

The Social Situation of Fishermen Community in India's Coastal Area: A Critical Study

M.Punithan
Ph.D.Research Scholar
Department of Economics
Annamalai University

Abstract

Government of India has to initiate new policy to strengthen fishermen community's life status along with necessary and essential fishing facilities in all the coastal area of places, their life is still so pitiable due to poor financial support and government support for modernize their fishing business from traditional business to contemporary fishing business. Most of fishermen family's are daily leaning on fishing business alone they don't have any other an alternative business to protect their family so, they do suffer lot even in the contemporary area even no money to buy advance fishing vessels and boat for save their family from poverty and poor situations, their children and family's expenditure is managed by their fishing occupation, government from state to central have to disburse financial package to them on subsidized and concession basis for do their fishing occupation without panic and feelings. If government or any other Nongovernmental organization do this facilities their old fashion fishing style would be promoted to contemporary life style, then their income, revenue and happiness in family will be made in their family due to their business growth. Apart from this financial facilities social development and community development authorities are needed thoroughly to train them in fishing occupation with precaution measure and safety measure as a role of humanitarian assistance to them. Proper training, skills, education and forethought is needed and must be inculcated by training officers from the side of government and NGO for their holistic fish catching business.

Keywords: Safety, Security, Proper Training, Government facilities and increasing their business

1. Introduction

Influences of absolute poverty has reduced the poverty rate in global level, with the help of millennium development plan and policy the absolute poverty rate 65 percentage was reduced in the international level. The well imagined and dreamed plan of India's government has

strengthened its people life status as they are able to stand on their own feet and energy, this types of position makes them to save, protect and nurture their life with minimum dependency of the government efforts and supports .Capabilities of Individuality in India has strengthened with an intention to uplift fishermen's' life from poverty, financial difficulties, occupation hardships and family oriented distress, the role of central and state governments are played much laudable role through rural and urban reconstruction and restructuring programmer .By which fund releasing activities are carried out by local administration, block development officer, municipality authority and collector for the development of fishermen's occupation and family development. Poverty alleviation programme is having different titles and nomenclatures in terms of uprooting poverty such as (policy to lift Under Privileged people, Infrastructure Development programme for disadvantaged community, Direct Cash Grand Programme, Community Empowerment Program, Public Health Security, Social Safety and Wishful Family Program) all these programmes are dreamed and coined pro-fishermen development government and officers who are adventurously applied these programmers in most poverty affected and less poverty affected area in entire India's coastal areas .Through these dynamic and unique polices the evil of poverty was able to get out from the human being life because which has been ruining and distressing daily fishermen's life and family.

Previous Research

Poverty is prosperity and breathing air of the poor people, lower social strata, isolated communities, and urban residents that were landless labourers. The fishermen communities involved in the unfortunate situation have aspirations (low aspiration) as a form of realistic aspirations. This may also be caused by their lower economic situations and more fatalistic culture, their meager social status are making them disinterest and unwillingness to pursue goals, see personal progress and develop their life in socio, economical and political area .Feelings of helplessness and situations of lack of supports of the fishermen's community in India's coastal area made them to be at so merciful and sympathetic situations. Owing to poor economic situations they did not like to go up in their life style for change fundamental problems of livelihood. By their poor situations they tend to surrender values or norms, dignity, respects in social setup due to prolonged poverty, to be resolving their basic problems in their living places substantial polices are needed to encourage their fish catching activities. The bad environment

situations also making so much damages and devastation in their survival and subsistence. By which they are suffering much to reliving from those crisis, spending much money to come out from storm and cyclone affected situations by borrowing money on Interest basis .Due to these environment crisis very often happening in India's coastal region the life situations of the fishermen communities are seemed so pitiable as they could not able to come out from the met consequences .Additionally ,as an environment determines a person's life and growth ,fishermen life also determined by the bad and good environments because their life is very close to sea which is a major source of determining climate, rain, snow and environments that poor is rested and vested by good to sea. In this aspects always bad and good sea oriented environments are affecting the fishermen career and life, for which governbmnet and costal authority and ministries are needed to make a strong and steady policy for the precaution and safety method. Regarding poverty reduction programs undertaken by the government, whether it has or has not touched the substantive aspects of poverty alleviation initial hypothesis, empowerment programs that have not touched the social and cultural aspects so far, less able to accommodate specific social, cultural and historical nuances of the fishing communities. In other words, poverty alleviation programs only nationally adopted as 'top down' programs instead of the initiative the district and city or region and poor communities based on social, cultural and historical communities. Therefore, poverty reduction programme and polices of the centralized governments are played much lifting role in the fishermen's community life ,its role is much welcome and appreciative one for the safety and secure life pattern of them in a multicultural India's society.

Research Setting

During India's many government policies ,some of government standard poverty reduction polices are being still as a unforgettable and remembered by so many poor people when they life at proper social conditions .Good life of fishing communities are made by both central and state government experts regarding fishing occupations(Improvements came in fishing and fishermen community's life by fishing related experts made law and policy).Indian governments are made substantial policy to bring up fishermen life style from old style to contemporary style due to their drastic socio and economic situations were prevailing for long decade in Indian soil.

Lot of welfare and amenities programs are sanctioned in the coastal area with purpose to focus fishermen people's occupation, survival and livelihood, as other caste and community people even this people also have to participate in events and programmes of social, cultural, economic and political for comprehend external world general knowledge and information's. According to geographical factors fishermen communities in the Indian coastal areas are developed and affected by cyclone and high waves of the sea, here, developments and loss will happen at any time in their business and occupation, fishing profession is dangerous and risky one for livelihood and subsistence they are doing this business on risky path. Compensation, remedial and relief facilities and supports are needed frequently to them from government side and NGO side if they get affected by unpredictable cyclone and tsunami.

During the globalization, industrialization, privatization, computerization and technological revolution still there are some poor fishing families, with indicators such as the quality of the physical facts of poverty, residential housing conditions are very simple, woven bamboo walls leaf thatch roofs, bamboo floors or sandy soil, and the limitations of proprietary home furnishings, including the level of education of their children, the pattern of daily consumption, and relatively low levels of income.

Findings and Discussion

India's marine areas are affected by two monsoon seasons i.e. rainy and dry season. In the rainy season, the wind blows from the northwest or called the west wind. This is the title for the great wind season for fishermen in their annual calendar. This season did little to dissuade mariners at sea, for fear of the safety factor because sea, it was all done in order to avoid life-threatening ocean waves. West monsoon usually occurs in December through the month of March or until the month of June. In the summer time the wind blows from the west toward the west-northwest with a relative high speed and this season it rains, though bad weather conditions because of the demand to meet the needs of the family then there is still a desperate fishermen fishing communities Bone although only around the edges of the water and maximum around 20 miles away from the coast, while the dry season (eastern season) wind blowing from the southeast. The dry season occurs from about May to September and has a dry characteristic and relatively the wind is not too fast. Between the rainy season and the dry season there is a transition season that occurred in April, October and November with the air temperature varied, and usually in a

fishing community known as the dry season , this condition is quite vulnerable to the lives of fishermen that result in the resistance on the lives of fishermen in whole. The water depth is ranging from five meters to thirty meters with the bottom consist of mud and sand.

The low fishermen's income can affect the fishermen's household to be in 'safety first' condition which means fishing communities generally will wait and see passively on the new introduction of business and its influence on the family economy. This way, in their point of view, will always minimize the possibilities of being loss or failed in the business rather than looking for new opportunities to get maximum results but with a high risk to the existence of the family economy. Fisherman social structure is dominated by poor fishermen that own boats with one outboard motor type 1, size 0-5 GT (Gross Tonnage) which can be categorized as limited ownership of traditional fishing boat with a simple machine technology is a major contributor to the quantity of fisheries production in the region. However, they remain marginal in social position in the unequal and exploitative technologies. So as producers, the fishermen did not receive a large share of revenues.

This condition is worst when the market is dominated by middlemen; they are actually becoming the ruler of the economy in the fishing community. These conditions are triggering a number of economic issues that increasingly crucial in this fishermen community. Social reality is clearly illustrated through some social - economic facts of fishermen life as follows: Most of them (the poor fishermen) are also involved with middlemen; about 80% are involved with the middleman. Why? Because they can easily get loan, even though they have unsecured debt to the middleman, they can borrow again, they are given again as a good opportunity for them (loan shark). It cannot be anticipated quickly to help them get out of the difficulties of life. Some poor fishermen buy boats and having all fishing equipment that have been used but still worth fishing, rather than making their own. Indeed, there is no specific treatment for this outboard engines using diesel fuel only, due to the impact of the fuel price hike which is causing enormous hardship for fishermen. After the boat is used, it is tied on the seashore and the motorboats are usually used in Lane IA and IB or around the seashore area, although some reach Lane II, the amount is not sufficient. It is interesting that poor fishing families are still able to survive, they do not seem to feel the conditions experienced by the limitations of their everyday behavior, and they even enjoy it. There is a question if is poverty they are experiencing due to the existing

social structure or hierarchy?. Poverty might happens because of the prevailing social structure only allows certain members of society to be rich, while others are to be at poor conditions. It is prone to happen in a family of fishermen, especially some of poor fishermen who do not have boat or fishing vessels and boats have been facing huge problems. The roots of poverty can be associated with the perception of neither the orientation of the fishing communities themselves, nor the views of the poor against the rich and associated with a survival strategy for the fishing community. If the substance of the problems associated with poverty in India, there are several points of view, such as the agrarian populist group which is represented by the group of experts and civil society activists who think poverty is a problem that is essentially a very simple intervention of the State in public life in general, rural communities. The point of view of a group of officials who say that poverty is the core cultural issues. People are poor because they do not have a high work ethic, do not have the entrepreneurial spirit, technical education and low education, not even related to the quality of human resources and skills .

Conclusion

From over all assessments of this study is like to say few points regarding to remedial and boosting polices in fishermen communities .Separate mechanism should be fixed in the coastal areas to watch their activities , for make permanent remedial measure in social and economic development activities, poverty alleviating and uprooting polices should be adopted by government . The characteristics of fishermen is matching with limited assets and property , weak social, capital structure, lack of bargaining and negotiation capacity is being hurdles as to access the result of justice and economic development , weaknesses in the market is not able access science and technology advantages . In this position, the life of poor fisherman become more difficult, complicated and tend to face several problems at multidimensional. Poverty of fishing communities in social groups are varied and differed due to fishing season and potential fishery resources. The nature of open access to the sea is yielding overfishing throughout the research area. Another cause of poverty is limited affordability of fishermen on technology, imbalance in the market with domination of middlemen have weakened fish marketing network and this fact is compounded by the malfunction of social institutions. The dominance of the poverty problems in the lives of fishermen is exposed to defend and lean coastal area's support for uplift their family and occupation from the waves of agony and sadness. Each year

government of India should start to do survey to know the real situations of the poverty of fishermen communities, on the basis of discovered results government have to make policy and budget regarding to wipe out their basic problems .They need to commit at overseeing, surveying and monitoring their daily survival and factual needs and problems. For access, analyze and augment their needful necessities for enable them to live and survive themselves without sad feelings government needs to do this study quoted points.

References

Akpalu, W. (2011). Fisher skills and compliance with effort-limiting fishing regulations in a developing country. *International Journal of Social Economics*. 38 (8), 666-675.

Alexander, B; and Chan-Halbrendt, C. (2006). Sustainable livelihood considerations for disaster risk management. *Disaster Prevention and Management*. 15 (1), 31-50.

Arthur, S. N. A; and Mensah, J. V. (2006). Urban management and heritage tourism for sustainable development. *Management of Environmental, Quality: An International Journal*. 17 (3), 299-312.

Barrett, A; and Mosca, I. (2013). Social Isolation, Loneliness and Return Migration: Evidence from Older Irish Adults. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. 39 (10), 1659-1677.

Bramwell, G; Reilly, R. C; Lilly, F. R; Kronish, N; and Chennabathni, R. (2011). Creative Teachers. *Roeper Review*. 33 (4), 228-238.

Bruce, C. D; Flynn, T, and Stagg-Peterson, S. (2011). Examining what we mean by collaboration in collaborative action research: a cross-case analysis. *Educational Action Research*. 19 (4), 433-452.

Cuesta, L; and Meyer, D. R. (2014). The Role of Child Support in the Economic Wellbeing of Custodial-Mother Families in Less Developed Countries: The Case of Colombia. *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family*. 28, 60–76.

Eliason, S. L. (2006). Factors influencing job satisfaction among state conservation officers. *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies & Management*. 29 (1), 6-18.

Fang, L. & Schinke, S. P. (2011). Alcohol Use among Asian American Adolescent Girls: The Impact of Immigrant Generation Status and Family Relationships. *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*. 10 (4), 275-294.

Ferse, S. C. A; Knittweis, L; Krause, G; Maddusila, A; and & Glaser, M. (2012). Livelihoods of Ornamental Coral Fishermen in South Sulawesi - Indonesia: Implications for Management. *Coastal Management*. 40 (5), 525-555.

Fishman, D. B. (2011). Case study research in counseling and psychotherapy. *British Journal of Guidance & Counseling*. 39 (5), 510-512.

Gertler, P; Levine, D. I; and Moretti, E. (2006). Is Social Capital the Capital of the Poor? The Role of Family and Community in Helping Insure Living Standards against Health Shocks. *CESifo Economic Studies*. 52 (3), 455-499.

Lubis, M. A; and Wekke, I. S. (2009). Integrated Islamic Education in Brunei Darussalam: The Hopes and Challenges. *EDUCARE: International Journal for Educational Studies*. 1 (2), 141-156.

Maanen, J. V. (2006). Rediscovering Japan: some thoughts on change and continuity in traditional Japanese careers. *Career Development International*. 11 (4), 280-292.

Mair, C. A. (2013). Family ties and health cross-nationally: the contextualizing role of familistic culture and public pension spending in Europe. *Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. 68 (6), 984-996.

Njoku, I. F. (2004). The information needs and information-seeking behavior of fishermen in Lagos State, Nigeria. *The International Information* 26; *Library Review*. 36 (4), 297-307.

Parker, M; Allen, T; Pearson, G; Peach, N; Flynn, R; and Rees, N. (2012). Border parasites: schistosomiasis control among Uganda's fisher folk. *Journal of Eastern African Studies*. 6 (1), 98-123. Powers, S. P; Fodrie, F. J; Scyphers, S. B; Drymon, J. M; Shipp, R. L; & Stunz, G. W. (2013).



Gulf-Wide Decreases in the Size of Large Coastal Sharks Documented by Generations of Fishermen, Marine and Coastal Fisheries. *Dynamics, Management, and Ecosystem Science*. 5 (1), 93102.

Santiago, A; and Roxas, F. (2012). Identifying, developing, and moving sustainable communities through renewable energy. *World Journal of Science, Technology and Sustainable* .