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CHAPTER-VI

DUGOUT OR PAGAR FISHING ACTIVITY

VI.1 INTRODUCTION :

One of the traditional ways of fishing is known as Dugout or Pagar fishing. It is an old, simple but risky activity. This type of fishing is seasonal; it runs for 8 to 9 months, though a few Pagars catch fish in the months of June, July and August also, but in creeks only.

There are thirty registered Pagar families in the town but for study, only fifteen pagar families have been taken into consideration.

VI.2 WORKING OF PAGAR :

Fishermen work for over 10 hours in the sea in day time or at night, and work 20 to 22 days in a month. Two to four people work on a Pagar during day or night, depending on weather conditions, currents and the availability of fish and adjustment of time from other work. At night they go with a simple lantern or a small torch. Fishing is done throughout night and they return in the morning. 'Pagar' is a very small boat, it is an art to seat 2 to 4 men in a small boat and catch fish in the open sea. If the sea is rough, ^{or} if stormy weather prevails, accidents can take place

and that is why the life of fishermen from this ^{category} category is very risky. Their wives anxiously wait for their life partners' return from fishing. (There are many Koli songs about Koli women awaiting their men, who are in the sea for fishing).

Though their life is risky and hard (for which they do not care or fear) they do not get proper returns for their catch. They have to sell off to Dalals if they owe money to them or if the catch is more ^{it} than could be sold in the local market. Even in the local fish market, the prices depend on the demand and supply position. If supply is more, prices tumble down as fish is a quickly perishable commodity; there are no facilities for fish preserving or its quick and reasonable transportation, and Malvan people (people from Malvan town) always eat only fresh fish.

After landing fishermen sort ^{the} the catch according to the varieties and then send it for sale. Some ^{pattern} ~~percentage~~ of fish is cured (dried or salted) and then send ^{it} for sale as cured fish to the nearby markets.

Fishing in rainy season is still harder and more hazardous. Very few fishermen continue their fishing activities in the month of June, July and August. They confine their fishing activity to the creeks named Kolamba creek or Tarkali creek (nobody can go on the open sea in

rainy season). They fetch a small quantity of catch but get good price as there is always demand for fresh fish in Malvan market.

Generally, coastal area people prefer only fresh and sea fish, they do not like to eat fresh water fish.

VI.3 THE NETS USED :

i) Pas or Saranga Jal : This is a type of surface drift net and as the name indicates, is exclusively used for catching Pomfrets. The net consists of 20-40 pieces, each piece measuring 240' in length and 15' in breadth with mesh size 5" to 6". The material used in the making of the gear is the same as is used for wavrinenets.

ii) Ghol Net : As the name suggests the net is used mainly to catch Ghol fish, the net consists of 12 to 16 pieces, each piece measuring 120' in length and 10' in breadth with mesh size of 6".

iii) Dhangad Jal : This is another type of science net consisting of 7 to 8 pieces each measuring 100' in length and 12' in breadth having a mesh size of 7" to 8". This net is made of nylon and monofilament and is used for catching for Karel and Surmai.

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iv) Cost Net : The net is prepared from cotton twine and has a circumference of 125' and a radius of 12' to 18'. Mesh size varies from 1/8" to 1". Fish caught in the net are Sardines, Mackerels and Prawns.¹

VI.4 PAGAR FISHERMEN FAMILIES FROM MALVAN TOWN :

This type of fishing activity is carried along the coastal line of Malvan town and the families of fishermen stay in various, eight ^{parts of Malvan town} parts of Malvan town like Dhuriwad, Dandi ~~and~~ Makerbag and so on. Moreover, all fishermen stay ^{on} at the sea-shore only.

VI.5 GENERAL INFORMATION :

1) Size of the Family :

The size of the family varies from 5 to 12 members as shown in the table.

TABLE No. VI.1
SIZE OF THE FISHERMEN FAMILY
(MALVAN TOWN)

Size of family number (Members)	Number of families
01 to 04	-
05	3
06	1
07	3
08	2
09	-
10	3
11	2
12	1
Total : 122	15

From the observation it is found that generally the size of the christian or the muslim families is larger than a Gabit (Hindu) family. They are reluctant to adopt family planning methods and operation too.

ii) Age Groups :

(The) Table No. VI.2 gives ^{an} idea regarding the division of family members into working and non-working children and old members of the families.

TABLE No. VI.2AGE GROUPS

Age	No.	Percentage
1 to 14	43	35.3
15 to 55	72	59.00
56 and above	07	5.00
Total :	122	100.00

Children from these families get some education, but if they fail, they discontinue their education and only wander about aimlessly upto 15 to 16 years and then continue to assist their parents in their traditional business of fishing. But old people of 56 years old and above help their family by doing some simple fishing ~~and~~ related work, e.g. repairing nets, curing the fish etc. but they do not remain idle. And those who have lost their physical fitness due to heavy liquor consumption wait for their ill (sorrowful) death.

iii) Sex Group :

The Table No. VI.3 classifies the males and females from the families :

TABLE No. VI.3SEX GROUP

Sex	Nos.	Percentage
Male	65	53.20
Female	57	46.80
Total :	122	100.00

From observation, it was found that both male and female members always try to fight out the problems that arise during fishing activity. Female members also help their menfolk in curing and selling the fish at the local market.

iv) Literacy :

Due to original cleverness of Konkani people (it is said that because of eating fish, the brain and eyes of the Konkani man are superior to others) and ^{level} ~~expansion~~ of education, percentage of literacy in Malvan town was found to be quite high.

TABLE No. VI.4-ALITERACY AND ILLITERACY

<u>Literacy</u>			<u>Illiteracy</u>		
<u>Sex</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Male	40	57.00	Male	25	48.00
Female	30	43.00	Female	27	52.00
Total :	70	100.00	Total :	52	100.00

TABLE No. VI.4-BLITERACY AND ILLITERACY PERCENTAGE

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Literacy</u>	<u>Perce-</u>	<u>Illiteracy</u>	<u>Perce-</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>ntage</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>tage</u>		
Male	40	61.00	25	39.00	65	100.00
Female	30	52.00	27	48.00	57	100.00.

TABLE No. VI. 4-CDISTRIBUTION OF LITERATE MEMBERS
BY EDUCATIONAL STANDARD

Standard and Education	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	Perce- ntage	No.	Perce- ntage	No.	Perce- ntage
Upto Primary	30	56.60	23	43.40	53	100.00
Upto Secondary	09	56.20	07	43.80	16	100.00
Upto Higher and College	01	100.00	-	-	01	100.00
Total :	40	57.00	30	43.00	70	100.00

v) Literacy :

It seems from (the) Table Nos. VI.4-A, B, C that many people leave school after primary level. It is because of the lack of good facility of secondary and higher education, lack of proper guidance and mainly because of poverty. Failure, the order of preference for types of education was found as follows :

1st preference for general education.

2nd preference for fisheries education.

3rd preference for technical education.

For lack of proper guidance and information they prefer general education to fisheries and technical line. Of late fishermen have started thinking in terms of educating their young generation in fisheries so as to avoid unemployment problems after general education and to continue their traditional business of fishing in the future.

If young boys acquire up-to-date knowledge of fisheries ^{and related} trades in the fisheries school at Malvan town, they will be better off than their parents. They can then take full advantage of various Government and Bank Schemes to carry out the fishing trades on sound, scientific lines with mechanised vessels and processing, canning units. It will surely increase their standard of living and the scope of this business particularly in this Malvan port.

vi) Participation of Fishermen in fishing business (Pagar/Dugaot).

TABLE No. VI.5

PROPORTION OF PARTICIPANT BY FISHERMEN

Sr. No.	Age Group	Nos.	Actually participants	Percentage
1.	15 to 55	72	45	62.00
2.	56 and above	07	05	71.00
Total :		79	50	63.00

It is found that 62.00% from working population are actually working in Pagar fishing activity with the supplementary help by 71.00% of non-working population i.e. old persons help them by doing some minor fisheries related works at their residence. Only Their female members also help them when necessary. Thus, except children, all members of the family share the work.

vii) Migration Trend towards Bombay :

It is the general trend of the Konkan dwellers to see (touch) Bombay atleast once in the life time. All Konkan people always have a strong desire to visit Bombay for this or that reason. Mainly they visit Bombay (migrate Malvan) for job-seeking.

TABLE No. VI.6

MIGRATION AND REMIGRANTS

Sex	Migration Number	Remigration Number
Male	10	03
Female	-	-
Total :	10	03

<u>Causes for Migration</u>		<u>Numbers</u>
i) Seeking employment	...	09
ii) Education	...	01
iii) Social Cause	...	00

Total :		10

<u>Causes for returning</u>		<u>Numbers</u>
i) Non-availability of suitable job	...	02
ii) No accommodation	...	01

Total:		03

Some of them did not find any suitable job and some of them could not get or adjust to accommodation with their relatives or friends and hence came back to Malvan. This migration trend should be checked and they should be motivated to remain at Malvan only. But it is for the Government and political and social workers to check the migration. For this, proper education and vocational guidance should be given ^{and} further suitable secured jobs should be provided for them. It is also necessary to bring security and stability in the fishing business which is assumed to be unstable and depending ^{entirely} on luck factor, by providing insurance and aid in their difficulties and accidents. This will ^{and} check the migration in future and again the port will regain its importance.

VI.6 CAPITAL STRUCTURE :

It consist of fixed capital i.e. the capital invested to purchase or build the boat and other minor equipment and capital required. Net working capital consist of wages of the fishermen, maintenance of boat, repairing cost of nets, kerosine or tource, etc.

Table No. VI.7 gives (us) the capital structure of fifteen Pagar/Dugout fishing industry.

TABLE No.VI.7CAPITAL STRUCTURE OF PAGAR

Sr. No.	Registered No. of Pagars	Year of esta- blish- ment	<u>Fixed Capital</u>		Working capital Rs.	Total capital Rs.
			Boats Rs.	Net Rs.		
1)	MLV 12531	1979	13,000	13,000	1,000	27,000
2)	MLV 12367	1966	10,000	13,000	1,000	24,000
3)	MLV 12593	1970	9,000	12,000	1,000	22,000
4)	MLV 12577	1980	12,000	20,000	3,000	35,000
5)	MLV 12058	1975	10,000	12,000	500	22,500
6)	MLV 12018	1965	3,700	8,500	500	12,700
7)	MLV 12553	1980	25,000	20,000	6,400	51,400
8)	MLV 12357	1979	22,000	5,000	1,000	28,000
9)	MLV 10618	1965	12,000	12,000	1,350	25,350
10)	MLV 12558	1965	20,000	20,000	6,600	46,600
11)	MLV 12949	1972	6,000	9,000	720	15,720
12)	MLV 12444 MLV 12758	1965 1961	12,000	10,000	7,650	29,650
13)	MLV 11017 MLV 8735	1960	10,000	12,000	450	22,450
14)	MLV 12880	1965	9,000	11,000	900	20,900
15)	MLV 951	1975	9,000	11,000	500	20,500
Total :			1,82,700	1,88,500	32,570	4,03,770

So total capital structure of fifteen ¹⁵ (17) Pagar activity

Number of Pagar - 15

Fixed capital - Rs. 3,71,200

Working Capital - Rs. 32,570

Total capital invested - Rs. 4,03,770.

VI.7 SOURCES OF CAPITAL :

Fishermen borrow their capital mainly from relatives/
neighbours ¹⁵ instead ^{1.00} of Banks or Government agencies. The main
(resources) *from 3000000*

i) They find it very difficult to complete the documents which are in English and to furnish the required papers, certificates, securities and to satisfy the Bank Manager or Government agencies or Officers.

ii) Due to red-tapism and delay they do not get the required advances in time. But because of private loans, they are always under the obligation of traders and remain in perpetual debt due to the high interest rates. Special efforts should be made to educate and motivate them for approaching Banks and Government agencies like B.D.O.

TABLE No. VI.8SOURCES OF CAPITAL

Sr. No.	Personal	Neighbourer and Relative	Bank	Government B.D.O.	Total
1)	10,000	6,000	-	11,000	27,000
2)	10,000	-	5,000	9,000	24,000
3)	13,000	-	9,000	-	22,000
4)	20,000	10,000	5,000	-	35,000
5)	8,500	5,000	-	9,000	22,500
6)	12,700	-	-	-	12,700
7)	24,400	20,000	7,000	-	51,400
8)	15,000	13,000	-	-	28,000
9)	14,350	7,000	6,000	-	25,350
10)	22,600	10,000	5,000	9,000	46,600
1 1)	5,720	4,000	6,000	-	15,720
12)	15,650	10,000	4,000	-	29,650
13)	10,450	6,000	6,000	-	22,450
14)	10,900	10,000	-	-	20,900
15)	10,000	1,500	9,000	-	20,500
Total :	2,01,270	1,02,500	62,000	38,000	4,03,770

Thus capital organized by following sources :

Personal	...	Rs. 2,01,270
Relative or Neighbourers	...	Rs. 1,02,500
Bank	...	Rs. 62,000
Government agencies BDO	...	Rs. 38,000
Total capital	...	Rs. 4,03,770 =====

TABLE No. VI.9

ANNUAL AVERAGE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME

(15 Pagar Families)

1) Income from fishing activity	Rs. 1,45,100
2) Income from other sources	Rs. 8,000

3) Total Income	Rs. 1,53,100

EXPENDITURE

(15 Pagar families)

1) Food and essential	Rs. 88,200
2) Vegetable and edible oil	Rs. 24,300
3) Clothing	Rs. 6,100
4) Housing	Rs. 3,600
5) Medicine and Medical aid	Rs. 2,650

TABLE No. VI .9 (Contd...)

6) Education	Rs. 7,250
7) Liquor Consumption	Rs. 10,200
8) Smoking	Rs. 2,220
9) Gambling	Rs. 1,480
10) Culture (Dhikala or fairs expenditure)	Rs. 1,495
11) Total Expenditure	----- Rs. 1,47,495

Balance : Net Saving Rs. 12,155

Debt Rs. 6,550

Rs. 5,605

**VI.8 ANNUAL AVERAGE INCOME AND
ANNUAL AVERAGE EXPENDITURE :**

The total annual average income of 15 Pagar families ... Rs. 1,53,100

The total annual average expenditure of 15 Pagar families ... Rs. 1,47,495

Balance Rs. 5,605

The Chart (Table No. VI.9) gives us a clearcut idea of the pattern of consumption of fishermen families from this category. They spend more ^{on} liquor and smoking than

on education and clothing. The balance which remains may be used for payment of interest or debt of the past. The repayment attitude to BDO or Banks is deteriorating day by day. ^{partly} They spend on liquor and other items rather than repayment of loan or development of their business. The spending on liquor and smoking greatly affects their standard of living. To check this type of wasteful expenditure and modify or mould their consumption pattern, proper education and persuasion are necessary. The bad effects should be brought home to them slowly but effectively. ^{so} that the percentage of liquor consumption may come down. No doubt, if we consider their hard and risky life, some measure of drinking has to be taken for granted but it should be very limited so as not to impair their health. There is a great scope for social workers to use all their persuasive skills in this direction.

VI.9 OLD (PAST) DEBT :

What is said of the Indian farmer ? (He is born in debt, lives in debt and bequeaths the debt) is equally applicable for Malvan fishermen. (The) Table No. VI.10 shows the debt they shouldered.

TABLE No. VI.10PAST DEBT

Sr. No.	Old/Past Debt upto the year 1984 Rs.
1)	10,000
2)	6,000
3)	-
4)	4,000
5)	5,000
6)	-
7)	20,000
8)	12,000
9)	5,000
10)	6,000
11)	6,000
12)	15,000
13)	4,000
14)	5,000
15)	6,000
Total :	
1,04,000	

Fishermen should be induced to repay the debt which they incur and to save themselves from a sorrowful life.

VI.10 THE MAIN DIFFICULTIES
THEY FACE :

The life of fishermen is full of hardships, risks, and uncertainty. Fishermen have to face many difficulties due to the nature of their business and low standard of (a) life (poverty). The major difficulties are as follows :

i) Operational Difficulties :

During fishing in the seas fishermen have to face difficulties like stormy weather, currents of the water, sometimes big fishes assault their boat and it may ^a capsize and meet an accident. It is rather difficult to ensure a safe fishing trip due to these problems.

ii) Landing and other difficulties :

The place of landing is not always fixed, clean and safe, creating problems for unloading the fish, keeping the boat etc. Customs and Central Excise Officials take their own time for issuing passes for fishing and hence corruption starts.

iii) Marketing Difficulties :

As there is no co-operative or Government market, the fisherman have to give their catch to local traders at low prices. As traders are well-organised they concertedly offer very low prices. Hence no proper return for their hard won fishing catch.

iv) Diseases :

Owing to hard and haphazard life, improper diet and drinks, they contract diseases.

v) Drinks :

Owing to the hard nature of the job and the impact of company, they are addicted to liquor, which creates physical, psychological and family problems in their homes.

vi) Luck factor and instability of Business :

The catch of the fish per trip depends on their luck factor, this creates instability in their life which make them restless and nervous for further improvement in this fishing business.²

VI.11 MAJOR OR IMPORTANT DEMAND OF PAGAR FISHERMEN FAMILIES :

The survey, interviews and observation pinpointed many demands of pagar families; they are classified as under :

a) Operational Demand :

i) A sort of security and stability of business should be guaranteed by Government of Maharashtra.

ii) Special training classes for fishermen who are already in fishing industry, should be conducted for modernising the business on sound lines.

iii) One life-jacket, one waterproof torch, one transistor (radio) should be supplied to every Pagar holder for saving his life from difficulties arising in the high seas.

iv) Sea-Bouys should be properly placed to guide the sea route and Malvan port must be equipped with modern facilities. Coastal highway (road along sea-shore) should be constructed to facilitate the transport of the fish catch immediately to various markets.

v) Boat-pass by custom and Central Excise Department should be given for six months or it should be given to their leaders. It will stop minor corruption and wastage of time of every pagar holder to receive boat fishing pass from Custom Officials.

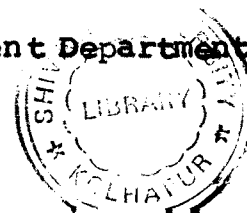
vi) Port Department and Customs Officials should behave as friends and help them when they send a distress call.

b) Landing Area :

Landing area should be well constructed, hygenical and clean.

c) Marketing :

Marketing is the major problem from the point of their earning. It should be organized by Government Department like



fisheries; or a suitable agency or a well organized co-operative marketing society should be formed to handle the catch. Cold storage and ice should be provided to keep the fish fresh. Government should announce the day-to-day price fluctuations on radio, so that poor fishermen will come to know the real prices of fish.

d) Information regarding
Government Schemes :

The Government Department i.e. Assistant Director of Fisheries of Sindhudurg-Malvan Office should conduct special classes to apprise them of the various loan schemes, facilities and to provide guidance about the facilities and required papers to complete the loan transaction. The papers and required materials should be in Marathi and not in English.

e) Education and Medical Aid :

Educational facilities should be expanded and trained teachers of fisheries should be appointed to guide ~~their~~ young generation. Through education, bad habits like drinking and smoking should be checked and eliminated. Recreation facilities should be started to mould their attention from liquor. Medical aid should be provided with a well equipped dispensary. Anti-poison injections should be stored in these medical centres.

f) General Demand :

To make this fishing industry more attractive scientific and rational, the Department of Fisheries and Social Workers should put in sincere and organised efforts to create an attractive atmosphere in this business. To attract young generation and to make it more modern, special films pertaining to modern fishing and processing in Japan and Denmark's mechanisation of fishing industry should be shown to them. Informative materials through books, issues and wall posters should be circulated among fishermen families.

To raise their income from other sources and to provide employment, Government of Maharashtra should start EGS (Employment Guarantee Scheme) at Malvan coastal area.

In short, the atmosphere of stability and profitability should be created to attract young (educated) generation to venture for this sort of fishing industry at Malvan town coastal area.³

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