



STUDY THE CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF FISHERMEN IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF DAMAN

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Abstract:

The social and economic circumstances of fishermen in the Union Territory of Daman are analyzed in this research. Communities that rely on fishing for a living are susceptible to a wide range of threats, such as shifting environmental conditions, economic ups and downs, and government actions. In light of this, the study delves into the many effects on the livelihoods and welfare of Daman's fisherman. The research method is a mixed-methods one, meaning that it uses both quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques. The financial components of the fishermen's lives are understood via the analysis of economic variables such as income levels, employment patterns, and market dynamics. In order to get a better picture of the bigger picture, we also look at social aspects including community cohesiveness, healthcare availability, and education. The economic landscape has undergone significant changes, according to preliminary data. Government regulations, changes in market demand, and changes in fish stock availability have all an impact on fishermen's income and job options. In terms of social welfare, fishing communities have benefited from better access to healthcare and education. Sustainable development and social fairness can only be achieved via concerted efforts to address long-standing problems including environmental degradation, insufficient infrastructure, and socioeconomic inequities. By shedding light on the unique circumstances of Daman, this study adds to the expanding corpus of scholarship on the socioeconomic dynamics of communities depending on fishing. Those in positions of power, those working in development, and members of the community who have an interest in the success and longevity of coastal fishermen should take note of the results. To further understand these changes and to guide policy solutions based on evidence, more study is needed.

Keywords: *Economic, Social Conditions, Fishermen*

Introduction:

Communities of fishermen play an important part in the socioeconomic fabric of coastal regions. As a result of their reliance on marine resources, they frequently face a variety of difficulties and possibilities that are not found in other communities. Examples of such a situation may be seen in the Union Territory of Daman, which is located on the western coast of India. In this region, fishing has been a customary means of subsistence for many centuries. However, the economic and social conditions of fishermen in Daman have been vulnerable to a variety of effects, such as changes in the environment, the dynamics of the market, and interventions from policymakers. It is crucial for policymakers, development practitioners, and community stakeholders who want to promote sustainable development and increase the well-being of fishing communities to have a solid understanding of the dynamics of these changes. In order to shed light on the issues that fishermen in Daman confront and the chances for change, the purpose of this study is to investigate

the continuously changing economic and social situations of fishermen in Daman. This study's economic component takes into account a variety of elements, including levels of income, job patterns, the dynamics of the market, and access to financial resources respectively. The analysis of the economic components gives insights into the financial resilience and vulnerabilities of fishermen in Daman. This is because fluctuations in fish stock availability, changes in market demand, and government regulations that affect fishing practices and livelihoods all have an impact on the activities and livelihoods of fishermen. In addition to the influence of economic considerations, the social dynamics of fishing villages are also extremely important in determining the livelihoods and well-being of a community. There is a correlation between the availability of educational opportunities, healthcare facilities, social support networks, and cultural practices and the outcomes of social cohesion and human development within these communities. When these characteristics are investigated, it is possible to gain a better understanding of the larger socio-economic framework in which fishermen operate and to locate areas that require specific action. This investigation makes use of a mixed-methods methodology, which combines quantitative data analysis with qualitative insights obtained through interviews, surveys, and community participation. The objective of this research is to offer a complete picture of the economic and social situations of fishermen in Daman by triangulating information from a variety of sources. It is anticipated that the findings of this study will make a contribution to the current body of scholarship on communities that are dependent on fisheries by providing fresh perspectives on the particular circumstances surrounding Daman. Furthermore, the implications of this research extend to the informing of evidence-based policy interventions and development efforts that are developed with the intention of boosting the resilience and prosperity of fishermen in coastal communities. In the following parts, this study will go into the methodology that was utilized, the most important findings, and the ramifications for both policy and practice. A comprehensive knowledge of the changes that have occurred in the economic and social situations of fishermen in the Union Territory of Daman will be explained as a result of this investigation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The community of fishermen living in the Kabirdham district regions of Chhattisgarh has been the primary focus of the findings of this study. In addition to primary household surveys, it has also utilized secondary research of the information that is already accessible. Eighty-three fishermen were chosen at random from the various primary fisheries cooperative societies in the state of Chhattisgarh. These fishermen are either wholly or partially dependent on fishing activities in two reservoirs, namely Saroda and Chhirapani reservoirs, which are located in the Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh. The Department of Fisheries, which is the government agency responsible for maintaining the complete list of fish farmers, is organized according to the society. Interviews were conducted with 83 fishermen, all of whom were members of cooperatives, located in six distinct fishing communities over the course of the survey. During the process of gathering information from the respondents, the interview schedule was developed. Questions about personal information were included in the questionnaires, along with inquiries concerning socio-demographic conditions, income of fishermen, and other pertinent aspects of reservoir fishing. The schedule comprised of questions linked to personal information. Utilizing the PRA tool allowed for the establishment of rapport with the community. The number of variables that needed to be fixed for the quantitative survey was reduced as a result of this method, which was also helpful. For the purpose of data collection, the approach of personal interview was utilized. Additionally, secondary data from the Department of Fisheries, records, and a variety of other publications were studied at the same time.

RESULTS

Fishery Structure in the Study Areas

Numerous species, including IMC, Chinese carp, tilapia, *Channa* sp., *Notopterus* sp., *Ompok* sp., and *Mystus* sp., as well as tiny fishes such goby fish, *Gadusia chapra*, *Puntius* sp., *Ambasis* sp., *Amblypharyngodon mola*, *Rasbora* sp., *Chanda* sp., and others, are the species that are targeted by fisheries in the regions under investigation. In the nights, fishermen head out to the fishing grounds, where they place their gear and then head back to their vehicles. After retrieving the gear in the wee hours of the morning, they make their way back to the port with their haul inside. The catch is, however, sometimes transported home for eating by the household. Through the licensing procedure, the Department of Fisheries is able to acquire the legal fishing rights across all sources. The specified charge, which varies according to location, period of contract, types of nets, and number of boats, must be paid annually by members in order to make the registration process official. On a daily basis, the state fisheries agency has been in charge of collecting royalties based on the overall catch in kilograms.

Royalty amount paid by fishermen to DoF as given below (2008-2011);

- For major carp (IMC and Chinese carp); Rs. 25/kg
- For local major (Catfishes, etc) ; Rs. 20/kg
- For local minor (*Puntius*, glassfish etc) ; Rs. 10/kg

Some fishing villages in a same reservoir are allocated differing fishing privileges, which might lead to conflicts between such groups. Despite this, there have been several disagreements amongst the cooperative societies of fishermen about the ownership of the reservoir, fishing rights, and the raising of seed (ranching).

Socio- Demographic Profile of Fishermen

Religion

According to Khatun et al. (2011), religion makes a significant contribution to the social and cultural milieu of the people who live in a certain region. The majority of farmers were found to be following Hinduism, according to the findings of the current survey. In spite of this, the results of this study show that not a single farmer is a member of any other religious tradition (Table 1).

Caste

According to Singh (2003), caste is one of the significant elements that influences the selection of a profession and the presence of skills in a variety of rural economic activities to be carried out. In the current study, the Kewat tribe is home to the majority of farmers (36.4%), followed by the Dhimar tribe (32.7%), the Malha tribe (22.2%), and the Baiga tribe (8.7%) on the list (Table 1).

Age structure (Figure 1)

According to Hussain et al. (2009), it is essential to have an understanding of the age structure of fisherman in order to accurately estimate the potential productive human resources. The sample farmers in this study were divided into four age groups: those who were up to 30 years old, those who were 31 to 40 years old, those who were 41 to 50 years old, and those who were beyond 50 years old. According to the findings of this study, fisherman between the ages of 31 and 40 account for 38.6% of the total population and are more active than other age groups. In the selected 83 fishermen, the next group consisted of those aged 41 to 50 years,

followed by individuals aged up to 30 years, and the minimum active fisherman were those aged above 50 years (Table 1).

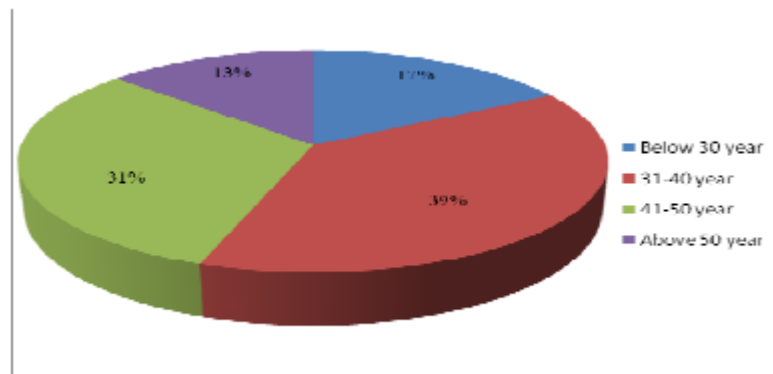


Figure 1: Age Structure of Fishermen

Family Size

The number of people in a family is a significant socioeconomic indicator since it has an impact on the household's income, the amount of food they consume, and their overall socioeconomic well-being. The results of the baseline survey show that families with a greater average size have five members (Table 1).

Table 1: Characteristics of Households According to the Types of Respondents

Sr. No.	Characters	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Religion	Hindu	83	100
		Muslim	-	-
		Christian	-	-
		Others	-	-
2	Caste	Kewat	30	36.4
		Dhimar	27	32.7
		Malha	18	22.2
		Baiga	7	8.7
3	Age structure	Below 30 years	14	16.9
		31-40 years	32	38.6
		41-50 years	26	31.3

		Above 50 years	11	13.3
4	Education level	Illiterate	39	46.6
		Primary	25	29.8
		Secondary	12	14.9
		Higher secondary	7	8.7
5	Family size	Small family (<4 members)	11	13.3
		Medium family (4-6 members)	46	55.4
		large family (>6 members)	26	31.3
Table 1: Contd.,				
6	Family type	Nuclear	30	36
		Joint	53	64
7	Housing condition	<i>Katcha</i>	56	67
		<i>Semi-pucca</i>	18	22
		<i>pucca</i>	9	11
8	Economic Status	BPL	83	100
		APL	-	-
9	Social participation	Participant	53	64
		Non-participant	30	36

Educational Status (Figure 2)

The degree of literacy and education of fishermen has an impact on their level of knowledge, the growth of their skills, their exposure to manufacturing technology and marketing methods, and their level of acceptance of more advanced technologies. According to the findings of the current study, the literacy percentage of fisherman is 53.4%, which is much lower than the total literacy rate of the state, which was 70.28% according to the Census 2011 (Government of Chhattisgarh, 2007). According to Khan (1986), one of the elements that might influence the utilization of ponds for fish farming is the level of education that the individuals have. There were just 17% of those who had completed secondary school or above. It is possible that being in a state of poverty and not being aware of the need of education are the causes.

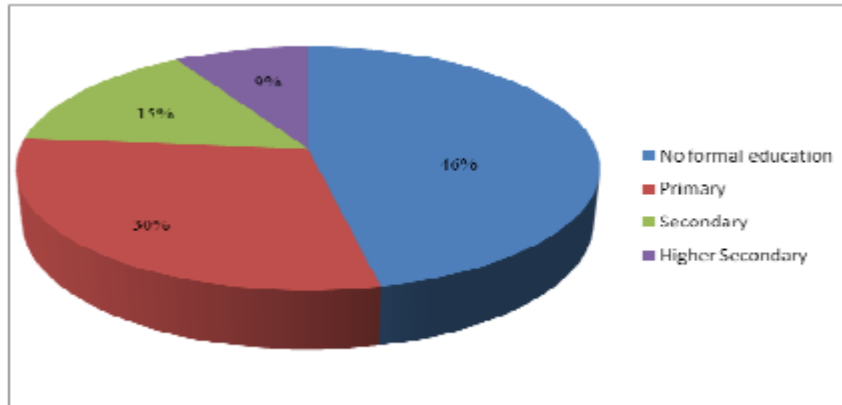


Figure 2: Educational Status of Fishermen

Housing Condition (Figure 3)

One of the three types of homes that may be found in the region under investigation is the Katcha, which was constructed out of bamboo and tree leaves and had a mud floor. The first type of pucca was constructed of brick, and the second type was semi-pucca, which consisted of brick in one section of either the floor or the wall, but the roof was made of wood or tin. It was shown that katcha was the dwelling condition of 67% of the fisherman, followed by semi-pucca living circumstances (22%), and then pucca living conditions (11%).

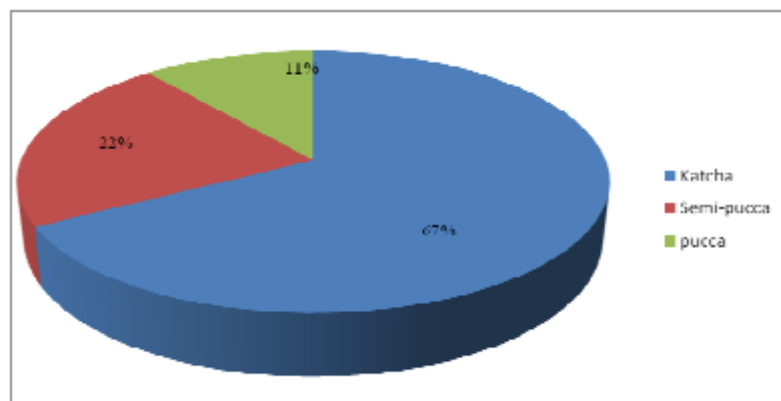


Figure 3: Housing condition of Fishermen

Annual Income

The level of life is directly proportional to one's income, and income has a strong correlation with virtually all of the indices of well-being. For the land owner (LO) fishermen, the average annual household income ranges from Rs 17396 to Rs 566888, while for the land less (LL) fishermen, the average annual household income ranges from Rs 8407 to Rs 36990, which is significantly below the poverty line. This is according to the current study, which found that the average per capita annual income for farmer households comes from different sources, including agricultural and non-agricultural sources. For the LO farmers, agriculture is the primary occupation, while aquaculture is the primary secondary occupation with the most significant impact. The majority of LL fishermen are employed in full-time fishing as their primary career, with agriculture and aquaculture being the most common supplementary jobs.

Land Ownership

The fishermen have been divided into two groups: i) landowners (LO), who primarily cultivate crops on their lands during the dry season and, as a source of additional income, are only involved in fishing activities during the wet season; and ii) landless (LL) fish farmers, particularly those who are full-time fishermen and rely on fishing for their livelihood almost throughout the entire year. Sixty-two percent of fisherman (LO) have a limited amount of agricultural land, which means they are unable to achieve sufficient productivity and must resort to a secondary employment, which is fishing.

Experience in Fish Farming

Due to the fact that it is the primary component in the formation of traditional knowledge, experience is an essential component in the process of effectively using resources and achieving superior results in any endeavor, but it is especially important in the fisheries industry. The current research includes fishermen with a wide variety of experience, ranging from six to twenty-seven years of fishing. The majority of the respondents are members of traditional fishing communities and possess a significant amount of indigenous knowledge on fishing practice.

Training about Fishing or other Related Matter

According to the findings of this survey, around 68% of fisherman have received training on one or more topics connected to their profession, whereas 32% do not have access to any training facilities. Some training programs, such as reservoir fisheries, hatchery operation, net meandering, and inter-state exposure tour, are offered by the Department of Fisheries. College of Fisheries, Kawardha also provided training for a period of two months under the VTP.

Conclusion:

To summarize, the findings of this research have enabled us to get significant insights into the changing economic and social situations that fishermen in the Union Territory of Daman are experiencing. The research has shed light on the problems, possibilities, and transformations that are occurring within fishing communities. This was accomplished through the utilization of a mixed-methods approach, which included the combination of quantitative analysis with qualitative data acquired through interviews and questionnaires. According to the findings of the study, there are considerable swings in income levels and employment patterns. These fluctuations are impacted by a variety of factors, including the richness of fish stocks, the dynamics of the market, and the actions of policymakers. While the lives of some fisherman have improved as a result of greater market demand or access to financial resources, other fishermen have encountered difficulties as a result of environmental deterioration or changes in regulatory policies. Within fishing villages, the study discovered that access to education and healthcare services has increased, which has contributed to better well-being and human development outcomes. Overall, the study concluded that fishing communities have improved. Nevertheless, social cohesiveness and community resilience continue to be susceptible to shocks from the outside world, which highlights the need of developing social support networks and cultural traditions. The conclusions of this study have a number of repercussions for those who formulate policy, those who work in development projects, and those who are involved in community affairs. To begin, there is a requirement for focused interventions to strengthen the resilience and prosperity of fishermen in Daman. These interventions should include steps to improve social infrastructure, encourage sustainable fishing

techniques, and expand market access. Secondly, policies should be formulated with a comprehensive knowledge of the economic and social dynamics that exist within fishing communities. This understanding should take into account the interconnectivity of livelihoods, human development, and environmental sustainability. Finally, the engagement and empowerment of the community should be at the center of the design and execution of development projects. This will ensure that the opinions and objectives of fisherman are heard and included into the decision-making processes associated with the development initiatives.

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