

**CHAPTER - 6**

**PROBLEMS OF FISHING INDUSTRY.**

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**CHAPTER - VI**  
**PROBLEMS OF FISHING INDUSTRY**

There are so many problems concentrated around this industry in Kolhapur District. If these problems remain constant; the fishing in rivers may become outdated and the fishermen will have nothing to do. They might become jobless. The nature of these problems is of dual type. Some problems are age old. Whereas some problems are of recent origin. The majority of the problems can be explained under the following heads.

**6.1 THE SCANTY SUPPLY OF FISH-SEED**

Because of the scanty remains and the problems of water pollution the fishing in rivers is being badly affected. Naturally the emphasis is being given on lake fishing. In this system the best quality fish-seed is the first requirement without which the fish production cannot be done in lakes. There has been a constant increase in the demand for fish-seed. In the proportion of demand the production of the seed is very low. Moreover, the place Calcutta where the fish-seed is available is far away from Kolhapur. By the time it is brought to Kolhapur; most of the seed becomes weak because of the long journey it has to do. As a result

of it the seed when released in the lake is eaten up by the other rather bigger fish or by creatures like frogs; which affects adversely the total fish production.

## 6.2 WATER POLLUTION

It is one of the major problems causing a very great loss to the fishing industry especially river-fishing. Most of the sugar factories in Kolhapur district have been situated on the bank of some or the other river. The chemicals and effluents created in these factories are released into the nearby rivers. These effluents pollute the water and the growth of fish thus gets hampered to a large extent. So many small fish and fish-seed is destroyed. Those which escape this danger; their reproductive system is badly affected. The fishing co-operative societies of the district have done many efforts to solve the problem of pollution by giving applications to the collectorate and to the concerned ministers but no satisfactory steps have been taken by the government as yet.

In Radhanagari Taluka some Konkani residents use some methods for fishing because of which the river-water is polluted. They extract the juice of poisonous herbs and mix it with river water. The poison kills big fish and alongwith it small fish and

the seeds are also destroyed. In another method powerful country-made bomb is exploded in the deep water. The explosion kills a number of fish; but other unwanted creatures are also killed and because of the gases of the bomb the water is polluted. However, it must be admitted that unless a strong action is taken towards the prevention of water pollution; the fishery in rivers will have no bright future.

### 6.3 THE PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORTATION

It is commodity bound by time-limit. During a stipulated time the disposal must be done otherwise it becomes rotten and useless. Therefore, a prompt system for its transportation is very necessary. Immediately after fishing the fish should be made available in the market for the consumption of the customers. Sometimes the fishing spots are far away from the market and at such times especially in the case of poor fishermen, it becomes very difficult to carry the fish from the far away place to the market. Consequently such fishermen have to depend upon the public transport arrangements which is quite risky. Sometimes the fishermen are not allowed to carry fish from S.T. buses because of the inconvenience caused by the bad-smell of the fish to the passengers.

#### 6.4 LACK OF REFRIGERATION

The facilities to preserve fish through techniques like refrigeration are very rarely available. Despite the efforts taken by the fishermen, the government has not taken notice of it and built any such a hault for refrigeration. It affects the prices of the fish and the loss is to be born by the fishermen. It is through the efforts of Maharashtra Rajya Machhimari Sahakari Sangh Ltd., Bombay that one such a hault of refrigeration exists in Bombay only. There is an immense need of such a hault in Kolhapur district.

#### 6.5 LACK OF ORGANIZATIONS OF ZILLA MACHHIMARI SANGH

There are so many Sanghas like this organised the State. In Kolhapur district there are fifteen co-operative fishing societies but a unified Sangh of it has not yet been established. If such a Sangh comes into being; the problems such as availability of standard fish-seed, nylon threads used for weaving nets etc. will be easy to solve. In the present situation the co-operative societies have to always depend upon the co-operation of Maharashtra Rajya Machhimar Sahakari Sangh Ltd., Bombay. It is painful to note that most of the welfare schemes declared for the

benefit of fishermen remain on paper only. The details of these schemes are not well-worked out and executed properly. In short a uniform 'Sangh' is needed to be created.

#### 6.6 FIXATION OF PRICE RATES

In any productive business a fixation of price rates ensures better prospects for the businessmen. There must be a constant level in rates of the prices. In the fishing industry the picture is quite contrasting to this principle. In this the fisherman, who actually makes fish available in the market, cannot fix the rates. There seems to no such an arrangement in this district. The alternatives for fish i.e. meat and fish availed from sea; the rates of these can be raised according to the convenience of the sellers; because these sellers are well organised and they are very well-aware of the strategic deals. Whereas the fishing co-operative societies are not particular about it, as a result of which the price-rates are fixed by the middlemen, according to their fantasies. Mostly the rates fixed by middlemen are not favourable for fishermen which brings them in loss. Therefore, it is necessary that; some arrangement be done to help the constant fluctuation in the price-rates.

### **6.7        LACK OF MARKET**

Fish is an alternative commodity for meat or mutton. Those who eat mutton also eat fish. It is seen that the local Grampanchayat or Nagar Palikas make special arrangements for marketing of meat. As compared to fish-marketing such arrangements are definitely rare and scanty. At some places in and around the Kolhapur city the fish-markets are there, but the total situation of these markets is not satisfactory. The shops are not facilitated by other sanitary arrangements like water, ventilation, light and so on. It affects the marketing to a large extent. There has not been a constant attention towards the development of fishing as is there in the field of agriculture.

### **6.8        LACK OF MEANS AND RAW MATERIAL**

For the development of fishing a need for means and raw material is felt and it must be satisfied. Means generally consist, river, lake, nets, nylon threads, ropes fish-seed, urea, bran etc. The supply of all these materials must be regular. In Kolhapur district a number of lakes are unused for fishing. These lakes are unattended by the authorities because of it they are full of unwanted growings, water-reeds and the herbs. They have become unworthy for fishing.

Nets in the early times were to be woven by the Fishermen. Today, every kind of a net is readily available in the market. Such a market of nets is not there in Kolhapur. Moreover, there is no subsidy in the marketing of the raw material as mentioned above. The scheme of lease is also not there. Because of the factors mentioned above this industry is affected to a large extent.

#### 6.9 LACK OF PROCESSING

The facility of processing ensures the security to the fish-product since it is time-bound product. It is through processing that this product is made durable. There is no such an arrangement in Kolhapur. Because of it the fishing remains to limited proportion. If it comes into being there are further chances for development.

#### 6.10 LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEMES

The Kolhapur district is leading in the number of such Lift Irrigation Schemes on the bank of all the rivers i.e. Warana, Dudhganga, Panchganga etc. Because of these schemes the water-level essential for fish production remains quite at low and thus the growth of fish affects adversely. The water is lifted up from river at the rate of twice a month, which is quite rampant and causes complete drought at some parts of



the catchment area of the river. Though the above schemes are very beneficial for agriculture, yet it cannot be denied that the same schemes prove to be gruesomely dangerous for the development of fishing in river-water. It is a very crucial problem. It is not so easy to be solved.

6.11 PROBLEM OF LAKES FOR  
PRESERVATION OF FISH SEED

About 20 to 35 lakh fish-seed is required for the district every year. But since there are limits laid down upon the production of fish-seed at national level. As a result of it the requirement remains partially fulfilled. Moreover, the further production achieved through this manner is also low. Therefore, in our State the fish seed immediately after bringing from Calcutta is kept in a small pond for a period of two months. It grows during the period a little stronger than before and thus it comes out of danger. Such fish-seed doesn't die. Snakes in water or some such creatures cannot eat and destroy it. After this the seed is released in the larger lakes where it grows into fish and thus the production is increased. In Kolhapur district there is a lack of such small lakes used for preservation of fish seed,

**6.12      OBSTACLES IN FISHING ACTIVITIES**

The river fishing (capture fishery), in rural area is hindered because of local elements. The farmers whose lands are there by the bank of the river don't allow sometimes to catch the fish, sometimes they snatch away the fish from poor fishermen. They also create many obstacles in the way of fishermen by casting thorn and other wooden blocks in the river. Occasionally the farmers even beat the fishermen and snatch away their nets. Thus, even after the river-portion has been held on lease, the bullying farmers don't allow the fishing. Despite some measures taken by the Fisheries Development Officer the above affairs take place very often. However, all farmers are not alike some of the farmers remain silent and they don't interrupt in the fishing of the fishermen.

Apart from the above mentioned major problems there are still number of other minor problems.