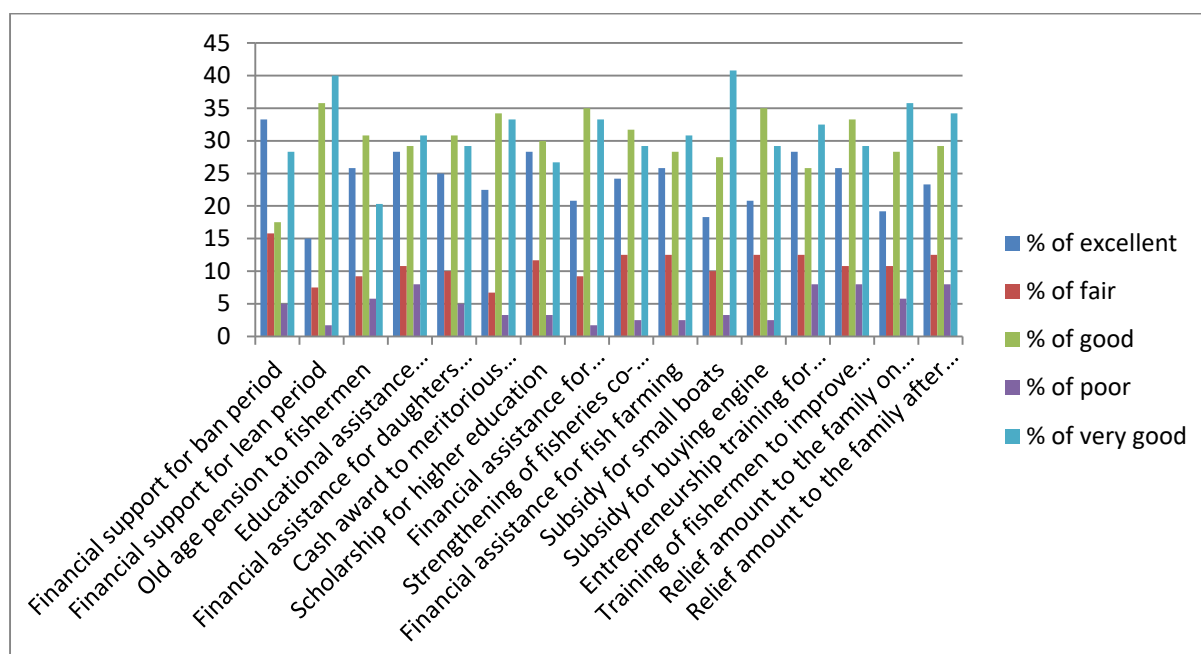
From the above table its interpreted that the number of respondents below 28 years of age is 43.3%, 28-38 years is 23.3%, 38-48 years is 9.2%, 48-58 years is 14.2%, above 58 years is 10.0%.

**INFERENCE:**

Majority (43.3%) of the respondents are below 28 years of age.

**Table 4.1.16 Government for improvement in the livelihood of fishermen**

SCHEMES	EXCELLENT	%	FAIR	%	GOOD	%	POOR	%	VERY GOOD	%
Financial support for ban period	40	33.3	19	15.8	21	17.5	6	5.0	34	28.3
Financial support for lean period	18	15.0	9	7.5	43	35.8	2	1.7	48	40.0
Old age pension to fishermen	31	25.8	11	9.2	37	30.8	7	5.8	34	20.3
Educational assistance fishermen's children studying from 10 the to graduation	34	28.3	13	10.8	35	29.2	1	8	37	30.8
Financial assistance for daughters and sons marriage	30	25.0	12	10.0	37	30.8	6	5.0	35	29.2
Cash award to meritorious fishermen students	27	22.5	8	6.7	41	34.2	4	3.3	40	33.3
Scholarship for higher education	34	28.3	14	11.7	36	30.0	4	3.3	32	26.7
Financial assistance for fisherwomen for maternity	25	20.8	11	9.2	42	35.0	2	1.7	40	33.3
Strengthening of fisheries co-operative institutions	29	24.2	15	12.5	38	31.7	3	2.5	35	29.2
Financial assistance for fish farming	31	25.8	15	12.5	34	28.3	3	2.5	37	30.8
Subsidy for small boats	22	18.3	12	10.0	33	27.5	4	3.3	49	40.8
Subsidy for buying engine	25	20.8	15	12.5	42	35.0	3	2.5	35	29.2
Entrepreneurship training for fishermen and women to start business in the same field	34	28.3	15	12.5	31	25.8	1	8	39	32.5
Training of fishermen to improve their fishing activities	31	25.8	13	10.8	40	33.3	1	8	35	29.2
Relief amount to the family on the natural accidental death of the fisherman	23	19.2	13	10.8	34	28.3	7	5.8	43	35.8
Relief amount to the family after the declaration by the government for the missing fishermen in the sea	28	23.3	15	12.5	35	29.2	1	8	41	34.2



**Chart 4.1.16 Government for improvement in the livelihood of fishermen**

#### INTERPRETATION:

- From the above table its interpreted that 33.3% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 15.8% have chosen for fair, 17.5% have chosen good, 5.0% have chosen very good for financial support for ban period.
- From the above table its interpreted that 15.0% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 7.5% have chosen for fair, 35.8% have chosen good, 1.7% have chosen very good for financial support for lean period.
- From the above table its interpreted that 25.8% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 9.2% have chosen for fair, 30.8% have chosen good, 5.8% have chosen very good for old age pension to fishermen.
- From the above table its interpreted that 28.3% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 10.8% have chosen for fair, 29.2% have chosen good, 0.8% have chosen very good for educational assistance fishermen's children studying from 10<sup>th</sup> to graduation.
- From the above table its interpreted that 25.0% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 10.0% have chosen for fair, 30.8% have chosen good, 5.0% have chosen very good for financial assistance for daughters and son's marriage.
- From the above table its interpreted that 22.5% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 6.7% have chosen for fair, 34.2% have chosen good, 3.3% have chosen very good for cash award meritorious fishermen students.
- From the above table its interpreted that 28.3% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 11.7% have chosen for fair, 30.0% have chosen good, 3.3% have chosen very good for scholarship for higher education.
- From the above table its interpreted that 20.8% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 9.2% have chosen for fair, 35.0% have chosen good, 1.7% have chosen very good for financial assistance for fisherwomen for maternity.
- From the above table its interpreted that 24.2% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 12.5% have chosen for fair, 31.7% have chosen good, 2.5% have chosen very good for strengthening of fisheries co-operative institutions.
- From the above table its interpreted that 25.8% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 12.5% have chosen for fair, 28.3% have chosen good, 2.5% have chosen very good for financial assistance for fish farming.



- From the above table its interpreted that 18.3% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 10.0% have chosen for fair, 27.5% have chosen good, 3.3% have chosen very good for subsidy for small boats.
- From the above table its interpreted that 20.8% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 12.5% have chosen for fair, 35.0% have chosen good, 2.5% have chosen very good for subsidy for buying engine.
- From the above table its interpreted that 28.3% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 12.5% have chosen for fair, 25.8% have chosen good, 0.8% have chosen very good for entrepreneurship training for fishermen and women to start business in the same field [fishing].
- From the above table its interpreted that 25.8% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 10.8% have chosen for fair, 33.3% have chosen good, 0.8% have chosen very good for training of fishermen to improve their fishing activities.
- From the above table its interpreted that 19.2% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 10.8% have chosen for fair, 28.3% have chosen good, 5.8% have chosen very good for relief amount to the family natural accidental death of the fishermen.
- From the above table its interpreted that 23.3% of the respondents have chosen excellent, 12.5% have chosen for fair, 29.2% have chosen good, 0.8% have chosen very good for relief amount to the family after the declaration by the government for the missing fishermen in the sea.

#### INFERENCE:

- Majority 33.3% of the respondents have chosen excellent for financial support for ban period.
- Majority 35.8% of the respondents have chosen good for financial support for lean period.
- Majority 30.8% of the respondents have chosen good for old age pension to fishermen.
- Majority 29.2% of the respondents have chosen good for educational assistance fishermen's children studying from 10<sup>th</sup> to graduation.
- Majority 30.8% of the respondents have chosen good for financial assistance for daughters and son's marriage.
- Majority 34.2% of the respondents have chosen good for cash award meritorious fishermen students.
- Majority 30.0% of the respondents have chosen good for scholarship for higher education.
- Majority 35.0% of the respondents have chosen good for financial assistance for fisherwomen for maternity.
- Majority 31.7% of the respondents have chosen good for strengthening of fisheries co-operative institutions.
- Majority 28.3% of the respondents have chosen good for financial assistance for fish farming.
- Majority 27.5% of the respondents have chosen good for subsidy for small boats.
- Majority 35.0% of the respondents have chosen good for subsidy for buying engine.
- Majority 28.3% of the respondents have chosen excellent for entrepreneurship training for fishermen and women to start business in the same field [fishing].
- Majority 33.3% of the respondents have chosen good for training of fishermen to improve their fishing activities.
- Majority 28.3% of the respondents have chosen good for relief amount to the family natural accidental death of the fishermen.
- Majority 29.2% of the respondents have chosen good for relief amount to the family after the declaration by the government for the missing fishermen in the sea.

## CHI SQUARE TEST

### Age of the respondents VS

Rate the schemes by the government for improvement in the livelihood of fishermen [cash award to meritorious fishermen students]

**H<sub>0</sub> (Null hypothesis)** = There is no significant relationship between age of the respondents and the rate the schemes by the government for improvement in the livelihood of fishermen [cash award to meritorious fishermen students]

**H<sub>1</sub> (Alternate hypothesis)** = There is a significant relationship between age of the respondents and the rate the schemes by the government for improvement in the livelihood of fishermen [cash award to meritorious fishermen students]

### 3. Age \* 17. Rate the schemes by the govt for improvement in the livelihood of fishermen [Cash award to meritorious fishermen students] Crosstabulation

Expected Count

		17. Rate the schemes by the govt for improvement in the livelihood of fishermen [Cash award to meritorious fishermen students]					Total
		Excellent	Fair	Good	Poor	Very good	
3. Age	28-38 years	6.3	1.9	9.6	.9	9.3	28.0
	38-48 years	2.5	.7	3.8	.4	3.7	11.0
	48-58 years	3.8	1.1	5.8	.6	5.7	17.0
	58 and above	2.7	.8	4.1	.4	4.0	12.0
	below 28	11.7	3.5	17.8	1.7	17.3	52.0
Total		27.0	8.0	41.0	4.0	40.0	120.0

### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	36.795 <sup>a</sup>	16	.002
Likelihood Ratio	35.113	16	.004
N of Valid Cases	120		

a. 17 cells (68.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .37.

At 5% level of significance and df (16) the table value is 36.795  
Calculated value = 0.37

Significance value ( $p=0.005$ ) < calculated value

H<sub>0</sub> is accepted.

### INFERENCE:

The results of the "Pearson Chi-Square" say that  $\chi^2(16) = 36.795$ ,  $p = 0.37$ . This tells us that there is a statistically significant association between age of the respondents and the rate the schemes by the government for improvement in the livelihood of fishermen [cash award to meritorious fishermen students]

## SUGGESTION

- To provide life insurance.
- To provide construct a helipad in our district it's highly needed in fisherman society.
- To increase the number of graduates in the fisheries.
- To provide fishing equipment's.
- By introducing new schemes to fishermen which are more beneficial for them.
- Providing boat loans.
- To safe guard the fisherman while going for fishing.

## CONCLUSION

The objective of this paper was to provide a timely and indicative global overview of the impacts of covid-19 on fisheries as well as to share examples of good practice and collate suggestions for interventions that may inform and guide the development of mitigation measures. This was achieved through prompt responses to questionnaires distributed to the fishermen's working in Kanyakumari district.

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