



E-ISSN: 2320-7078

P-ISSN: 2349-6800

JEZS 2019; 7(6): 667-669

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Received: 11-09-2019

Accepted: 14-10-2019

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Socio-economic status of fishery co-operative societies in the Vijayapur District of Karnataka

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Abstract

In the Vijayapur district, the fish farming is being done by the Fisheries cooperatives societies. In this context it is needed to assess the socio-economic status of these fish cultivators in the district to increase fish production. In this view, the study was carried out on Socio-economic status of fishery co-operatives societies during the year 2018-019 in Vijayapur district of Karnataka State. Socio-economic Characteristics of the respondents indicated that the majority of the fishermen (43.33%) were aged 30-40 years followed by 40 years (41.67%) and 18-30 years (15%). With regard to educational level, a majority (around 51%) of the fishermen had primary education followed by illiterate (37.50%), secondary education (16.67%) and college education (3.33%). As many as 54.16 per cent respondents belonged to the families of medium size (5-7 members) followed by 25.00 per cent of small size (< 4 members) and 20.83 per cent of large size (>7 members). A majority (54.16%) of the fishermen main occupation is fisheries followed by Agriculture (29.16%), Business (12.50%) and other allied activities (4.16%). Out of 120 respondents, a very large proportion of them (91.66%) possessed dry land and a meagre 8.33 per cent had irrigated lands. With regard to annual income, 26.66 per cent of the respondents had an annual family income of less than 1 lakh, followed by 45.83 per cent had an family income ranging from 1,00,000-1,50,000 per annum and 27.50 per cent had family income of more than 2,00,000 per annum.

Keywords: Fishery cooperative societies, socio-economic status, fish production, Vijayapur

Introduction

Fisheries sector contribute to economic growth and human welfare of the country. It is recognized as the most powerful income and employment generation sector for the poor people of rural area [1]. Even though Karnataka has largest water spread area and great potential for inland aquaculture its contribution is 8 percent to the total Indian fish production and it indicates, several technical and socio-economic constraints affecting increasing fish production [2]. In many cases, fishery co-operatives are illiterate / semiliterate, lack the knowledge of improved fishery technologies and proper interest towards fishery development [3] due to lack of institutional support and finance that hinder their smooth performance. Fishery co-operatives play an important role in amelioration of the status of fishing community other than development of fishery. The success of fishing enterprise depends on the attitude, capability and expectation of the fisher folk associated with the co-operatives [4]. Proper management policy includes appropriate choice of inputs have a major impact on employment in fishery which intern influences the economy of the concerned locality [5]. Local surveys need to be conducted to understand the dependence of fisherman communities on fisheries and thereby different Policy formulation can be made to suit the local needs. Though the fishermen families are distributed throughout the Vijayapur district, the Indi and Muddebihal Taluks have a good number of families partially dependent on fishing. Hence, it has been felt that there is urgent need to carryout systematic study on socio-economic status of fishery co-operative societies in the Vijayapur district of Karnataka and formulation of schemes to help them to improve the overall status.

Materials and Methods

The study was confined to Vijayapur district of Karnataka during the year 2018-19. The Vijayapur district comprises of five taluks. Out of which four taluks were selected for the purpose of this study on the basis of poor and backward class people where fisheries and its related activities play an important role in earning their livelihood in the district, namely, Vijayapur, Indi, Sindagi and Muddebihal.

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Vijayapur district has 20 fisheries cooperatives. To accomplish the objective of the study, a random sample of six societies spread across four Taluks was selected. Further, a sample of 100 fishermen and 20 fisherwomen was randomly selected choosing 20 fishermen/fisherwomen members from each of the six fisheries cooperatives considered. The sampling scheme followed in the study is presented in the Table 1.

In this study both primary and secondary data was collected. Primary data was collected through personal interview method by pre- tested questionnaires from fish farmers. The primary data collected from the member fishermen/fisherwomen related to their socio-economic characters such as age, education, income, land holding etc and their suggestions for improving the functioning of societies and thereby helping members to enjoy more earnings from their operations.

Secondary data were collected from various sources such as department of fisheries and the records maintained at the societies. Collected data were tabulated and processed by using appropriate statistical methods.

Results and Discussion

Results on the Socio-economic status of fishery cooperative are discussed related to age, education, Family size, Main Occupation, Subsidiary Occupation, Land Holding, annual income is presented in Table 2.

Age

It can be seen from the results that a majority of the fishermen (43.33%) were aged 30- 40 years followed by 41.67 per cent of them in the age group of more than 40 years. Only around 15.00 per cent of the fishermen were in the age group of 18-30 years (Table 2). Similar observation made by Immanuel (2004)^[6] who reported that, 52.67 percent of the fishermen belonged to middle age group followed by old age group (27.33%) and young (20.00%) age group in Kerala. Similarly, highest percent of the fishermen belonged to middle age group observed in many other states^[7, 8].

Educational level

With regard to educational level, a majority (around 51%) of the fishermen had primary education. 37.50 per cent of the sample fishermen were illiterate. The population of the

fishermen having secondary education (8th to 10th standard) was only around 16.67 per cent and 3.33 percent respondents had college education. Similar observation was made by Abraham *et al.* (2010)^[9], reported that majority of fish farmers educated up to middle school level in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal and Goswami *et al.* (2012)^[10] revealed that education level of the majority of fish farmers in West Bengal was up to medium school level.

Family Size

As many as 54.16 per cent respondents belonged to the families of medium size (5-7 members). While around 25.00 per cent fishermen had the families of four members or less, around 20.83 per cent had the big size families of more than seven members each (Table 2). Similarly, large number of medium size fisherman family is observed in many other states compared small and big size^[11, 12, 13, 14, 15].

Major occupation

A majority (around 54.16%) of the fishermen main occupation is fisheries followed by Agriculture (29.16%), Business (12.50%) and other allied activities (4.16%) (Table 2). Similarly, in West Bengal major occupation of the majority of fisherman is fish culture^[10].

Land Holding

The study reveals that all the 120 respondents had land holdings. However, a very large proportion of them (91.66%) possessed dry land and a meagre 8.33 per cent had irrigated lands (Table 2). Similarly, Majority of the fishermen's land asset value is upto Rs. 10000 and very few fishermen have more than Rs. 3,00,000 as their land asset value in Pudhucherry and Karikkal^[1]. It was observed that most of the farmers were landless and were traditional in Tamil Nadu growers rearing pigs for more than fifty years^[16].

Annual Income

The study reveals that, 26.66 per cent of the respondents had an annual family income of less than 1,00,000, 45.83 per cent had an family income ranging from 1,00,000-1,50,000 per annum and 27.50 per cent had family income of more than 2,00,000 per annum (Table 2). The same findings were also reported by Angela *et al.* (2012)^[17].

Table 1: Details of fisheries cooperative societies selected for the study

S. No	Fisheries cooperatives	Number of fishermen / fisherwomen selected
I	Vijayapur Taluk	
1	Vijayapur taluk, Meenugarike Sahakara Sangha, Vijayapur	20
2	Sri. Mahalaxmi, Meenugarike Sahakara Sangha, Jainapur, Vijayapur taluk	20
II	Indi Taluk	
1	Meenugarike Sahakara Sangha, Indi	
2	Gadinadu Meenugarara Sahakari Sangha, Chadachan, Indi taluk	20
III	Sindagi Taluk	
1	Meenugarike Sahakara Sangha, Sindagi	20
IV	Muddebihal Taluk	
1	Meenugarike Sahakara Sangha, Muddebihal	20
	Total	120

Table 2: Socio-economic characteristics of the members of fisheries cooperatives

S. No	Particulars	No. of respondents
I	Age (Years)	
1	Age group of 18-30 years	18 (15.00)
2	Age group of 30-40 years	52 (43.33)

3	Age group of >40 years	50 (41.67)
II Educational level		
1	Illiterates	45 (37.50)
2	Primary education (1-7 standard)	51 (42.50)
3	Secondary education (8-10 standard)	20 (16.67)
4	College education (11 and above)	04 (3.33)
III Family size		
1	Small (<4 members)	30 (25.00)
2	Medium (5-7 members)	65 (54.16)
3	Large (> 7 members)	25 (20.83)
IV Main Occupation		
1	Agriculture	35 (29.16)
2	Business	15 (12.50)
3	Fisheries	65 (54.16)
4	Other allied activities	5 (4.16)
V Land Holding		
1	Dry	110 (91.66)
2	Irrigated	10 (8.33)
VI Annual Income		
1	Low (< 1,00,000/annum)	32 (26.66)
2	Medium (1,00,000-1,50,000/annum)	45 (45.83)
3	High (> 2,00,000/annum)	33 (27.50)

*Values in parentheses are percentages to the total

Conclusion

This study indicated that the majority of the fishermen were aged 30- 40 years, had primary education, belonged to the families of medium size, main occupation is fisheries, large proportion possessed dry land and annual income is less than 1 lakh. This study on socio economic status of fishery co-operatives of the district will help to formulation of schemes and to improve the overall status of the fish farming community.

Acknowledgments

The authors gratefully acknowledge the Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of Karnataka (Vijayapur district) for assisting in conduct the study.

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