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SOCIO –ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF FISHREMEN IN NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Fishery is one of the oldest traditional industries of the world and has a long history of the past. About 8,000, years ago people lived in the north of the Liberian peninsula enjoyed a diet that included mollusks. The present study analysis the project was undertaken to study the economic conditions of fishermen families in Nagapattinam. The data used for executing the project, are Bothe primary and secondary data. The objectives are: To trace out the growth and development of fishing along this coastal area. To analyze socio-economic background of the marine fisher men. And To suggest appropriate measures for improving the fishermen living conditions. From the overall picture of workers participation, majority (95.8 Per cent) of the respondents work on full time basis. From the workings hours of the respondents, majority (57.2 Per cent) of the respondents work for 17-24 hours per week. Majority (64.2 Per cent) of the respondents have work for 1-3 days per week. Majority (73.4 Per cent) of the respondents have insured their boat. It is suggested that This village people has only the middle school education. They havenot got to not even library facilities. That the government must takesteps to upgrade the middle school into high school and start to privatelibrary, facilitiesfortheconvenienceofthefisherfolkandtheirgeneration. The economic status of fishermen also not very high because they ownsmaller assets, they got very low income. It is concluded that Fishermen play an important role in the economy of Tamil Nadu. More number of people get employment opportunity in fishing industry. The government of Tamil Nadu has been provided free housing facilities to the fishermen families. New methods (or) models of fishing vessels may be introduced for the fishermen to earn more profit. The socio economic conditions of the fishermen have to be improved.

[Key words: Fisheries, Tsunami, Climate, programmes]

INTRODUCTION

Fishery is one of the oldest traditional industries of the world and has a long history of the past. About 8,000, years ago people lived in the north of the Liberian peninsula enjoyed a diet that included mollusks. Fishing has therefore probably become a specialized activity at an early period.

TAMIL NADU FISHERIES

Tamil Nadu has a long and glorious traditional of maritime activity. Thus maritime activity had played a significant role in the socio-economic and cultural greatness of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is endowed with a long coastal length of 1000 km. extending from Madras to Kanniyakumari with 359 fish landing centers located on the coast line of eight districts viz. Madras, Chengalpattu, South Arcot, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts aligned with a number of fish landing centers. Among the diversities of fishes lunched varieties like prawns and crabs are in great demand in other countries, whereas fishes and other products are exported regularly to foreign countries and earning substantial foreign exchange. Fishing industry plays an important role in the economy of Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has the second largest coast line (length upto 1,000 kilometers) only next to Gujarat. Viewed in terms of the contribution made by fisheries sector to state income, the performance of fisheries sector is quite disappointing in recent times. The relative share of fishing activity to state income in real terms was on an average found to be 0.91 per cent during 1970s. But this has gone down steeply to 0.52 per cent in 1980s.

The total fishermen population during the year 2000 was 5.22 lakh they lived in 422 coastal villages. In fishing operating both traditional and mechanized boats were engaged. The marine fish production was 35,889 tones in the year 1993; it increased to 45,254 tones in the year 1996. During the year 2001 the production was 42,000 tones and Tamil Nadu ranked fourth among the marine fish harvesting states in India.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study analysis the project was undertaken to study the economic conditions of fishermen families in Nagapattinam. The data used for executing the project, are Bothe primary and secondary data. For collecting primary data from the respondents through the questionnaire a specially designed interview schedule was prepared and information was gathered through the direct interview.

The objectives are:

- 1) To trace out the growth and development of fishing along this coastal area.
- 2) To analyze socio-economic background of the marine fisher men.
- 3) To suggest appropriate measures for improving the fishermen living conditions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. The present study is proposed to conduct research in the field of fishermen in Nagapattinam. The studies mainly depend upon primary data. Primary data are collated from the selected sample respondent in the study area based on interview schedule. To analyse the collected data there will be statistical techniques and models have to be employed. To elucidate the research work an appropriate analysis also has to be done with necessary data from the field.

SATISFACTION ON BENEFITS

SI.NO	SATISFACTION ON BENEFITS	MEAN SCORE	RANK
1	Government communication or weather report	2.49	10
2	Climate change effect on fish production	2.37	11
3	Sea level rise effect on fish production	2.80	9
4	Environmental change on fish sold effect on market	2.85	3
5	Are you supported to government subsidizing	3.14	1
6	Are you satisfied with the government side?	2.84	6
7	The climate change effect on fish catching	2.16	12
8	Communication and information device	2.80	7
9	Are you member of the fishermen co-operative society?	2.88	2
10	benefits covered by the fishermen co-operative society	2.85	4
11	Marketing price variation	2.85	5
12	Fishing cold storage facility provided by the fisheries dept	2.80	8

METHOD OF FISHING OF THE RESPONDENTS

S.NO	Status in fishing	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Mechanized	18	36
2	Catamaran	-	-
3	Labour	32	64
	Total	50	100

Sources: primary data

The table shows about the fishing status of the respondents. Among the total samples above 64% of fisherman are labour, 36% of fisherman are mechanized in the study area.

AVAILABLE OF MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE RESPONDENTS

S.NO	Medical facilities	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Government hospital	36	72
2	Private hospital	14	28
	Total	50	100

Sources: primary data

This table depicts those medical facilities of sample families. Among the total sample families 72% of fishermen are get the government hospital, 14% of fishermen are get the private hospital.

SUMMARY

- ❖ The sample size of the 500 respondents consists of (29.8 Per cent) of the respondents belonging to 21-40 years of age group.
- ❖ From the gender wise analysis, it is found that the majority (72.4 Per cent) of the respondents are males.
- ❖ From the overall picture of workers participation, majority (95.8 Per cent) of the respondents work on full time basis.
- ❖ From the workings hours of the respondents, majority (57.2 Per cent) of the respondents work for 17-24 hours per week.
- ❖ Majority (64.2 Per cent) of the respondents have work for 1-3 days per week.
- ❖ Majority (73.4 Per cent) of the respondents have insured their boat.
- ❖ Concluded that majority (73.4 Per cent) of the respondents use the boat for their own use. Deals with the 74.6 per cent of the respondent's using 1-2 boat for their own use, and followed by 14.2 per cent using 3-4

boats for their own use. Thus it is concluded that majority of the respondents use 1-2 boats for their own use.

- ❖ Majority (74.6 Per cent) of the respondents use 1-2 boats for their own use.
- ❖ Most (36.6 Per cent) of the respondents have 15-20 years of experience in the field..
- ❖ Majority (74 Per cent) of the respondents reported low effect on oil price.
- ❖ Most (46.8 Per cent) of the respondents reported that the village committee fix the price. From the analysis fish market status the majority (64 Per cent) of the respondents sell the fish in private market.

SUGGESTIONS

- This village people has only the middle school education. They havenot got to not even library facilities. That the government must takesteps to upgrade the middle school into high school and start to privatelibrary, facilitiesfortheconvenienceofthefisherfolkandtheirgeneration.
- The economic status of fishermen also not very high because they ownsmaller assets, they got very low income.
- Thewelfareassociationforfishermenshouldrecognizedbythegovernment.
- Government can make arrangement for the easy availability of creditfacilitiestothe fishermen.

CONCLUSION

Fishermen play an important role in the economy of Tamil Nadu. More number of people get employment opportunity in fishing industry. The government of Tamil Nadu has been provided free housing facilities to the fishermen families. New methods (or) models of fishing vessels may be introduced for the fishermen to earn more profit. The socio economic conditions of the fishermen have to be improved.

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