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Socio Economic Conditions, Schemes Evaluation and Technological Appraisal of Fisherman (A Case Study in Therespuram Village of Tuticorin District, Tamil Nadu)

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A B S T R A C T
Techniques for catching fish include hand gathering, spearing, netting, angling and trapping. The term fishing may be applied to catching other aquatic animals such as molluscs, cephalopods, crustaceans, and echinoderms. The term is not normally applied to catching farmed fish, or to aquatic mammals, such as whales, where the term whaling is more appropriate. The English rules Thoothukkudi, which was a part of Thirunelveli district, till India's independence. Tuticorin district is in southern Tamil Nadu, in Gulf of Mannar region, which is situated between India and Srilanka. Tuticorin district names 23 fishing village, with population close to 70,000. Therespurm is one of the village in Tuticorin. It is 9km away from Tuticorin Harbour. Totally around 5,600 fishermen family are living here. 48 wards are there. Also they are using GPS and new Technologies for fishing. Hence the study focusing on socio – economic conditions, schemes evaluation and technological appraisal of fisherman in therrespuram village of Tuticorin.

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INTRODUCTION

Fishing is the activity of trying to catch fish. Fish are normal caught in the wild. Techniques for catching fish include hand gathering, spearing, netting, angling and trapping. The term fishing may be applied to catching other aquatic animals such as molluscs, cephalopods, crustaceans, and echinoderms. The term is not normally applied to catching farmed fish, or to aquatic mammals, such as whales, where the term whaling is more appropriate. According to FAO statistics, the total number of commercial fishermen and fish farmers is estimated to be 38 million. Fisheries and aquaculture provide direct and indirect employment to over 500 million people in developing countries. In 2005, the worldwide per capita consumption of fish captured from wild fisheries was 14.4 kilograms, with an additional 7.4 kilograms harvested from fish forms. In addition to providing food, modern fishing is also a recreational pastime. Despite of the enormous increase in the fisheries population the prosperity, welfare and development of the fisher folk in Tuticorin district especially in Therrespuram village as measured by government authorities are seemed to be a major obstacle. Lack of awareness about the schemes which are available to them is another major problem. The majority are used to live under poverty and financial instability. It throws heights to an aspect that the socio- economic and Technological backwardness of the fisher folk should be analysed in an entirely different angle that is from the point of view of their income and expenditure pattern.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

This study will be useful to know about the socio economic condition of fishermen In Therrespuram village. It also gets in touch with anti socio elements such as alcohol, drugs and smoking in which a good amount of their income is wasted and has an adverse impact on the standard of living of fishermen. It will create the awareness to the fishermen about the central government, state government and fishermen co- operative society schemes. It also throws lights about the urgent need of improvement in technological knowledge of poor fishermen.

METHODOLOGY

As the study aims at analysing the socio – economic conditions, use of technologies and schemes implemented hence it is analytical in nature. As the study intended to analyse the socio- economic conditions of fishermen in a selected village the study is based on primary data. Therrespuram village in Tuticorin was selected as the study, where most of the fishermen are backward and economically poor and at the same time they do not follow any structure in fishing. There are 5628 fishermen in Therespuram village and they all involve in fishing and other related activities. Considering the nature and the type of study it was decided to select one per cent of the total fishermen population in this village thus, the total sample size is 56. The data was collected using a structured interview schedule. The convenient sampling technique was adopted to collect data. As it is a primary data, we can't generalise the result to whole Tuticorin District. It applies all the limitations of primary data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Fishing in India

India has vast and diverse potential of fishing resources comprising 2 million sq. Kms of Exclusive Economic Zone for deep sea fishing, 7,520 Kms. of coastline, 29,000 Kms. of rivers, 1.7 million hectares of reservoirs, nearly 1 million reserves hectares of brackish water area and 0.8 million hectares of tanks and ponds for inland and marine fish production. All these resources are waiting to be exploited fully. India is the third largest producer of fish in the world and, second largest in inland fish production fisheries sector plays an important role in the socio- economic development of India, generating employment for a large coastal population- about 14 million fishermen draw their livelihood from fisheries, but they generally live on the verge of extreme poverty, being victims of middlemen and money lenders. The fisheries sector in not only an important source of direct employment but generates employment in downstream industries- the sector provides employment to over 11 million people engaged fully, partially or in subsidiary activities. Fisheries help in raising nutritional levels, augmenting food supply and being a major foreign exchange earnings.

Marine Fishing in India

Harvesting of marine fisheries resources in the country warrants stronger emphasis on invoking technological innovations as well as management paradigms that reconcile livelihood issues with concerns on resource conservation. Global production of fish from marine capture fisheries in the last decade has stagnated gradually and many stocks have been either overexploited or have reached their maximum sustainable yields. Issues that need to be addressed for enhancement of marine fish production are:

1. Open sea cage culture of high value fin fishes and shell fishes involving fisher folk as an innovative system that aims to fulfill not only the fascination to farm the seas as a profitable aqua-venture but also as a potential tool for conservation and mariculture.
2. Diversification of fishing towards the under exploited deep sea and oceanic resources like tuna, shark, sail fish and allied species.
3. Exploitation of perch resources in and around Island waters of Andaman & Nicobar.
4. Need to reorient the fisheries management regime for a long-term sustainability of the resources and enhancing the economic efficiency of fishing operations.
5. Reduction of fish discards at sea and utilization of such discards for production of value added by products.

Fishing in Tuticorin District

Tuticorin district is in southern Tamil Nadu, in Gulf of Mannar region, which is situated between India and Srilanka. Tuticorin district names 23 fishing village, with population close to 70,000. Founded by Portuguese, captured by the Dutch and then ceded to the British, Tuticorin, once referred to as the pearl city, is also known for its chank fisheries. The gulf of manner region houses the

densest of the fisher folk population and is rich in fish as compared to the Coromandel Coast and Palk Strait regions, housing around 450 of the 2200 species of fish found in India (20 percent). This makes it the single richest coastal area in terms of fish diversity in India.

Table 1. The Single Richest Coastal Area in Terms of Fish Diversity in India

Marine fishing villages	23
Fishermen cooperative societies: Nos 25 Members 30265	
Fisher women cooperative societies: Nos: 24 Members 18335	
No of fisher folk enrolled in fishermen welfare board	42086
Major fishing harbour	1
Reclaimed name area	21 area
Area of the berthing place for mechanised boats	2.7 acre
Depth of the berth place	3m to 4.5m
Length of the jetty	800m
Length of the break water wall at seaward side	1200m
Berthing facilties	400 boats and 50 nava
Fish landing centre	1 Therrespuram
Total area	17 acre
Wharf length	320 meters
No of finger jetty:	1 (52m*10m)
Shore facilities: Auction hall Toilet blocks High mark light	 1 2 1
Registered fishing crafts	5149
Mechanised fishing boats (TN12MFB)	448
Wooden vallams (TN12WV)	2073
FRP Vallams (TNFRP)	1606
FRP catamarans (TN12WC)	2
Wooden catamarans(TN12WC)	1020
Method of fishing	Licence fishing
Inland fishermen cooperative societies No Of societies Members	3 1274
No of fisher folk enrolled in fishermen welfare board	1478

Therespuram Fishing Village

Therespurm is one of the village in Tuticorin. It is 9km away from Tuticorin Harbour. Totally around 5,600 fishermen family are living here. 48 wards are there. These fishermen are economically and socially poor. As compare to fishermen in Main harbour. Till 2004 therespuram fish landing centre was the main fishing harbour. They are not fishing under any structure. Most of the fishermen don't know about the schemes which are available to them.

Therespuram fishermen are using motorised and non- motorised boats. Also they are using GPS and new Technologies for fishing.

Technologies and Types of Boats which are Used by Tuticorin Fishermen

Figure 1. Vallam Craft

Figure 2. Mechanized Boat

Figure 3. Fibre Boat

Figure 4. Fishing Vessal

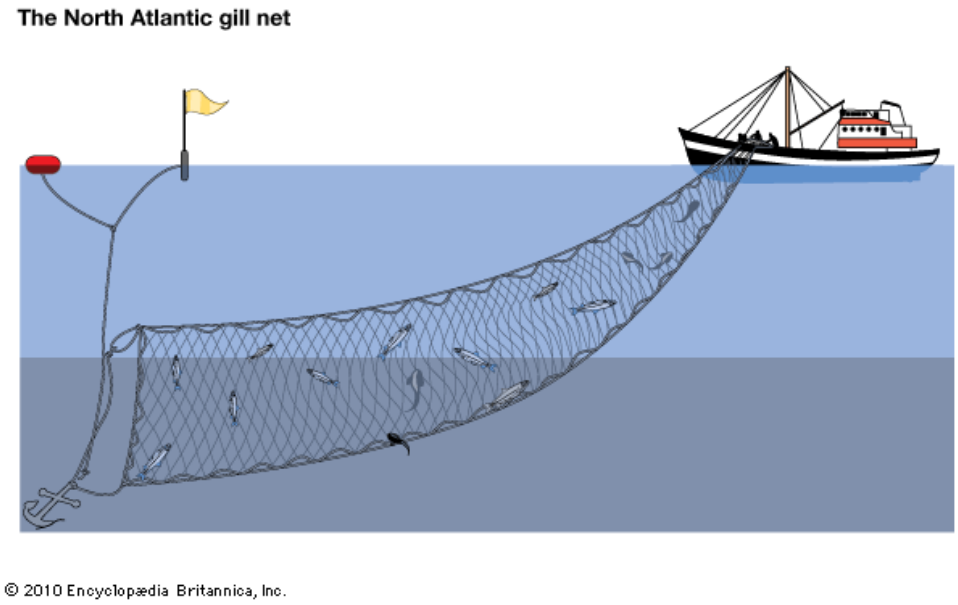

Figure 5. Gill Net

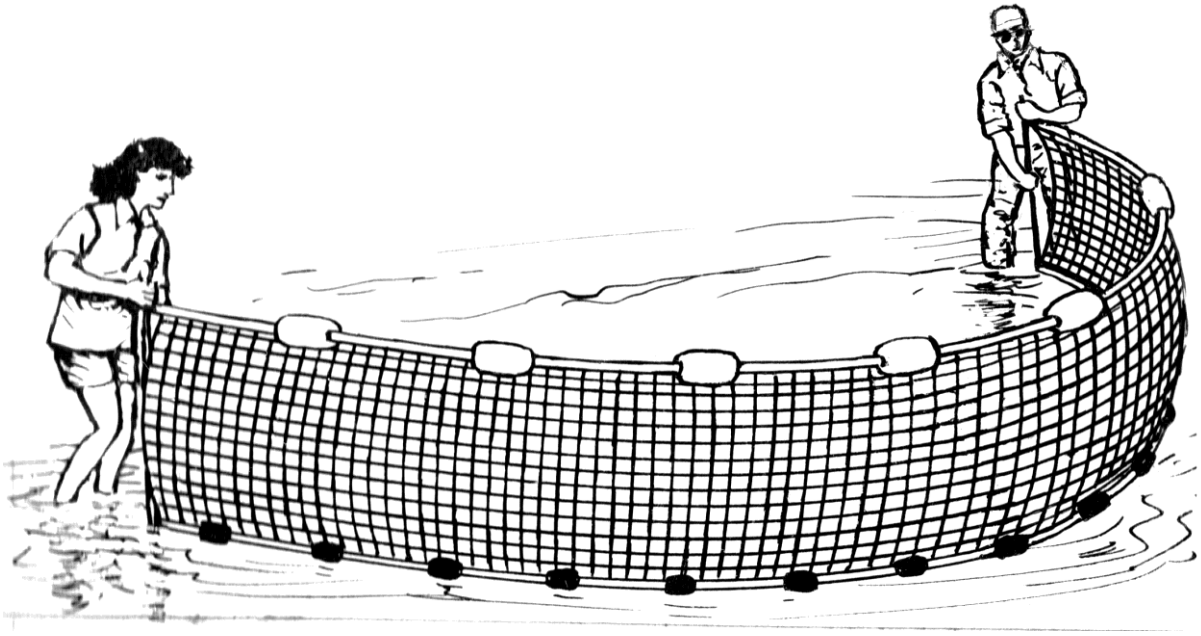

Figure 6. Drag Net

Figure 7. Cast Net

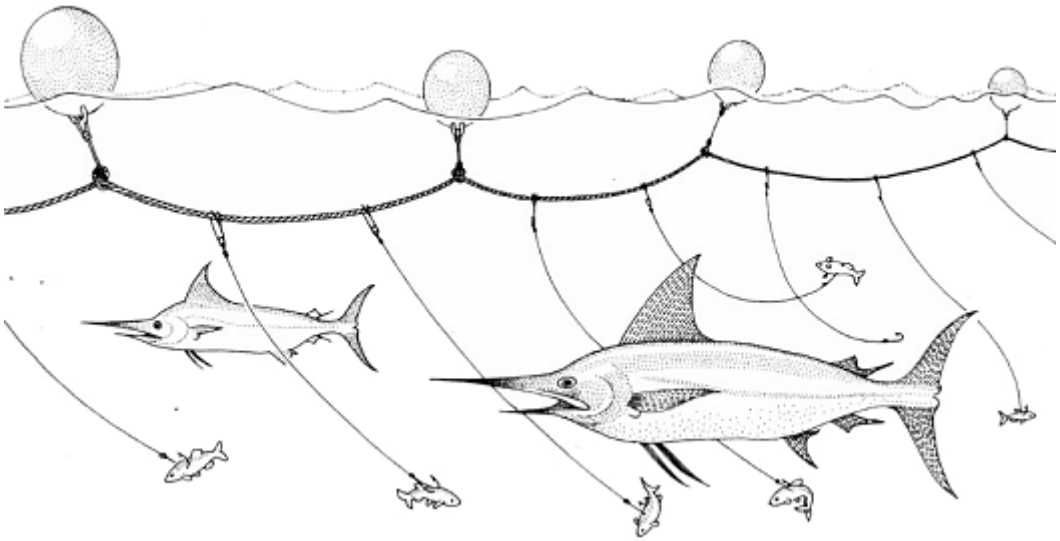

Figure 8. Hook Line Net

Figure 9. Scoop Net

Figure 10. GPS

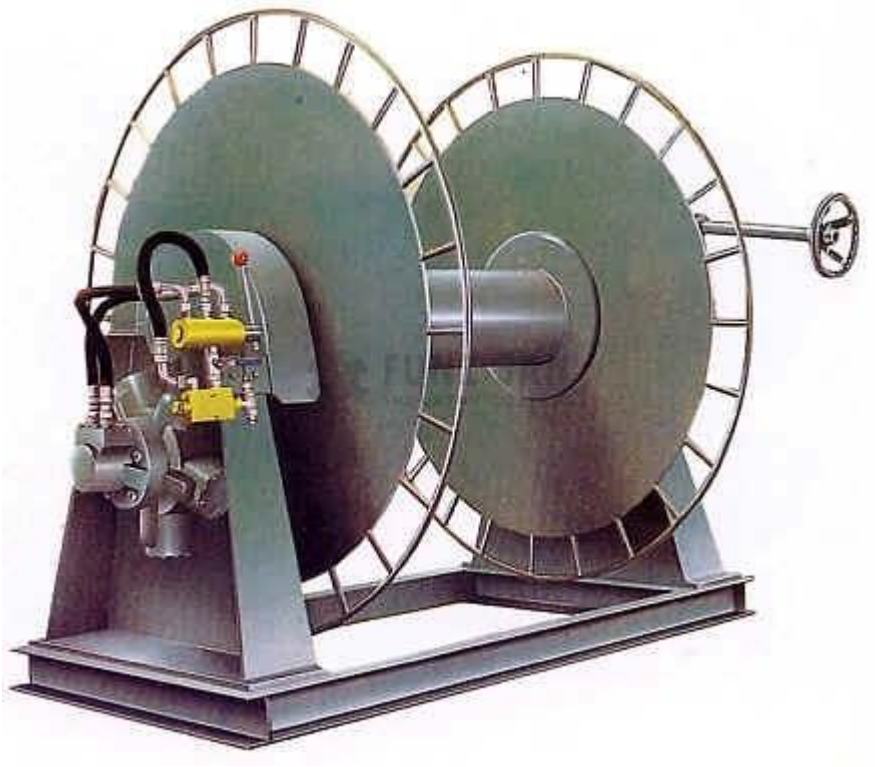

Figure 11. Winch

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The researcher has throws lights to an aspect that the socio- economic and Technological backwardness of the fisher folk in the study area in terms of fishermen income, purchasing behaviour, life style, educational qualification, technological awareness for using their profession to attain the objectives of the present study like various schemes', technological instrument used by the respondents and socio - economic conditions of the fishermen in the study area. Later, the researcher has found that, the majority of the respondents are aware of the schemes, technological factors and their social economic factors. But, still there is a lack of application of technological knowledge, using the schemes and maintain the social status and economic status in the study area is not up to the level. Therefore, the Government of India should take necessary steps to protect the welfare of the respondent's through particular ministry to enhancing the quality of socio economic life of the respondents in forth coming years.

It will penetrate the total fisheries field and its dependents life will improve in the study area. In future, it will become the major fisheries point in Tuticorin area. Therefore, the authorities must take appropriate initiatives for retain and maintain smooth environment to protect the respondents present and future generation. Through this process, the government of India fisheries export volume and fishermen standard of living will increase in future. In order to improve the socio-economic status of fishermen, their participation in the progressive activities for fisheries development is crucial. Their education and living standards needs to be upgraded by organising adult education campaigns and providing financial aid/credit facility, living quarters in colonies near major

fish landing centres, health/ risk coverage, credit facilities card similar to kisan cards, common facilities for storage and fish drying etc.

The Guidelines for the examination of State aid to fisheries and aquaculture allow State aid for modifying, modernizing and equipping fishing vessels, subject to the same conditions that apply to Community aid granted under the FIFG. Other types of aid for modernizing and equipping fishing vessels may be allowed in accordance with the Community Guidelines on State aid to firms in difficulty. However, Member States would have to obtain the Commission's approval for this. Aid should be limited to the minimum necessary, and restructuring must be based on realistic economic assumptions, which form the starting point for a restructuring plan. Furthermore, profitability must be ensured by reducing costs without increasing current overall fishing effort or capacity.

Human Resource Development is the integral part of economic development. The fishermen need to be trained in the following areas of fishery development:

1. Operation of motorised/mechanised boats and improved gears
2. Distance/ endurance fishing to increase the fish harvest
3. Scientific fish handling from the fishing ground to landing centre
4. Net fabrication/ mending, boat construction and repair, motor services and maintenance, fabrication of indigenous gadgets as fishing aids, etc.
5. Deep- sea/ oceanic fishing and operation of navigational aids
6. Post harvesting processing and preservation of fishing

FURTHER STUDY

Therefore, the Government of India should take necessary steps to protect the welfare of the respondent's through particular ministry to enhancing the quality of socio economic life of the respondents in forth coming years. It will penetrate the total fisheries field and its dependents life will improve in the study area. In future, it will become the major fisheries point in Tuticorin area. Therefore, the authorities must take appropriate initiatives for retain and maintain smooth environment to protect the respondents present and future generation. Through this process, the government of India fisheries export volume and fishermen standard of living will increase in future. In order to improve the socio-economic status of fishermen, their participation in the progressive activities for fisheries development is crucial. Their education and living standards needs to be upgraded by organising adult education campaigns and providing financial aid/credit facility, living quarters in colonies near major fish landing centres, health/ risk coverage, credit facilities card similar to kisan cards, common facilities for storage and fish drying etc.

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