

## **Problems of Women Fishmonger in Puducherry**

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### **Abstract**

Fishmongers are a traditional work that has been a means of occupation for thousands in India; Fishmongers also carry out significance addition by sorting, cleaning, grading and icing the fish. Women play important roles in fisheries, predominantly in the pre-harvest and post-harvest sectors. The subsequent are some of the problems they faced: lack of basic facilities at harbours and landing centers, poor access to credit, lack of public transport to markets, lack of ice and proper storage facilities, problems at marketplaces, selling fish in very unhygienic places, lack of basic infrastructures like sheds and other facilities like table, chairs, toilets, and room to change dress, ice boxes and drinking water, moneylenders etc. With this backdrop, the study aims to find out the socio-economic condition of women fishmonger in Puducherry, to study the problem faced in the market by women fishmongers, to bring out the health issues of women fishmonger. An interview schedule has been constructed and the data were collected by using the schedule of question by using the purposive sampling method among 50 women respondents in one fishing village namely Veerampattinam in Puducherry region. The study revealed that market infrastructure facility was very poor for 80 percent respondents. Most of the respondents' (50%) monthly income was between Rs. 3000-5000. Most of them prefer the nearby hospitals which are usually private for their health needs hospital and it is of easy reach. The main problem was by the finance related issues.

**Keywords:** Fish Market, Fishmonger, Coastal area. Health problem

### **Introduction**

Fishing is the ancient and most important livelihood option for the inhabitants of the coastal region since time immemorial. This natural resource along with the marine environment has been the custodian of livelihood security of coastal population. Fishery area contributes a significant role in the economic development of a country. It provides cheap and healthy food for the people as well as a considerable foreign exchange earner. It is the source of livelihood for a great part of economically backward population on par with market; women are also equally involved in fishing activities. The supports of women in fishery are remarkable one. Being women, there fish mongers are exploited by others in the problems have other reasons stages of fishing activities. Beyond economic development, the gender related abuses are here has great significant. In spite of these hardships women fish mongers as street vendors carry their activity moving around the streets also carrying head loads. And local market or road side places in the towns of Puducherry state only women fish mongers are seen.

### **Review of Literature**

Joseph Durai. A and Dhanalakshmi (2015) this article examine the "Role of Women in Fishery sector in Tamil Nadu" the dimension of fishing women have increased important as of fishermen censuses of 2000 and 2010. Such the place does through fishermen have also differed significantly in pre and post women fishing activities. The study

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evidence with the intention of the main role play through fishing women are fish selling, dry fish selling, fishing, net manufacture and related activities main role for fishing women in Tamilnadu.

Subramanian and R. Karuppusamy (2015) in an article “Women Fish Vendors in Puducherry Region-Problems and Prospects” studied the study socioeconomic condition of women fishing activities in Puducherry, various problems faced in market by women fish vendors. The main information was directly collected from 50 respondents through interview scheduled. The secondary data were collected from the department of fishing government of Puducherry. This study analyzed the respondents’ troubles and prospects through the simple statistics tools such as percentage and rank analysis. The main result of this study financial assistance secured 226 points and placed number one in the rank. Old age pension secured 177 points and placed member two in the rank. Transport coast problem secured 211 points and number one in the rank. Finally the poor storage facilities and placed number two in the rank.

Cliffe and O.A. Akinrotimi (2015) in his article “Role of women in fishery activities in some coastal communities of river state, Nigeria” fishing activities in ten village of river state were investigate to establish the function of women activities in its growth and sustainability. Two hundred prepared questionnaires were randomly selected in 3 communities. The consequence from the study indicate that young and marry women are vigorously concerned inside fishing activities on part time basis, when compare to the elder ones. Women are mostly involved in the fish marketing of fishing harvest than dispensation otherwise fishing active. Women are more involved in picking of shelling fish such because oyster, periwinkle at little tide than fishing in creek and river. Fish processing in these villages are complete mostly by smoke the majority women in selling fish their fish crop in the region are open marketplace display and hawking, although, some selling their catch at fish landing jetties to buyer. Need of praise facilities, poor transport system and upsurge in illegal behavior contain be recognized because main constraint facing women participation in fishing activities in these area. There be consequently, the must to empower the women fishing activities in these area through granting of loan and credit facilities, capacity building, latest technology and better transportation network system. These determination go away a long way in boost fishing manufacture, get better their livelihood and improve socioeconomic condition of the women fishing activities in the fishermen villages.

## Materials and Method

The present study aims to study the socio economic condition of women fishmonger in Puducherry, to find out the problem faced in the marketplace by women fishmongers, to bring out the health issues of the women fishmonger. The study is broadly descriptive in nature. The present study is confined only to fishermen community in Puducherry region, which included rural villages. An interview schedule has been constructed and the data were collected using the schedule of question by using the purposive sampling method among of 50 women fishmongers of Veerampattinam village in Puducherry region.

## Results and Discussion

**Table: 1 Socio-Economic Profile of Respondents** N=50

Socio-economic profile		Number of respondents	Percentage
<b>Age</b>	25 – 30	06	12.00
	30 – 35	14	28.00
	35 – 40	20	40.00
	Above 40	10	20.00
<b>Religion</b>	Hindu	39	78.00
	Christian	11	22.00
<b>Educational Status</b>	Literate	12	24.00
	Illiterate	38	76.00
<b>Community</b>	OBC	-	-
	MBC	-	-
	EBC	50	100
<b>Type of family</b>	Nuclear family	38	76.00
	Joint family	12	24.00

<b>Family size</b>	2-4	28	56.00
	5-7	15	30.00
	8 and above	07	14.00
<b>Type of work</b>	Fish selling	25	50.00
	Fish cutting	18	36.00
	Dry fish selling	7	14.00
<b>Monthly Income</b>	1000-3000	25	50.00
	3001-5000	19	38.00
	5001-7000	06	12.00
<b>Work experience</b>	0-5 years	5	10.00
	6-10 years	18	36.00
	11-15 years	20	40.00
	More than 15 years	7	14.00

**Source:** Primary data

The above table shows the percentage of the respondents by their socio-economic profile such as age, religion, educational status, community, type of family, family size, type of work, monthly income and work experience are shown in the above table. Regarding fishmongers age 40.00% of the respondents are in the age group of 35-40 years, 28.00% of the respondents are in the age group 30-35 years followed by 20.00% of the respondents belong in the age group above 40 years and remaining 12.00% of the respondents in the age group 25-30 years. With respect to the religion (78.00%) of the respondents is from Hindu Religion and where as less than half of the respondents (22.00%) of the respondent are from Christian Religion. The educational status of the respondents is considerably less; more than three-fourth of the respondents (76.00%) are illiterate and only 24.00% respondents are literate. The opportunity and access to the education during three decades before were very bleak. And also there were some personal causes also caused illiteracy among fishermen. All the fishermen are from EBC community that is "Extreme Backward Class" previously EBC was known as MBC. From 2011 onwards it is renamed as EBC due to protect by Puducherry people. The data reveal that majority of the respondents (76.00%) are from nuclear family and remaining 24.00% of the respondents are belong to joint family. Looking at the family size, more than half of the respondents (56.00%) family sizes are 2- 4 members, 30.00% of the respondents are medium size families and remaining 14.00% of the respondents are large size of the families. With regarded to work is, Most of the respondents (50.00%) are fish sellers, 36.00% of them doing fish cutting and remaining 14.00% of the respondents are working as dry fish seller. Regarding monthly income of the respondents, (50.00%) having the monthly income between Rs. 1000-3000, 38.00% of the respondents have got the monthly income of Rs. 3001-5000 and remaining 12.00 % of the respondents having the monthly income of Rs. 5001-7000s. 40.00% of the respondents 11-15 years have work experience in their field, 36.00% of the respondents 6-10 years are experienced workers, 14.00% of the respondents more than 15 years are experienced and 10.00% of the respondents 0-5 years have work experience in their field.

**Table: 2 Distribution of the Respondents by Types of Illness N=50**

Sl. No	Type of Illness	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Joint pain	50	100.00
2	Eye problem	7	14.00
3	Diabetics	11	22.00
4	Headaches	44	88.00
5	Itching of the skin	49	98.00
6	Asthma	33	66.00

The above table describes the health illness among fishermen. The respondents were asked to prioritize their health problems irrespective of their multiple illnesses. A an overwhelming proportion (100%) of the respondents have joint pain, (98.00%) of the respondents having the problems of Itching of the skin, (88.00%) of the respondents having the headaches, 66.00% of the respondents are affected Asthma, 22.00% of the respondents having Diabetics and remaining 14.00% of the respondents are having Eye problems. It was observed that the consistent contact with water especially sea water and sea wind leading to such health problems.

**Table No: 3 Distributions of the Respondents by Place of Treatment**

Sl. No	Place of Treatment	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Government Hospital	15	30.00
2	Private Hospital	35	70.00
	Total	50	100.00

The above table shows the respondents where they get the medical treatments for healing their disease. Majority of the respondents (70.00%) are getting the medical treatments from the nearby private hospitals and remaining 30.00% of the respondents are relied on government hospitals. The health seeking behaviors of these respondents were determined by the accessibility, quality of treatment, and duration of waiting at hospitals availability of medicine. Few people are not visiting the Government, primary health centre and Hospitals, because of the reason of ineffective medicine and curable time.

**Table: 5 Mode of transport to market**

Sl. No	Mode transport to market	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Public	28	56.00
2	Private	22	44.00
	Total	50	100.00

The above table narrates about the mode of transport to market by respondents. The most of the respondents (56.00%) are mode use of public transport and 22.00% depended on private transport and their own vehicles.

**Table: 6 Problem at market place N=50**

Sl. No	Problem at market place	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Long distance	38	76.00
2	Exploitation by middlemen	41	82.00
3	Poor hygiene	39	78.00
4	lack of availability of ice	22	44.00
5	Competition from other sellers	40	80.00
6	Price fluctuations	50	100.00

The above table indicates about problem at market place. All of the (100%) of the respondents agreed fluctuation in price disturbed them more. About (80.00%) of them observed that competition among sellers nit their return on their investments. Poor hygiene in the market place was serious issues for (78.00%) of the respondents. Lack of institutional credit for daily business activity encouraged the role of moneylenders. The exorbitant role of interest of these moneylenders was the concern for (82.00%) of respondents. On the other hand, long distance and lack of ice was attributed as issues by percent and 44.00% of respondents respective

**Table: 4 Distribution of the Respondents Awareness programmes N=50**

Sl. No	Awareness programmes	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Financial assistant to fishermen families in ban period	50	100.00
2	Short term training programme to fish vendors	35	70.00
3	Subsidy loan facility by cooperative bank	25	50.00
4	Knowledge about SHGs	50	100.00

The table shows that all the (100.00%) of the respondents we know about financial assistant to fishermen families during ban period and self-help group. About (70.00%) of the respondents have awareness about short term training programme to fish vendors. This programme provides training by fishery personnel so as to help them in under

taking fisheries extension provides support to fisher folk to improve their skills. About 50.00% of the respondents had awareness about subsidy loan facility offered by cooperative bank, the national cooperative development corporation entrusted the national cooperative union of India with conducting a programme of education for members of fishery cooperatives of puducherry.

**Table: 7 Awareness of the Schemes Provided by the Governments**

Sl. No	Aware of the Schemes Provided by the Governments	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	37	74.00
2	No	13	26.00
	Total	50	100.00

The above table discuss about respondents awareness of schemes provided by the government. The majority of the respondents (74.00%) are not aware of the schemes provided by the government and the 26.00% of the respondents are aware of the schemes provided by the government.

### Conclusion

For fishery is one of the prime sectors where the contribution of most of women is very significant. The study found that the socio economic profile of the respondents were more or less same. The fish mongers are illiterate to handle certain process in a systematic manner and to struggle for the privileges. Secondly major problem faced by the vendors were lock of infrastructure and lack of proper transportation and also they were exploited by the middle men or money lenders, thirdly all the respondents have some health issues which are related to their fishing activity. The government may look this matter and take some remedial measures for the development of this group.

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