Study on Income and Expenditure of Inland Fishermen in Theni Province, India

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Abstract

In present study attempts has been made to assess the present household income and expenses of inland fishermen in Theni province, India. In Present investigations, 140 respondents were selected and assessed their household socio economic condition, employment, income, and saving with predesigned interview schedule through simple random sampling technique. This study discovered, majority of fishers (about 80%) has having education includes primary education and fishing dominantly by middle age group fishers (60%) with work experience of 10 years, but only 24% were participated in the training programme. The unemployment was found to lower of 31% in fishing as compared to non-fishing (41%) and fishing related activities (75%). Hence, these indicates that, there is scope for amplify the inland fishing per providing appropriate training programme to patronize the social profile. At the same time, the non-fishing activities like agriculture has inevitable role in livelihood and generating higher economic returns when it compared to fishing and fishing related activates. While presenting consumption pattern, education was accounted higher percentage than food, social ceremonies, cloths, health, transport etc, the excess amount was saved in institutional and non-institutional organization.

Keywords: Socio-economics, livelihood, employment, consumption, savings, fishermen, India

Inland fish production is presenting nutritional food to fastest growing world population. It provides income, employment, livelihood who works in the fisheries field, fishing related activities and ion particular fishermen. In 2013-14, India's inland fish production was about 6 million tones with growth rate of 7.3%. Fishermen constitute the primary stakeholder group on whose capacity and disposition to toil and labour depend upon the prospect of fishing industry considerably. The assumption is that given the proper socio-economic, environmental and institutional frameworks, fisheries can contribute significantly to the household income and provide a way out of poverty for a significant section in India. However, the absence of integrated policies or management approach in sectors such as water resources in majority of developing countries including India, limits diversification of livelihoods.

Non-availability of sufficient and reliable secondary data was noticed. Therefore, present study was conducted to identify a significant of fisheries in this district and fulfil the existing a wide data gap with few specific objectives. The specific objectives are (i) to assess the demographic characteristics, (ii) to ascertain the pattern of employment and (iii) to calculate the income and expenditure of inland fishermen of Theni province, India.

Database and Methodology

The present study was performed to assess the socio economic status of inland fishermen in Theni province, India. The primary and secondary data were employed. The primary data was collected from 140 respondents (Andipatti, Bodi, Cumbum, Kullapuram, Periyakulam,

Theni, Vaigai- 20 respondent from each study locality) with predesigned interview schedule by simple random sampling. Secondary data sourced the published data from the Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu. The percentage analysis and tabular analysis were done in Microsoft office 2010.

Results and Discussion

Socio economic characteristics of inland fishers from Theni province are presented in table 1. This showed that, male population was higher of 54% than female population of 46%. From the households, larger respondents (31.56%) were beneath in the age group 35 to 59, but male fallen beneath in the age group of 16-34 and female 35-59 age group. The gender ratio was found to be disproportionate in all age group. But to a great extent, the small size of family was found to be having higher of 51% than medium size family (49%) but no large family. Suja Beegum (2006) stated that, the size of households is an important factor in the fishing community. This also aids to better stand the economic wellbeing of the family.

Sampled all respondent were fishing as a primary work, from them, 86% engaged in agricultural (73% in agriculture and 13% in agricultural labour) as secondary work and 14% engaged in tiny business and other activities as tertiary. The similar kind outcomes were described in Brahmaputra river area by Kabir *et al.* (2012). Present study revealed that, middle aged male populations were highest and vigorous about 60% and as similarly reported by Ekka *et al.* (2012), which 70% of inland fishers beneath fallen under middle aged population in Tamil Nadu. From the households, only 22% fishers (110) had no formal education of which constituted 36% of female and 64% of male. The percentage of household education was higher than reported by Uneze (2013) that about 25% and Inoni and Oyaide (2007) that about 35%. However, 61% respondents have fishing experience of 11 to 30 years point to the fact that fishing has practicing by relatively young fishers. Uneze (2013) argued that percentage of experience varied from 2 years to 61 years. Above explanation referred that, there is a scope for introduction of advanced fish farming and captures methods by providing skill development training because only 24% of respondent were attended training programme.

Present investigation, 78% respondents are belongs to Hindus religions, 16% Christians and 6% Muslims. The results of category distribution shows that about 52% belonged to backward communities (BC), 30% were scheduled caste, 8% were most backward classes and

only 10% were in general category. Whereas, 56% of the respondent were found to be living in Pucca houses, 14% in Kuccha, 18% in tiled and 12% in terraced houses. While representing ownership of house, 92% respondents (129) has own houses, 6% rented house and 2% leased house, moreover, 94% of the respondents houses found electrical facilities of total respondents. According to Gupta and Dey (2014) housing pattern is being used an indicator to assess the economic well-being. With this context, in present, found that majority of fishers living in good condition. However, tap water had been used as source of drinking water by all respondents, of which 80% fishers had used public tap and 20% had own tap.

Employment activity status of households is presented in Table 2. It showed, all fishers were spiritedly engaged in fishing. From the households, 53.13% male and 46.87% female were engaged in non-fishing and 110 female found to be housewives. This clearly indicates, male and female population ratio was more or less similar in the field of non fishing activates and similar results also observed in students. An employment pattern of respondents is presented in Table 2a. The percentage of unemployment was found to be lowest in fishing related activities (31%) than those of non-fishing (41%) and fishing (75%). The full employment was highest in non-fishing (29%) than fishing (15%) but no full employment in fishing related activities. The elder members of the fisher households copiously engaged in farming, casual labour and animal rearing. Government or private institution employees are rather rare in these families. The analytical results also revealed that, 54% fishers were actively involved fishing 101 to 150 days, 31% worked less than 100 days and 15% worked within 151-200 days in a year. It found that those who were working less than 100 days in a year seek some other works in their locality for the remaining days.

The pattern of household's income is presented in Table 3. An average household's income was recorded INR 5096/month in non-fishing, INR 2810/month in fishing activities and INR 617/month in fishing related activities. The education, type of school attended and programme participated had a positive correlated with fishing income and statistically significant at 5% level but the family type and fishing experiences does not influenced the fishing income and total income of the Theni province inland fishers. But, this was not consistency with observation of Suja Beegum, 2006; stated that household income influenced by the size of household; and Rameshkumar *et al.* (2011) acknowledged, it upward trajectory towards the

Table 1: Socio economic characteristics of the inland fishers in Theni district

Characteristics	Category (in years)	Frequency (N = 140)	%
Age class (years)	Up to 25	4	2.85
	26-35	13	9.28
	36-45	31	22.10
	46-55	54	38.50
	Above 55	38	27.10
Household members	1-3	72	51.43
	4-6	68	48.57
	More than 6	-	-
Category	General	14	10.00
	BC	73	52.00
	MBC	12	8.00
	SC	41	30.00
Family type	Nuclear	65	46
	Joint	43	31
	Extended	32	23
Educational status	No education	70	50
	Primary	27	19
	Middle	27	19
	secondary	6	4
	Higher secondary	4	3
	Collegiate	3	2
	Diploma	1	1
	Degree	3	2
	Professional degree	0	0
Primary Occupation	Fishing	140	100
Secondary Occupation	Agriculture		
Income	Up to 2000	4	3
	2001-4000	5	4
	4001-6000	9	6
	6001-8000	61	44
	Above 8000	40	29
Tertiary	Business and others	20	14
	Terraced	17	12
House ownership	Owned	129	92
	Rented	8	6
	Leased	3	2
Drinking water facilities	Own tap	28	20
	Public tap	112	80
Electrical facilities	Yes	132	94
	No	8	6

Table 2: Employment activity status of inland fishermen

Sl. No	Working population	Males	Females	Total	% of Males	% of Females
1	Fishing	140	—	140	100	—
2	Fish related activities	24	8	32	75	25.00
3	Non-Fishing	68	60	128	53.13	46.87
4	Students	30	25	55	54.54	45.46
5	House wife	—	110	110	—	100

Table 2a: Level of employment of respondents

Activities	Fishing activities	Fishing related activities	Non –fishing
Un employed	44 (31%)	24 (75%)	53 (41%)
Under employed	75 (54%)	8 (25%)	38 (30%)
Full employed	21 (15%)	—	37 (29%)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to total

Table 3: Household income of the respondent per month

Sl. No	Source	Average income	Minimum	Maximum
1.	Fishing activities	2810.21	2000	4500
2.	Fishing related activities	617.85	0	4000
3.	Non –fishing	5096.42	3000	9000

Table 4: Household expenditure of consumption

Sl. No	Consumption expenditure	Amount (INR)	Percentage
1.	Food	565.71	14.88
2.	Clothing	361.43	9.51
3.	Education	1123.57	29.55
4.	Health	360.71	9.49
5.	Recreation	228.93	6.02
6.	Transport	325.00	8.55
7.	Social ceremonies	397.86	10.47
8.	Miscellaneous	438.57	11.54

Table 5: Household expenditure of saving of inland fishermen

Sl. No	Saving	Amount (INR)	Percentage
1.	Saving in Bank	4845.71	17.11
2.	Post office	4394.74	15.52
3.	Cash in hand	4343.75	15.34
4.	Chit fund	4754.00	16.79
5.	Relatives	4845.83	17.11
6.	Others	5136.00	18.14

household income. Ekka *et al.* (2012) expounded, the resource accessibility influences the income level of the fishermen.

However, present investigation results are not coherence with data of Sharma *et al.* (2010) that traditional fishermen has the only source of income, were not frequently participated in the fishing related activities and non-fishing. In this present study, all respondent were conducting fishing along fishing related activities and agricultural for diversified livelihood and lack of full of full employment. Hence, a group earned highest income; who were worked in agriculture field either own or lease land and attended fishing during the peak season or free from agricultural activities. But, similar kind of observation was recorded by Basavakumar *et al.* (2011). Smith *et al.* (2005) and Martin (2013) stated, in developing countries, fishing has been done as part of diversified livelihood strategies. Pollnac *et al.* (2001) found that, fishers were not leave fishing for alternative occupation and withstand capital challenges. It would be very difficult to collect information regarding net annual income from fishermen and source of annual income of fishermen households. Different income sources like fishing, fish allied activities, agricultural, livestock and other occupations

Household expenditure is measured by consumption and saving; is presented in table 4 and 5.

It showed that, the households were spending on consumption ranged from 22.50% to 96% with an average of 47% of the total income. Besides, the major consumption expenditure items of this group was on education (29.55%), food (14.88%), social ceremonies (10.47%), clothing (9.51%), health (9.49%), transport (8.55%), recreation (6.02%), and miscellaneous (11.54%) in ascending orders respectively. Suja Beegum (2006) affirmed that consumption pattern of households was determined by habits, social customs, income, size of the family, education etc. Romaza Khanum (2013) corroborated that, the expenditure were higher in food consumption than non-food items includes cloth, house, medicine, fuel and education. These also were confirmed by Engel, 1957, while income increased the percentage of consumption diminishing. Present study obtained results were not congruent with report of Romaza Khanum (2013) because, children's were studying in convent schools.

The saving were done in institutional and non-institutional by all respondent, 17.11%, in bank, 15.52% in post office, 15.34% in hand, 16.79% in chit fund, 17.11% in relatives and 18.14% in others. This clearly indicated that institutional and non-institutional having a good role to save a portion from the income. 73 respondents had their income up to 5000 and 67 respondents had income from 5001 to 9800. Odoemenem

et al. (2013) argued that, age, education, nature of work, number of dependent does not significantly assail the saving in Benue state, Nigeria.

Conclusion

This study observed that majority of fishers has having education includes primary education about 80% and fishing dominantly by middle age group fishers with work experience of 10 years, but only 24% were participated in the training programme. The unemployment was found to be lower in fishing of 31% when it compared to non-fishing and fishing related activities. Hence, these indicates that, there is scope for strengthen the inland fishing by providing proper training programme to uphold the social profile and higher economic returns. At the same time, the non-fishing activities had inevitable role in livelihood of inland fishermen in Theni province, India.

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