

Socio-Economic, Educational and Health Status of Fishermen in Paithan Region Dist. Aurangabad (M.S.)

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Abstract: *The present study deals with various socio-economic educational and health status of the fishermen in Paithan region district Aurangabad. Better health is very essential to lead a happy life for every person, and also necessary for all creative activities in the society. The health of workers on a large measure will also be influenced by environment existing at their work place. Fishing is one of the example such occupation in which the environment plays a major role. Fishing is one such hazardous occupation, which involves irregular diet, stress, alcoholism, tobacco and pernicious habits. Fishermen have lower socio-economic status and their illiteracy adds to their poor hygiene, which may affect general health. Fishermen have prolonged hours of continuous work, which are found to be correlated with high cigarette and alcohol consumption. Diet without fresh fruits and vegetables and meals lack of nutrients are eaten at irregular intervals. Fishermen are prone to excess ultraviolet radiation due to open atmosphere with constant exposure to sun light. They are economically backward. They have no permanent and regular sources income. Jayekwadi project at Paithan region district Aurangabad is one of the prominent fishing centres for local fishermen. The fishermen are confronted with a lot of socio-economic, educational and health problems and they faced a great challenge to maintain their good health status. Nevertheless dangerous life of fisherman and hazardous nature of fishing occupation very little research have been conducted reported on socio-economic, educational and health status of fishermen. The research on this group of population is limited. Therefore the present study was executed to assess and compare the socio-economic, educational status and health care treatment needs of fishermen population.*

Keywords: Socio-economic, educational, health status, irregular diet, stress, fishermen

I. INTRODUCTION

Health is very essential to lead a happy life for an individual, and also necessary for all productive activities in the society. Health is a function of the overall integrated development of the society and the health status is one of the indicators of the quality of life. Good health is an essential not only for the personal development of an individual but also for the development of a nation as a whole. A person depends upon his intellectual calibre, curiosity and constructive thinking, but all these qualities depend upon his good health. Good Health confers on a person or group's freedom from illness and the ability to realize one's potential. Good health, as people know their own experience, is a crucial part of well-being but spending on health can also be justified on purely economic grounds. Health is considered as the most important thing for a human being.

Disease arises when there is mal adjustment of the person with his surrounding environment. The health of workers on a large measure will also be influenced by conditions prevailing at their work place. The example of one such occupation in which the environment plays a vital role is fishing. Fishing is one such hazardous occupation, which involves irregular diet, stress, alcoholism, tobacco and pernicious habits. Fishermen have lower socio-economic status and their illiteracy adds to their poor hygiene, which may influence general health. Right from the beginning of the first Five Year Plan, this sector has been receiving considerable attention from the Government. Various schemes for

providing housing facilities, hospitals and community amenities, approach roads etc. are given priority. Organised attempts are made to promote fishery co-operatives in our country.

Fisheries plays a vital role in the economic development, employing over 14.5 million people. India was the sixth largest producer of marine and freshwater capture fisheries, and the second largest aquaculture farmed fish producer in the world in 2008 . Marine and freshwater catch fishing combined with aquaculture fish farming is a fast developing industry in India. Fish as food both from culture fisheries and capture fisheries offers India one of the easiest and fastest way to address malnutrition and food security. Higher productivity, knowledge transfer for sustainable fishing, continued growth in fish production with increase in fish exports have the potential for increasing the living standards of Indian fishermen. Fishing was difficult business for fisherman in India because of poor rural road infrastructure, lack of cold storage and absence of organized retail in major regions of the India. Fishing still remains a hazardous and stressful occupations it presents difficult physical conditions, dislocation, isolation and less than ideal personal habits. Fishermen have prolonged hours of continuous work, which are found to be correlated with high smoking and alcohol addiction. Daily diet without fresh fruits, vegetables and meals are eaten at very irregular intervals. Fishermen are prone to excess ultraviolet solar radiation due to constant exposure to sunlight. All these things affected to daily life of fisherman.

1.1 Purpose of the Study

Even though fishing sector occupies a vital position in Indian economy, most of the fishermen are living below poverty level. They are economically backward , not have permanent and regular income. Paithan region is one of the prominent fishing centre of Aurangabad district in Maharashtra where the fishermen are confronted with a lot of economic problems and faced a great challenge to maintain their better Socio-economic , educational and health status. Therefore the present study was executed to study the socio-economic educational and health status of fishermen population in Paithan region .

1.2 Objectives of the Study

- To study the Socio-Economic Status of the Fishermen.
- To study educational status of the Fishermen.
- To study the Health Status of the Fishermen.
- To study the Awareness of the educational and Health Care Facilities for fisherman.

II. METHODOLOGY

Present study is based on primary data completed by fisherman. The primary data is used to collect the information through personal interviews specially prepared interview schedules and questionnaires. The data collected from the various fishermen from the Paithan region related to the socio-economic, educational and health status of fishermen were analysed. There are more than 500 fishermen in Paithan region out of this, 60 fishermen were selected by the convenience sampling method for study.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The present study deals with various socio-economic educational and health status of the fishermen in Paithan region district. Various workers of the different regions works and gave their views on this topic. Shukla (1990) had outlined the basic characteristics of the Indian fishery sector and stated that the contribution of the Indian fisheries to world fisheries was just three percent even though investment to employment ratio was very high. Sathiadas et al., (1991) have collected information relating to housing pattern, ownership of means of production, Employment status, occupation, annual income, indebtedness, marketing problems etc. Sekara, D. B. Set.al,(1992)reported that, the main source of borrowing is the moneylenders. Easy availability of credit through institutional agencies, opportunities for supplementary occupations and better infrastructural facilities for marketing are some of the suggestions given for the economic improvement of traditional fishermen. Fernando (1981) suggested the improving the socio-economic conditions of fishermen at all fishing centres, sufficient cold storage and ice plants facilities must be provided to

prevent fish from going waste. Fishermen in the coastal area should be provided with proper sanitation and medical facilities, drinking water, wells and electricity. According to Nuruddin Adnam Bin(1994) necessary provisions were to be made in regard to infrastructural, technological, financial, managerial, policy strategy and other such inputs. Sehora et al., (1992) described the monsoon period fishing operation is only at subsistence level. The household income during monsoon is very low and consequently fishermen become permanent debtors. To overcome these difficulties, it is suggested to constitute a public agency to purchase fish at a minimum price whenever there is a glut at the landing centre, and to provide adequate finance at reasonable terms and conditions through co-operatives. One more studies have shown that subjective symptoms from the musculo-skeletal system are very common among fishermen. Creptitations in the shoulder tend to be more common among the fishermen. This indicates heavy dynamic work and prolonged static work. Osteoarthritis of knee among them may result from working and living in the vertical environment of a moving ship (Chhaya, M.D., Jani,G.M., Amrelliya, J.A). Various studies have shown that high incidence of hypertension may be related to ischemic heart disease and cerebrovascular illness (CMFRI, Special publication,1988). This may be influenced by poor eating habits, which include higher sodium intake, accompanying high consumption of salted fish or higher prevalence of tobaccos making, poor health awareness and other social and environmental factors which are common fishermen. Fluoride levels are also high in some coastal areas and the excessive exposure to them can give increasing number of adverse effects. These may range from mild dental fluorosis to crippling skeletal fluorosis as the level and period of exposure increase. Apart from that, there are reports that excess fluoride consumption promotes cancer, hip fracture, leads to stillbirth or birth defects and has detrimental neurological effects. Fishing is one such hazardous occupation, which involves irregular diet, stress, alcoholism, tobacco and pernicious habits. Fishermen have lower socio-economic status and their illiteracy adds to their poor hygiene, which may influence general health (Paul valikandathil, S.J., Poonthura.). The access of fishermen to general health services is very limited, making regular check-ups and treatment of caries difficult. Fishermen have poor health when compared to that of general population (Sathiadas, R., Panikkar., K.K.P-1990).

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study focus on the information about socio- economic status of the fishermen such as age, sex,education, marital status, Religion status, type of family, Housing condition, Income level, Pattern of expenditure, savings, value assets, source of capital, nature of ownership to boat and health possessed by fisherman.

4.1 Age-wise Distribution

Age is one of the determining factors of ability to work of an person. A society which has more number of children and old age people will suffer since their productive capacity is low. On the contrary a society will be better if it has more number of people in the young age group.The following table gives the information about the age of the fisherman.

Table -1: Age-Wise Distribution of fisherman:

Sr No.	Age	No.of fishermen	Percentages(%)
1	Below-25	9	15
2	25 –50	27	45
3	50 –75	18	30
4	75 andabove	6	10
Total		60	100

The findings of the present study revealed that 15%(9) of the fishermen belonged to age group below 25 , 45%(27) of them were coming under age group of 25– 50 years, 30%(18) of the fishermen were in the age group of 50-75 year, 10%(6) fishermen were comes under the age group of 75 years and above.

4.2 Sex Status

The following table shows the sex status classification of fishermen in Paithan region

Table- 2: Sex Status of Fishermen

Sr. No.	Sex	No. of fisherman	Percentages(%)
1	Male	42	70
2	Female	18	30
Total		60	100

During study it was found that out of the total 60 fishermen 70% (42) of them were male and 30% (18) of them were female.

4.3 Educational Qualification

Education is the basic necessity for creating social awareness among the people. Education means both the acquisition of knowledge and experience as well as the development of skills, hobbies and attitudes which help a person to lead a worthwhile life in this world. Following table shows educational qualifications of fishermen in Paithan region.

Table 3: Educational Qualification

Sr.No.	Educational Qualification	No. of fisherman	Percentage
1	Illiterate	3	5
2	Elementary	27	45
3	SSC	18	30
4	HSC	6	10
5	Graduate	6	10
Total		60	100

The above table indicates that out of 60 fishermen, 5% (3) were illiterate, 45% (27) of them have studied up to elementary level of Education, 30% (18) have studied SSC, 10% (6) HSC. The remaining 10% (6) have studied Higher Education.

4.4 Marital Status

The distribution of the fishermen on the basis of their marital status given below.

Table 4: Marital Status

Sr.No.	Marital Status	No. of fisherman	Percentage
1	Unmarried	18	30
2	Married	42	70
Total		60	100

It is clear from the above table that out of the 60 fishermen 30% (18) of them got married and 70% (42) of them were unmarried.

4.5 Religious Status

The following table shows the religious status of fisherman in Paithan region.

Table 5: Religious Status

Sr No.	Social Status	No. of fisherman	Percentage (%)
1	SC	6	10
2	OBC	33	55
3	MBC	9	15
4	Other	12	20
Total		60	100

The religious status have been explained from the above table. Out of the total 60 fishermen, 10% (6) were belonging to SC category, 55% (33) of them were belonging to OBC category, 15% (9) MBC category and 20% (12) other categories.

4.6 Type of Family

Type of family is an important because it plays an important role in the decision making of a man to work at their work place. The present data deals with the family structure of the fishermen is presented at Paithan region.

Table-6: Type of Family

Sr.No.	Type of Family	No. of fisherman	Percentage (%)
1	Nuclear Family	45	75
2	Joint Family	15	25
Total		60	100

The above table shows that out of 60 fishermen 75% (75) lead nuclear family and 25% (25) were living in joint family system.

4.7 Housing Condition

Housing condition is one the indicators of the economic conditions of the people. Hence an attempt was made to know the housing condition of the fishermen. The following table presented the housing condition of fishermen in Paithan region.

Table -7: Housing Condition

Sr. No.	Type of House	No. of fisherman	Percentage (%)
1	Raw clay bricks wall with tin roof	15	25
2	Fire Bricks wall with tin roof	42	70
3	Fire breaks plaster walls with Concrete roof	3	5
Total		60	100

From the above table it can understands out of 60 fishermen,25% (15) were living in raw clay bricks wall with tin roof, 70% (42) were living in Fire Bricks wall with tin roof. Remaining 5%(3)were living infire breaks plaster walls with Concrete roof fire breaks plaster wall houses.

4.8 Economic Status

Income of the person is an important factor which determines the standard of living of the people. The following table shows the details of economic status of the fishermen in Paithan region.

Table -8: Income Status of Fishermen

Sr. No.	Annual Income of fishermen (Rs)	No. of fishermen	Percentage(%)
1	Below Rs.1,00,000	12	20
2	Rs.1,00,000 To 2,00,000	15	25
3	Rs.2,00,000 To 3,00,000	21	35
4	Rs.3,00,000 To 4,00,000	9	15
5	Above 4,00,000	3	5
Total		60	100

The above table shows that out of 60,20%(12) annual income of fishermen having below Rs. 1,00,000. 25% (15) fishermen having annual income between Rs. 1,00,000 – Rs.2,00,000, 35%(21) of the fishermen having annual incomes under Rs.2,00,000 –Rs.3,00,000. 15% (9) of the fishermen having annual incomes under Rs.3,00,000 – Rs.4,00,000 and 5% (3) of the fishermen having annual incomes aboveRs.4,00,000 .From the data for the above table, it can be concluded that the average annual income level of the fishermen hardly sufficient to maintain their family at the minimum subsistence level.

4.9 Pattern of Expenditure

Expenditure is the function of income. The standard of living is revealed mainly by the pattern of expenditure of a person. The expenditure pattern of the fishermen in Paithan region is presented in the following table.

Table 9: Pattern of Expenditure of the Households

Sr. No.	Households expenditure	No. of fisherman	Percentage (%)
1	Below Rs.50,000	12	20
2	Rs.50,000 To Rs.1,00000	18	30
3	Rs.1,00000 To Rs.1,50000	15	25
4	Rs.1,50000 To 2,00000	9	15
5	Above 2,00000	6	10
Total		60	100

From the above table, it is observed that out of total expenditure pattern of the household 20% (12) of the fishermen spent below Rs. 50,000. 30%(18)of the fishermen spent of Rs.50,000 – Rs.1,00,000. 25%(15) of the spend between Rs.1,00,000 – Rs.1,50,000.15%(9)of the fishermen Rs.1,50,000- Rs.2,00,000 and 10% (6) fishermen spend above Rs. 2,00,000 annually.

4.10 Annual Savings

Savings plays very significant role in the life and the economy of the person. The fishermen were tried to save their income in some amount which are mentioned in following table.

Table 10: Annual Savings

Sr. No.	Annual savings	No. of fisherman	Percentage(%)
1	Cash in hand	9	15
2	Bank	18	30
3	Mutual fund(Bhishi)	15	25
4	Co-operative Society	12	20
5	Post office	6	10
Total		60	100

The above table shows that 15% (9) of the fishermen preferred to keep amount cash in hand. 30% (18) of the fishermen save in banks, 25% (15) of the fishermen preferred to save in mutual fund (Bhishi), 20%(12) of the fishermen preferred to save in co-operative society. 10%(6) of the fishermen preferred to keep the cash in post office.

4.11 Value of Assets

The term total value of assets includes the value of the all movable and immovable properties like land, house, domestic animals, jewels consumer durable, vessels, and two wheelers.

Table 11: Value of Assets

Sr. No.	Value of Assets (in lakh)	No. of fishermen	Percentage(%)
1	Below 1	6	10
2	1– 2	12	20
3	2-3	18	30
4	3-4	15	25
5	Above 5	9	15
Total		60	100

The above table shows out of 60,10%(6) of the fishermen had their assets value below Rs.1 lakh, 20% (12) of the fishermen, assets value between Rs. 1-2 lakhs, 30% (18) of the fishermen assets value was about Rs.2 – 3 lakhs,

25%(15) of the fishermen assets value was above Rs.3-4lakhs and 15%(9) of the fishermen assets value was above Rs.50 lakh.

4.12 Source of the Capital Amount

The following table gives the information about the source of capital used by the fishermen in their occupation.

Table- 12: Source of the Capital Amount

Sr. No.	Sources of capital Amount	No. of fishermen	Percentage(%)
1	Own	27	45
2	Loan	33	55
Total		60	100

From the above table it is observed that 45%(27) of the fishermen, have been used their own capital for buying vessels, nets and fishing equipment whereas 55%(33) of the fishermen have borrowed and obtain their capital by taking loan from banks, society, money lenders, friends and relations.

4.13 Nature of Ownership of Boat

Among the fishermen, holding ownership of boat enjoys a higher status in the community. Hence the researcher made an attempt to know whether the sample respondents are having their own boat or not and the result are given in the following table.

Table 13: Nature of Ownership of Boat or oar

Sr. No.	Nature of Ownership of boat /Oar	No. of fishermen	Percentage(%)
1	Own boat	12	20
2	Hired boat	9	15
3	Thermocol boat	39	65
Total		60	100

The above table shows that the 20%(12) of the fishermen were having their own boat and 15%(9) of the fishermen used Hired boats. The poor fishermen do hired the boats from the rich fishermen. They depend highly on the rich fishermen for their livelihood. Where as 65 %(39) of the fishermen used thermocol boat due to poor economical condition.

4.14 Health Status of Fishermen

The five point scale has been used to measure the health status of fishermen.The following table gives the information about the present health status of fishermen.

Table-14: Health Status of Fishermen.

Sr No.	Health Status	No. of Fishermen	Percentage (%)
1	Very good	6	10
2	Good	15	25
3	Average	24	40
4	Poor	12	20
5	Very poor	3	5
Total		60	100

During study the health status of fisherman observed that 10% of the fishermen were very good their health condition, 25% (6) of the fishermen good health condition. 40%(24) of the fishermen were average health condition. 20% (12) of the fishermen poor health condition and 5%(3 of the fishermen explained that their health condition was very poor. But they were in position of getting money to run their families. They could not afford to pay to undergone any treatment. They can get benefit from the Government health care units.

V. CONCLUSION

Fishermen are the integral part of our society. Even though they provide excessive fish production. Fishermen have lower socio-economic, educational and health status and their illiteracy adds to their poor hygiene, which may influence general health. Majority of fishermen in India are struggling for their welfare in the socio-economic, educational and health security spheres. The poor economical, educational and health status among fishermen in India leads to low productivity and low fish production. The pathetic condition of fishermen affects the health status and health seeking behaviour. There is the urgent need of government's attention in this regard to make them aware of importance of their economic, education and health. Some social workers, social institutions, association, organization, health care units and banking sector need to pay attention towards fisherman. The Government must provide sufficient financial facilities at low rate of interest to the fishermen. The Government should come forward to establish cold storage and freezing plant to cater to needs of the fishermen. The Government must provide free education for kids of fishermen up to graduate level and special scholarships for higher education. The Government must provide fishing equipment to the fishermen at the subsidized cost. The Government must provide various health care facilities at cheaper cost. The government should conduct the awareness camp for the awareness of Health care services and health insurance.

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