

# **Socio-Cultural Life and Economic Characteristics of Fisher (Women) Kanyakumari Coast, Tamilnadu**

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## **Abstract**

*This article is an Economic and fisher activities of women in Kanyakumari coastal villages are analyzed. Fishing is a major sector in coastal state of Tamilnadu; Fisheries are an important sector of food. Who constitute approximately half of the Kanyakumari population (39%) Fishing Activities in a working woman. Women employment is very often more precarious and less well paid than men's. There has been seen considerable progress worldwide in advancing women's economic, social cultural rights. Social scientists development practitioners have long been interested in the conditions that empower women. Study an attempt has been made about the involvement of fisheries women in their economic development. The parameters are taken for the development of fisher women status are, fisher men death-related benefits, awareness about women self- help groups, membership of women self-help groups, and benefits from self help groups. The early studies, particularly of late Nineteenth century anthropologists had recorded women's participation in all aspects of social, economic, political and religious aspects as they were but not emphases data were presented fewer than three Broad heads, such as procurement, sale of fish (wet) and dry fish and sale. Each head is further sub head according to the info pertaining the type of marketing or domestic level besides the economic are dealt in detail to draw the domestic and entrepreneurial tenacities. Economic and fisher activities of women in coastal villages are analyzed using the simple statistical technique. This study is based on the primary datasets and the output maps are prepared by the ArcGIS 10.2 software.*

## **Introductions**

The present research work is aimed to understand the Socio-Economic and Cultural Life and characteristics of fisherfolk in Kanyakumari district. Detailed research about the total area field work was carried out at all levels to the socio-economic cultural life characteristics of the respondents. The field work in designed with the help of a suitable scientific frame work of sampling namely the stratified random sampling connection the researcher was selected four categories of the fisherfolk.

Namely: a) Husband status, b) Fishermen death-related benefits, c) awareness about women self-help groups, membership of women self-help groups and benefits from self-help groups. In the characteristics of the fisherfolk in socio-economic cultural life analysis of samples totally 184 ( $4 \times 60 = 184$ ), each village has selectively four respondents are interviewed by direct questionnaire method. The Sample Survey was thoroughly carried out from 42 fisherfolk village of Kanyakumari district.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The present study area aims at attempting an Economic and fishing activities of women in coastal Villages of Kanyakumari coast of Tamilnadu. The following are the major objective of the present investigation.

1. The examining conditions and role of marine fisher women of Kanyakumari coast of Tamilnadu.
2. To study socio-economic conditions of marine fisher women.
3. To study the women roles in economic and fishing activity.

### **Study Area**

The present study area lies between  $77^{\circ} 15'$  and  $77^{\circ} 36'$  of the eastern longitudes and  $8^{\circ} 03'$  and  $8^{\circ} 35'$  of the northern latitudes. Kanyakumari is the southernmost district of Tamilnadu as well as India. The state is bordered by the state of Kerala in the west, Tirunelveli district in the north and east and the Indian Ocean in the south. The district coast length 70 km. district fishing is the major practices. The total area of 1672 sq. Km. It occupies 1.29% of the total extent of Tamilnadu. The district capital in Nagercoil and coastal landscape of Kanyakumari district is mainly composed of beach ridges of rocky, sandy and swampy nature in the estuarine regions. Ranks first in literacy among the districts in Tamilnadu.

### **Methodology**

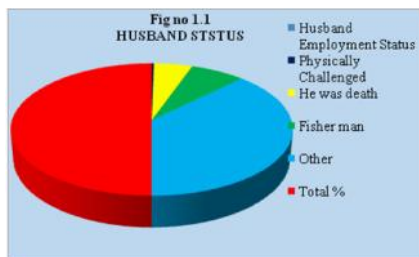
The studies are purely based on primary data, mainly questionnaire. A sample of about 208 fisherwomen is selected and collected data on the socio-economic and cultural profile of fishing Communities. Data are collected through a predesigned schedule while collecting face-to-face interview. A few well informed women households are intensively questioned to draw in-depth information (case studies). The collected empirical data is analyzed and used as value addition to the observed socio-cultural and economic factors prevailing among the Nagapattinam Fishing Communities.

### **Husband Status**

Husband employment status is an important aspect to decide the women worker. Because the fisher man deserted wife or widows indirectly force to do this fish related activities for survival. (Table no 1.1) explains that 14.3 percent women's husband was passed away, 0.6 percent women's husbands met health injury due to physically challenged they can't make the fishing activity so their wife involved fish-related activity. 10.1 percent of women's husband got very in subsistent money while fishing so their wife also involved income oriental. The other 75 percent are male, so they can't consider as because our samples were taken 25 percent only females remaining 75 percent are male fisherfolk (Fig. 1.1).

**Table 1.1 Husband Statuses**

Husband Employment Status	Respondents in Percentage
Physically Challenged	0.6
He was death	10.1
Fisherman	14.3
Other	75.0
<b>Total %</b>	<b>100.0</b>

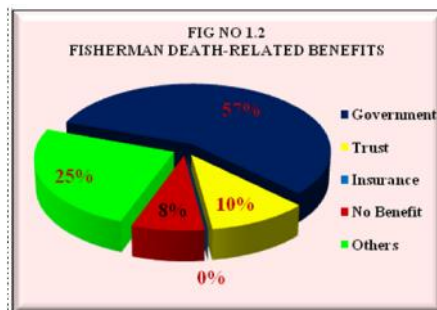


**Fisherman Death Related Benefits**

In this aspect explains after the death of fisherman any benefits or money available or not in their family, here it is explained. (Table 1.2) reveals that 57.0 percent fisher folk families got benefit from the state government during fisher man’s death. 10.6 percent families got benefits from private trusts, 2 percent of families got benefits from insurance policies, 0.0 and 8.0 percent of families they don’t get any benefits both government and private. The others 25.0 percent are females; they are not directly involved fishing activity.

**Table 1.2 Fisherman Death- Related Benefits**

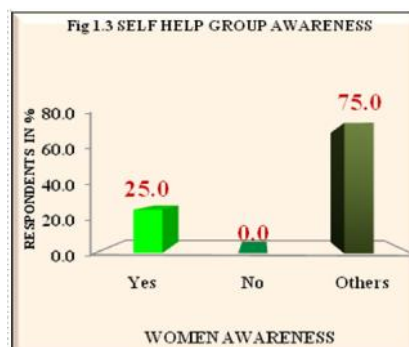
Benefits Available for Fisherman Family During Death	Respondents in Percentage
Government	57.0
Trust	10.0
Govt Policy	0.0
No Benefit	8.0
Others	25.0
<b>Total %</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Awareness about Women Self-Help Groups**

**Table 1.3 Self-Help Group Awareness**

Awareness about Women Self-Help Group	Respondents in Percentage
Yes	25.0
No	0.0
Others	75.0
<b>Total %</b>	<b>100.0</b>



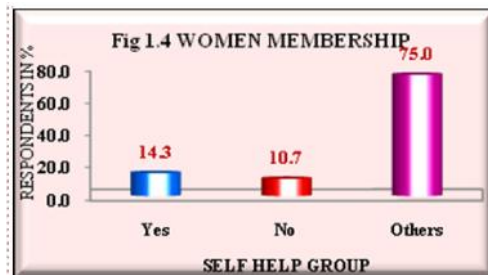
Self-help group (SHG) is a village-based financial intermediary committee usually composed of 10–20 local women or man. Members make small regular savings contributions over a few months until there is enough capital in the group to begin lending. Funds may then be lent back to the members or others in the village for any purpose. In India, many things are ‘linked’ to banks for the delivery of micro-credit. In this aspect explains about fisherfolk women’s awareness of self-help group. (Table1.3) shows that 25.0 percent females are aware of the self-help group. Only 0.0 percent females are unknown about the self-help group. The other 75 percent are males (Fig. 1.).

**Membership of Women Self -Help Groups**

(Table 1.4) explained that 14.3 percent females got a membership to the self-help group. Then 10.7 percent females are not joining the self help group. The other 75.0 percent are males. Above 60 years age females are not considered for membership to the self help group (Fig. 1.4).

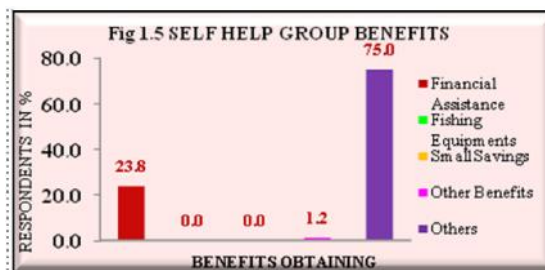
**Table 1.4 Self -Help Group Membership**

Are you Member of Self -Help Group	Respondents in Percentage
Yes	14.3
No	10.7
Others	75.0
<b>Total %</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Table 1.5 Self Help Group Benefits**

Benefits Obtaining From Self Help Group	Respondents in Percentage
Financial Assistance	23.8
Fishing Equipment	0.0
Small Savings	0.0
Other Benefits	1.2
Others	75.0
<b>Total %</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Benefits From Self Help Group**

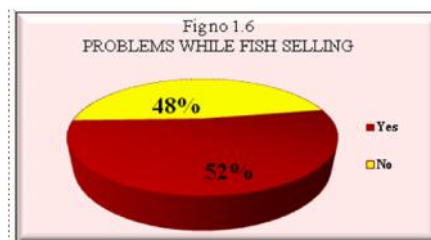
(Table 1.5) shows that 23.8 percent females obtain benefits of financial assistant, like loan for interest from the self-help group. Then 3.9 percent females are involved in small savings related activities. Only 0.0 spend the benefits for fishing equipment. 1.2 percent of females got money to spend other works like economic and economical related activity. The other 75.0 percent are males (Fig. 1.5).

**Fish Selling Problem**

(Table 1.6) explained that 48.0 percent facing problem while fish selling. Then 52.0 percent are not facing problem to fish selling. The street ventures and females are facing so many problems which are health problem transport problem head loading, fish unavailability, fish not selling at festival months these are the problems. Boat owners gathered the fish and reach the shore then sell it that is they don't have that much problem.

**Table 1.6 Fish Selling Problem**

Do You Face any Problem while Selling Fishing	Respondents in Percentage
Yes	52.0
No	48.0
<b>Total %</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Per Day Fish Trade**

**Table 1.7 Fish Selling Per Day**

Selling of Fish in a Day	Respondents in Percentage
5 - 7 Kg.	3.6
7 - 9 Kg.	6.5
9 - 11 Kg.	4.8
> 11 Kg.	10.1
Others	75.0
<b>Total %</b>	<b>100.0</b>



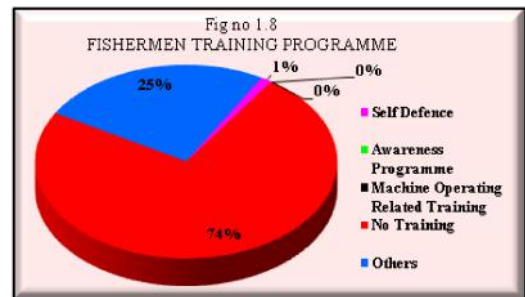
(Table 1.7) indicate to measure street venture fish selling. The above 60 years old females are selling 5 to 7 kg fish in a day the accounted as 8.9 percent. 5.9 percent sell 7 to 9 kg of fish to directly sell to hotels. 6.2 percent sell 9 to 11 kg fish in a market or main junction or important places. 10.1 percent sell the fish directly to the small agencies and big fish trade canters above 11 kg. The other 75 percent is trade not measured (what they are captured to trade everything) the weight of fish to directly trade big commission agencies to near the shore.

**Special Training Programme conducted**

(Table 1.8) explains about fisherfolk attain special training programs. 1.2 percent attend self-defence programme, 73.8 percent of fisherfolk attended awareness programs, the other 25.0 percent not attending any training and awareness programmes and training camp (Fig. 1.8)

**Table 1.8 Special Training Programme Conducted**

Special Training Programme From Government Or Private Any	Respondents in Percentage
Self Defence	1.2
Awareness Programme	0.0
Machine Operating	0.0
No Training	73.8
Others	25.0
<b>Total %</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Conclusion**

The present analysis aimed to understand the socio-cultural life of fisherfolk in Kanyakumari district. Women are involved in fish handling, processing and marketing. They also work as fish hawkers or fish stalls in permanent market places or weekly bazaars. Drying and curing of fish are to a large extent done by women. Net making, which is the main income-generating occupation, is another important activity. Engaged, in the marketing of fresh fish, face to problems, such as lack of cold storage facilities and appropriate fish preservation technologies and escalating cost of fish transportation and frequent strikes. They are also engaged in fish net making, raring, processing, washing, cleaning, salting, drying, also packaging. This is a more realistic approach and contribution to the development of women’s participation in fisheries because the technical and

economic problems faced by women already within the industry are many, needs to be resolved. The field survey was carried out from 60 fisherfolk villages. Awareness about self-help group, membership of self-help group, related benefits. The present field observation help to explains about the women involved post-harvesting fish related activities like curing, cleaning, drying, selling of fish. The present field observation exposes that they don't have proper fish selling shelter, net making place, equipment storage place, fish preservative centers. Mostly fisher men selling the fish in nearby the shore. All most the fisherfolk villages are connected main roads. A female worker makes brie fish shore and takes head loading to involve street vending activity.

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