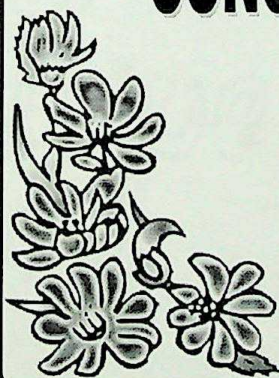
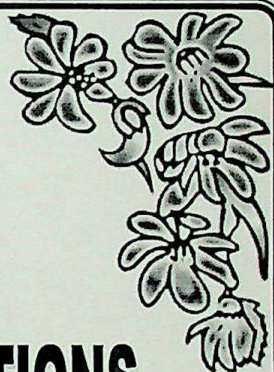


CHAPTER - IX

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS



CHAPTER – IX

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

An attempt has been made in this final chapter to present the conclusions and to enumerate the suggestions which will be useful for the researchers doing further study on socio-economic conditions of fishing community in India in general and Maharashtra in particular.

1. CONCLUSIONS

The profile of Ratnagiri, Raigad and Sindhudurg district shows that the coastal area is useful only for fishing tourism and sea transport. But the in coastal areas, there are very few good ports for shipping, good transportation, and hence fishing is the source of coastal people. Hence on above things, the policy should be developed. The traditional coastal community engaged in fishing must be protected by the Government, by restricting the entry of other castes community. The profile of Raigad District shows that this district is not now suitable for fishing due to industrialization. The rich people have purchased the land for their industries, which has affected badly on farming and fishing. The SEZ is a big blow to the coastal fishing.

Few conclusions regarding socio-economic conditions of Boat Owners, boat labourers, female fish sellers, etc has been presented under the separate head. The present position of fisheries cooperatives is also concluded.

2. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF SAMPLE BOAT OWNERS

Some Koli castes were falling in both the castes i.e. in SBC and ST. As per the old record, most of Kolis were in ST castes, but, the

Government record has been manipulated and since then there is conflict in this respect. Therefore, Koli community is unable to get concessions in employment in Government; hence fishing is the only job for this community.

The sea is also considered as a wild area (forest) and fish as a wild animal; and hence fishing is considered a hunting job which most of STs are doing in some states. As per the nature of job; its status, income, etc, fishing is the lowest rank job; hence Koli caste is due for inclusion in ST castes, as they were before 1976.

Out of the total B.O. 53.33 % of them were not having any subsidiary occupation. In such family; fishing was the only shelter to the family. However, 29.52 % were having selling of fish as subsidiary occupation, while Agriculture was only with 3.80 % of B.O., and Dairy, Poultry was negligible. This situation was more or less equal in all the Districts.

The 59 % of the boat owners had said that their children should not continued this job; due to low catch and more trouble.

The monthly fish income of Boat Owners in a sample districts was of Rs. 14161=00 and their average expenditure was Rs. 3574=00. It means Rs. 10,587 was at balance per month. However, their annual income was of Rs. 84,696/-. This mean whatever was surplus in 8 months that was spent on other 04 months which are know as 'OFF Months'. Therefore, actually, there is no any surplus with BO.

The major item of loan was the purchase of boat (58.74 %), fishing wages (12.28 %), boat repair (9.96 %) and home expenditure (9.50 %).

The data shows that each B.O. has taken average loan of Rs. 1,78,701=00. This means, presently B.O. are under the pressure of borrowings.

3. SOME OBSERVATION ABOUT BOAT OWNERS

1. BO had taken the loan or advance amount form the fish traders, to whom they are compelled to give their fish catch to repay the loan.
2. There is lack of organization among the BO, and hence there is a competition to sale the fish to the traders. If any BO stops to deliver his fish to private traders; then others deliver their fish and hence there is no bargaining power among the B.O.
3. There is lack of transport facilities from the landing centers to the big cities/ towns of Boat Owners or of cooperative societies hence, they have to depend up on the traders prices.
4. The traders never think of cost of fishing of BO. The traders always think of their profit margin and the demand for product.
5. There are unregistered associations among the agents/ private traders and they exploit the Boat Owners.
6. The BO. has to pay for sweet water free food for labourers, ice, Kerosene for cooking stove, etc, which increases the cost of fishing; but fish catch is not certain. 30 % of trips are in loss. The six (06) slender boats costs Rs. 18000/- to 20,000/- per trip.

4. EXPECTATIONS OF B.O. FROM COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

1. The supply of diesel was the only job of cooperatives in many villages.
2. Nearly 52 % of BO said that the working of cooperative societies were satisfactory, while others said that the

cooperatives have politicalized and gone away from their duties.

3. The member BO 60% said that fish society should collect the fish catch and sell in distance markets; instead to sell private traders.
4. Storage and ice facilities should be provided by cooperatives.

5. THE MAJOR DEMANDS OF BO

1. The present limit of diesel should be increased. Now, the 06 cylinder boat gets 35,700 liters of oil, but it requires about 42,000 liters, for remaining diesel one has to approach the trader.
2. The use of purse-net boats should be banned.
3. The loan for repair of boats should be given by NCDC and that is also immediately.
4. Fishing should be considered as farming and hence, the minimum price of each kind of fish must be fixed.
5. The permission to coastal polluting industries must be banned. The water has polluted and hence less fish production. No further industrial expansion should be at coastal areas.
6. The Mukesh Amabains sea port project in Raigad district is nothing but a curse to fishing community
7. The cooperative societies which are not functioning well should be re- organized.
8. The each district should have a District Fisheries Federation to purchase the fish and to process and market it in cities.

9. The Further expansion or permission to new boats should be banned for 05 years.
10. The subsidy rate on diesel must be increased further.

These were some of the comments and demands of the BO in the study areas.

6. SOCIO- ECONOMIC CONDITIONS BOAT LABOURERS

1. No children of labourer were beyond the level of 12th standard. It means the financial position of labourers has not permitted to take higher education. In the coastal area, all villages are having small population; hence there is no higher secondary and Degree College. Hence, no opportunity of higher education to the students of coastal region. Also the colleges which are available are far away from their village.
2. The primary data collected through fieldwork shows that in each district the boat labourers were under BPL. Generally 38.38 % of the total respondents were BPL; while others were above the BPL. The intra district comparison shows that in Sindhudurga district; there were maximum (53.33 %) respondents living in BPL.
3. A question was asked whether the respondents were getting regular Ration Food or not: As stated earlier, the coastal districts are always deficit in food grains, oil seeds, therefore, low income class people eagerly wait for ration. But it was found that still 13.13 % of the labourers were not getting regular and sufficient supply of food grains. Many fisheries cooperatives are also running the ration shops, but the supply is irregular, insufficient and below the grade.

With these disqualifications the Supply Department is working in Konkan Region of Maharashtra.

4. Out of the total loan private vendors (25.16 %) had supplied loans to labours at the highest rank, followed by friends and relatives (21.41 %) and cooperative fish society and credit cooperatives societies are the third and fourth rank.
5. The overall picture seems that private-unorganized sector is dominant in providing maximum finance (64.5 %) which organized and cooperative sector is providing 35.5 % of the total loan.
6. Many labourers dislike this job. *Few labourers told that now it is the end of job and in future there would be no traditional fishing.*
7. Large majority (55.31 %) of respondents said that they will not allow their sons, however, 25.53 % said yes, we will allow. But 19.14 % of respondents were not sure and hence they could not give their decision.
8. But on an average each labourers had got *199 days work and 166 days unemployed. This situation has led to the poverty and low standard of life of fishing labourers.*
9. 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 all most 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.

10. Out the total 101 respondents only 18.81 % respondents said that they have got few benefits under BPL; while 61.38 % expressed their negative response, 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.

7. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF FEMALE FISH SELLERS

1. The Konkan area since many centuries is facing the shortage of water. About 62 % of FFS are facing the water shortages in their villages. Out of total; 10 % respondents have not expressed their views' while 32.67 % respondents said that the water is insufficient.
2. 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;
 1. Due to low catch-low profit
 2. No other job
 3. No sufficient income
 4. Less social status
3. The present 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 this job. The 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 do any job other than fish sale.

4. 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/- per day 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 to women in coastal region of Maharashtra than the fish sale.
5. 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 fisher women are aware about their life and occupation or they can not tell anything. The alternative 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.

8. ROLE OF FISHERIES COOPERATIVES

The fisheries cooperatives have considered an effective tool for the development of fishing community. Nearly 300 primary cooperatives have engaged in helping the fishermen by giving loan to members in their village.

1. But in many villages there are more than one societies, as a result of which none of the society is in profit or doing welfare of fishing community. For example, Paj-Pandhari Village in Ratnagiri district has following 05 fisheries societies.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Shri Ram | 2. Harne Paj |
| 3. Kad Siddeshwar | 4. Hariharishwar |
| 5. Hari Om | |

Was it essential to form this much societies in one village of 6000 population and 700 families? Really No!

The multi-fication of cooperative societies have damaged the original or old successful societies. The India's first fisheries society at Karla is also facing this problem.

2. Once upon a time the fishermen was using wooden boat; and was fishing nearby his village; but due to the mechanization; old traditional poor fisherman who could not went for improvement had remained poor. The role of NCDC, NABARD, Central Government State Cooperative Department can not be underestimated. Had there not been the NCDC, India would not have reached at the third position in the world in fisheries production. However, the district fisheries federations have failed to achieve the desired goal due to ill-management and due to political parties.

3. Low Catch And High Cost In Fisheries Cooperatives :

The fisheries societies are in loss due to low catch. This can be seen by the example of annual fish production of Sindhudurga District from the year 20001-01 to 2007 – 08

Annual Fish Production in Sindhudurga District (2000-2008)

Sr. No.	Year	Production Metric Toones	Simple Growth Rate
1.	2000-01	29379	-
2.	2001-02	18104	-38.37
3.	2002-03	19893	8.99
4.	2003-04	19273	-3.11
5.	2004-05	20916	8.52
6.	2005-06	16045	-23.28
7.	2006-07	25895	61.38
8.	2007-08	17070	-34.07

The data shows that the fish production in Sindhudurga district has decreased during the last 08 years. As this is purely a natural and unpredicted product; hence, the income of fishing community is uncertain. The fishing community calls this situation a '*fish famine*'.

4. The study made on Boat Owners shows that the BO are not satisfied with the job. Year after year the fish catch is reducing, hence BO is in loss. The major communities involved in fishing are Koli (44%), Gabit (34%), and remaining are in Kharvi, Bhoi and Dedali Caste. This means these castes are facing the bad-days life. In many trips the cost of per trip is not recovered.

The per trip average cylinder wise cost was as under, in the reference year 2008-09.

Sr. No.	Size	Average Cost Per Trip Rs
1.	1 Cylinder	3,000
2.	2 Cylinder	4,000
3.	3 Cylinder	12,000
4.	4 Cylinder	20,000
5.	6 Cylinder	30,000

The maximum boats were with 06 cylinders because they were purchased under the NCDC Scheme of 07 persons groups.

The 06 Cylinder boats go for fishing 4 to 5 days, where as the 01 to 02 cylinder boats go for 1 to 2 days for fishing. About 30 % trips are failed to recover the cost, therefore, loss to the boat owner. The socio-economic condition of BO is also not satisfactory. They have also caught in vicious circle of private traders.

The boat owners and others think that the constriction of sea-port in Raigad district in nothing but a curse to fishing community. The further expansion or permission to new boats will further cause the loss to the community. This seems that there is negative returns to the scale.

9. PRESENT METHODS OF MARKETING OF FISH FROM FISHERMAN TO TRADERS

There is no direct sale of fish from fisherman to consumer or the needy person. In Konkan areas at all the fish boat landing centers; the traders, commission agents and auctioneers gather in the evening at the landing site. Never, the owners join in deciding the fish price. The traders

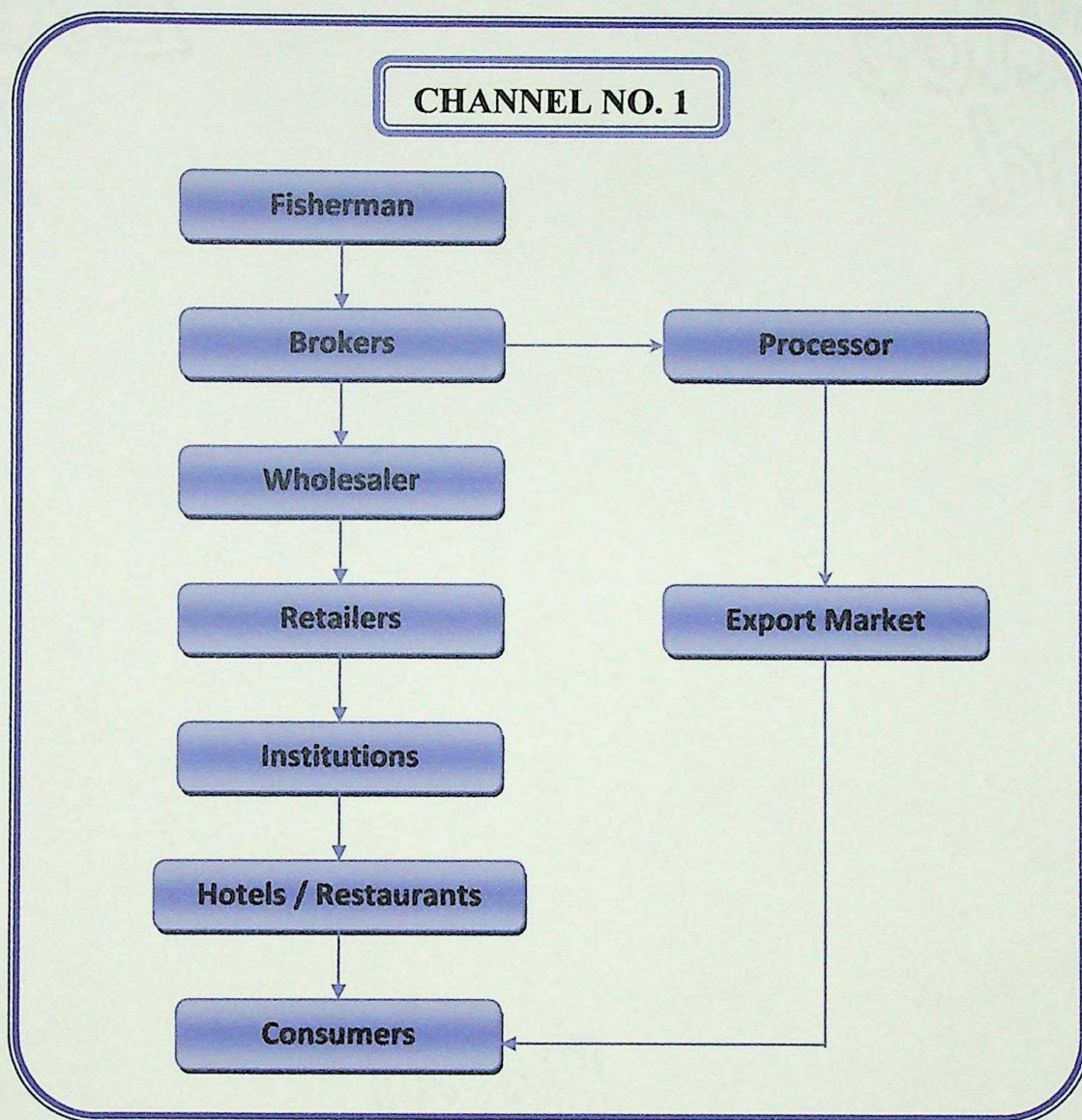
and the auctioneer discuss orally and loudly in front of the all suppliers and buyers and the price is fixed, and the owners only says 'Yes' or 'No'. This incident takes place only within an half an hours for this work auctioneer charges 3 to 5% from the fish sellers. The cooperative societies only watch and note the price, an does nothing before the auctioneer and traders. The honest trader if he gets good price in Mumbai, then he returns the difference in price, but there is no any written agreement between the two.

Some cooperative societies were purchasing the fish from members; and were dispatching to Mumbai Market, but the cost of transportation, ice and nature of perishable fish could not give them much chance and many societies came in loss. Hence, the cooperatives have taken their feet back.

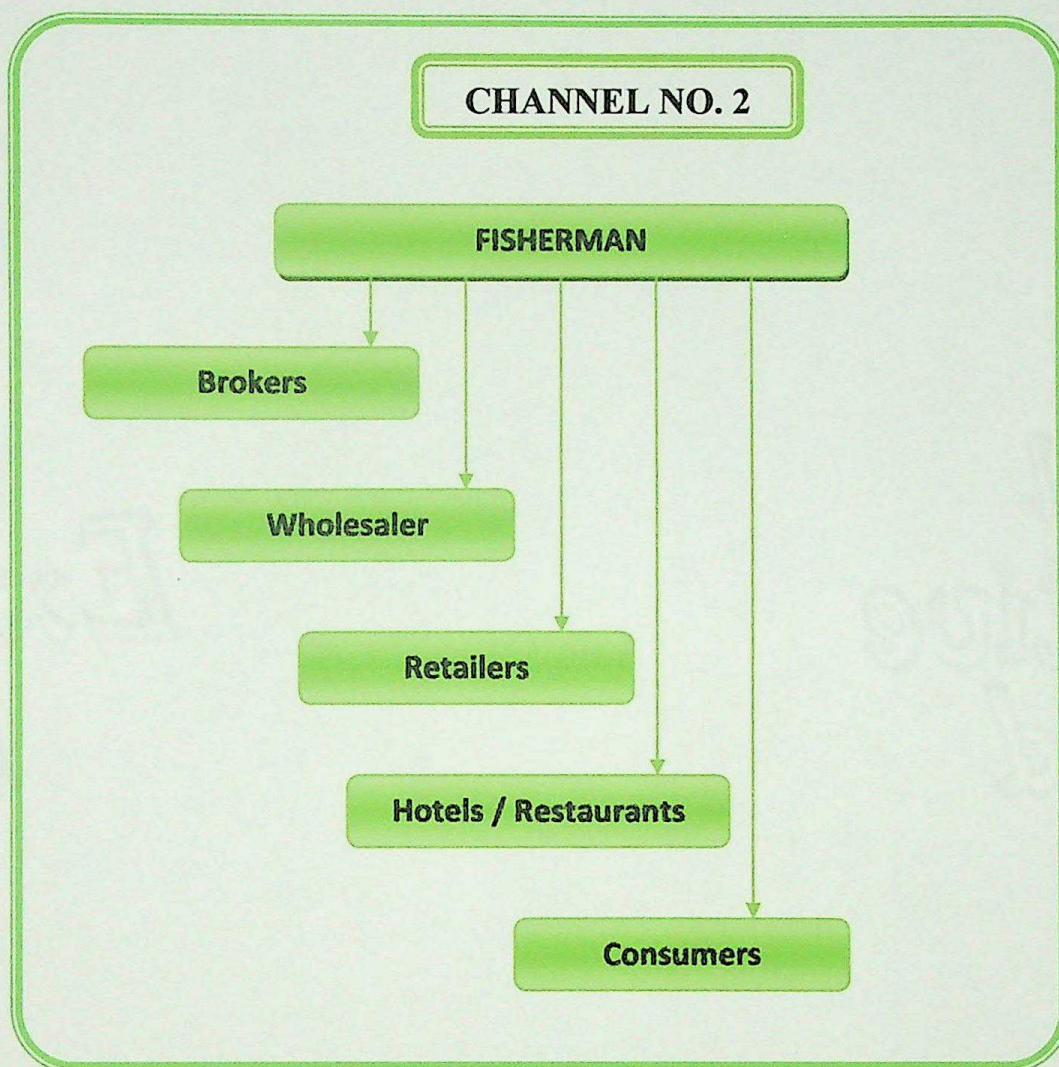
10. PRIVATE TRADERS HAVE CAPTURED MARKETING OF FISH

The present system has inherent elements of exploitation of fishermen. Since the market is actually under the control of very few traders/ agents, it results in the market in the creation of imperfect market situations especially the determination of fish prices.

The commission agents operate at all the fishing centres. They extend term loan to their suppliers to ensure supplies on credit to retailers and hawkers. The fish present distribution channel is shown as below;

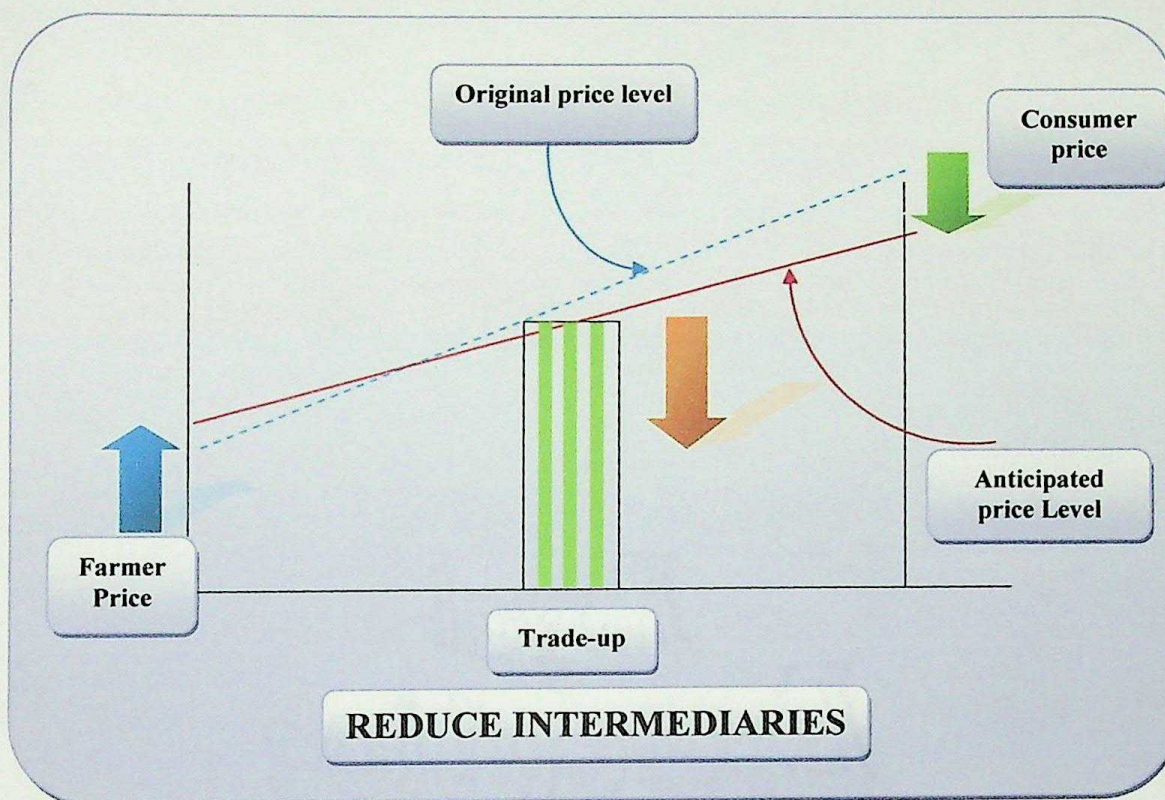


To avoid this, there is a need to sell the fish direct from the fisherman or his cooperative to the retailers or the consumers. This is show in channel No. 2



In the above channel; the fishermen / producers and the consumers have direct relationship and there is no involvement of middle men. *It is estimated that about 70% of fresh fish passes through more than two / three hands and only 30% of the fish is directly sold by the fishermen. Most of the sale is generally through auctioneers and commission agents.* Therefore, there is a substantial difference between the price paid to the fisherman and the retail price. The expenditure involved in packing, transportation, loading, unloading, storage, etc. is included in the final price.

How cooperative marketing system can solve this problem is shown as below ;



If we reduce the number of intermediaries it will help to increase the fishermen's realisation and finally the consumers will get fish at low price. The figure shows the less difference between the price received by fishermen and price paid by the consumers.

11. WTO AND INDIAN FISHERIES INDUSTRIES

Under Trade Related Investment Measure (TRIMS), countries would have to treat foreign investors at par with the domestic ones. It allows foreign fishing fleets the same access to domestic waters that local people enjoy. This provision has made a deep impact on the global fishing industry. The Indian fishermen communities have lost their age old occupation due to this provision.

The Indian processing industry has to improve quality parameters by accepting Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP), consistent with international standards. This provision will help to improve the quality of fish in respect of hygiene and health aspect in fishing activities. This is a welcome provision. But this is not followed in practice by traders at village level.

12. SUGGESTIONS

Few suggestions have been made on the basis of field work observation and discussion with the various sections of fishing community.

Many fishermen especially, the Boat Owners suggested that the entry of other caste and state people in fishing, must be prohibited :

A 64 year old fisherman Shri. Dattaram Chougla, of Paj-Pandhrari village of Dapoli Taluka in Ratnagiri District said (dated 06-09-2008) that the old days were really the golden days. In 1966, there was no mechanisation and fishermen use to go for fishing with no conflict but in a friendship. Dattaram further added that the entry of other than traditional caste and even U.P. people have entered in this job. A provision of native proof i.e. Land record or 7/12 extract must be necessary for fishing.

The diesel quota of BO needs to be enhanced. Presently; 06 cylinders Boat owner gets annually 35,700 ltrs. of diesel. Considering the 60 to 65 trips, this boat requires 42,000 ltrs of diesel. Due to insufficient quota, the BO has to approach again the traders. Therefore, this suggestion needs to be looked from realistic angle.

12. General Suggestions

1. The Levy fee, Trawler Permit, etc may be exempted to traditional castes, and on the country higher fees should be levied on non traditional communities. This will restore the entry of well do castes in fishing. Heavy taxes will refrain the higher castes form the fishing.
2. As per the Murari Committee, appointed by Central Government, the deep sea fishing to foreigner is prohibited. But, some capitalists are purchasing the foreign boats and entering in fisheries. This is nothing but the back-door entry of foreign boats. This should be banned. The Swaminathan committee has been informed about this fact by the National Fish Workers Forum (NFF).
3. The rates of electricity for the coastal fishermen should be less than usual rate. The Kerosene should be provided to the Boat Owners; as this requires for the cooking food in fishing time and also for burning the lamp in night. Now the diesel is used for this purpose, which is costly.
4. The small fishes should not be caught; for this the small hole nets must be avoided. *The catch and release techniques should be adopted.* The education and training is necessary for the youngsters in this occupation. This can help for sustainable fisheries.
5. As we have seen that there are many trips, without viable catch. In such cases the BO should get the compensation. There are certain fixed jetties and timing of landing of fish boat. The Government supervisor should observe this situation and can recommend for compensation. It is argued

that if there is bad crop of mango in Konkan area, the farmer gets loss. Then why not compensation to fishermen? This suggestion is valid.

6. The small boats costing of Rs. 1 Lakh should be financed by the NCDC. The NCDC finances only to a group and not an individual. Few members in a group make a mistake and hence, the other honest members also suffer from such loan. Therefore, this suggestion was made in many villages.
7. The fiber boat of more than 05 years is outdated as per the rules of marine act; but this period is too short. Many fiber boats of 05 years are good one; but they are not allowed in Maharashtra.
8. Each day the Female Fish Seller should give their demand for fish; and the cooperative society should purchase it and sell to female seller on credit; instead purchasing fish from private commission agents.
9. The FFS while they travel for selling the fish or for any other purpose; they should be given 50 % concession in S.T. fare. For this purpose, the lady should have attained the age of 50 years and she should be a fish seller certified by the fisheries cooperative society.
10. Instead selling only fresh fish in the market; the women should make products through SHG. The value addition is one of the possible approach to raise profitability since this industry is becoming highly competitive and increasingly expensive. There is a demand for seafood products and have already entered in western markets. For this more and more women should. The marketing of value added products is completely different from traditional seafood trade.

13. AN IDEAL PROFIT DISTRIBUTION

An ideal profit distribution such as following should be accepted by societies. It was found that very few fisheries societies had made the provision of various statutory and other funds from their profits. The example of Dabhol Kahadi Fisheries Society (Tal-Dapoli) can be replicated, which is an ideal example. Such funds will bring stability to the society as well as to the members.

Sr. No.	Fund	Percent
1.	Reserve Fund	25
2.	Dividend	12
3.	Dividend Equili Station	03
4.	Price Stabilization	01
5.	Charily	15
6.	Honoraries to Daily Wage Workers	20
7.	Members Welfare	05
8.	Bonus	04
9.	Building Fund	05
10.	General Welfare	05
11.	Bad and Doubtful Fund Debts	05
Total		100

This should be replicate d in other villages. The present local markets and methods of selling fish are very dirty. To avoid this each village Panchyat and Municipal Councils should provide the space for FFS on rental base. The Devgad Fishermen Cooperative and Malvan Municipal Council have ideal markets.

14. PRIVATIZATION OF FISHING

In order to solve the problems of over fishing, a precautionary approach and Harvest Control Rule (HCR) management principles should be introduced in the fisheries. The United Nations Convention on the "Law of the Sea" deals with aspects of over fishing in articles 61, 62 and 65.

Article 61 requires all coastal states to ensure that the living resources in their exclusion economic zones is not endangered by over, exploitation. The article 62 and 65 provides the regulations of coastal states to protect the marine mammal. Though there are rules framed at the international level, yet the over fishing has become a common feature of all countries having coastal areas. Garfton, Squires and Fox gives the example of "Tragedy of Commons", and opined that privatization can solve the over fishing problem.

15. The 5th National Fisheries Cooperative Congress

Organized in February 2008 by The National Federation of the Fisheries Cooperative has recommended for strengthening primary to the national level cooperatives. These are ;

1. Revitalization and capacity building of fisheries cooperatives be taken up through FISHCOPFED as recommended by the Working Group on Fisheries for the Eleventh Five Year Plan.
2. In states where state level federations have not been organized and in FFDA districts where district level fish marketing cooperatives have not been organized so far, immediate action should be taken to organize them to bridge the structural gaps in the fishery cooperative sector.

3. In order to avoid exploitation of fishermen by the middlemen and to ensure supply of fish to consumers at reasonable price, the Central Government and the State Governments should provide financial support to FISHCOPFED, state federations and regional/ district federations respectively for creation of preservation, transport and marketing infrastructure.
4. Price support and market intervention schemes be prepared for fisheries sector and be implemented through FISHCOPFED
5. The Govt. of India should strengthen the share capital base of FISHCOPFED to minimum Rs. 20 crores and also provide regular grant-in-aid through the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Fisheries, Govt. of India.
6. NFDB should provide training budget for at-least 10,000 fishers every year to be implemented through FISHCOPFED- NFDB
7. FISHCOPFED should set up an export promotion cell funded by the DAHD & F for free flow of information to its members.
8. FISHCOPFED should continue to be a member of ICA Fisheries Committee and such other bodies to become a global spokesman of Fisheries Cooperative Sector of India.