



**Socio-Economic Study of Unorganized Fisheries Business in Costal Area
with Reference to Shriwardhan Region**

Dr. Yogesh Yashwant Lokhande

Department of Economics,

Maharshi Karve Model College For Women, Shriwardhan Raigad

Corresponding Author – Dr. Yogesh Yashwant Lokhande

DOI - 10.5281/zenodo.15109340

Abstract:

Socio-economic conditions of fishermen in Shriwardhan, dist. Raigad Will be study. A questionnaire including socio-economic characteristics such as name, age, family size, educational status, personal details, family background, literacy and monthly income etc. will prepared. Total 15 villages are located at costal area in Shriwardhan. From these villages selecting fishermen will interview individually at their home as well as at fishing sites with different locations. The study indicates that the conditions of fishermen are observed poor in terms of earnings and the basic amenities of life. Even, some of them do not have their own house or land. The important observation found was low income and poor standard of living. Most of the fishermen are lacking basic facilities like pure drinking water, and others. Some progressive measures like provision of fuel on subsidy rate basis exclusively for fishermen community may be given on long term basis. Financial assistance at subsidy rate would be given for the construction of fish boat. In addition to this, need based training, policies of savings and health insurance etc. are some of the means that can improve the conditions of fishermen to the some extent.

Keywords: Introduction, Objectives, Hypothesis, Materials and Methods, Review Of Literature, Identification of Research Gap, Milestones set, Reference Books.

Introduction:

Asia is the world's largest continent constituting 60 % of the world's population. Within Asia, India is one of the largest and most populous countries in the world having most diversified livelihood occupations. Most of the people in the country depend on agriculture and its allied sectors including fisheries for their livelihood. Fishing is the oldest and most important livelihood option for the inhabitants of the coastal area of the country from time immemorial. This natural resource along with the marine environment provides livelihood opportunities for the coastal people.

Fisheries sector contribute significant to the total economic growth of the country. Despite valuable contribution of fishermen to the society and nation in raising nutritional levels as well as economic development of the country, the living status of the fishermen has been remained poor. In India development of fishermen is often restricted to the traditional fishing communities near the coastal area in maritime states while, interest of those associated with inland fishery is relatively neglected. Socio-economic conditions of fishermen and the fish traders is still in an early stage of growth.

The fisheries sector plays a critical role in global food security, providing livelihoods for millions of people while contributing significantly to economic development. However, the sustainability of this sector is under threat due to overfishing, habitat degradation, and climate change. To address these challenges, the adoption of sustainable business models is essential;

these models prioritize the long-term health of marine ecosystems and involve stakeholders in practices such as responsible sourcing, community engagement, and the use of technology for better fish stock management. By integrating sustainability into their operations, businesses can not only protect fish populations and marine environments but also enhance their resilience to changing market demands and regulatory pressures, ultimately ensuring a viable future for the fisheries sector (Rathod et al., 2024).

The fisheries sector plays a crucial role in global food security and economic development, providing livelihoods for millions while also posing significant challenges related to overfishing and habitat degradation. Sustainable management practices, such as responsible sourcing and fisheries certifications, are essential to ensure the long-term viability of fish stocks and protect marine ecosystems. In parallel, eco-tourism has emerged as a powerful tool for conservation, promoting biodiversity while offering communities alternative income sources that are in harmony with their natural surroundings. By integrating sustainable business models that prioritize environmental stewardship, local cultures, and economic resilience, we can create a synergistic approach that not only preserves vital ecosystems but also supports the well-being of local communities. This holistic framework fosters a balance between resource utilization and ecological preservation, paving the way for a sustainable future for both the fisheries sector and eco-tourism (Jadhav & Waghe, 2024).

The fisheries sector plays a crucial role in the economic development and food security of India, contributing significantly to the livelihoods of millions of fishermen and supporting rural economies. Under the Viksit Bharat model, there is a strong emphasis on sustainable aquaculture practices and responsible fishing techniques, aiming to enhance productivity while preserving aquatic ecosystems. Furthermore, integrating digital technologies and innovation within the fisheries sector is vital; initiatives such as e-governance, real-time data analytics, and mobile applications can empower fishers, improving supply chain efficiencies and market access, thereby aligning with the broader goals of a developed and self-reliant India (Harale & Pawar, 2024).

It is necessary to study their socio-economic conditions to know their problems and needs. Socioeconomic improvement of fishermen is considered to be the primary objective of revering fisheries development. It is realized that socio-economic advancement of the fishermen is essential for the proper development of the fishery industry. Further, it is also important to find out solutions on the problems, so as to improve the lifestyle.

Fisheries sector is playing very important role in the socio-economic development of the fishermen community. Apart from socio-economic development, fisheries also serve as the valuable and cheap source of protein of the country and important source of foreign exchange. Marine fisheries sector is dominated by the socio-economically backward artisanal and small scale fishers whose lives are closely intertwined with the oceans and seas.

Fisheries serve as a vital source of nutrition for billions of people worldwide, particularly in developing countries where fish is a primary protein source, thereby enhancing food security and improving health outcomes. Additionally, the sector supports millions of livelihoods, particularly in coastal and rural communities, where fishing and aquaculture are integral to local economies and social structures. This economic significance can foster sustainable practices that promote environmental conservation and resource management. Lastly, sustainable fisheries practices help maintain the health of aquatic ecosystems, ensuring that marine biodiversity is preserved for future generations, which is essential for the resilience of both the environment and the communities that depend on its resources. Through these dimensions, the fisheries sector not only addresses immediate human needs but also underpins long-term ecological balance and economic stability (Wavare et al., 2024).

Socioeconomic status of fishermen mostly depends on fisheries resources. It is estimated that more than 12 million people are directly engaged in fishing activities and about 60 million are exclusively depend on fisheries activities for livelihood in India.

Socio-economic status (SES) is a measure of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on various variables responsible for that like income, education, occupation, family effluence, physical assets, social position, social participation, caste, muscle power, political influence, etc.

Due to lack of knowledge among fishers and fishing communities, leads to poor planning and implementation of various fisheries management programs. It is essential to study the baseline information to initiate proper developmental steps and improve the socioeconomic and livelihood of fishermen. Considering this the present study has been undertaking with the objective to study socioeconomic status of fisher community.

Objectives:

1. To understand the livelihoods of women in coastal fishing communities and their access to markets and credit.
2. To study of employability of fisheries business in living in the sample village.
3. To Study of improvement in welfare of fishermen and their socio-economic standards Shriwardhan region.
4. To study the income, educational qualification, work participation between Male and Female.
5. To explain the factors determining the economic status and living condition of the local people

In line with the above objectives, the implementation of employment generation and welfare oriented programs for the benefit of fishermen, the introduction of innovative schemes/projects particularly aquaculture development, coastal fisheries development and management, the creation of infrastructure facilities for landing and berthing of fishing vessels, the creation of facilities for preservation, storage, transportation and marketing of fish, etc., have been identified as major thrust areas.

Hypothesis:

1. Research paper is related to Shriwardhan Costal area of fisheries Community.
2. Socio-Economic condition is very poor of fisheries Community in Shriwardhan region.
3. All family members are involved in fisheries business from Community.
4. Lack of awareness in education, due to the involvement of all family members in fisheries business.
5. Due to lack of Education, fisheries community is more engaged in old traditions, customs and superstitious.

Materials and Methods:

The study has focused mainly on the fisher community of Shriwardhan region Raigad, District. Primary data were collected by semi-structure and structured questionnaires along with observation and checklist were provided to each respondent to collect the information. Secondary data include scientific literature, project Reports and official documents were collected from fisheries research institutes, department of fisheries, dept. of meteorology of state governments. In addition to the some other related information newer recollected by conducting interview with administrative and start official with open questionnaire

Relevant data is not much more available due to lack of research of Shriwardhan costal area. Therefore researcher personally prepares the sample from research area. The sample of my research, this are located at Shriwardhan costal area and they are directly involve in fisheries with their family.

Milestones Set:

1. When actually researcher starts his work, he decides to focus on different issues related with fisheries business in Shriwardhan costal area.
2. Find out solutions for the lack of adequate and timely credit facilities is a major constraint to the fisheries development.
3. Researcher firstly research on Poverty eradication, people's participation, enhancement of women's role in development.
4. Define and find out the NGOs through extending credit support to the poor who are denied access to existing credit institutions.
5. To aware about the Socioeconomic constraints also arise from over population of the Coastal zone, low incomes, low social, educational and economic status of the fishermen, lack of alternative employment opportunities, and low environmental awareness.
6. To search the Poverty alleviation Programs for Socioeconomic development.

Review of Literature:

The case studies titled Successful Women Entrepreneurs in Aquaculture Sectors- Case Studies of Tamil Nadu, India (2012) undertaken by B. Shanti, M. Krishnan and A.G. Ponnaiah for the Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture (CIBA) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) proves the active engagement of women in aquaculture sectors while also enumerating the factors that contribute to the same besides bringing attention to the areas and opportunities in aquaculture where women participation can be increased and diversified.

The research paper on the Need of Coastal Resource Management in Pulicat Lake- Challenges Ahead (2011) by N. Thirenavukharasu, S. Gokulakrishnan, P.R. Premjothi and R. Moses Inbaraj focusses on the ecological and environmental effects of fisheries performed as an economic activity in the area, the need for ecological sensitization and adoption of sustainable fishing practices among the local fisher folk for sustained livelihood in the long run.

The official website of the Fisheries Department of Tamil Nadu enumerates the various efforts in terms of training, infrastructural help and subsidies that it has undertaken to provide encouragement to the women SHG's in these areas.

Aswathy N.A.; Shanmugam T. R.; & Sathiadhus R.-(2011)- Central Marine fisheries Research institute – kochi – India – Economic viability of mechanized fishing Units and socio economics of fishing ban in Kerala - The study revealed that, In open access unregulated marine fisheries, the viability of a fishers unit greatly influences the entry or exit of vessels in the fishing industry. The paper analyses the friability of various mechanized fishing units in the Kerala state using different economic and financial indicators. Socio-economic impact of fishing ban on fishing labour was also worked out and suggestions were given for improving the livelihood security of fish Workers.

Immanuel Sheela and Srinath Krishna (2000) studied “Potential Techno-Economic Role of Women in Fisheries”. The study revealed that women contribute a lot to fisheries sector. In coastal areas, women play an important role in fisheries and in some parts of the world they are

good navigators too. Modernization has diminished the role of fisherwomen but yet they play an important role in the fishing activity. The authors suggest that women should be helped to participate in production activities without disturbing their domestic responsibilities.

Nirmalevivek H.; Sontakki Bharat S.; Birodar R. S.; Metar Santosh Y. –(2003)- Central Institute of fisheries education- Mumbai – Assessment of Indigenous knowledge of coastal fisher folk of greater Mumbai and Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra – 10 June 2003- The conclusion of this study is the indigenous knowledge of coastal fisher folk on various fisheries management aspects like choice of materials and methods for fishing and fish processing, their perceptions on the effect of water color, wind direction, lunar cycles, tidal fluctuations on fish catch is by and large based on scientific rationality efficacy and use of local resources as judged by the fisheries experts, Hence such indigenous knowledge can be gainfully blended with the modern scientific and technical wisdom to evolve a package of fisheries management that enjoys ready acceptance by the fishermen and enhances efficacy. Sustainable use of local resources without adversely affecting the environment.

Sathiadas R. and Kumar Narayana R. (1994) studied “Price Policy and Fish Marketing System in India.” The authors strongly feel that the growth of fish production and development of fishery sector is highly dependent on an efficient fish marketing system.

For Policy Making:

Although each section of the Proposed Core Research program presented thus far includes discussion of policy implications, this section is intended for evaluation of specific fisheries-related policies, programs and projects and for recommendation of possible alternatives in the light of the findings of both this and other sections. The framework to be adopted in this section would include a description of the project under consideration, the factors that led to its inception, its objectives as set out and evolved through its active life, and its instruments, followed by the assessment of the program/ project's impact, i.e., the difference between the current situation and that which would have prevailed in its absence. The outcome or impact of a given project once isolated from other influences may be compared to the stated project objectives and to comparable alternatives.

For Society:

The potential benefits of the brackish water aquaculture for the rural poor: particularly as an employment option to the displaced fishermen and fishing communities of the country. Explain the role in the improvement of nutrition and socioeconomic upliftment in fish-farming communities. To give the idea for the role of NGOs in assisting to organize small farmers for fishing. Provide the knowledge Problems of environmental degradation, socioeconomic disputes, inter-sectorial land/water use conflicts and the shortcomings of legislation and its enforcement in connection with these conflicts. Provide Extension and credit facilities for small fisheries to meet their investment needs.

Identification of Research Gap:

An Ideal government policy is supposed to play a more innovative, more aggressive and more revolutionary role in the development of the Nations by fishery business. To adopt the free competition there is an important and immediate requirement to promote this business, standards production quality of fisheries, Lack of professional view of Fishermen organization, insufficient evaluation Government policies for the fishermen community. The objectives of Government fisheries department are to provide in depth of knowledge to fisheries community. Government has to focus on large and rapidly growing population increases the pressure on the limited resources and slows any rise in living standards fisheries community. Poverty has been a

persistent problem in fishing communities because there has been free and open access to the fisheries and fishing is a last resort occupation for many participants who either as crew on bigger boats, or who own small boats with traditional gears.

Findings:

Projects and efforts have stressed the important role of women in fisheries, but mainly from the perspective of their contributions to processing and marketing. Governments, projects and policies have reinforced the notion that women's position and main role is in the processing sector. Over the years, these efforts have resulted in women benefiting from training in processing and marketing, through grants and credits to acquire processing equipment, and capital funds to buy fish and pay for transport. Prawn and fish farming is an important source of income and employment for the local populace in the Raigad region.

Socioeconomic constraints also arise from overpopulation of the Coastal zone, low incomes, low social, educational and economic status of the fishermen, lack of alternative employment opportunities, and low environmental awareness.

The accretion of land from the sea means not only a loss of fishing grounds but also loss of livelihood for thousands of fishermen. The inhabitants of the coastal fishing areas, most of who are below the poverty line, are struggling to survive. For them health, nutrition, sanitation, water supply, soil fertility, cooking fuel, animal feed and house building materials are day to day problems.

The lack of adequate and timely credit facilities is a major constraint to the fisheries development in Raigad. Mainly because of the lack of collateral in the small-scale fisheries sector, financial institutions have been involved in financing the fisheries sector only on a modest scale and the achievements in terms of loan disbursements and loan recoveries have not been encouraging. Inadequate flows of institutional credit have furthermore become an obstacle to the implementation of major investment projects funded by the Commercial Bank and the Rural Bank.

With regard Poverty eradication, people's participation, enhancement of women's role in development, large financial institutions are hardly in a position to make a contribution but some small savings groups are kindly helping women in groups with small finance. Self help groups work to increase the participation and education of women in product procedure and savings mobilization.

Innovation/Path-breaking aspects of the Research:

1. When this research paper will be published, then it will help to take some firm decision for their upliftment of living standard.
2. Government should arrange finance facilities, subsidies and trainings for their business development.
3. Government is working on education development by various educational schemes such as RTI, Scholarships, Free higher education to girls, etc.
4. Awareness about modern equipment which is helpful for fishing and increases their business.
5. To firm SHG, and through this groups fisheries women's can uplift their economic condition.
6. For their social development kindly aware to the about expenditure on social customs, festivals, haldi ceremony in marriages.

References:

1. U. S. Rathod, S. A. Thomas, F. S. Maruti, P. Balasaheb Kadam, H. L. Jadhav and M. Jamal Bdair, "Reinforcement Learning for Sustainable Business Model Development in Social Entrepreneurship," *2024 Second International Conference Computational and Characterization Techniques in Engineering & Sciences (IC3TES)*, Lucknow, India, 2024, pp. 1-5, doi: 10.1109/IC3TES62412.2024.10877619.
2. Jadhav, H. L., & Waghe, P. P. (2024). A Study of Ecotourism and Sustainable Development in India. *Sanshodhak*, 16(1), 41–46. https://www.academia.edu/127828212/A_Study_of_Ecotourism_and_Sustainable_Development_in_India
3. Harale, G. D., & Pawar, G. G. (Eds.). (2024). *Viksit Bharat @2047: Challenges and Opportunities* (1st ed., Vol. 1) [Online]. Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's, Abasaheb Marathe Arts and New Commerce, Science College, Rajapur Dist. Ratnagiri. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/378610404_Viksit_Bharat_2047_Challenges_and_Opportunities
4. Wavare, A.K., Pawar, G.G., Babar, M.S., Harale, G.D. (2024). Role of Agricultural Science Centres in Attaining Sustainability in India: A Case Study. In: Kulkarni, S., Haghi, A.K. (eds) *Global Sustainability*. World Sustainability Series. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-57456-6_12
5. Cherunilam, Francis. (1993). *Fisheries Global Perspective and Indian Development*. New Delhi: Himalaya Publishing House. The authors revealed that in development of India fisheries play an important role.
6. DhirShambhu – Fish markets and fisherman- cyber tech publications – 4264/3 Ansari road, Dairyaganj, New Delhi – 110002
7. Jambhale, S. G. (2014). Socio-economic and fishing profile of fishermen community in South Konkan of Maharashtra State: A Geographical Study. *Aayushi International Interdisciplinary Research Journal* 1(4): 30-41.
8. Kumar, S. T. and ShivaniPatnaik. (2014). Marine Fisheries; its current status, sustainable management and socio- economic status of the marine fishers of Odisha, through Indian Marine Policy: A Case Study. *Research Journal of Animal, Veterinary and Fishery Sciences*. 2(7): 10-19.
9. Bhaumik, U., Mittal, I. C., Das, P. and Paria, T. (2001). Some socio-economic aspects of the fishermen of twin pronged floodplain wetlands in West Bengal, *J. Indian Fish. Assoc.*, 32 : 119-133.
10. Devi, V.V. and Krishnaveni, M. (2012). Socio-economic appraisal of fishing community in Pulicat lagoon, south east coast of India: case study, *J. Environ. Sci. Engg.*,54(4):558-569.
11. Vichare, P.S. (2010).A study on effect of migration on livelihood of coastal fishers in Maharashtra. Unpub. M.F.Sc (thesis), Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai.