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The factors affecting the socioeconomic status of fish vendors

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Abstract

The socioeconomic status of fish vendors is very poor and there are number of factors affecting the status and as well as other matter relevant to their families. There are number of barriers such as education, family size and family income.

Keywords: Factors affecting, socioeconomic status, fish vendors

Introduction

The socio-economic status of fish vendors depends on number of factors such as family size, family income, health problems, no property, no security for job, lack of knowledge, lack of education and lack of income generation (Karnad *et al.*, 2014) ^[2]. Indian marine fisheries have developed four-fold in the prior 50 years in the form of open-access commons.

Although studies predict that fish stocks are on the decline, there is little evidence that these declines are being countered by changes in either fishing regulations or practices. Fishers rarely comply with rules, instead operationalizing and directing the fishery unassisted. Understanding how to fish vendors. Women vendors and processors in several coastal States are part of self-help groups (SHGs) and federations. Such membership helps them access sources of credit and other linkages. Such as 1) Kalanjia Meenavar Sangham and Kiosks for Fish Vendors 2) Sthree Niketh Vanitha Federation, 3) Santidhan and Kudumbashree.

Government regulations are based at the level of the state and have been further modified at smaller scales, such as districts, by high court and fishery department orders

Socioeconomic status is used to stratify subjects in society in epidemiological studies, classifications of socio economic status usually includes income, occupation and education level. The P values are evaluated from the variables like education, occupation with reference to the income of the fishermen and their significance are notified. For most of the fishermen, the socio-economic status falls below poverty line, therefore, the levels of education are low and awareness towards living, personal hygiene, general health is also low, leading to incidences of various health hazards. Fishermen are the poorest group of the urban population along the coastal zone. Fishermen perceived the fisheries resources as over-exploited as the catch per fisherman was coming down and that their income from fishing is also declining. Hence, there is an urgent need to educate, support and provide fishermen health insurance to assure the access to health care facilities (Palivela *et al.*, 2011) [3].

The fish-retailers operate with small investments and are dependent on local resources. Fish vendors operate as an important link between producers and the final consumers, making fish available to consumers in urban and remote rural areas, and enhancing food security in tangible, but unrecognized, ways. In recent years, competition for fish, from exporters and traders with greater access to credit and capital, has, however, affected the overall access of women vendors to fish. This, coupled with the problems they face at harbors, landing centres and markets, and the lack of access to basic facilities at these locations, is affecting their ability to retain their important role in marketing. It is vitally important that the work of fish vendors be recognized and supported (Verma *et al.*, 2015) ^[5]. Fishermen shows that the barriers like education, occupation, food habits and health conditions are very low in both.

The role of fish vendors in Indian economy

Generally, fish vendors are women-only and play a key role in India's economy and other countries. Women comprise about 75 per cent of those engaged in fish marketing. They contribute significantly to the food security needs of a diverse range of consumers scent and

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Research Associate, Animal Husbandry, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rastakuntubai, Andhra Pradesh, India use resources have significant management and policy implications in these circumstances.

After China, India stands second in the world in total fish production. Inland fisheries are significant for food security as almost all show goes for human consumption2. Fish is substantial for the economically weaker sections of the population, providing a cheap and accessible source of protein and essential micronutrients3. A large selection of the people also depends on fish resources (both marine and inland) for their livelihoods, employment and income (Type, 2022) [4].

Problems faced by women fish vendors

- 1. Distances and lack of basic facilities at harbours and landing centres.
- 2. Poor access to credit, exorbitant interest rates.
- 3. Lack of public transport to markets
- 4. Lack of ice and proper storage facilities
- 5. Problems at marketplaces
- 6. Poor market infrastructure

Conclusion

Women fish vendors play critical roles in a country like India, catering to the food security needs of a diverse range of consumers. Fish vending provides employment and livelihood to lakhs of people, primarily women. Steps need to be taken in an integrated manner, drawing on available policy and legislative frameworks and the efforts taken by State and Central governments and their institutions to support this vital segment of the population. Living voids in procedure, Policy and implementation must be systematically addressed.

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