

METHODOLOGY, SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to the steady rise in population throughout the world, considerable attention has been given to the problems of increasing protein resources and enhancing the biological value of different food products. Hence it is not by chance that lakes and river fisheries have come under intensive study now a days. The area under the lakes and river fisheries and fish yield are increasing, pisciculture technology is improving and fisheries becoming accepted as a branch of Agriculture Industry. Fish product which is coming from fisheries is a fairly valuable item of human nutrition and is gaining greater recognition. Actually fishing has been started from hunting stage of human development. There are two types of fisheries (1) Fisheries of Sea and (2) Fisheries of River, Lakes and Ponds etc.

2. IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE

The development of fishing and allied industries has a special significance because (i) This sector is eminently suited to assist a large mass of backward and economically weaker sections of the rural as well as urban community, (ii) it provides a high quality protein subsidiary to food at reasonable price and (iii) it has a large export potential

market. In Kolhapur there are few communities they have inherent occupations of fishing from the view point of these communities such as Bhoi, Koli, Bagadi and Muslim. It is most important for them to develop fishing in Kolhapur.

This industry is source based and labour intensive industry.

The Fishing Industry in Kolhapur District is a traditional profession of a particular community. There is a bright future to this industry in this district provided the new techniques are introduced to facilitate the new comers. The Radhanagari Dam has contributed a lot in the development of fishing but however, it is painful to note that because of the sugar-cane farming the fishing industry is badly affected. The profits through the sugar-cane is comparatively more. As a result of this sugar factories came into being. The emergence of sugar-industries created many more problems in the way of fishing industry. The effluents (mali) of the sugar factories started inter-mixing in the rivers to a large extent causing the death of numerous fish. The progeny of fish also started getting adverse effects. Before the pollution as mentioned above the following variety of fish were available in the rivers of Kolhapur

District i.e. Khirid, Masid, Ghogara, Koyara. These species have today totally extinguished. These yielded a large profit to the fishermen. On the other hand some varieties of fish like Takari, Kurudu etc. have become rare and dear. In short the fishing in rivers - capture fishing in the district is badly threatened.

Fishing industry is one of the best alternatives for farming or agriculture. But it is painful to note that in Kolhapur district, no farmers seem to have taken heed of it and attempted any efforts to make it one of the alternates for agriculture. But in the adjacent Sangli district farmer owning damp soils and unworthy for farming have started taking some steps for making them worthy for fish production.

It is needless to say that an all sided efforts are required to be taken towards improving the conditions of the fishermen and also at the spots where they do fishing. For example, it is essential to displace the wastes created by the sugar factories in a safe manner following dilutions and save river water from the danger of pollution; and sustain a healthy fish stock. The main rivers which flows in the Kolhapur district are - Bhogavati, Warana, Panchaganga, Kasari, Kumbhi, Tulshi, Vedganga,

Dudhganga, Hiranyakeshi, Kadavi, Tambrapani. The total length of these rivers in the district is about 701 kilometers. The major lakes in the district are - Grampanchayat lakes, Percolation tanks, Municipal Corporation tanks and Irrigation Department lakes. The total water spread area of these tanks is 3427 hectares. In the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation area there are about 10 lakes they are - Rankala, Rajaram, Kalamba, Kotitirth, Laxatirth, Residency, New Palace, Maruti, Corporation Khan, Vashinaka Khan. The total water spread area of these lakes is 202.12 hectares.

3. THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY

The Aims and Objectives of the Present Study are -

1. To study the fishing industry in general and fisheries development in river and lakes in and around Kolhapur in particular.
2. To find out the root causes of backwardness of fishing industry in Kolhapur.
3. To find out cost of production and extractions.
4. To study the role of middlemen in marketing aspects of this industry.

5. To identify the grievances of labour force in fishing industry.
6. To analyse government policies regarding technical and financial assistance, subsidies to this industry and
7. To suggest some measures for further improvement of the Fishing Industry in Kolhapur.

4. METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED

The data and information required for the study are collected from various sources i.e.

1. Records available from different co-operative societies of fisheries.
2. Records available from District Fisheries Development Officer and other Government Offices.
3. Visit to a market places, fishing spots, Kolhapur City Fish Market.
4. Discussion with employees, Chairman, and Office bearers of Co-operative Fisheries Societies.
5. Discussion with male and female middlemen and a number of fishermen.
6. Interview schedule, questionnaire and observations.

5. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is restricted to the development of fishing industry in lakes and rivers in Kolhapur district. Since the dissertation is required to be submitted to the University within a prescribed time limit, the period of study is limited to 5 years i.e. from 1982-83 to 1986-87. This study is undertaken as a part of the fulfillment of the Degree Course of Master of Philosophy in Commerce.

6. CHAPTER SCHEME

The present dissertation has been divided into Seven Chapters as follows :

First Chapter deals with the brief history of fishing in general and growth and development of fishing industry in Kolhapur. It also deals with the types of fish in rivers (capture fish), types of fish in lakes (culture fish) and types of fishing in rivers and lakes.

The Second Chapter gives the idea of economics of capture and culture fishing, present position of fish production in Kolhapur district and social and economical characteristics of Fishermen.

The Third Chapter is based on Retail, Wholesale and Export Marketing and the role of middlemen in the Marketing of fish which is one of the important aspects of Fishing Industry.

Chapter Fourth and Fifth deals with State and Fishing Industry and C-operatives and Fishing Industry respectively.

The Sixth Chapter deals with the problems of fishing industry such as scanty supply of fish-seed, water pollution, transportation, refrigeration, price, marketing, raw material, processing etc. which are the main obstacles to the industry.

The last Chapter i.e. Seventh Chapter deals with the conclusions of the study and some useful suggestions which will help the industry to improve in general and the fishermen in particular.