



Full Length Research Article

**COMPARATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF FISHERS OF TWO DIFFERENT VILLAGE IN
(PAZHAVERKADU) PULICAT LAKE AREAS OF TAMILNADU**

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ABSTRACT

Comparatively Socioeconomic Status (SES) Analysis of fisher's in two different village at Pulicat Coast. Vairavankuppam village shows the high degree of economic development as well as technologies in fishing crafts and gears, Literacy percentage, group activities, Women Participation and Child education was higher, when compare to the village of Vairavankuppam South. The result shows lack of awareness and low risk factor were taken by the Vairavankuppam South Village.

Key words:

SES,
Pulicat Village

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INTRODUCTION

Fishery is the oldest and most important livelihood option for the inhabitants of the coastal line of the country since times immemorial. This natural resource along with the marine environment has been the custodian of livelihood security of the coastal populace (Thirunavukarasu *et al.*, 2011). The web of life of the coastal community is woven around it, be it festivals, weddings or even death, the community is intricately related to the natural marine resource. Socioeconomic status (SES) is often measured as a combination of education, income, and occupation. It is commonly conceptualized as the social standing or class of an individual or group. When viewed through a social class lens, privilege, power, and control are emphasized. Furthermore, an examination of SES as a gradient or continuous variable reveals inequities in access to and distribution of resources. SES is relevant to all realms of behavioral and social science, including research, practice, education, and advocacy. Low SES and its correlates, such as lower education, poverty, and poor health, ultimately

affect our society as a whole. Inequities in wealth distribution, resource distribution, and quality of life are increasing in the globally. Society benefits from an increased focus on the foundations of socioeconomic inequities and efforts to reduce the deep gaps in socioeconomic status in the abroad. These relate to the distribution of benefits, especially with respect to the relative role of artisanal and larger-scale fishery operations, and to the fundamental question of sustainability (Reynolds *et al.*, 1988). Behavioral and other social science professionals possess the tools necessary to study and identify strategies that could alleviate these disparities at both individual and societal levels. The objectives of the present study is to identify and comparison of the socio-economic characteristics of two fishing villages in Pulicat.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

Pulicat lake is the second largest brackish water lake in India. It is located between 13°26' and 13°43'N latitude and 80°03' and 80°18'E longitudes, with its narrow opening into the Bay of Bengal through the south-eastern margin near the Pulicat town which is located 40 km north of Chennai city by sea.

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The present study is an attempt to examine the occupation, socio economic status of fishermen, women and child at the fishers in two village. These villages were chosen at random to emphasize the study of the role of men and women in communities primarily engaged in fishing and other activity. In this survey a large number of men, women and child were interviewed in all the two villages and an attempt was made to cover most of the fishermen in all the two villages (Madhumita *et al.*, 2011). Group discussions were held using many objects and topics like their professional occupation creative activities, compulsory activities, financial securities, health care, education, housing, etc. were discussed at length.

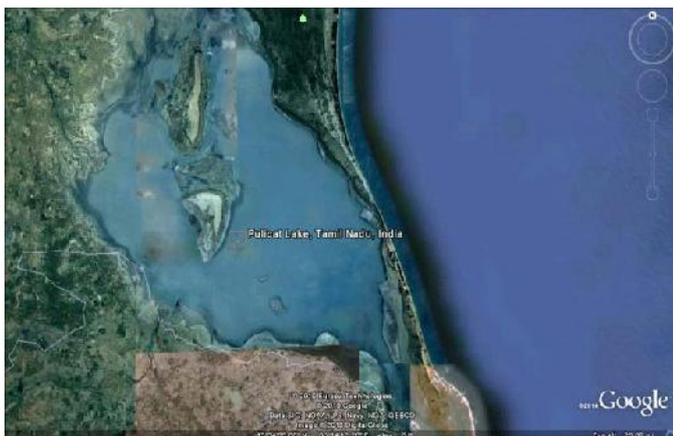


Fig. 1. Shows the Pulicat Lake. Source: Google Earth

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Case Study 1: Vairavankuppam South

Vairavankuppam South village is situated in Pazhaverkadu (Pulicat Lake) near 1.5 km southern part of Light house having 50 families all of whom are fishermen. They are a “Parayar” group of fisherman community, having a title of “Gramathar” same type of profession ie.fishing.

Economic Status

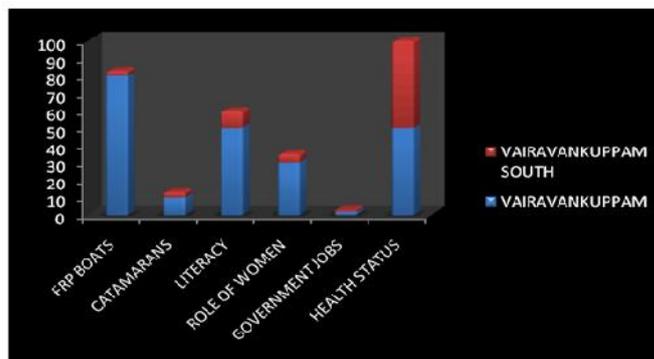
Only 3 FRP Boats and 3 small catamarans are available for fishing in this village. Each boat have 4 or 5 fishermen need to do the fishing in FRP Boats. Therefore 10-15 fishermen only depend on their village fishing Boats. Other fishermen having the labor fishing job for their nearest village Vairavankuppam. Some of young fishermen went to the Contract job in Ennore Port, Vallur Electric power station and L & T Shipping Yard is present in Ennore. Only one person is working police constable that means he is the only person as Government Servants.

Role of Women

in this village only 5 % of women folks directly take part in money earning activities and most of them have not attended school, some of them have attend only primary level. They spend about 8 – 12 hours doing household jobs including works like cleaning the house, Dry fish making, and gardening.

Literacy

The Children in Vairavankuppam south village prefer to do study up to school level. Only one person completed in Under Graduate Degree and 2 people were completed in Technical Education after the High school. Parents won’t allow their children for professional training course and higher education for their poor income.



Graph 1. Shows the comparison the socioeconomic status about the two different villages

CASE 2-Vairavakuppam Village

Vairavankuppam village is situated in Pazhaverkadu (Pulicat Lake) near 1.5 km southern part of Light house having 215 families all of whom are fishermen. It seemed from the interview that the relationship among the different families is much closed. They are a Pattinavar group of fisherman community, having a title Chettiar and mudhaliar same type of profession.

Economic Status

in this village 80 FRP Boats and 10 small catamarans are available for fishing in this village. Each boat have 4 or 5 fishermen need to do the fishing in FRP Boats. Most of the Fishermen having their own boats for fishing .Other fishermen having the labor fishing job for their nearest village Vairavankuppam. Some of young fishermen went to the Contract job in Ennore Port, Vallur Electric power station and L & T Shipping Yard is present in Ennore. Two person was working in TNEB as a Government servants.

Role of Women

in this village 30%of women folks directly take part in money earning activities and most of them have attended school up to secondary level, 2 fisherwomen involved in trading the fish for buying and selling their product from Pulicat to Chennai Royapuram Landing centre and 3 (widow) fisherwomen involved in auctioning of fishing in the Pulicat landing centre. Fisherwomen were allowed and accept to work by different nearby companies. previously it’s not accepted to do work in other places like companies and garments by the head of the family (fishermen). More than 30 women in this village were gone to Export company by places like near pulicat (pazhaverkadu bazaar), Ponneri, Redhills and Ambattur in the contract basis salary. Vehicles (van) are arranged by the contract person for pick up and drop in their village itself.

Their salary is based on the educational qualification and working experience. They earning upto 3000-6500 per month.

Literacy

The Children in Vairavankuppam village prefer to do study in Govt school and equally in Private (Matriculation).5 person completed in Post Graduate, 5 person completed in Under graduate, and 7 person were completed in Diploma (Technical) education like Mechanical Engineer and Electrical Engineer.2 person were completed Marine Engineering, 8 children were studying in various college. Parents allowed their children for higher education for different places in Chennai and other state also. Women child also encourage for higher education in this village. some of them got the loan from nationalized bank for their higher education.

Health Condition

There is a report of one ovarian cancer, 1-5 person were operated in appendices diseases, Generally the health condition of people is good.

Comparison and Conclusion

After studying the social background and occupational advantages as well as the disadvantages of the two different villages it seems that the socio-economy of the fishermen of Gramathar (Vairavankuppam South) are below that of Pattinavar (Vairavankuppam) village. The reason for not having the adequate FRP Boats in Vairavankuppam South village is they were not taking the high risk for maintaining the Boats and Fishing. Maintenance of Boats and upgrading of fishing gears is very difficult for them. But comparatively Vairavankuppam fishermen take high risk and earning more money for their upgrading and improving the fishing technologies in advance. Although 82% of the fishermen in Bangladesh have are owners of their gear and craft, the study revealed that there was nevertheless a high degree of poverty among them. There is also a high degree of inequality in the distribution of household incomes. It is estimated that about 39% of the households during 1989–90 were below the poverty line. Lack of proper craft-gear combinations to take up fishing as an economically viable occupation round the year may be the major reason for the high incidence of poverty among fisher folk. Natural disasters, low catch rates and lack of sufficient supplementary income-generating activities also contribute to this sad state of affairs. (FAO, 1994). It has been noted that the women of Vairavankuppam Village involved in job, business and they have the additional advantage that they earn money by Auctioning, stitching clothes, sea food pickle making and Chit fund. They are economically independent when compared to the women of Vairavankuppam South.

The educational status of vairavankuppam village also better for than Vairavankuppam South, very few of them was noted who has reached a level of School. It shows they were not aware about the government schemes for higher education for their children. The festivals celebrated are also different among the two groups. But the two village people join together for their celebration of village festival. One common problem shared by the women as well as children of the two villages is that men in the evening become intoxicated after consuming alcohol. Other common problems were shared by the village people is cleanliness about their village. The panchayat are not concentrated about the garbage and waste. However, there is common occurrence of skin diseases and intestinal worms. Due to presence of sufficient quantity of vegetable in their daily diet there is very little vitamin deficiency symptom. The Vairavankuppam south village has yet received very little aid from the Government agencies and undergone very little modification of financial upliftment. Vairavankuppam village have the more self help group in both men and women. Currently they receiving the fund from the Government agencies by self help group for infrastructure development like Cold storage units, Ice-factory, etc. Generally the health condition of two villages is good. The government jobs of both village is very poor. the participation of women role in village of Vairavankuppam south is very less, Over all the Vairavankuppam village showed a comparatively better literary percentage and they are economically more independent and get the advantages of both village and city life.

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