DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AMONG FISHERMEN IN MANGALORE

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Abstract:

A disaster is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. Natural or man-made, disasters can be scary, chaotic, and tragic events. Disaster preparedness can prevent a bad situation from becoming worse. Planning ahead also helps every one understand what to do when a disaster strikes. Preparedness is a very important stage in pre disaster management stage where individual gets prepared for the worst so that he/she can mitigate the menace of it to a greater extent. Preparedness encompasses measures aimed at enhancing life safety when a disaster occurs, such as protective actions during unforeseen circumstances (Sutton, 2006). The present study is descriptive in nature which has responses of 50 fishermen employed at Mangalore Fishing Port who are selected using simple random sampling method. In the present study on disaster preparedness among the fishermen at Mangalore Fishing Port, researcher has found no preparedness measure followed which is in turn required for their life safety at sea.

Key Words: Disaster, Preparedness, fishermen, port, danger, Mangalore

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INTRODUCTION:

Disaster preparedness refers to measures taken to prepare for and reduce the effects of disasters. That is, to predict and, where possible, prevent disasters, mitigate their impact on vulnerable populations, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.

Disaster preparedness provides a platform to design effective, realistic and coordinated planning, reduces duplication of efforts and increase the overall effectiveness of National Societies, household and community member's disaster preparedness and response efforts. Disasterpreparedness activities embedded with risk reduction measures can prevent disaster situations and also result in saving maximum lives and livelihoods during any disaster situation, enabling the affected population to get back to normalcy within a short time period.

Over the last few decades, natural and human-induced disasters have become more frequent and increasingly destructive. Types of natural and manmade hazards in fishingare cyclones, floods, droughts, tsunami, El-nino, algal blooms, pollution, habitat destruction, storm, poisons snake or fish bite, boat damage, boat overload, accident with other boats and ship, co-workers conflict etc. The Fisheries and aquaculture organization(FAO) categorizes disasters into three main groups as follows:

- **Natural disasters:** hydro meteorological hazards (e.g. floods, waves andsurges, storms, droughts), geological hazards (e.g. earthquakes, volcaniceruptions) and biological hazards (e.g. epidemics, insect infestations).
- **Technological disasters:** directly related to human activity and as a result offailure of a technology or of management e.g. oil or chemical pollution fromtankers, pipelines and drilling accidents, nuclear disasters.
- **Complex emergencies:** humanitarian crises resulting from military conflict and for which external assistance is needed.

The concept of disaster preparedness encompasses measures aimed at enhancinglife safety when a disaster occurs, such as protective actions during an earthquake,hazardous materials spill, or terrorist attack. It also includes actions designed to enhancethe ability to undertake emergency

actions in order to protect property and containdisaster damage and disruption, as well as the ability to engage in post-disasterrestoration and early recovery activities.

Preparedness is commonly viewed as consisting of activities aimed at improvingresponse activities and coping capabilities. However, emphasis is increasingly beingplaced on *recovery* preparedness—that is, on planning not only in order to respondeffectively during and immediately after disasters but also in order to successfullynavigate challenges associated with short- and longer-term recovery.

METHODOLOGY:

Objectives of the study:

1) To find out the disaster preparedness among fishermen in Mangalore.
2) To suggest measures for being prepared to face disaster.

The Universe:

The universe of this study is the fishermen of Mangalore fishing port.

Sampling Method:

Simple Random Sampling technique was adopted to collect the data's from the samples and the sample size of the study was 50 fishermen from Mangalore fishing port and the research tool used for the study was interview schedule.

FINDINGS

Section-I: Personal Demography Factors:

PERSONAL PROFILE OF THERESPONDENTS			
Variables	**Particulars**	**No. of Respondents (N-50)**	**Percentage (%)**
Age	18-30	19	38%
	31-50	26	52%

	51 & above	5	10%
Qualification	SSLC & Below	45	90%
	PUC	5	10%
Experience	0-10	13	26%
	11-20	16	32%
	21-30	12	24%
	31& above	9	18%
Marital status	Married	33	66%
	Single	17	34%
Native	Karnataka	14	28%
	Tamil Nadu	22	44%
	AndhraPradesh	7	14%
	Jharkhand	2	4%
	Kerala	5	10%

Table 1

The above table shows that majority 52% of the respondents belong to the age group 31-50 years, 38% of the respondents belong to the age group 31-50years and 10% of the respondents are 50 and above.

As per the qualification 90% of the respondents are SSLC and below, and only 10% of the respondents has completed their PUC.

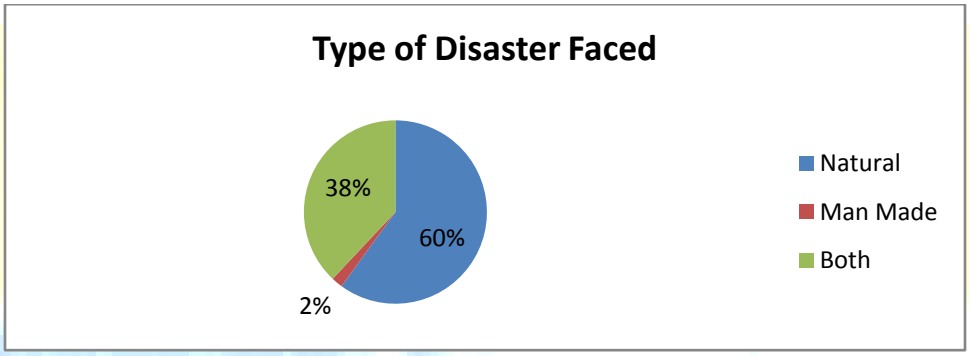
A majority 32% of the respondent has the experience of work for 11-20 years, 26% of the respondents have experience of 0-10 years, 24% of the respondents has the experience of 21-30 years and 18% of the employees has the experience of 31and above years.

As per the marital status, majority 66% of the respondents is married and only 34%of the respondents are single.

As per the Native, 44% of the respondents are from Tamil Nadu, 28% of the respondents are from Karnataka, 14% of the respondents are from Andhra Pradesh, 10% of the respondents are from Kerala and 4% of the respondents are from Jharkhand.

Section II: Factors that determines disaster preparedness among fishermen

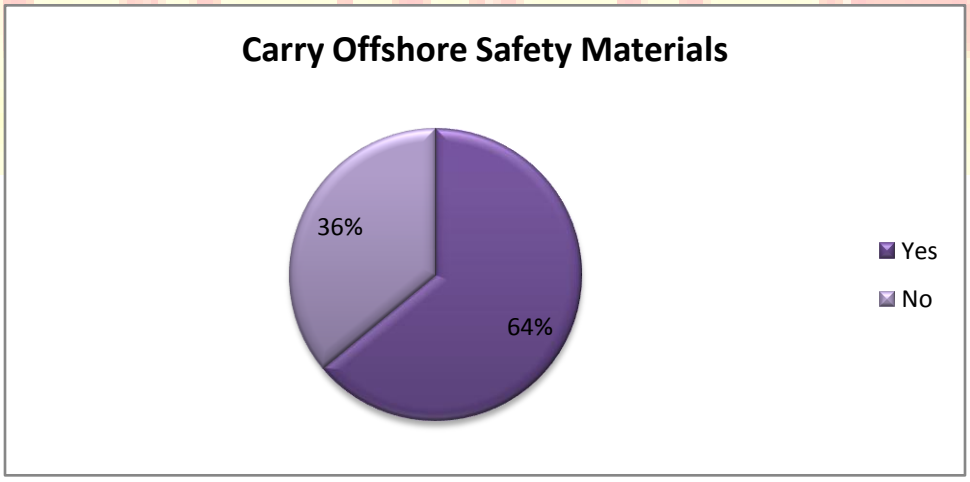
Fig 1: Type of Disaster Faced



The majority 60% of the respondents has faced Natural Disaster, 38% of the respondents have faced both natural and manmade &2% of the respondent has faced manmade disaster.

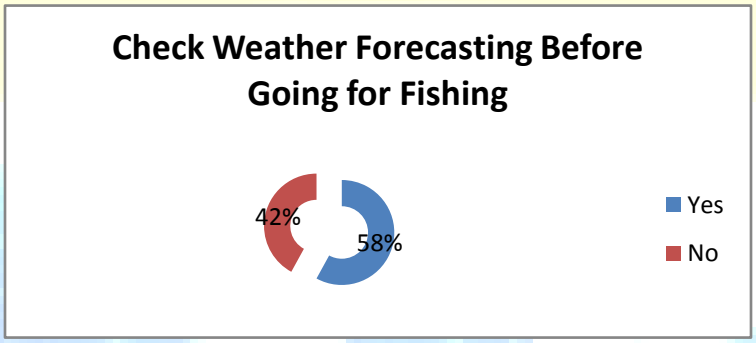
In Natural Disaster out of which Majority of the have been attacked by storm & sea unrest and few respondents said that they have been attacked by cyclone and poisons snake bite. And for manmade disaster most of them said that accident with other boat or ship occurs frequently, there are some respondents who says that boat damage also will occurs and some also said that they also had some co-workers conflict.

Fig 2: Carry offshore safety Materials



The majority 64% of the respondent said that they carry safety materials while they go for fishing and 36% of the respondents said that they do not carry any of the safety materials not even safety jackets or safety tubes are carried by them. While asked why they do not carry their response was they believe only God can protect them from any disasters and nothing else can help them, they never blamed about their negligence and they had no interest to carry any safety materials in future as they say it is not their cup of tea and carrying all safety materials make them more inconvenient for the smoothness of their occupation.

Fig 3:Check Weather Forecasting Before Going for Fishing



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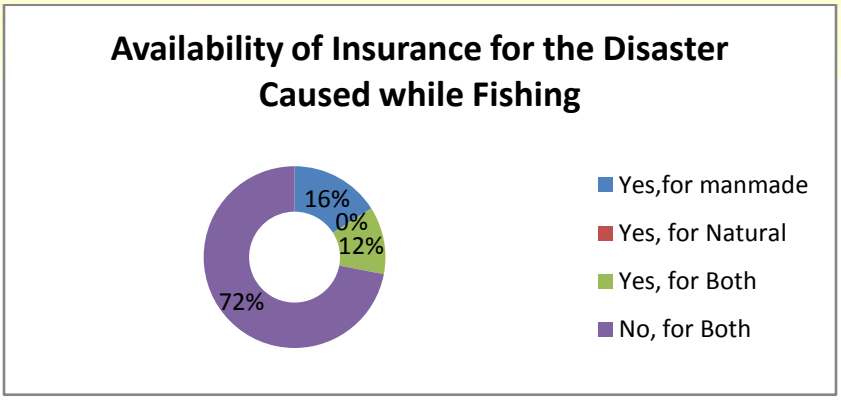
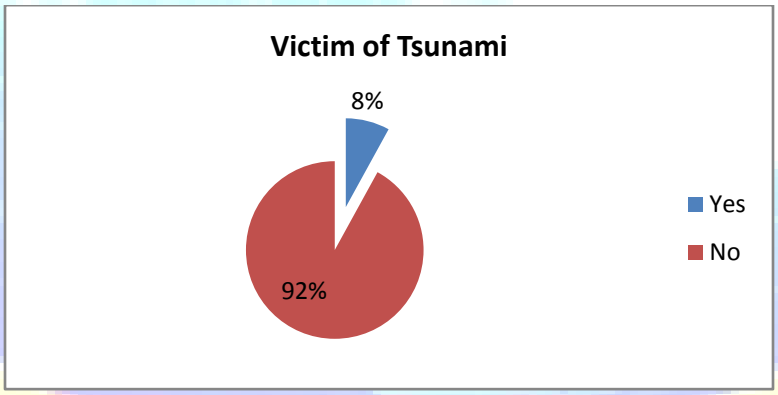
Most of the fishermen check weather for caste before the go for fishing as there is weather forecasting machine available in port itself so it is feasible for them. But still some of them do not check since they do not bother to find out the climate condition but are only dedicated to their work and go for work as routine, by this the researcher knows that most of the respondents are aware of the climate conditions and then go for fishing but few still do not consider weather forecasting but just go out for fishing on their own risk.

Fig 4:Availability of Insurance for the Disaster Caused while Fishing



The majority 72% of the respondent said that they do not have any insurance personnel only their boat has insurance and not they if anything happens to them it is at their own risk and no insurance and all these who said that they have no insurance where from out of Karnataka that is they were from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. And rest of them who said that they have insurance were from Karnataka they said that they have insurance for their life as well as for the boat and out of which some said that they have only for manmade and few said that they have for both. So by this we realize that state government gives only for the localities insurance for their life and not for the fishermen's of other state even thou they are occupied here.

Fig 5:**Victim of Tsunami**



There were only 8% of the respondents who were the victim of the Tsunami and they were able to face Tsunami as they were in the midst of the sea and the effects of Tsunami was on the shores and not in midst of the sea they were able to face it and no disaster happened to their boats nor to their life. But if it had attacked their respond was then they were not prepared to face it nor they had any safety measures of kit to protect neither their lives nor their boat.

SUGGESTION:

As per the study the researcher realizes there is no preparedness among the fishermen of Mangalore Port. Even thou all of them have face one or the other disasters either natural or manmade disasters they are still not find any way to protect their life from any of the disasters. The fisheries departmentmust provide the fishermen with the safety kit and training programs for the safety of the fisher men. As Mangalore is the coastal region and fishing occupation is the

economy of the city not only that is the duty of the state to protect the lives of the fisher men. The fisheries department must see to that at least safety jackets and safety tubes are provided for the fishermen. It should also make compulsory for all the fishermen to check weather forecasting before going for fishing. Not only that life insurance must be provided for the fishermen and their family as they have also right to live.

CONCLUSION:

Preparedness for disaster is very much required for any human being, and from this study we realize that fishermen are completely out of safety as they do not have any safety training or any safety materials to protect themselves from any kid of disasters. Not only that the fishery department must go for regular inspection to see whether the fisher men carry any safety materials to protect themselves from natural or manmade disasters and should see to that they are aware of the weather forecast. The researcher would recommend the fishery department for immediate measures for the safety of the fishermen as job security also is required for the sustainability of fishing occupation. If there is no safety then peoples interest for fishing occupation will deteriorate.It is also the right of the fisher's men to ask for their safety.

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