# Socio-Economic and Fishing profile of Fishermen Community in South Konkan of Maharashtra State: A Geographical Study

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## ABSTRACT

Fishing is one of the oldest avocations of man, older than even hunting and farming. About 3.5 million populations are working in marine fishing in India. The present paper, based on primary data, collected by conducting intensive field work intends to know the socio-economic status of fishermen community. Total samples of respondents are forty fishermen families and the head of the families are considered as respondents. Pre-tested interview schedules are used for collection of the information from fishermen community .The Socio-economic characteristics like age structure, family size, educational status, housing pattern, annual income and fishing profile such as occupational structure of fishing, fishing gears, experience and training of fishing of fishermen of south Konkan area are studied. The results of the study revealed that the male population constituted around 51.94 per cent, indicating the dominance of male population in the marine fishing. Amongst the total sample fishermen population 63.15 per cent are found literate. As the major occupation is fishing, 65.00 per cent of the populations are engaged in fishing activity and 37.50 per cent are under the annual income group of less than Rs.50, 000. About 52.50 per cent of fishermen used 'Kachcha', while 27.50 percent used 'pakka' house. Marine fishing is done by the fishermen in South Konkan by using preferred gears such as Gill nets (52.5%), Bag nets (22.5%), Drag nets (10.00%), and Hooks and lines (7.5%). Only 37.5 percent respondents have obtained the training of fishing. Lack of scientific knowledge, illiteracy and lack of government support are major constraints. The socio-economic status of the fishermen community could be developed through increasing education and technical support and training of fishing.

**KEYWORDS**: Socio-Economic, Marine Fishing Occupation, Fishermen Community, and Fishing Gears.

## INTRODCTION:

Fish and fisheries is an important sector in most of the developing and developed countries of the world from stand point of income and employment generation. It is a rich source of protein and quality food. The role of fisheries in Indian economy is gaining momentum as results of introduction of advanced techniques to increase the yield per unit are of water and due to its role in earning foreign exchange. (K.V. Basavkumar, 2011).

This sector consists two types of fisheries, viz, inland and marine fisheries. Inland fisheries include fishing and fish culture in river, ponds, swamps, cannels, reservoirs and lakes, while marine fisheries includes fishing in sea, brackish water fisheries and fishing in estuaries. Indian share in global production has reached 4.36 per cent with 9.92 percent share in inland and 2.8 per cent in marine (NFPDB, 2010-11).There is a steady increase in exports including a positive trend.

Marine fisheries is an important sector of the nation's economy supporting the livelihood of the millions of the fisher folk inhabiting the long coastline of India and those who are engaged in the related activities. The marine fisheries sector in India has witnessed a phenomenal growth during the last five decades both quantitatively and qualitatively (CMFRI, 2011). The potential yield of the marine fishery resource of the Indian EEZ is revalidated as 3.93 million tones. The marine fish production during 2009-10 was 3.07 million tones. Presently in India 3.5 million populations are engaged in marine fisheries in 3202 villages of nine maritime state and two Island territories. In Indian economy marine fisheries share in GDP is 1.1 per cent and share in agriculture GDP is 5.4 per cent in the year 2010-11.

Fishing communities in India are not homogeneous as they belong to different castes .These communities have their distinct social, cultural governance structures and traditional practices, depending on the coast where they inhabited. At least 2-3 castes are exclusively involved in the marine fishing in each maritime state.

The present study has been undertaken to evaluate the socio-economic conditions of the fishing community in sampled fishing villages of South Konkan in Maharashtra state.

**OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives of this research are:

1. To study the Socio-economic status of fishermen community.
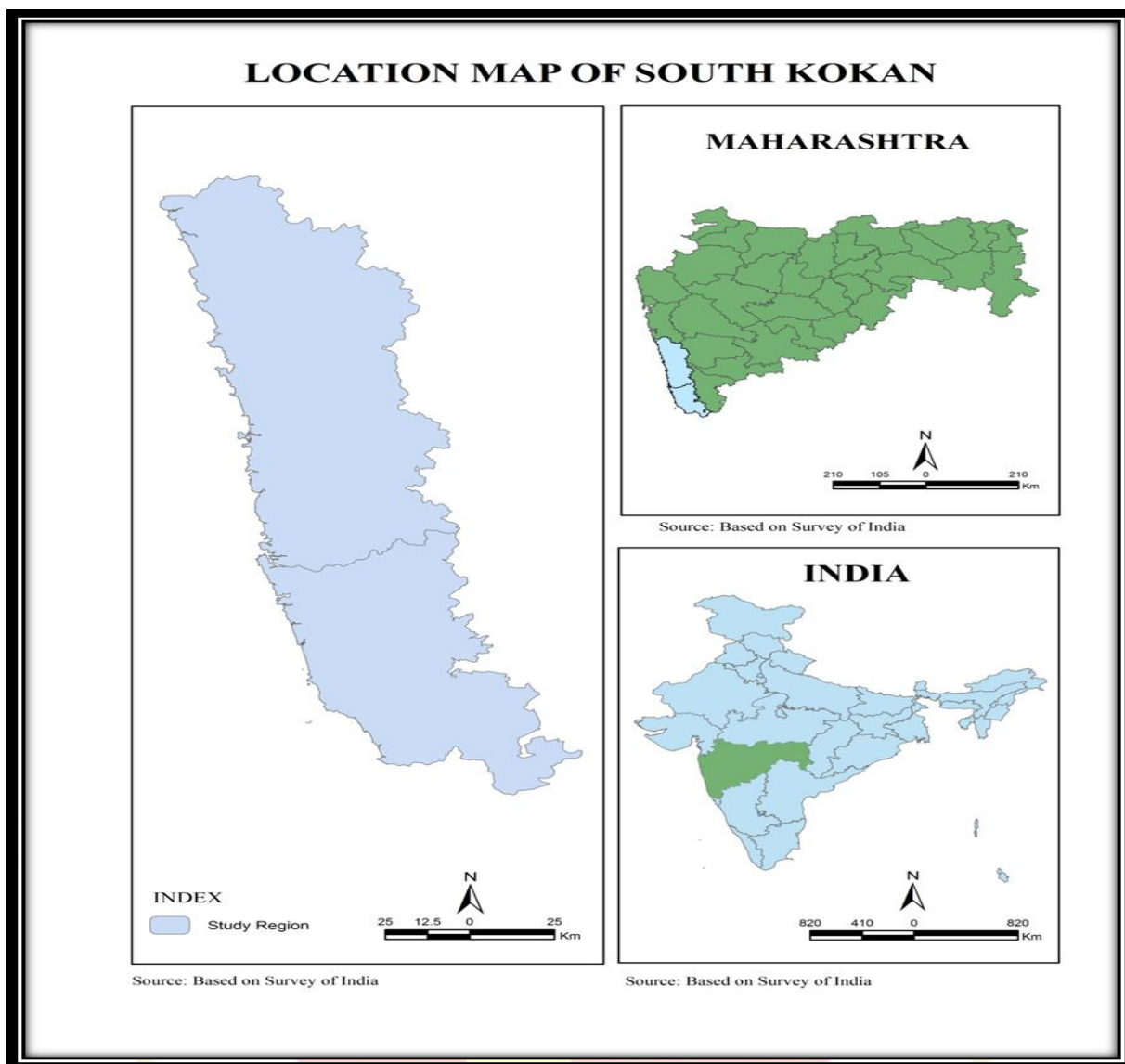2. To examine the fishing profile of fishermen community.

**STUDY AREA:**

For the present research, study area is selected from the South Konkan region of Maharashtra state. It is located between $15^036'$ north to $18^050'$ north latitudes and $74^036'$ East and $75^050'$ East longitudes, comprising Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts .It has a north-south extent of 450 km and east west extent of 65 km. It is having average height of 1350 meters from the mean sea level and it covers 13,295 sq.km area and a supporting 24, 61,540 population as per the 2011 Census. The general climate through-out the year is hot-humid and salty. The rainfall is heavy, especially in the hilly eastern part on the high crest line at Sahyadri. Weather in the rainy seasons is humid and in winter season it is cool.(See figure No.1)

**METHODOLOGY:**

The present research paper is based on the primary data collected by conducting intensive fieldwork in two villages of South Konkan using well planned household schedules in the year 2012-13 through personal interview.

Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg district are selected from the South Konkan. From each district one tahsil and one each tahsil, one village is selected randomly and from each village twenty fishermen families are selected randomly. Thus the final sample consisted of two tahsil, two villages and forty samples of fishermen families. For the research propose the village Asgoli is selected from Guhagar tahsil of Ratnagiri district and the village Wayari is selected from the tahsil of Malvan in Sindhudurg district. In order to process the data, per cent technique is applied to measure the socio-economic status. The collected information is tabulated and analyzed.

**LOCATION MAP OF SOUTH KOKAN**

MAHARASHTRA

Source: Based on Survey of India

INDIA

Source: Based on Survey of India

INDEX
Study Region

Source: Based on Survey of India

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The results are discussed in two sections. In section first, the results of Socio-economic and analysis is presented, followed by a similar analysis of fishing in the profiles section second.

**Section –I: Assessment of Socio-economic status the fishermen families:Sex composition of households:**

The study has been made over forty families with the population of 258 people. It is seen that the total population surveyed are 258 comprising 48.06% males and

51.94% female population. It shows that female populations dominate on the male population.

**Age structure of fishermen families:**

The analysis of age groups indicates the human resources at different stages of productivities. The maximum proportion of the sample comes under the age group of 19-35 years (36.82%) followed by 36-50 age group (28.68%) and 0-18 years age group (19.37%).

**Family size:**

The family size of the fishermen is divided into three classes on the basis family members. From this research 52.50% of the sample households belong to medium family size of 5-6 members. The small family size of 2-4 accounted for 27.50% of the households and by large family size as 20.00%. These indicate that there is lack of awareness of family planning.

**Religion and caste structure:**

It is observed that 42.50% of the respondents belong to Hindu religion. Followed by Muslim (40.00%), Christian (10.00%) and other religion (07.50%). Regarding the caste composition most of the sample respondents belong to OBC categories (42.50%), followed by General (27.50%), ST (17.50%) and SC categories (12.50%).

**Literacy Status:**

Literacy is considered as an indicator of development concerted efforts are being taken at all levels to increase literacy level of the people. It is seen that the literacy level in the selected area of study is 46.12% and 53.88% persons are illiterates in the sample population. Among them only 47.06 % female populations are literate. In both districts, the majority of fishermen have studied up to secondary level of education. Their tendency is to earn more money because of this reasons they are deprived from school in the early age.

**Housing pattern:**

The nature of house is indicates the social status of the people. From the survey it is found that most of the respondents (87.50%) lived in their own houses among the

different types of houses 52.50% lived in kachcha houses, 20.00% live in Semi pakka house and only 27.50% respondents are lived in pakka house.

### Annual Income from fishing:

As the main occupation of all the fishermen families is fishing. The major source of income for 65.00% of the families is marine fishing, 22.50% fishing related activities and rest 12.50% other activates. The majority of the respondents i.e. 37.50% had annual income in the range of Rs. 50,000 to 1, 00,000. Only 12.50% families had annual income in the range of above Rs 1, 50,000. This low level of income reflects in their poor economic condition, which is not sufficient to maintain their normal livelihood.

### Section –II: Analysis of Marine fishing profile the fishermen families:Occupational pattern:

From table No.2, in the study region, among the working population of fishermen44.19 % are engaged in active fishing activities which mainly dominated by male. After then the role of female in more in than the male in marketing of fish, this is near by 35.27% in both villages. The rest of working populations are engaged in fisheries related activities such as net repairing, processing of fish, supply of fuel and transportation of fish.

### Experience and training of fishing:

The study reveals that 57.50% of the total respondents belong to medium level of experience i.e. 8 to 16 years of marine fishing, followed by low level categories represented by 30.00% and higher categories 12.50%. Training is an effective tool of transfer the technology. Only 37.50% respondents have obtained the training of fishing and 62.50% fishermen are non-trained.

### Using of Gears and craft:

The type and number of gear owned by the families has direct impact on the income earned by each individual. The number of gear owned by the families is found the number of fishermen attending fishing work. Nearly 27.50% of families own 1-2 gear and 37.50% of families own 3-4 fishing gears. In the study area there are use of verities of fishing

gears such as gill nets (52.50%), bag nets (22.50%), drag nets (10.00%), Hook and lines (7.50%) and others (7.50%).Gill nets are commonly used in families as they are considered as relatively low cost gear situated for catching many fish species.

## CONCLUSIONS:

The assessment of the socio-economic status and fishing profile of fishermen community can be concluded as follows.

1. The details of the villages and households selected for study shows that there are nearly equal number of males to that of females.

2. The maximum proportion of the sample comes under the age group of 19-35 years (36.82%).

3. About 52.50% of the sample households belong to medium family size. This shows that there is lack of awareness about family planning among fishermen.

4. Nearly 42.50% of the respondents belong to Hindu religion and most of them belong to OBC caste.

5. Nearly 87.50% of the respondents lived in their own house and maximum proportions (52.50%) of the houses are a semi-pakka.

6. The total literacy rate among the fishermen community is less than fifty percent. It is only 46.12% to overall respondents.

7. The majority of the respondents i.e., 37.50% had annual income in the range of Rs. 50,000 to 1, 00,000.

8. Among the working population of fishermen44.19 % are engaged in active fishing activities which mainly dominated by male and marketing of fish is done by mainly by female.

9. Only 37.50% respondents have obtained the training of fishing and remaining 62.50% fishermen are non-trained about marine fishing.

10. Nearly 27.50% of families own 1-2 gear and 37.50% of families own 3-4 fishing gears.

**Table No.1**

**Socio-economic characteristics of fishermen community in two villages in South Konkan**

| Particulars | Village Asgoli | Village wayari | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. of Sample family | 20 | 20 | 40 |
| Total sample population | 127 | 131 | 258 |
|    a) Male population (%) | 48.82% | 47.33% | 48.06% |
|    b) Female population (%) | 51.18% | 52.67% | 51.94% |
| Age structure (Years) | | | |
|    a) Ã18 | 20.47% | 18.32% | 19.37% |
|    b) 19-35 | 33.86% | 39.69% | 36.82% |
|    c) 36-50 | 30.79% | 26.72% | 28.68% |
|    d) > 50 | 14.96% | 15.20% | 15.11% |
| Family size (Numbers) | | | |
|    a) Small (2-4) | 20.00% | 35.00% | 27.50% |
|    b) Medium(5-6) | 55.00% | 50.00% | 52.50% |
|    c) Large | 25.00% | 15.00% | 20.00% |
| Religion | | | |
|    a) Hindu | 50.00% | 35.00% | 42.50% |
|    b) Muslim | 30.00% | 45.00% | 40.00 |
|    c) Christian | 10.00% | 10.00% | 10.00% |
|    d) Others | 10.00% | 05.00% | 07.50% |
| Cast | | | |
|    a) SC | 10.00% | 15.00% | 12.50% |
|    b) ST | 20.00% | 15.00% | 17.50% |
|    c) OBC | 45.00% | 40.00% | 42.50% |
|    d) General | 25.00% | 30.00% | 27.50% |
| Literacy status | | | |
|    a) Total literates | 40.94% | 51.15% | 46.12% |
|      1) Male | 53.85% | 52.24% | 52.94% |
|      2) Female | 46.15% | 47.46% | 47.06% |
|    b) Total illiterates | 59.06% | 48.85% | 53.88% |
| Housing pattern | | | |
|    1) Types of house | | | |
|    a) Kachcha | 45.00% | 60.00% | 52.50% |
|    b) Semi pakka | 15.00% | 25.00% | 20.00% |
|    c) Pakka | 40.00% | 15.00% | 27.50% |
|    2) Owner ship of house | | | |
|    a) Own | 90.00% | 85.00% | 87.50% |
|    b) Rent | 10.00% | 15.00% | 12.50% |
| Annual Income. (Rs.) | | | |
|    a) Ã 50,000 | 25.00% | 30.00% | 27.50% |

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| b) 50,000 to 1,00,000 | 35.00% | 40.00% | 37.50% |
| c) 1,00,000 to 1,50,000 | 25.00% | 20.00% | 22.50% |
| d) > 1,50,000 | 15.00% | 10.00% | 12.50% |

(Statistical data in per cent)

Source: Field Survey, 2012-13

**Table No.2**

**Fishing profile of fishermen community in two villages in South Konkan**

| Particulars | Village Asgoli | Village wayari | Overall |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| **Occupational pattern of fishing** | | | |
| a)  Active fishermen | 46.47% | 49.62% | 44.19% |
| b)  Marketing of fishing | 34.65% | 35.88% | 35.27% |
| c)  Net making and repairing | 11.81% | 9.16% | 10.47% |
| d)  Processing of fish | 4.73% | 3.82% | 4.26% |
| e)  Others activities | 2.36% | 1.53% | 1.94% |
| | | | |
| **Experience of fishing (in years)** | | | |
| a) Low (Ã 8 years ) | 35.00% | 25.00% | 30.00% |
| b) Medium (8-16 years) | 55.00% | 60.00% | 57.50% |
| c) High (> 16 years) | 10.00% | 15.00% | 12.50% |
| | | | |
| **Training of fishing** | | | |
| a) Trained | 30.00% | 45.00% | 37.50% |
| b) Non-trained | 70.00% | 55.00% | 62.50% |
| | | | |
| **No. of gears per families** | | | |
| a)  1-2 gears | 20.00% | 35.00% | 27.50% |
| b)   3-4 gears | 45.00% | 30.00% | 37.50% |
| c)  5-6 gears | 25.00% | 15.00% | 20.00% |
| d)  7-8 gears | 10.00% | 20.00% | 15.00% |
| **Use of fishing nets per families** | | | |
| a) Gill nets | 45.00% | 55.00% | 52.50% |
| b) Bag nets | 30.00% | 15.00% | 22.50% |
| c) Drag nets | 15.00% | 05.00% | 10.00% |
| d) Hooks and line | 05.00% | 10.00% | 07.50% |
| e) Others | 05.00% | 10.00% | 07.50% |

(Statistical data in per cent)

Source: Field Survey, 2012-13

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