

CHAPTER - VII



SOCIO- ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF FEMALE FISH SELLERS IN SAMPLE VILLAGES



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1. INTRODUCTION

With a view to get the real idea about the socio-economic conditions of female fish sellers, a survey of 101 Female Fish Sellers in 31 villages (FFS) was made in three sample districts of western Maharashtra. The District- wise number of respondents is shown in table No. 1

2. SELECTION OF FEMALE FISH SELLER

Table 1
District-wise Classification of the Respondents

District	No. of Villages	Respondents	Percentage
Raigad	06	34	33.66
Shindudurg	12	37	36.63
Ratnagiri	13	30	29.70
Total	31	101	100

The table shows that from each sample district more or less the same number of respondents were covered. The table number 02 shows the taluka-wise coverage of the sample. The maximum number of sellers was from Murud followed by Malwan (16.83 %) and Devgad (13.86 %). As these centers are having good port as well as good fish catch and having the urban market places. While other centers were with minimum number of female sellers and only few sample females were interviewed. As such all the districts were given due consideration while selecting the samples. Most of the interviews were held at the market places where the

female sits and sells the fish. Therefore, the market environment was also observed by the researchers; but it was not satisfactory.

Table 2
Taluka-wise Selection of The Respondents

Sr. No.	District	Taluka	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Raigad	Murud	24	23.76
		Shrivardhan	4	3.96
		Mahasla	6	5.94
2.	Sindhudurg	Malvan	17	16.83
		Achra	1	0.99
		Vengurla	5	4.95
		Devgad	14	13.86
3.	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	6	5.94
		Mandangad	5	4.95
		Dapoli	9	8.91
		Ghuagar	10	9.90
Total			101	100

3. RELIGION WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE FEMALE FISH SELLERS

An attempt was made to find out the religion of female fish sellers in the sample villages. It was found that in all three religion people were engaged in this profession. The majority of the fish sellers (90.08 %) were Hindu followed by Muslim i.e. 6.93; where as Christians were only 1.98 %. This shows that the fishing activities have been undertaken mostly by the Hindu religion people of course, in total population also Hindu community is the major in coastal region of Maharashtra.

Table 3
Religion-wise Classification of The Female Fish Sellers

Sr. No.	Religion	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
1.	Hindu	34 (36.95)	100	35 (38.04)	94.59	23 (25.0)	76.66	92 (100.0)	91.08
2.	Christian	0 (0.00)	0	2 (100.0)	5.40	0 (0.00)	0	2 (100.0)	1.98
3.	Muslim	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	7 (100.0)	23.33	7 (100.0)	6.93
Total		34 (33.66)	100	37 (36.63)	100	30 (29.70)	100	101 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

4. CASTE WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

An in-depth study was made to identify the case-wise distribution of sample respondents engaged in selling fish both dry and fresh fish. It was seen that the women were selling dry fish especially in rainy season while there was no fishing.

Table 4
Caste-Wise Classification of the Respondents

Sr. No.	Caste	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
1.	Dadali	0 (0.00)	0	1 (25.0)	2.70	3 (75.0)	10	4 (100.0)	3.96
2.	Gabit	0 (0.00)	0	34 (77.27)	91.89	10 (22.72)	33.33	44 (100.0)	43.56
3.	Kharvi	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0
4.	Koli	34 80.95	100	0 (0.00)	0	8 (19.04)	26.66	42 (100.0)	41.58
5.	Muslim	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	4 (100.0)	13.33	4 (100.0)	3.96
6.	Tandal	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0
7.	Bhoi	0 (0.00)	0	2 (28.57)	5.40	5 (71.42)	16.66	7 (100.0)	6.93
Total		34 (33.66)	100	37 (36.63)	100	30 (29.70)	100	101 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

The table no. 4 shows that majority of the fish sellers were from Gabit and Koli i.e. 43.56 % and 41.58 % respectively, while Bhoi (6.93%) and Dadali (3.96%) were very less. Though the Aagri and Bhandari caste were engaged in fishing activities; yet there was absence of these caste people in fish selling. If we study the district wise caste engaged in fish selling the data shows that Koli caste respondents were highest; while Gabit caste respondents were highest in Sindhudurg (91.89 %) and Ratnagiri (33.33 %) districts respectively. This shows that especially traditional castes community is engage in selling of fish. This means the other caste or open caste people dislike the sale of fish selling in the market or at roadside.

5. CLASSIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF HUSBAND AND WIFE

It was assumed that the level of the fishing community was low. The data regarding the educational level shows that out of the total 101 female respondents' 08 husbands (20.5 %) and 31 (79.48 %) wifives were illiterate. This is very dismal picture in the sample districts. The primary education was the last higher educational level of majority of the husbands. It was seen that only one female fish seller was graduate. The higher secondary education was also with 10.20 % of the women.

Table 5
Classification on The Basis of Educational Level of Husband And Wife

Sr. No.	Education	Husbands	%	Wife	%	Total	%
1.	Illiterate	8 (20.51)	11.11	31 (79.48)	31.63	39 (100.0)	22.94
2.	Primary	34 (38.20)	47.22	55 (61.79)	56.12	89 (100.0)	52.35
3.	Secondary	30 (75.0)	41.66	10 (25.0)	10.20	40 (100.0)	23.52
4.	Graduate	0 (0.00)	0	1 (100.0)	1.02	1 (100.0)	0.58
5.	Fish Training	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0
6.	Other	0 (0.00)	0	1 (100.0)	1.02	1 (100.0)	0.58
Total		72 (42.35)	100	98 (57.64)	100	170 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

We can conclude that due to age old poverty and low income the parents of this community had neglected the education; though there are primary schools at every village in coastal region of Maharashtra.

5.1. Classification on The Basis of Highest Educational Level of Son And Daughter

In table No.6 it was found that majority of the fisher women's sons and daughters' highest educational level was upto 10th standard. On an average 48.01 % respondent children were the highest education upto 10th

standard; while only 40.95 % children were having the graduation level of education. The data also shows that 23.26 % respondents' children were without any education. *Though we argue that the education has reached at the every-body's doors; yet the fishing had not reached at he school doors.* Only 1.9 % families said that their children were too small to join the school. Thus, the education among the children is very poor.

Table 6
Classification on The Basis of Highest Educational Level of Son and Daughter

Sr. No.	Education	Son	Percentage	Daughter	Percentage	Total	Percentage
0	Not Given	20 (42.55)	19.80	27 (57.44)	26.73	47 (100.0)	23.26
1	Illiterate	0 (0.00)	0	2 (100.0)	1.98	2 (100.0)	0.99
2	1 st To 5th	8 (61.53)	7.92	5 (38.46)	4.95	13 (100.0)	6.43
3	6th To 10th	52 (53.60)	51.48	45 (46.39)	44.55	97 (100.0)	48.01
4	11th To 12th	15 (51.72)	14.85	14 (48.27)	13.86139	29 (100.0)	14.35
5	Graduate	5 (50.0)	4.95	5 (50.0)	4.95	10 (100.0)	4.95
6	Little Child	1 (25.0)	0.99	3 (75.0)	2.97	4 (100.0)	1.98
Total		101 (50.0)	100	101 (50.0)	100	202 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

The small school going children also help their parents at homes in fishing and repairs of nets, etc. *In this situation can children change their future course of action? Perhaps, the answer is No!*

6. CLASSIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF MAIN OCCUPATION

The data in table No.7 highlights the subsidiary occupation of the female respondents. Though all the respondents were engaged is selling of fish; yet their husband, son or any other members in their family were engaged in subsidiary occupation like fish laboures or boat owner. Out of total female responds house, 38.61 % houses were having the fish

laboures as second job, followed by ownership of boats, while 4.95 % houses were with small shops, tea stall, etc.

It is significant to note that out of 101 respondents only one family (1.10 %) was having agriculture as subsidiary occupation at the same dairy and poultry was totally absent.

Table 7
Classification on The Basis of Main Occupation

Occupation	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
Fish seller	34 33.66	100	37 36.63	100	30 29.70	100	101 (100.0)	100
Fish labour	18 46.15	52.94	10 25.64	27.02	11 28.20	36.66	39 (100.0)	38.61
Fish owner	4 33.33	11.76	6 50.0	16.21	2 16.66	6.66	12 (100.0)	11.88
Other	2 40.0	5.88	2 40.0	5.40	1 20.0	3.33	5 (100.0)	4.950
Total	34 33.66		37 36.63		30 29.70		101 (100.0)	

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

Hence, agriculture will never be an occupation of fishing community; if they loose their jobs in future. The fish selling and labour was the main occupation of majority of female.

7. DISTRICT WISE AVERAGE SIZE OF FAMILY AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN

The size of family and average number of children in family affects the standard of living of any community especially in lower income group of people. It was observed that the average size in each family was of five while an average number of children were two. This ratio was satisfactory. Generally, in coastal area; fishing family also prefers to live separately, though they go for fishing jointly, and hence the average number of family seems satisfactory. The table shows that the distribution of male, female and children in the family was 33.3 % in each of this group.

Table 8
District-Wise Average Size of Family and Number of Children

Persons	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
Male	60 (37.5)	32.60	55 (34.37)	31.97	45 (28.12)	28.66	160 (100.0)	31.18
Female	63 (31.34)	34.23	63 (31.34)	36.62	75 (37.31)	47.77	201 (100.0)	39.18
Children	61 (40.13)	33.15	54 (35.52)	31.39	37 (24.34)	23.56	152 (100.0)	29.62
Total	184 (35.86)	100	172 (33.52)	100	157 (30.60)	100	513 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

The average number of members in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurga District seems less than Raigad District. This means there is no much migration in Raigad district, as compared with other two districts.

8. DISTRICT WISE PERSONS ENGAGED IN FISHING

Table No. 9 gives the details of nature of employment in fishing in female respondents' family. It was seen that in all the sample house-holds (101), 209 persons were engaged in fishing activities including male, female and children.

Table 9 : District Wise Persons Engaged In Fishing

Persons	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
Male	35 (37.23)	44.87	40 (42.55)	50	19 (20.21)	37.25	94 (100.0)	44.97
Part time	0 (0.00)	0	3 (100.0)	13.04	0 (0.00)	0	3 (100.0)	6
Full time	35 (38.46)	58.33	37 (40.65)	64.91	19 (20.87)	45.23	91 (100.0)	57.23
Female	41 (37.61)	52.56	37 (33.94)	46.25	31 (28.44)	60.78	109 (100.0)	52.15
Part time	18 (40.90)	100	18 (40.90)	78.26	8 (18.18)	88.888	44 (100.0)	88
Full time	23 (35.38)	38.33	19 (29.23)	33.33	23 (35.38)	54.76	65 (100.0)	40.88
Children	2 (33.33)	2.56	3 (50.0)	3.75	1 (16.66)	1.96	6 (100.0)	2.87
Part time	0 (0.00)	0	2 (66.66)	8.69	1 (33.33)	11.11	3 (100.0)	6
Full time	2 (66.66)	3.33	1 (33.33)	1.75	0 (0.00)	0	3 (100.0)	1.88
Total	78 (37.32)	100	80 (38.27)	100	51 (24.40)	100	209 (100.0)	100
Part time	18 (36.0)	100	23 (46.0)	100	9 (18.0)	100	50 (100.0)	100
Full time	60 (37.73)	100	57 (35.84)	100	42 (26.41)	100	159 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

The data shows that average 02 persons were engaged in each family in fishing. Of course the percentage at male, female and children was 44.97, 52.15 and 2.87 respectively. This means female participation was more than gents while children was very less.

9. DISTRICT WISE NO. OF RESPONDENTS UNDER BPL

Though there is disagreement among the experts about the limit of income for poverty line; yet the Government of Maharashtra has identified the families below poverty line. In this respect the question was asked to the sample respondents, whether they fall under the poverty line family or not.

9.1 Use of Second Hand Clothes

The fishermen at coastal region of Maharashtra, especially Raigad and Sindhudurga districts have rarely worn any branded shirt or trousers in their life. It was reported by women in fishing villages like Murud, Rajpuri, Turumbadi that they give fish to rich people and in turn they get the used clothes and hence, there was no need to go for new branded saree or shirt. Some ladies in Ubhadunda Tal. Vergurla, Dist. Sindhudurg said that, they get the second hand cloth from Mumbai from their relatives. Why the fishing communities do this? Why they accept the used and second-hand clothes? This is because, their income does not allow them to purchase new one! Can any mother or father, son or daughter will prefer this? No, never. This situation needs to be probed by the M.Ps. M.L.As and Ministers and top level officers.

Table 10
District Wise No. of Respondents Under BPL

District	Yes	No	Total	Percentage
Raigad	14 (41.17)	20 (58.82)	34 (100.0)	33.66
Sindhudurga	13 (35.13)	24 (64.86)	37 (100.0)	36.63
Ratnagiri	8 (26.66)	22 (73.33)	30 (100.0)	29.70
Total	35 (34.65)	66 (65.34)	101 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

It was found that 41.17 % of the sample families in Raigad District were BPL, where as 35.13 % and 26.265 % families were BPL in Sindhudurga and Ratnagiri District respectively. It was observed in the field work that still many families were really BPL; but their names were not included in the list. As such almost all the fishing community was facing the problem of poverty. This was seen from the poor house site-sanitation facilities clothes on the body and house materials in their houses.

9.2 District Wise Response on BPL Facilities Received

Table 11
District Wise Response on BPL Facilities Received

District	Not Response	%	Yes	%	No	%	Total	%
Raigad	8 (23.52)	40	10 (29.41)	52.63	16 (47.05)	25.80	34 (100.0)	33.66
Sindhudurga	9 (24.32)	45	6 (16.21)	31.57	22 (59.45)	35.48	37 (100.0)	36.63
Ratnagiri	3 (10.0)	15	3 (10.0)	15.78	24 (80.0)	38.70	30 (100.0)	29.70
Total	20 (19.80)	100	19 (18.81)	100	62 (61.38)	100	101 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

The data in table 11 reveals that out the total 101 respondents only 18.81 % respondents said that they have got few benefits under that BPL; while 61.38 % expressed their negative responses, while 19.80 % had not

expressed their views. This means, very few fishing families were getting the facilities under BPL. The district wise analysis shows that Raigad district had got more benefits followed by Sindhudurga district.

9.3 District Wise Facilities Received Under BPL Scheme

An enquiry was made (Table no. 12) about the nature of help under the BPL Scheme.

Table 12
District-wise Facilities Received Under BPL Scheme

Facilities	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
Rationing	2 (28.57)	100	4 (57.15)	66.66	1 (14.28)	50	7 (100.0)	70
Fish box	0 (0.00)	0	2 (100.0)	33.33	0 (0.00)	0	2 (100.0)	20
Package	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	1 (100.0)	50	1 (100.0)	10
Total	2 (20.0)	100	6 (60.0)	100	2 (20.0)	100	10 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

It was told that the rationing facilities (Food supply) was made at concessional rates to BPL families, as well as a ice box worth of Rs. 2,500/- was gifted to female fish sellers, but only 20 % of the total respondents had got the free boxes, and 10 % said that they got 'Konkan Package', which was a cash help of Rs. 2000/- per female seller.

9.4 District Wise Response On Regular Rationing Through PDS

It was found in the field work (Table No. 19 & 20) that the people of Konkan Region in general and the fishing families in particular were living only on food supply distributed by the Public Distribution System (PDS); but this supply was not regular, sufficient as well as it was below the quality. But there was no alternative rather than to accept the situation. It was found that about 10 % of the respondents complained that the supply was irregular and also insufficient.

Table 13
District-Wise Response on Regular Rationing Through PDS

District	Yes	%	No	%	Total
Raigad	29 (85.29)	32.58	5 (14.70)	41.66	34 (100.0)
Sindhudurga	33 (89.18)	37.07	4 (10.81)	33.33	37 (100.0)
Ratnagiri	27 (90.0)	30.33	3 (10.0)	25	30 (100.0)
Total	89 (88.11)	100	12 (11.88)	100	101 (100.0)

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

Table 14
District Wise Response on Sufficient Rationing Through PDS

District	Yes	No	Total
Raigad	5 (14.70)	29 (85.29)	34 (100.0)
Sindhudurga	12 (32.43)	25 (67.56)	37 (100.0)
Ratnagiri	7 (23.33)	23 (76.66)	30 (100.0)
Total	24 (23.76)	77 (76.23)	101 (100.0)

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

The district wise data states that respondents were not getting sufficient rationing. Thus, there is an urgent need for improvement in the PDS in sample districts.

10. SAVINGS HABITS OF THE FEMALE FISH SELLERS

SOURCE WISE SAVING BY THE RESPONDENTS

The women sell their fish daily, weekly and two-three days in a week and keep some amount in the following institutions;

1. Cooperatives Bank
2. Fisheries Societies
3. Self Help Groups
4. Life Ins. Corporations, etc.

The table No. 15 shows the source wise and also the amount of savings.

Table 15
Source-wise Saving By The Respondents

	Sources	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
1.	Co-op. bank	70000 (92.10)	90.86	1000 (1.32)	23.80	5000 (6.57)	49.70	76000 (100.0)	83.24
2.	Fish society	0 (0.00)	0	2000 (100.0)	47.61	0 (0.00)	0	2000 (100.0)	2.19
3.	SHG	7040 (66.72)	9.13	1200 (11.37)	28.57	2310 (21.89)	22.96	10550 (100.0)	11.55
4.	Other: LIC	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	2750 (100.0)	27.33	2750 (100.0)	3.01
Total		77040 (84.38)	100	4200 (4.60)	100	10060 (11.01)	100	91300 (100.0)	100

The table shows that most of the female 83.24 had saved their amount in cooperatives banks and cooperative credit societies followed by SHG and LIC. This shows that fisheries cooperatives have cultivated the habits of savings among the fisher women. The average amount of annual savings was of Rs. 903/-

11. Classification On The Basis Of Own House

House site and own constructed house is an asset of any person in the society. House and landed property gives security to human beings, for this point of view; it was enquired whether the fishing community belong their own house or not. The table No. 16 gives the detail idea about the housing situation of sample female fish sellers.

Table 16
Classification on The Basis of Own House

District	Yes	No	Total
Raigad	32 (94.11)	2 (5.88)	34 (100.0)
Sindhudurga	30 (81.08)	7 (18.91)	37 (100.0)
Ratnagiri	24 (80.0)	6 (20.0)	30 (100.0)
Total	86 (85.14)	15 (14.85)	101 (100.0)

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

It was found that 85.14 % of the respondents were having their own house, where as 14.86 % them were not having their own houses. Most of the respondents in Ratnagiri District were in this category.

11.1 Classification On The Basis Of Legal House Site

The table No. 17 shows that still 30.69 % of the respondents have no legal house site. Legal house site means, whether the area under the constructed house is in the name of concerned person, or the land title is registered with somebody else such as Village Panchyat or Government. In Ratnagiri district, in Dapoli taluka the village Hurne-Paj was still having no clear tile to their villagers.

Table 17
Classification on The Basis of Legal House Site

District	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Raigad	30 (88.23)	42.85	4 (11.76)	12.90	34 (100.0)	33.66
Sindhudurga	22 (59.45)	31.42	15 (40.54)	48.38	37 (100.0)	36.63
Ratnagiri	18 (60.0)	25.71	12 (40.0)	38.70	30 (100.0)	29.70
Total	70 (69.30)	100	31 (30.69)	100	101 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

The land is owned by the Government and people are fighting for their rights; but still no success. This is the situation of the fishing community, even after 65 years of independence.

11.2 Classification On The Basis Of Nature Of House

Table No. 18 shows the type of houses of the female fish sellers. It was found that still 74.25 % of the FFS were residing in Kaccha house. However, the percentage of Kaccha house was more in Sindhudurga and Ratnagiri District. Most of the Kaccha houses were Hut with forest wood and coconut leaves, which was not having bathroom or separate Kitchen

house. In rain season, most houses were having leakages, but fishing community bare all these inconveniences blaming their fate.

Table 18
Classification on The Basis of Nature of House

District	Kaccha	Percentage	Pacca	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Raigad	22 64.70	29.33	12 35.29	46.15	34 (100.0)	33.66
Sindhudurga	29 78.37	38.66	8 21.62	30.76	37 (100.0)	36.63
Ratnagiri	24 80.0	32	6 20.0	23.076	30 (100.0)	29.70
Total	75 74.25	100	26 25.74	100	101 (100.0)	100

The house to houseless, the slogan has yet not reached in the coastal areas.

11.3 Classification on The Basis of Electricity Facility :

A minute study was made of sample FFS about the basic availability the electricity in their houses. It was found that still on an average 12.87 % of houses were without the electricity connection of their own.

Table 19
Classification on The Basis of Electricity Facility

District	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Total
Raigad	28 (82.35)	31.81	6 (17.64)	46.15	34 (100.0)
Sindhudurga	35 (94.59)	39.77	2 (5.40)	15.38	37 (100.0)
Ratnagiri	25 (83.33)	28.40	5 (16.66)	38.46	30 (100.0)
Total	88 (87.12)	100	13 (12.87)	100	101 (100.0)

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

Many of such families were taking the light facility from their neighbours.



Unscientific Drying of Fish



P.I. with A Fish labour and his Wife Standing in Front of Thatched House- Dandi- Malwan -Poor Housing. No Bathroom, Latrine & light

11.3 Classification On The Basis Of Personal Water Connection

The personal water connection has become luxurious item in day-to day life of common man. From this point of view it was seen (table No. 20) that still 58 % of the FFS has no their personal water connection.

Table 20
Classification on The Basis of Personal Water Connection

District	Yes	No	Total
Raigad	12 (35.29)	22 (64.70)	34 (100.0)
Sindhudurga	21 (56.75)	16 (43.24)	37 (100.0)
Ratnagiri	9 (30.0)	21 (70.0)	30 (100.0)
Total	42 (41.58)	59 (58.41)	101 (100.0)

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

This seems that from all sides the FFS are facing the problem in their life.

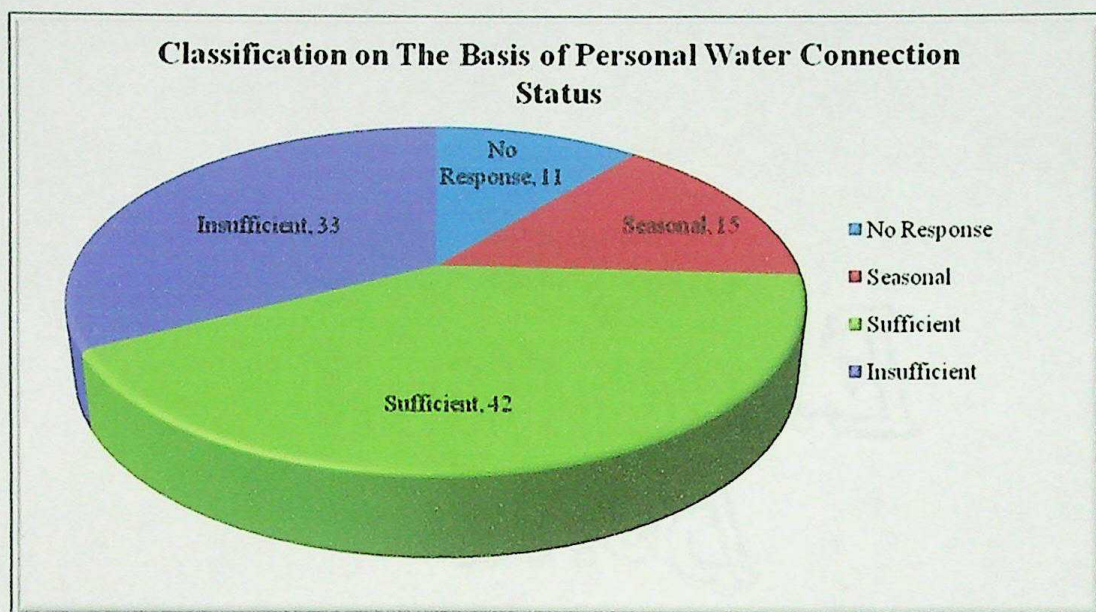
The Konkan area since many centuries is facing the shortage of water. The pie chart shows that still 68 % (42+15+11=68) of FFS are facing the water shortages in their villages.

Table 21
Classification on The Basis of Personal Water Connection Status

District	Not Response	Seasonal	Sufficient	Insufficient	Total
Raigad	7 (20.58)	3 (8.82)	19 (55.88)	5 (14.70)	34 (100.0)
Sindhudurga	0 (0.00)	10 (27.02)	15 (40.54)	12 (32.43)	37 (100.0)
Ratnagiri	4 (13.33)	2 (6.66)	8 (26.66)	16 (53.33)	30 (100.0)
Total	11 (10.89)	15 (14.85)	42 (41.58)	33 (32.67)	101 (100.0)

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

This shows that there is backlog in the 'Jalswaraj' scheme of the Government, though Konkan areas get rainfall of more than 120 inches. This is nothing but a poverty among the plain.



11.4 Classification on The Basis of Latrine Facility

Table 22
Classification on The Basis of Latrine Facility

District	Yes	No	Total
Raigad	4 (11.76)	30 (88.23)	34 (100.0)
Sindhudurga	9 (24.32)	28 (75.67)	37 (100.0)
Ratnagiri	4 (13.33)	26 (86.66)	30 (100.0)
Total	17 (16.83)	84 (83.16)	101 (100.0)

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

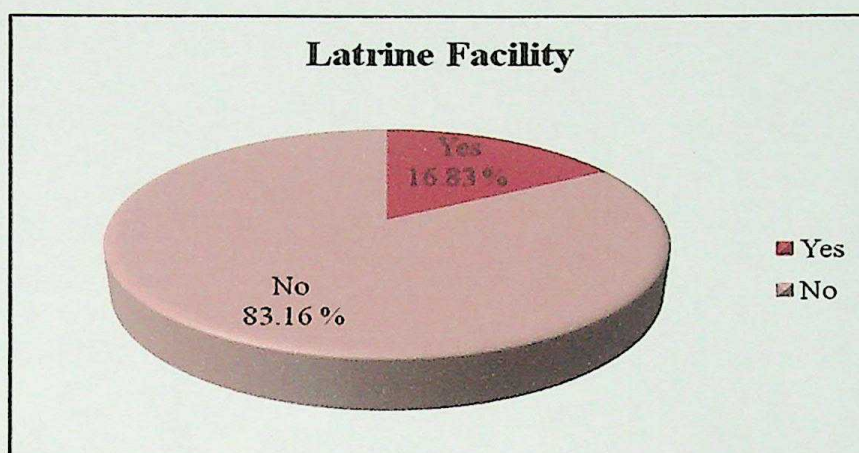


Table No. 22 shows the status of sanitation especially the availability of latrine facility in the respondents' house. It was found that nearly 16.83 % of the FFS were having the latrine facilities at homes, while, others were facing the problem. In Sindhudurga district the latrines were more than the other two sample districts. Therefore, still there is need to create awareness among the people and Government help is needed.

11.5 Classification on The Basis of LPG Connection Availability

The source of energy for the cooking purpose was while making a survey of BPL list. It was seen (Table 23) that out of total FFS 31.68 % of them were with LPG Gas connection; hence such families were not included in BPL. Due to forest degradation, the fire wood had become a scarce and hence even poor house hold had no alternative rather than to use LPG Gas for cooking.

Table 23
Classification on The Basis of LPG Connection Availability

District	Yes	No	Total
Raigad	14 (41.17)	20 (58.82)	34 (100.0)
Sindhudurga	11 (29.72)	26 (70.27)	37 (100.0)
Ratnagiri	7 (23.33)	23 (76.66)	30 (100.0)
Total	32 (31.68)	69 (68.31)	101 (100.0)

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

It was also told that during 04 months of rainy season, no dry wood is available in the market.

11.6 Availability of Entertainment Facility at Home (Combination):

An entertainment facility is now considered as necessity of life. It was found that (Table No. 24) radio was not available with any FFS, while tape was only with 3.96 % and television with 23.76 % of respondents. About 68.31 % respondents were without any entertainment instruments.

Table 24
Availability of Entertainment Facility at Home (Combination)

	Facility	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
0	Not Available	22 (31.88)	64.70	20 (28.98)	54.05	27 (39.13)	90	69 (100.0)	68.31
1	Radio	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0
2	Tape	1 (25.0)	2.94	2 (50.0)	5.40	1 (25.0)	3.33	4 (100.0)	3.96
3	T.V.	9 (37.5)	26.47	14 (58.33)	37.83	1 (4.16)	3.33	24 (100.0)	23.76
4	V.C.R.	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0
6	2,3	2 (50.0)	5.88	1 (25.0)	2.703	1 (25.0)	3.33	4 (100.0)	3.96
	Total	34 (33.66)	100	37 (36.63)	100	30 (29.70)	100	101 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

The reason behind this was the low income and inability to pay electricity charges. The common T.V. or neighbours' house was used for the entertainment.

12. Availability of Vehicle Facility :

Table No. 25 shows the status of FFS by owning the mode of transport i.e. bicycle, two, wheeler, four wheeler, etc. It was found that only one FFS was having four-wheeler; but that was also for commercial purpose, while bicycles were owned by 12 people within 101 respondents.

Table 25
Availability of Vehicle Facility at Home

	Vehicles	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
0	No Vehicles	29 (33.72)	85.29	29 (33.72)	78.37	28 (32.55)	93.33	86 (100.0)	85.14
1	Bicycle	4 (33.33)	11.76	6 (50.0)	16.21	2 (16.66)	6.66	12 (100.0)	11.88
2	Two Wheeler	1 (50.0)	2.94	1 (50.0)	2.70	0 (0.00)	0	2 (100.0)	1.98
3	Four/ Commer. Vehicle	0 (0.00)	0	1 (100.0)	2.70	0 (0.00)	0	1 (100.0)	0.99
4	Other	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0
Total		34 (33.66)	100	37 (36.63)	100	30 (29.70)	100	101 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

Nearly 85.14 % told that they don't possess any vehicles. This is because of lack of sufficient income to purchase and maintain the vehicle. Thus, the coastal fishing community is deprived of such facilities since many years.

13. OPINIONS OF FFS ABOUT CONTINUATION OF OCCUPATION

While conducting the field work it was found that many respondents were dissatisfied with their occupation.

Table 26
Classification on The Basis of Interest In Occupation

District	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Raigad	34 (100.0)	37.36	0 (0.00)	0	34 (100.0)	33.66
Sindhudurga	32 (86.48)	35.16	5 (13.51)	50	37 (100.0)	36.63
Ratnagiri	25 (83.33)	27.47	5 (16.66)	50	30 (100.0)	29.70
Total	91 (90.09)	100	10 (9.90)	100	101 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

All the respondents in Raigad District said that they like the present occupation, but respondents in Sindhudurga and Ratnagiri district

were less satisfied. The reasons given by them were noted in Table No. 28, these reasons were,

1. Due to low sale-low profit
2. No other job
3. No sufficient income
4. Less social status.

Table 27
Reasons of Disliking the of Current Occupation
(Multiple Answers)

	Reasons	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
0	No Response	16	47.05	13	35.13	16	53.33	45	44.55
1	Traditional	13	38.23	8	21.62	2	6.66	23	22.77
2	No Job	1	2.94	10	27.02	1	3.33	12	11.88
3	No Alternative	1	2.94	2	5.40	8	26.66	11	10.89
4	1 and 3	3	8.82	0	0	0	0	3	2.97
5	3	0	0	1	2.70	0	0	1	0.99
6	Low Catch	0	0	2	5.40	0	0	2	1.98
7	No Sufficient Income	0	0	0	0	3	10	3	2.97
8	3,8 and other	0	0	1	2.70	0	0	1	0.99
	Total	34	100	37	100	30	100	101	100

The respondents said that as there is no job, and hence we have accepted the occupation though we dislike the job.

14. HEALTH PROBLEMS FACED BY FEMALE FISH SELLERS

The women in fish sale were facing several problems while they travel and sell the fish in town and village markers. Sitting at the same place, without any facilities gives pains to the body of women. The (table No.28) gives the different types of health problems faced by them. These problems can be said as occupational diseases. But there is still no any hospital for this community.

Table 28
Impact of Fishing on Health

	Health Problems	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
0	No Response	25	73.52	33	89.18	16	53.33		0
1	Nek Pain	1	2.94	0	0	0	0	1	3.70
2	Body Temprature	1	2.94	1	2.70	0	0	2	7.40
3	Frequently Illness	4	11.76	0	0	0	0	4	14.81
4	Leg Mungya	0	0	0	0	2	6.66	2	7.40
6	4 and 5	1	2.94	0	0	0	0	1	3.70
7	Head Pain	0	0	0	0	1	3.33	1	3.70
8	4 and 7	2	5.88	0	0	0	0	2	7.40
9	Hand & Leg Pains	0	0	3	8.10	0	0	3	11.11
10	7 and 9	0	0	0	0	1	3.33	1	3.70
11	Chest Pains	0	0	0	0	4	13.33	4	14.81
12	1,9 and 11	0	0	0	0	3	10	3	11.11
13	7 and 9	0	0	0	0	1	3.33	1	3.70
14	Eye Problem	0	0	0	0	1	3.33	1	3.70
15	7,9 and 14	0	0	0	0	1	3.33	1	3.70
Total		34	100	37	100	30	100	27	100

Due to heavy load of fish on head; the head ache and chest aching is major problem among women

A study made by ReenA Arpita Sharma and Panday (2007) shown that fisherman in India had still remained poorer and continue to occupy the lower rung of the social strata. The study further states that about 80 % of the fresh fish retailers have musculoskeletal complains like joint pain, and malaria. Again the dietary habits of fisher women are also poor i.e. fish and rice. The consumption and amount of vegetables, milk and milk products are very minimal among the fishermen families.

15. INTEREST IN CONTINUED FISHING BY CHILDREN : WILLINGNESS OF FUTURE / YOUNG GENERATION IN FISHING

The present generation fishing community is very much bothering about their future generation. Many of the respondents asserted that there is no future to fishing and hence future generation should not enter into

this job. The table No. 29 states that large majority (61.38 %) of the respondents said that their future generation should not enter in the job, while 21.78% said that future generation has no option rather than the fishing while 16.83% of respondents said that they can not say anything.

Table 29
Interest In Continued Fishing By Children

District	Yes	%	No	%	Can't Say	%	Total	%
Raigad	10 (29.41)	45.45	17 (50.0)	27.41	7 (20.58)	41.17	34 (100.0)	33.66
Sindhudurga	7 (18.91)	31.81	23 (62.16)	37.09	7 (18.91)	41.17	37 (100.0)	36.63
Ratnagiri	5 (16.66)	22.72	22 (73.33)	35.48	3 (10.0)	17.64	30 (100.0)	29.70
Total	22 (21.78)	100	62 (61.38)	100	17 (16.83)	100	101 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

Due to low profit, low catch, high competition fishing has come in problems, and it has no future.

16. CLASSIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF EQUAL STATUS AS PER OTHER CASTES

There was a doubt in the mind of the researchers whether the fisherwomen get the equal status like other upper caste and occupation in the society. Always the body of the fisherwomen has a particular smell. Answering to this question, 87.12 % id women said (Table No. 30) that they were equally treated like women; but 12.88 % women said that 'Yes' they are being treated as low caste and low status women.

Table 30
Classification on The Basis of Equal Status As Per other Castes

District	Yes	No	Total
Raigad	30 (88.23)	4 (11.76)	34 (100.0)
Sindhudurga	36 (97.29)	1 (2.70)	37 (100.0)
Ratnagiri	22 (73.33)	8 (26.66)	30 (100.0)
Total	88 (87.12)	13 (12.87)	101 (100.0)

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

Though, everybody likes to eat fish yet they dislike the appearance of fishing man or women. The Koli, the Kharvi, Gabit and Bhandari community falls in this profession, and these castes are included in SBS, OBC, etc, which are backward castes. Therefore, one can admit that the fishing community is looked in different angle by the upper caste people.

17. PARTICULARS OF THE POLITICAL POSITION

Table 31
Particulars of the Political Position

	Particulars	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
1	Vice Chairman	1	33.33	0	0	0	0	1	9.09
2	Member Of Nagarpalika	1	33.33	0	0	0	0	1	9.09
3	Member Of Grampanchayat	1	33.33	7	100	1	100	9	81.81
Total		3	100	7	100	1	100	11	100

The political power enhances the family status. Form this angle an enquiry was made to see how many FFS were involved in the process of decision making of village or town. It was found that among 101 FFS, one lady was vice-chairman and 09 ladies were gram pachyat members' while one lady was member of municipal (Murud-Dist-Raigad) council. Most of the fishing women belong to SBC/ OBC/NT category and hence, they were elected on the Panchyat Raj institutions.

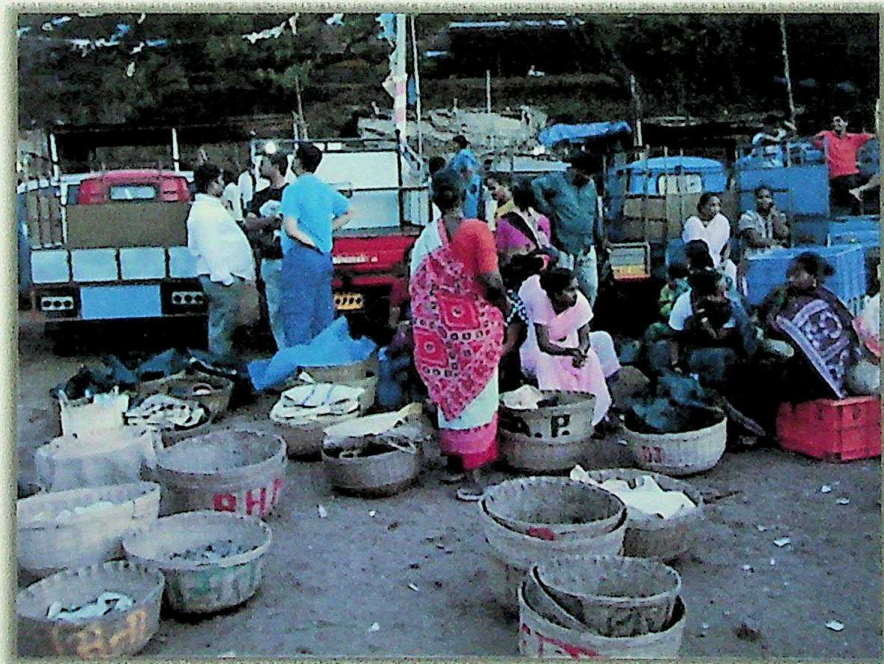
18. DISTRICT WISE PLACE OF SELLING OF FISH

Unlike any agricultural produce, fish is also highly perishable product; hence its quick market is necessary. It was seen that all the fish sellers were selling their fish in the following markets;

1. Local or village sale
2. Near by Village
3. Taluka Market Place
4. House to house either at local or nearly villages.



*Unhygienic Condition of Fish Market
Deogad ill Cared Market*



Female Fish Sellers Waiting For Boats Dabhol Port

Table 32
District Wise Place of Selling of Fish

	Place	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
1	Local	16	47.05	25	67.56	22	73.33	63	62.37
2	Near by Village	23	67.64	11	29.72	23	76.66	57	56.43
3	Taluka Market	22	64.70	13	35.13	1	3.33	36	35.64
4	House to House	2	5.88	5	13.51	13	43.33	20	19.80
	Total	34		37		30		101	

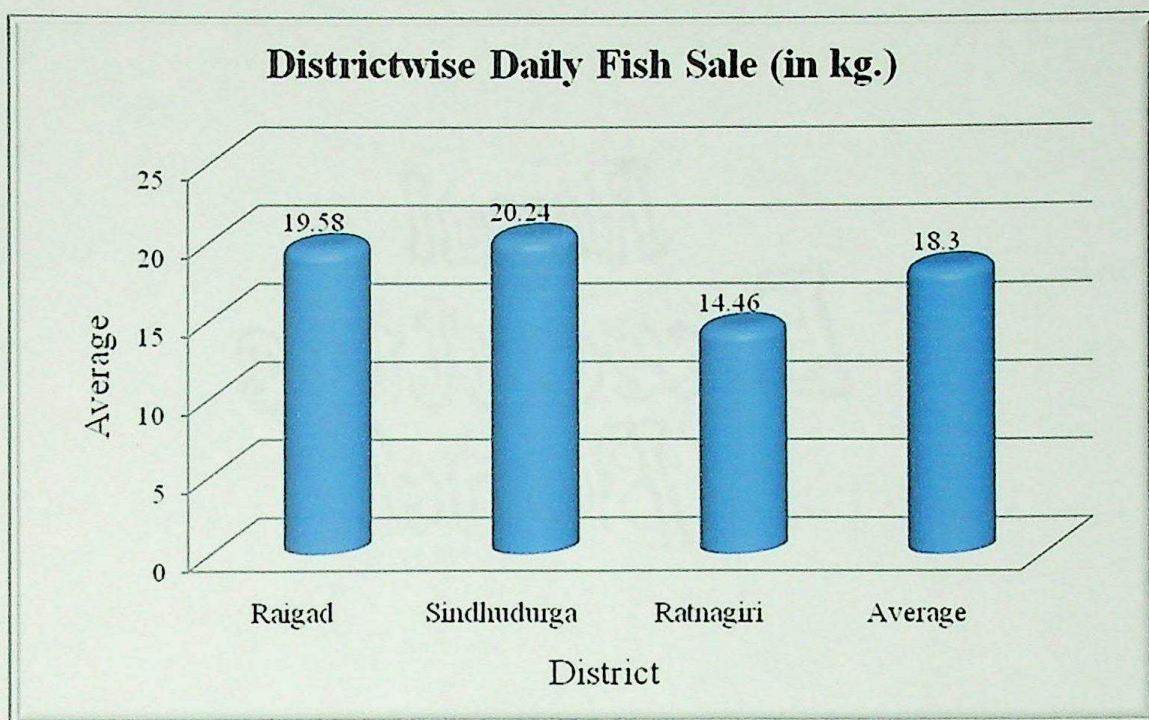
It was found that on an average 62.37 % women were selling the fish at local places followed by (56.93 %) nearby villages and taluka places. The sellers had accepted more than two locations of sale. The sale of fish at local marker in Ratnagiri district was more; because it is a big city. But Sindhudurga district has no big city.

19. District-wise Daily Fish Sale (In Kg.)

The data in table No. 33 shows the day volume fish sale of each woman in the sample markets. There are variations in the volume of fish sale in each district due to availability of fish, prices and season. On an average one seller had sold 18.30 kg. of fish in a day; but the maximum sale (20.24 kg.) was in Sindhudurga district, while it was minimum in Ratnagiri district.

Table 33
District-wise Daily Fish Sale (In Kg.)

District	Sale	Percentage	Average
Raigad	666	36.01	19.58
Sindhudurga	749	40.50	20.24
Ratnagiri	434	23.47	14.46
Total	1849	100	18.30



Thus, we can realize that each woman had sold the fish of average 18.30 kg. per day, by sitting 6 to 8 horse in unhygienic conditions. There are variations in volume of sale due to change in fish catch, prices, season and the consumers' ability to purchase. It was reported by many women that to sell the fish is nothing but a gamble.

19.1 District-wise Daily Gross Profit (In Rs.)

The table No. 34 gives the total amount of profit and average daily amount of profit of individual fish seller. The per day average profit of each sample FFS was Rs. 100/-; however, it was highest (Rs. 151) in Raigad district followed by Sindhudurga district. The amount of daily gross profit does not give the idea of efficiency of fisher women. But, we can roughly make a statement that each individual women was earning Rs. 100/- by sale of fish, and she was helping the family. A woman born in fishing community can not do any other work than that to sell the fish.

No other job is also available in coastal region of Maharashtra than the fish sale.

Table 34
District-wise Daily Gross Profit (In Rs.)

District	Profit	Percentage	Average
Raigad	5155	50.68	151.61
Sindhudurga	3270	32.15	88.37
Ratnagiri	1745	17.15	58.16
Total	10170	100	100.69

An annual income of women has been studied in further discussions.

19.2 District-wise Annual Fish Sale Income :

It was told by the FFS that during the busy season of fishing each of them attend the fish market except one day either Monday or Thursday, which are the common fast days observed in Hindu families. Therefore, average 06 trips were made by each woman. Also, they were getting this job only for 08 months. The table No. 35, 36 and 37 shows the numbers of trips and months of jobs i.e. marketing.

Table 35
District-wise Annual Fish Sale Income

District	Trips	Percentage	Average
Raigad	353	50.28	10.38
Sindhudurga	244	34.75	6.59
Ratnagiri	105	14.95	3.5
Total	702	100	6.95

Table 36
District wise Fish Sale In No. of Months

District	No. of months	Percentage	Average
Raigad	311	37.69	9.14
Sindhudurga	305	36.96	8.24
Ratnagiri	209	25.33	6.96
Total	825	100	8.16

Table 37
District wise Annual Fish Sale Income (Rs.)

District	Income	Percentage	Average
Raigad	801130	41.27	23562.65
Sindhudurga	530822	27.34	14346.54
Ratnagiri	609160	31.38	20305.33
Total	1941112	100	19218.93

If we consider these table along with table no. 37; it is clear that average annual income of per FFS is Rs. 19218 which is less than income needed for poverty line i.e. Rs. 20000/-. *This filed study work can give the message to the policy holders that all FFS falls under poverty line; hence at least they should be provided food grains at the concessional rate admissible to BPL families.* Of course, this is the gross income and not the net income.

20. FISH RETAINED AT HOME PER TRIP (IN KG.)

The table No. 38 shows the district-wise and season-wise consumption of fish. The table shows that in flush season one family is consuming average of more than half Kg. (592 gr.); and in lean season 385 gr. of fish. Per trip it was found that in rainy season also they catch the fish at the shallow sea or they eat dry fish.

Table 38
Fish Retained At Home Per Trip (In Kg.)

Season	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
Flush	27.03 (47.60)	46.57	20 (35.22)	86.95	9.75 (17.17)	66.32	56.78 (100.0)	59.31
Lean	31 (79.58)	53.42	3 (7.70)	13.04	4.95 (12.70)	33.67	38.95 (100.0)	40.68
Total	58.03 (60.61)	100	23 (24.02)	100	14.7 (15.35)	100	95.73 (100.0)	100

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

20.1 Consumption of Fish at Home

Many common people are under the impression that the fisherman is consuming more fish and quality fish at his home as he is having the fish of his own. But this is the wrong impression. In field work it was found that fisherman is consuming very limited fish and that is also of a low quality fish. He sells the quality fish in market. The fishermen retains such fish so as to make curry for his rice. Rice is the only food of coastal people. No roasted fish or frayed fish is consumed daily by this community only when ample fish catch is available then only quality fish is consumed. In rainy season, no fish is available; hence the drayed low quality fish curry is consumed by fishermen.

21. ASSET FORMATION OF FEMALE FISH SELLERS THOUGH FISH INCOME

One of indicator of measuring the impact of fisheries on coastal community is to assess the asset formation made by them with the help of fish sale. Asset formation is not possible only to women but it is with the cooperation of all the members in the family. The table No. 39 shows, the different items of capital formation for which the female engaged in the fish sell are also responsible.

The table reveals that different types of assets formation and daily needs of the family have been financed though the fish sale income.

Major needs such as loan repayment, marriage, nearest journey, utensils, gift articles, festivals and education of children was performed by the fish income on the other hand assets like purchase of land (1 case) ornaments (28), house construction and repairs (42), bicycles (11), valuable cloth (46), was possible due to fish sale income. The other day-to-day needs were also satisfied by fish sale income. Even marriage of 22 house-holds was financed by sale of fish.

Though the assets seem very meager yet it has significance in a poor-man's life.

Table 39
Asset Formation And Pattern of Expenditure By The Respondents

	Items	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total	%
1	Purchase Of Land	1 (100.0)	2.94	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	1 (100.0)	0.99
2	Purchase Of Ornaments	6 (21.42)	17.64	16 (57.14)	43.24	6 (21.42)	20	28 (100.0)	27.72
3	Loan Repayment	18 (42.85)	52.94	13 (30.95)	35.13	11 (26.19)	36.66	42 (100.0)	41.58
4	House Constr.& Repair	20 (47.62)	58.82	12 (28.57)	32.43	10 (23.80)	33.33	42 (100.0)	41.58
5	Marriages	11 (50.0)	32.35	5 (22.72)	13.51	6 (27.27)	20	22 (100.0)	21.78
6	Purchase Of Bicycle	3 (27.27)	8.82	7 (63.63)	18.91	1 (9.09)	3.33	11 (100.0)	10.89
7	Purchase Of Auto Cycle	1 (25.0)	2.94	3 (75.0)	8.10	0 (0.00)	0	4 (100.0)	3.96
8	Wrist Watch/Clocks	8 (29.62)	23.52	12 (44.44)	32.43	7 (25.92)	23.33	27 (100.0)	26.73
9	Constr. & Repair Of Cowshed	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	1 (100.0)	3.33	1 (100.0)	0.99
10	Nearest Journey	20 (36.36)	58.82	22 (40.0)	59.45	13 (23.63)	43.33	55 (100.0)	54.45
11	Valuable Cloths	13 (28.26)	38.23	24 (52.17)	64.86	9 (19.56)	30	46 (100.0)	45.54
12	Utensils	11 (24.44)	32.35	20 (44.44)	54.05	14 (31.11)	46.66	45 (100.0)	44.55
13	Cattle Feed	2 (50.0)	5.88	2 (50.0)	5.40	0 (0.00)	0	4 (100.0)	3.96
14	Gift Articles	21 (35.0)	61.76	24 (40.0)	64.86	15 (25.0)	50	60 (100.0)	59.40
15	Festival	19 (31.14)	55.88	26 (42.62)	70.27	16 (26.22)	53.33	61 (100.0)	60.39
16	Other-Education	4 (25.0)	11.76	3 (18.75)	8.10	9 (56.25)	30	16 (100.0)	15.84
Total		34 (33.66)		37 (36.63)		30 (29.70)		101 (100.0)	

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

22. CLASSIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF FISH INCOME SPENDING AUTHORITY

The women sell the fish and earn the income; but it was doubtful whether they are authorized by their husbands or the head of family to spend as per their will. Table No. 40 shows that out of 101 female respondents 93 % (94) said that they have total freedom to spend the income while 2.97 % (3) answered 'NO' and 3.96 % (4) could not answered. The freedom to earn and spend increases the status of women in society.

Table 40
Classification on The Basis of Fish Income Spending Authority

District	No Response	Percentage	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Total
Raigad	2 (5.88)	50	30 (88.23)	31.91	2 (5.88)	66.66	34 (100.0)
Sindhudurga	1 2.70	25	35 94.59	37.23	1 2.70	33.33	37 (100.0)
Ratnagiri	1 3.33	25	29 96.66	30.85	0 (0.00)	0	30 (100.0)
Total	4 (3.96)	100	94 (93.06)	100	3 (2.97)	100	101 (100.0)

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

A study made by Dr. Koli in case of dairy cooperatives the women supports the above statement. Another study made by Dr. Rathod and Prof. Nadarni had opinion that women should be educated and trained; in their profession so that they can accelerate the development. This is also true in fisheries.

23. INTEREST IN SUBSIDIARY OCCUPATION :

Number of studies made by experts on fisheries in India viz Gaonkar, Maria and others as well as Prof. Awalekar J.L. sates that the fisheries in coastal area of Maharashtra has came in danger due to several reasons, both man made and natural. Form this point of view an enquire was made in filed work about the alternative occupation or jobs to be

spared to the fishing community. A question was asked to FFS, whether she or her children could accept any other job if fisheries job is lost. The response were analyzed and shown in table No. 41.

An alternative jobs put before them were Dairy, Poultry, Farming, Service, Trading, Coir industry, etc. A large majority of female could not give the responses. The no response was of 58.82 %, 64.86 % and 96.66 % in Raigad, Sindhudurga and Ratnagiri districts respectively. This shows that no fisherwomen are aware about their life and occupation or they can not tell anything. The alternative job like dairy was accepted by 2.97 % poultry by 11.88 % and farming by 2.97 % while few opted for service, sale of wood, etc. The poultry was accepted by respondents of Raigad and Sindhudurga district.

Table 41
Interest in Subsidiary Occupation

	Occupation	Raigad	%	Sindhudurga	%	Ratnagiri	%	Total
0	No Response	20	58.82	24	64.86	29	96.66	
1	Dairy	2 (66.66)	5.88	0 (0.00)	0	1 (33.33)	3.33	3 (100.0)
2	Poultry	4 (33.33)	11.76	8 (66.66)	21.62	0 (0.00)	0	12
3	Farming	3 (100.0)	8.82	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	3 (100.0)
4	2,3	1 (50.0)	2.94	1 (50.0)	2.70	0 (0.00)	0	2 (100.0)
5	Service	1 (100.0)	2.94	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	1 (100.0)
6	1,2,3	1 (25.0)	2.94	3 (75.0)	8.10	0 (0.00)	0	4 (100.0)
7	Sale Of Wood	2 (100.0)	5.88	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	2 (100.0)
8	Trading	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0
9	Coir Industry	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0
10	8,9	0 (0.00)	0	1 (100.0)	2.70	0 (0.00)	0	1 (100.0)
	Total	34 (33.66)	41.17	37 (36.63)	35.13	30 (29.70)	3.33	101 (100.0)

Note : Figure in parenthesis denotes percentage to total

The farming is not the suitable job to the fishing community as they had never gone to farming. Hence, coastal fisheries should be kept exclusively for the traditional communities and should not be open to

other caste people. Otherwise a large number of fishing folk will be thrown away from the fishing occupation.

24. A NATIVE THEORY OF A KERALA FISHERMEN

The dissection between two couples who were newly married. The story of a newly married couple about the fish catch and its income and why the fishing community is not happy that has been narrated in the story long back in 1967, in Kerala; which has been repeated as it is;

The young newly-married Karuthamma had just come to the home town of her husband Palani. There has just been one of the poor fishing periods that was rather regular in that part of the coast, and the book says:

They returned with a haul of sardines such as they hadn't had for a long time. Mr. Palani got some thirty rupees as his share. They had cleaned the net and spread it to dry when Ayyappan said to his mates, "Why don't we go to Arripad today and dine there?"

Karuthamma waited for a long time. When Palani did not return, she went out on the seashore to look for him. She could see that every boat had come on shore.

"Did the boat come on shore only just now?" she asked when he returned. "No, but look," Palani said, without realizing the implication of her question.

He gave her parcel.

"When you fish in these parts, do you net fine clothes?" she asked, unpacking.

He had brought a lovely piece of cloth with gold borders. It was magnificent. Palani told her the cost. Velavudhan, Kochuraman, Ayyappan and he had each bought such pieces of cloth. Velayudhan's child was ill that day, and Velayudhan's wife had gone to Paru for help

because she had no money for medicine. Similarly, Ayyappan's house was going short that evening. But they all received fine pieces of cloth.

"What was your share today?" Karuthamma asked.

"I made some thirty rupees."

"What have you left of it now?"

Karuthamma opened the packet and counted. Only two rupees were left.

She put her hands on his shoulder and sat leaning on him.

"You mustn't waste all the money you make," she said with a captivating laugh.

"If all the fishermen on this seacoast thought like that, the whole sea-coast would be full of millionaires. Why it is that everybody doesn't think like that?" he asked.

She answered it by another question:

"But why should't we think like that?"

Palani described a belief current among fishermen:

"A fisherman cannot save. This is because he makes his money at the cost of millions of lives. He makes his money by cheating and catching innocent beings moving freely in the sea. To look upon those millions dying with their eyes open was nothing to those who saw that sight every day. But you cannot save money made at the cost of innocent lives. It was not possible. Otherwise, why should fishermen starve?" he said.

This was not only Palani's belief. The^{re} was a belief shared by fishermen all along the long, long coast over hundreds and hundreds of years. Karuthamma knew it, but her father refuted it. Today she saw a new meaning and force in her father's dissention. But she was not sure enough of herself to argue with Palani.

“Why should a fisherman save? This wide expanse is his wealth. What is it that it doesn’t contain? If he doesn’t save, the goddess of the sea is there to take care of him,” Palani said.

In our analysis of the lack of adequate response among the Arayas we shall, of course, not be satisfied with “native theories” of this type only. Nor is it satisfactory to know that the Arayas also characterize themselves as weak people compared with, for instance, Catholics. There is on the whole a tendency for them to characterize their low social-economic status with reference to somatic and psychological factors. We shall try to translate this “native theory” into the language of this analysis,

This shows why the fishing community is not happy. If all the money income of fishermen would have been stored; then fisherman or women would have constructed the house with Gold; but that is not the situation. The story gives the message that the fishing community will always leave in poor condition as they are committing the sin in killing the innocent fishers the story seems funny; but meaningful and full of inferences.

Case Study : I

Poor Are Poor

They story of poverty of fish-seller of Village Vananwaish Tal. Dapoli of Ratnagiri District is the eye opener. Smt. Deepali Dilp Dhopavkar, is widow living in her village along with her two sons and a daughter. Born in a Kharvi-caste (SBC), Smit. Depali, had lost her husband 10 years back, and sells fish in near by villages. Every day she purchases the fish of approximately of Rs. 500, ice of Rs. 20 and spends Rs. 10 (Rs. 530) for ferry boat as her house is beyond the Dabhol creek.

On every evening, she purchases the fresh fish, and preserves in the nigh and sells in the morning in nearby her village taking the basket on

her head, and earns daily Rs. 70 to 75. She has no her own house and hence she lives with her cousin father in law's house; she has no any recreational facilities at her home. Thus, she is homeless, landless, and two sons are also jobless. Though she is a fish seller; yet she rarely eats quality fish. The consumption of a quality fry fish is a dream of her family. She had worn an artificial ornaments in her neck, she said all the fisherwomen worn such ornaments, in Konkan area.

Though, really she lives in below poverty line yet, her name is not listed in BPL. She told the fact that a person named Dattatrya S. Killedar of her village, who is having unauthorized boat, two small goods carriers and sugar juice center has been included in the BPL list. Is it a justice! She further told that she celebrated her Diwali Festival (Nov 2007) within Rs. 50/-. She purchased a sweet of Rs. 50/- from the Dabhol Sweet Market and took both and enjoyed the sweet on Diwali Day. No any prepared sweet at her home due her poverty. She said that 'Poor are Poor'. She hoped that the cooperative society provides her food grains on ration card regularly.

There are several such poor Deepdis living in coastal villages and celebrating Diwali in Rs. 50 to 70 but who cares for them. Whose this responsibility? Whether the Government, Private, Cooperative or NGO or all? The solution is unanswered.

Case Study : II

Poor Basic Amenities in Fishing Villages

The Villagers Staying In Ratnagiri District Brings Water From Raigad District

Smt. Vasanti Kulapkar (57), widow of Wlamikinagar, Tal. Mandangad, Dist. Ratnagiri said that, she was alone in her family and

selling the fish since last 40 years. She was earning daily Rs. 20-25 with her annual income of Rs. 6500/-. She was in BPL and she was getting per month 10 kgs of wheat and 20 kgs of rice at concessional rate. She told that she has to purchase drinking water in summer season from the neighboring district; i.e. Raigad. She added that village is situated at the sea coast, and the *tide* water comes in front of their houses. The village has no milch animals, and therefore, no fisherman household is consuming milk. The tea is served without milk. Smt. Vasanti told that a child never consumes milk; except the breast feeding. This situation may be true in many other villages in India; but fishing villages are certainly living in depressed condition.

Case Study : III

The Birth In Fishing Family Is Curse

A lady of Harne- Paj (Tal. Dapoli) named Janabai Rama Patekar (55) touched the feet of the Principal Investigator in the field work and said that if she has an occasion of second time human life, she said that I should not be born in a fishermen family, as this job is a curse to this community. No sufficient fish catch to the husband, no full time job to the sons and she has job of fish selling wandering from village to village with a wet basket on head. Whole the week living in a wet and dirty environment, she had injured her food fingers and disease of neck aching due to basket load on head.

The same story was told by many female fish sellers at Karla Village, the birth place of Cooperative Fisheries Movement in India. A lady Smt. Banu Kasam Mukadan (45) having two daughters and jobless husband she said that her annual income from all sources was Rs. 12000/-. A lady in the same village told that instead living alive in

such a miserable and hopeless situation, "*it is better to die.*" A third woman of Walmikinager- Mandangad taluka also expressed the same opinion about their fish sale occupation. Most of female fish sellers were poor, many of them were widows; with the only sources of earning i.e. fish selling.

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