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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE PATTERN AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF FISHERMEN IN KARAIKAL REGIN

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ABSTRACT

Fisheries sector occupies a important place in the socio-economic development of the country. The recent technological innovations in marine fishing have not shown much impact on the living conditions of fishermen and they are still socially and economically backward. Fish workers, particularly in the fishing communities are the most disadvantaged group. They placed in a very low status in the society. The present research aims at the income and expenditure pattern and its impact on socio economic status of marine fish workers in karaikal region. The study has been conducted by using technique like average, multiple regression used to measure the impact of fishermen's socio-economic status with their income and expenditure pattern. From the analyses the result shows that, the income from fish catching is a major source followed by land income, livestock income and other sources like salary, rent, business of the fish workers. The study concludes that all the fishermens' expenditure largely spent on education of their children.

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INTRODUCTION

Fisheries sector occupies a very important place in the socio-economic development of the country. It has been recognized as a powerful income and employment generator as it stimulates growth of a number of subsidiary industries and is a source of cheap and nutritious food, besides emerging as an important item in export trade. This sector is thus an important source of livelihood for a large section of economically backward population of the country, particularly in coastal areas. Fishery Sector has become a energetic sector enriched with a source of livelihood for generating employment to a large extent of the society as well as sharing for national food security and valuable foreign exchange earnings. Under marine sector, coastal fisheries in many parts of the country having reached a saturation level, unexploited potential which lies in the deep sea has to be tapped up by adopting diversified method of fishing, by implementation of code of conduct for responsible fishery (CCRF), observance of closed season in the east & west coast etc., It is imperative to modernize the sector with diversified method of fishing with various new components related to exploitation of deep sea oceanic fishery resources, sea safety measures, insuring of fishing fleets etc., to ensure availability of fish in prime condition to the consumers and fishing industry. Sea weed culture, Mud crab fattening is also proposed to be taken up. Artificial Reef for improving livelihood security of Fishermen by resource enhancement is introduced. The recent technological innovations in marine fishing have not shown much impact on the living conditions of fishermen and they are still socially

and economically backward. Economic uplift of the fishermen mainly depends on the growth and development of fisheries sector. Hence, location oriented and resource based developmental schemes are required to be implemented for each region which would help in area planning for socio-economic improvement of fishermen. The objects under fisheries sector is to augment marine, freshwater and brackishwater fishery production and also for uplifting the socio-economic status of the fisher-folk with due focus on safeguarding their interest by conserving the marine, inland and brackish water resources on sustainable basis.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Fishing workers, particularly in the fishing communities are the most disadvantaged group. They have a very low status in the society. There are about one lakhs fishermen in Pondicherry now, of which only about 17,000 are productively employed in fishing related activities. In Karaikal, one of the important maritime districts of Pondicherry the fishing workers are busily engaged in all the shore-based activities like sorting, weighing, salting, drying, marketing, etc. However, their economic activities often go unnoticed. Here there is no scientific and extensive study on the economic activities and income – expenditure pattern of fishing workers. Hence a research is essential inevitably to prepare out the socio economic on income and expenditure of fishermen living along the coastal line villages. It will throw light on their real contribution for economic development. This will also pave the way for proper compensation for their activities through suitable policy measures. The present research aims at studying the socio-economic condition and income and expenditure pattern of marine fishing workers in karaikal regin.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the important objectives of the study:

- To study the socio economic profile of the marine fisherman in karaikal
- To examine their income and expenditure pattern of fishing workers in study area.
- To evaluate the socio economic factors which influence the income and expenditure of marine fisherman families in karaikal.

METHODOLOGY

This study covers a period of one year from April 2016 to March 2017. The present research has considered karaikal as the study area since it is a major port city of east coast of India and one of the important district from four districts of the Union Territory of Puducherry in India. The prominent source of income of this district is agriculture and fishing. Karaikal is a coastal town with a total coastline of 26 kilometres (16 miles). Their main employment is fishing, exporting and fishing related activities. There are 10 big fishing hamlets and around more than 11000 fishermen (3,077 families) are living in these coastal villages. As far as the present study is concerned, the investigator has proposed to collect the data required, by adopting stratified percentage sampling technique. The total respondents belong to the traditional sector, which includes mechanized boats and fiber boats. The total fishing laborers are 11,294 in these villages.

The researcher has been sample fishermen from these villages on the basis of percentage to total Fisher-folk population and the total number of sample respondents is 150 from 10 villages in karaikal. The data collected from these sample respondents has been carefully processed, edited and tabulated for analytical purposes. The required primary data has been collected from the selected households with the help of a comprehensive, pre-tested enquiry schedule, through personal interview method. For this, the study has adopted average, multiple regression used to measure the impact of fishermen's socio-economic status with their income and expenditure pattern.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Personal factors of the respondents

Majority of respondents (53%) age is 40 years to 55 years followed by the age group 25 years to 40 years and only 5% of the respondents' age is below 25 years. Majority of the respondents (85%) are married. Majority of the respondents are uneducated and very few respondents are educated persons.

Social factors of the respondents

Majority of the fisherman are belongs to Most Backward Community and only few fishermen's are belongs to other Community who do not under BC, MBC and SC/ST community. 66% of the respondents have 3 to five members in a family and 22% of the respondents have upto 2 persons in a family. Majority of the respondents are living in nuclear family. Most of the respondents have 20-30 years experience in fishing activities followed by above 35 years experience. Majority of families only 1 person involved in fish catching works and 27 % of respondents' family two persons involved in these activities Majority of the respondents are involved in some social activities.

Economic factors of the respondents

60 % of the fishermen have below 1 acre land followed by 30% of respondents have 30 % have 1-3 acre land and remaining 10 % have more than 3 acre land. Majority of the fishermen have `. 50,000 to 2,00,000 as their total asset value. Few fishermen have above `. 5,00,000 as their asset value. 52 % of the respondents are invested `. 50,000 and only 2 % of the respondents have invested above `. 5,00,000 for various purpose.

Sources of Income of the fishermen families

Collecting information concerning the income earned from all sources is important pre-requisite to analyse the income and consumption pattern of the respondents. Therefore, to get a accurate idea about the income of the respondents, it is essential to embrace the income from all sources. The following table presents the gross income from various sources of the respondents.

Income from various Sources

From the table it concludes that all the fishermen getting income from fish catching activities.

Independent Variables	Attributes	No of respondents	%
Age	Below 25 years	7	5
	25 – 40 years	45	30
	40- 55 years	80	53
	Above 55 years	18	12
Marital status	Married	128	85
	Unmarried	22	15
Education	Uneducated	112	75
	School level	20	13
	Degree level	18	12
	Professional	0	0

Source: Primary data

Independent Variables	Attributes	No of respondents	%
Caste	OC	3	2
	BC	38	25
	MBC	82	55
	SC/ST	27	18
Family size	Upto 2	33	22
	2- 5	99	66
	5- 7	11	7
	Above 7	7	5
Family type	Nuclear	108	72
	Joint	42	28
Fish farming experience	Below 10 years	15	10
	10- 20 years	38	25
	20 – 30 years	52	35
	Above 30 years	45	30
Persons involved in fishing activities in family	1	80	53
	2	40	27
	3	20	13
	4	10	7
Social participation	Yes	108	72
	No	42	28

Source: Primary data

Independent Variables	Attributes	No of respondents	%
Size of land holding	0- 1 acre	90	60
	1- 3 acre	45	30
	Above 3 acre	15	10
Total asset hold (`.)	Below 50, 000	42	28
	50,000 – 2,00,000	78	52
	2,00,000- 5,00,000	21	14
	Above 5,00,000	9	6
Total investment value (`.)	Below 50, 000	78	52
	50,000 – 2,00,000	48	32
	2,00,000- 5,00,000	21	14
	Above 5,00,000	3	2

Source: Primary data

Income sources (`.)			t-test value (p-value)	Result
	Mean	SD		
Fish Catching	2791.33	1320.66	1.912 (.057)	Reject H1
Livestock	1313.33	1407.73	-1.538 (.125)	Reject H1
Land income	1143.33	306.18	.729 (.467)	Reject H1
Other sources	1186.67	592.31	3.455 (.001)	Accept H1
Total income	6434.67	1608.57	.697 (.487)	Reject H1

Source: Primary data

R=.0.818[a]	Coefficients	Constant	Socio-economic factors (independent variables)				
			Fish farming experience	No of persons involved in fishing activities in family	Total asset hold (`.)	Size of land holding	Total investment value (`.)
R^2. 0.675	β	4.467***	0.226***	0.200***	0.033	0.174**3.15	0.051
Sig=.000[a]	t-value	4.163	4.259	3.885	0.661	0	0.953
F=26.269	Std.Error	1.073	0.053	0.052	0.050	0.055	0.053
	Sig	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.509	0.002	0.341

a. Dependent Variable: Total income ***significant at1%, **significant at5%, *significant at10%.

Expenditure (`.)			t-test value (p-value)	Result
	Mean	SD		
Food	760.27	652.82	-2.004(.046))	AcceptH1
Cloth	527.33	360.82	-1.855(.065)	AcceptH1
Education	1052.67	962.08	-2.879 (.004)	AcceptH1
Health	157.33	271.61	-2.520(.012)	AcceptH1
Household management	280.07	142.51	-7.302(.000)	AcceptH1
Total expenditure	2,777.67	477.968	-3.904 .000)	AcceptH1

Source: Primary data

R=.0.718[a]	Coefficients	Constant	Socio-economic factors (independent variables)				
			Fish farming experience	No of persons involved in fishing activities in family	Total asset hold (`.)	Size of land holding	Total investment value (`.)
R^2. 0.5155	β	5.317***	.134**	.016	.096 *	.019	.284***
Sig=.000[a]	t-value	4.439	2.359	.303	1.786	.336	4.842
F=36.229	Std. Error	1.198	0.057	0.051	0.054	0.058	0.059
	Sig	0.000	0.009	0.762	0.075	0.737	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Total expenditure ***significant at1%, **significant at5%, *significant at10%.

So that their main income source is fishing activities. All the respondents are more or less same income from fish catching, livestock and land. But their income differs from other sources like salary, rent, business and interest etc.,

Impact of socio economic factors on total income of the fishermen Model summary and Coefficients

Table above shows the multiple regression with total income of fishermen [F=26.269, (P<0.001)], indicates that there was a relationship total income with Fish farming experience, Number of persons involved in fishing activities in family and Size of land holding . All explained variables together shows only 67% of variability with total income, which is very high (i.e. other unknown variables explain by 33% with total income). The result of regression equation is given below.

Total income of fishermen's family = 4.467 +.226 *Fish farming experience + 0.200 * Number of persons involved in fishing activities +0.033* Total asset hold + 0.174 * Size of land holding +.051 *Total investment value.

Expenditure pattern of the fishermen family

From the table it concludes that all the fishermen expenditure on education is more than other all expenditure. All the respondents are differed from their expenditure on food, cloth, education, health and household management like electricity, rent, furniture and water etc.,

Impact of socio economic factors on expenditure of the fishermen

Model summary and Coefficients

Table above shows the multiple regression with total expenditure of fishermen [F=36.229, (P<0.001)], indicates that there was a relationship total expenditure with Fish farming experience, Number of persons involved in fishing activities in family and Size of land holding . All explained variables together shows only 52% of variability with total expenditure, which is high (i.e. other unknown variables explain by 48 % with total income). The result of regression equation is given below.

Total expenditure of fishermen's family = 5.317+.134 *Fish farming experience + .016

* Number of persons involved in fishing activities +0.096* Total asset hold + 0.019 * Size of land holding +. 284 *Total investment value.

Conclusion

The above analysis concludes that, the income from fish catching is a major source of income followed by land income, livestock income and other sources like salary, rent, business of the fishing workers. There are less income inequalities among the different categories income sources of fishermen. The income of the fishing workers' households could be improved by increasing the number of earners in the family, the level of employment, growing livestock and the value of productive assets. It concludes that all the fishermen expenditure on education is more than other all expenditure. Different fishermen family have differed from their expenditure on food, cloth, education, health and household management like electricity, rent, furniture and water etc., their expenditure pattern mostly influenced by their total investment value. So if they should improve their investment value in different assets for improving their standard of life. The Government policies and programmes should be concerned with towards education, health care, nutrition of fishermen households, and educational and economic empowerment of fishermen family. As the fishermen spend whatever they earn, the government shall insist on enforced small savings on the part of fishermen while marketing the fish. The Government should provide fishermen with credit and subsidies through relaxed procedures to enlarge their boats, encourage more labour rigorous fishing technology and fish dispensation.

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