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## CHAPTER-VII

### BALLAVI/GILLNET FISHING ACTIVITY

#### VII.1 INTRODUCTION :

One of the modern ways of fishing is known as Ballavi or Gillnet fishing. This type of fishing is carried all along the Indian coastal line. This type of mechanized fishing for <sup>a</sup>prawns and deep sea fishes has now appreciably caught on in Malvan. This type of fishing is also seasonal i.e. 8 to 9 months only. There are fifty six registered Ballavi families in town but for this study only twenty eight Ballavi families have been taken into consideration (or in the survey).

#### VII.2 WORKING OF BALLAVI/ GILLNET FISHING :

Fishermen work 12 to 14 hours in the sea at night and work 15 to 25 days in a month. Five to seven fishermen work on a Ballavi. The fishing destination, distant and depth depend upon the current, the weather and availability of the fish. After fishing over night they come back in the morning. They leave their hut in the evening at 4 to 6'0 clock and reach the spot where they want to catch the fish.

As soon as they select the spot in the sea, they throw their net in the sea and then anchor their Ballavi and wait till

the day break. They dragout their net inside the Ballavi which is full of fish (varieties of fish). The availability of fish, whether just below the surface or deep below determines the type of the net to be used. There are three or four types of nets used in this fishing. This type of fishing is also known as Gillnet fishing because of the particular use of Gillnet.

In this fishing too the life of fishermen is hard, risky and full of poverty. In the opinion of all the Ballavi fishermen the fishing of (catch of the fish) depends on sheer luck. After landing they classify the catch according to varieties and sell <sup>to</sup> ~~out~~ of Dalals, who are ~~already~~ awaiting the arrival of Ballavi to procure fish at low prices due to the following reasons :

- a) Fish is a fast perishable commodity.
- b) The perishable nature of the commodity coupled with the absence of preserv<sup>(</sup>ation or transportation facility compels them to dispose of the catch at low rates.
- c) Many fishermen are in debt to the traders.

### VII.3 NET : USE OF NET :

The following nets are used :

1) Gill Nets :

a) Wavri Net : This is a surface drift net used all along the coast. This net consists of 20-25 pieces. Each piece varies from 140' <sup>to</sup> 240' in length and 15' in breadth. Mesh size is 3" to 4" (stretched). The nets are made out of Nylon and monofilament varying from 9-15 plies of 18 to 20 counts. The fishermen are gradually changing over to nylon gill nets made out of 210 to 250 Danier yarn of 9-12 plies. These nets are used from September to December and in the late summer during April and May.

b) Pas or Saranga Jal : This is also a type of surface drift net and as the name indicates, is exclusively used for catching pomfrets. The net consist of 20-40 pieces, each piece measuring 240' in length and 15' in breadth with mesh size of 5 to 6". The material used in the construction of the gear is similar to that used for Wavrinet.

c) Budi Net : This is a bottom set gillnet made of nylon and monofilament twine of 24 plies. As the net is used for catching big fishes like sharks, skaten, Rays etc., the mesh size is 8" to 9". Each unit consist of 7 to 10 pieces, each piece measuring 100 in length and 12' in breadth.

d) Long Lines : In this type of fishing mustal hooks Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 6, 7, 8, 9 are most commonly used length of each line varies from 500' to 1200' and about 100 hooks are

suspended from one line. Seven to twelve such lines are used at a time.

e) Dhangad Jal : This is another type of seine 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 Karel and Surmai.<sup>1</sup>

#### VII.4 BALLAVI/GILLNET FISHERMEN FAMILIES FROM MALVAN TOWN :

This type of fishing activity is carried all along the coastal lines at Malvan town and the families of fishermen stay in various (eight) parts of Malvan town like Dhoriwada, Dandi and Makerbag and so on.

#### VII.5 GENERAL INFORMATION :

##### 1) Size of the Family :

The size of the family varies from 03 to 22 members as shown in the Table No. VII.1.

TABLE No.VII.1SIZE OF FAMILY - FISHERMEN  
MALVAN TOWN

<u>Size of family</u> <u>No. of members</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Families</u>
03	01
04	-
05	04
06	02
07	07
08	05
09	01
10	02
11	02
12	-
13	01
14	01
15	-
22	02
<u>Total : 246</u>	<u>28</u>

From the above Table No. VII.1 it is found that the size of the family does not confirm to the present trend in our country. They are also against family planning operations.

ii) Age Groups :

The Table No. VII.2 gives an idea regarding the division of family members into working and non-working children and old men of the families.

TABLE No. VII.2AGE GROUP

Age	Nos.	Percentage
1 to 14	60	24.39
15 to 55	162	65.85
56 and above	24	9.76
Total :	246	100.00

Generally, children prefer to take general and fisheries education. If <sup>10</sup>dropped out from school, they just wander up to the age of 16 years and then begin to help their parents <sup>in</sup>for the same fishing industry. The younger generation who takes higher education like to leave Malvan for Bombay and other foreign countries for lucrative jobs. The not-so-ambitious youths <sup>want</sup>like to take education of fisheries (which is now provided at Malvan town run by fisheries department of Maharashtra Government) and go in for mechanised fishing availing themselves of Government

Finance Schemes. The working men and women are sturdy but due to low quality food and heavy drinks, lose their physical fitness and succumb to diseases. (The special efforts should be made for guidance and education for taking high quality food and abstaining from heavy drinks i.e. liquor).

The old people always help in their family's fishing industry by doing some work at the cottage only e.g. repairing net, boat, curing fish etc.

iii) Sex Group :

The Table No. VII.3 shows the number of male and female from the families.

TABLE No. VII.3

Sex	Nos.	Percentage
Male	146	59.35
Female	100	40.65
Total :	246	100.00

The division of families into male and female determined by nature and not by any artificial way. They do not find out any special differences between male and female as

both are helping their business and there is no any hard custom for daughter's marriage which dislikes the birth of daughter.

iv) Literacy :

With the expansion of schooling and fisheries education facilities, the literacy rate in these families is increasing significantly. Literacy rate is better than in other towns of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts.

TABLE No.VII.4-A

LITERACY AND ILLITERACY

<u>Literacy</u>			<u>Illiteracy</u>		
Sex	Number	Percentage	Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	105	58.99	Male	41	60.77
Female	73	41.01	Female	27	39.23
Total :	178	100.00	Total :	68	100.00

TABLE No. VII.4-BLITERACY AND ILLITERACY PERCENTAGE

Sex	Lite- racy Number	Perce- tage	Illite- racy Number	Perce- ntage	Total	Perce- ntage
Male	105	71.43	41	29.57	146	100.00
Female	73	73.74	27	27.26	100	100.00

TABLE No. VII-4-CDISTRIBUTION OF LITERATE MEMBERS  
BY EDUCATION STANDARD

Standard	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	Perce- ntage	No.	Perce- ntage	No.	Perce- ntage
Upto Primary	48	53.93	41	46.07	89	100.00
Upto Secondary	40	61.54	25	38.46	65	100.00
Upto Higher College	17	70.83	07	29.17	24	100.00
Total :	105	58.99	73	41.01	178	100.00

From the extract of the table, one can say that with proper efforts and guidance, the standard of education will increase very soon in these fishing families.

Further the order of preference for types of education was as follows :

1st preference for general education.

2nd preference for fisheries education.

3rd preference for technical education.

It is the general order of preferences for education observed from all the categories of fishermen. At the same time seeing the increasing joblessness among those with general education, they are (of course) slowly turning to fisheries training school and Industrial Training Institute (I.T.I.) to face the present problem of unemployment.

The increasing impact of fisheries education will increase and improve the fishing industry of Malvan Town.

v) Participation of Fishermen in Fishing Business (Ballavi/Gillnet Fishing) :

TABLE No. VII.5

PROPORTION OF PARTICIPATION BY FISHERMEN

Sr. No.	Age Group	Numbers	Actually participants	Percentage
1)	1 to 14	60	13	21.67
2)	15 to 55	162	97	59.88
3)	56 and above	24	18	75.00
Total :		246	128	52.03

It is observed that 59.88% from working population are actually working in Ballavi fishing activity and helped by 21.67% and 75.00% non-working population i.e. children and old persons of course, by doing minor work at sea-shore only. The owner<sub>s</sub> of the Ballavi employ other fishermen from other fishing categories e.g. Rapan Sangh or very poor idle fishermen on Ballavi at the time of actual fishing in sea on daily wages.

vi) Migration Trend Towards Bombay :

This fishing activity is not <sup>an</sup> exception to the trend of migration to Bombay. Here, men and women who take higher education leave Malvan for Bombay to seek a better job to

realise their dream of high standard of living in practice in Bombay only. Some females also leave Malvan for Bombay to seek a better job at Bombay only.

TABLE No. VII.6

MIGRATION AND REMIGRATION

Sex	Migration Number	Remigration Number
Male	22	04
Female	05	-
Total :	27	04

<u>Causes of Migration</u>	<u>Number</u>
i) Seeking Employment	20
ii) Education	05
iii) Social Cause	02
Total :	27

<u>Causes of Remigration</u>	<u>Number</u>
i) Non-availability of suitable job and strike	04
ii) No accommodation	-
Total :	04

Sr. No.	No. of Ballavi	Year of establishment	FIXED CAPITAL			WORKING CAPITAL			Total capital
			Boat Rs.	Engine Rs.	Net Rs.	Wages Rs.	Diesel Rs.	Miscellaneous Rs.	
1.	RTN 1210	1984	2,00,000	80,000	21,000	375	370	150	3,01,895
2.	MLV 4438	1980	30,000	22,700	30,000	2,500	900	225	86,325
3.	12712	1982	31,000	23,000	28,000	2,500	1,100	308	85,908
4.	12750	1980	28,000	22,700	30,000	2,500	1,100	300	84,600
5.	12879	1979	30,000	22,700	30,000	2,500	1,100	300	86,600
6.	12761	1978	30,000	22,700	35,000	2,500	1,100	330	91,630
7.	17778	1980	30,000	22,000	32,000	2,500	1,375	375	88,250
8.	12779	1982	30,000	23,000	25,000	2,500	1,375	375	82,250
9.	12683	1980	30,000	22,700	40,000	2,500	1,375	375	96,950
10.	KWR 8227	1976	30,000	22,700	40,000	2,500	1,375	375	96,950
11.	MLV 12655	1980	30,000	23,500	35,000	2,500	1,100	400	92,500
12.	12957	1980	30,000	23,700	35,000	2,500	1,375	375	92,950
13.	12657	1980	30,000	20,000	30,000	2,500	1,400	400	84,300
14.	12061	1978	14,000	8,000	20,000	2,500	750	375	45,625
15.	12795	1981	65,000	40,000	40,000	2,500	1,200	400	1,49,100
16.	12730	1983	40,000	27,000	34,000	3,000	1,200	500	1,05,700
17.	12625	1981	30,000	22,000	40,000	1,500	1,200	400	95,100
18.	12553	1980	15,000	32,800	32,000	2,500	1,500	500	84,300
19.	12791	1983	30,000	23,500	30,000	2,500	1,500	500	88,000
20.	8222	1983	30,000	25,000	30,000	2,500	1,500	450	89,450
21.	21803	1982	30,000	25,000	32,000	2,500	1,375	375	91,250
22.	KWR 8210	1965	25,000	25,000	30,000	2,500	1,500	500	84,500
23.	MLV 12320	1965	35,000	22,000	25,000	2,500	1,500	500	86,500
24.	13064	1983	25,000	22,700	90,000	3,000	1,500	500	1,42,700
25.	13066	1977	24,000	21,700	28,000	25,000	1,250	350	77,800
26.	1520	1984	25,000	23,700	35,000	2,500	1,275	450	87,925
27.	1420	1980	25,000	23,000	30,000	2,500	1,500	375	82,375
28.	2050	1979	25,000	23,700	35,000	2,500	1,475	475	88,150

Total :	9,97,000	7,16,500	9,42,000	67,875	35,270	10,938	27,69,583
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TABLE No. VII. 7

ANIMAL STRUCTURE OF BALLA.VT/GILL.NET FISHING

Out of the four remigrants, three had come back because of the strike in Bombay Textile Mills two years ago and one had come because of unsuitable job there. The fishermen who came back due to strike are now repenting for their deed. They find it very difficult to adjust with this rural life and to settle in their society.

#### VII.6 CAPITAL STRUCTURE :

It consists of fixed capital i.e. the capital invested to purchase or build a boat, engine, and nets etc. Working capital consists of wages, diesel and miscellaneous expenditure e.g. kerosene, torch etc.

<sup>The</sup> So that capital structure of twenty eight (28)

Ballavi fishing activity :

Number of Ballavi - 28

Fixed Capital	...	Rs. 26,55,500
Working Capital	...	Rs. 1,14,083

Total Capital	Rs. 27,69,583
(Invested)	

#### VII.7 SOURCES OF CAPITAL :

Fishermen have obtained their initial capital from relatives, friends, personal savings, bank or M.S.F.C. advances and Government Schemes. But they find it convenient to obtain funds from a relative or a money lender or <sup>from</sup> by a

private agency because who have advanced money by the speedy and uncomplicated procedure. It is, however, very dangerous from the point of very high interest and the consequent commitment to sell their catch to their traders. On the contrary, they find it very difficult to get money from Bank or M.S.F.C. or Government agencies due to <sup>their</sup> its long and intricate procedure which involves the filling in and furnishing <sup>of</sup> several documents. And thus they can't get funds as and when <sup>^</sup> they are actually required. Thus from Table No. VII.8 we come to know how they have collected their capital and organize it.

Thus capital raised from following sources :

Personal	...	Rs. 9,17,838
Relatives and Neighbourers	...	Rs. 6,38,575
Banks and Co-operatives	...	Rs. 6,40,600
Maharashtra State Finance Corporation (M.S.F.C.)	...	Rs. 5,72,570

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Total Capital Rs. 27,69,583  
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VII.8 ANNUAL AVERAGE INCOME  
AND EXPENDITURE :

a) The total annual average income of 28 Ballavi families	...	Rs. 7,82,450
b) The total annual average expendi- ture of 28 Ballavi Families	...	Rs. 3,06,085

Balance (a - b)	Rs. 4,76,365
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The Table No. VII.9 gives us a clearcut idea of the pattern of consumption of fishermen families from this category. Here also the same trend of consumption as in the pagar family is seen i.e. spending on liquor, smoking and matka and gambling and in fairs. The balance which remains this year as last two years the fishing season was totally slack as they called it famine of fishing industry; it may be used to repay the interest and debt of the past.

TABLE No. VII.9ANNUAL AVERAGE INCOME AND EXPENDITUREINCOME :

1) Income from Fishing activity	...	Rs. 7,75,500
2) Income from other sources.	...	Rs. 6,950
(A) Total Income		----- Rs. 7,82,450 -----

EXPENDITURE :

1) Food and Essentials	...	Rs. 1,61,600
2) Vegetable and edible oil	...	Rs. 60,460
3) Clothing	...	Rs. 27,650
4) Housing	...	Rs. 11,090
5) Medicine and Medical aid	...	Rs. 10,510
6) Education	...	Rs. 9,745
7) Liquor Consumption	...	Rs. 12,400
8) Smoking	...	Rs. 6,260
9) Culture (Dahikala) Fairs, Cinema	...	Rs. 6,370
(B) Total Expdt.		----- Rs. 3,06,085 -----

Balance (A-B) - Rs. 4,76,365.

For encouraging proper utilization of income by spending on good quality food, clothing, housing, medicine and education and by investment in fishing industry to prepare and scientific base for good yielding. Sincere efforts should be made by social workers and political leaders with necessary help from Government. Liquor consumption and smoking should be checked. But this can't be achieved if we look at it only in terms of a law and order. Proper guidance and teaching the ideals of the past personalities can wean them from bad habits. Repayment habit should be cultivated through sincere efforts through education, films, issues and bank and Government workers.

If proper utilisation of income of this fishing industry is achieved then, the future of the industry, fishermen and Konkan side is definitely bright and prosperous.

#### VII.9 OLD (PAST DEBTS) :

The Table No. VII.10 will throw light on the past debts of the Gillnet fishermen, which call for sincere attention by Government and Bankers to act promptly to recover the debt and to mould their behaviour.

TABLE No.VII.10PAST DEBT ON BALLAVI OWNERS

Sr. Old Debt		Sr. Old and Past	
No. upto 1984		No. Debt upto 1984	
1.	-	2.	35,000
3.	45,000	4.	25,000
5.	25,000	6.	30,000
7.	15,000	8.	30,000
9.	30,000	10.	25,000
11.	25,000	12.	40,000
13.	25,000	14.	35,000
15.	1,00,000	16.	1,00,000
17.	10,000	18.	4,000
19.	25,000	20.	30,000
21.	25,000	22.	25,000
23.	15,000	24.	50,000
25.	30,000	26.	21,000
27.	-	28.	40,000
-----			
Total Debt : Rs. 8,60,000			
=====			

VII.10 THE MAIN DIFFICULTIES  
OF BALLAVI FISHING :

The life of fishermen is hard and full of uncertainty.

The major difficulties are as follows :

1) The life of any fishermen is full of hardships and dangerous in the open sea. He has to face many unseen (unpredictable) difficulties during his fishing life.

2) In the last two years, though not this year, they had to face a severe fish famine. The catch used to be very negligible and hence they had to face many economic difficulties.

This year, a new difficulty <sup>has</sup> cropped-up throughout the south coastal area particularly Malvan, Vengurla, <sup>and</sup> Achara, a species of fish named 'Kenda' started to cut or break the nets of Ballavi fishermen, <sup>causing</sup> which caused loss of thousand of rupees.

Also due to trawling the eggs of fish are also destroyed and so it becomes difficult to get <sup>a</sup> sufficient catch. Other trawlers damage the nets of Gillnetters at night time. This causes quarrels among them. Sometimes, internal conflicts disturb their business.

3) Last, but not the least important difficulty <sup>is</sup> pertaining to marketing. <sup>Due</sup> to unorganised and unregulated marketing system these fishermen have to sell away their catch to Dalal/Traders at sea shore at low prices and there is no proper return to their hard efforts or labour.<sup>2</sup>

VII.11 MAJOR DEMANDS OF GILLNETERS :

Many Ballavi owners highlighted their various demands during the survey and interviews. ~~Importants of these~~ are as follows :

1) The Malvan port should be constructed on modern scientific ground and should be useful as an organised fishing centre.

2) The supply of 'diesel' is a very important factor in their fishing economy and they should get uninterrupted continuous supply of diesel at a concessional rate and at the port only. Diesel supply should be handled by a Government body or by a co-operative society. M.Ps. and M.L.A.s should take interest in this fishing industry and should improve this port and fishing industry soon.

3) There should be a sound organization of Gillnet/  
Ballavi operators to safeguard the interest and to solve the difficulties of fishing industry. The leaders should be come up from among them only.

4) A major demand of the fishermen pertains to marketing arrangements. Proper marketing will solve many problems and will improve this industry itself.

5) The ~~new~~ methods of fishing, <sup>and</sup> new techniques should be published in Marathi only. Proper fishing training should be imparted on a large scale to improve this industry.

VII.12 SUGGESTIONS FROM GILLNET OPERATORS :

During interviews some Gillnetters have given good information and put forth some suggestions to improve this industry.

A) The sea (Sagar) is really a great <sup>e</sup>mind of live fish and can be very useful to all fishermen as continuous feeding centre provided fishermen do not dragout or destroy the eggs of fish from the sea. Fishermen should catch the fish and should not catch the very small fish or fish seedlings by using very small mesh size nets.

He further remarked that if a <sup>a</sup>fishermen behaves properly i.e. without any bad habits he can easily maintain his family on a sound economic footing.

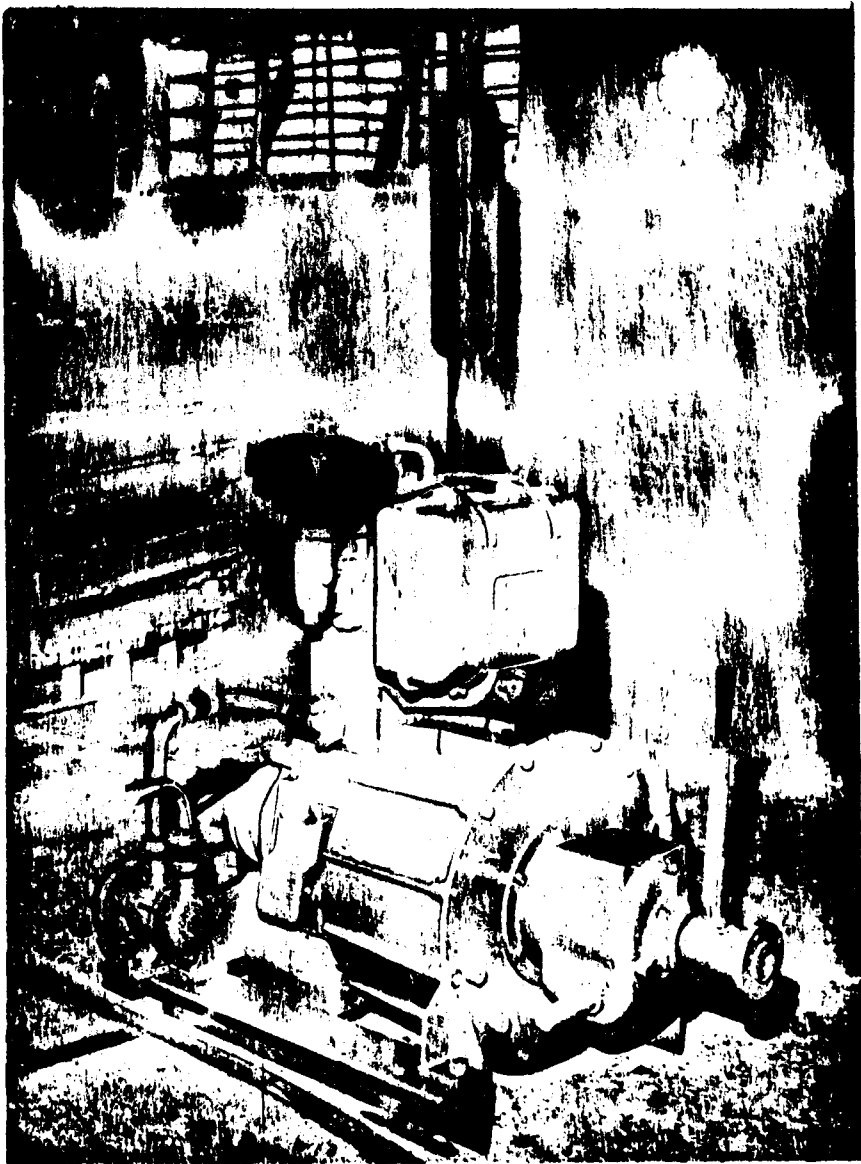
B) Night fishing should be stopped to avoid the problem of damage of nets from trawling and Gillnetters also.

C) Proper combination of old and new ways of fishing or technique should be brought about for the stability of this industry.

D) There should be organisation of fishermen to solve problems and to improve this fishing industry and leaders

should be from us and selflessness. Further, to know real situation, problems, facts and figures Government should take initiative survey (efforts) in Dhuriwada fishermen society. They are famous for bold-talks.

At the last, but not least but important from the future development of fishing industry of Malvan Town i.e. the young generation should be motivated to take scientific education and training of fisheries and should develop or build their career in fishing industry.<sup>3</sup>



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