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EDITORIAL

We feel honoured and privileged to present the Bi-Annual Peer Reviewed Refereed Journal, ISSN (Online): 2583-5203, Volume 3, No. 02, December, 2024 among our esteemed readers and academic fraternity.

This Journal is the outcome of the contributions of insightful research-oriented papers/articles by various eminent academicians, and research scholars in a highly organized and lucid manner with a clear and detailed analysis related to the emerging areas in the fields of Social Sciences and Allied Areas.

The views expressed in the research-oriented papers/articles solely belong to the paper contributor(s). Neither the Publisher nor the Editor(s) in any way can be held responsible for any comments, views and opinions expressed by **paper contributors**. While editing, we put in a reasonable effort to ensure that no infringement of any intellectual property right is tolerated.

We also express our sincere thanks and gratitude to all the contributors to research papers/articles who have taken pain in preparing manuscripts, incorporating reviewer(s) valuable suggestions and cooperating with us in every possible way.

We also express our heartfelt gratitude to all the esteemed members of the Editorial Board, Esteemed Reviewer(s) who despite their busy schedules have given their valuable time, suggestions and comments to enrich the quality of the contributory resears paper(s) in bringing to light this December issue.

Last, but not least, we revere the patronage and moral support extended by our parents and family members whose constant encouragement and cooperation made it possible for us to complete on time.

We would highly appreciate and look forward to your valuable suggestions, comments and feedback at editorbr2022@gmail.com

December 31, 2024
West Bengal, India

PEMA LAMA
Editor-in-Chief

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Socioeconomic Status of the Fisherman Communities in the Kakdwip Areas of West Bengal: An Enquiry

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ABSTRACT

Marine fishing communities are the vulnerable communities of the society they are living in the lower strata of the society. The study has been conducted to get an outline of the social and economic status of the marine fisherman communities who are involved in marine fishing and marine fish marketing in coastal Kakdwip areas of West Bengal, India. The marine fishing system is unorganized and controlled by the local people. As the socio-economic profile is multidimensional there are various factors are responsible for the social and economic status of the marine fisherman communities.

The present study tries to identify to socio-economic factors like the age group of the people who are involved in marine fishing, education level of the communities, income status of the fishermen communities, healthcare facilities, sanitary advantages etc of the population of the research area. In the current study, we have also tried to understand if there is any relationship between the various categorical variables like Income with Social and Economic Status and Education with Social and Economic Status of the marine fishermen communities who are living in the Kakdwip area in West Bengal, India. The study is also conducted to know whether the income of the fishermen communities is sufficient to maintain their daily lifestyle.

1. INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic status is dependent on multidimensional factors like income, education and employment status. The low-income families are unable to maintain their social status. They cannot meet their social and economic status with the minimum income. The fishermen's communities are the most vulnerable and they are living with substandard quality levels ((Trina et al, 2016). Fishermen communities are neglected and they have less progressive and minimum socioeconomic influences in society (Billa et al, 2018). The people among the fishermen communities are deprived of the various advantages (Ghosh et al, 2015). The people from the fishermen communities are having

with less education and they are living in bad housing conditions (Nongmaithem & Ngangbam, 2014). The marine fishermen communities are the people who are involved with marine fishing and they are living in the coastal areas and sometimes those areas are isolated from the main society. As per the statements of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (2022) there are 3,236,261 people involved in aquaculture and its related activities in West Bengal. The present study area Kakdwip is located in the district of 24 Parganas (South) in West Bengal and this district covers coastal areas like Kakdwip, Ganga Sagar, Namkhana, Bakkhali, Canning, Gosaba, Diamond Harbour and some others coastal areas. The researcher tries to identify the socio-

economic status by analyzing the various socio-economic variables collected through a structural questionnaire from the people of the coastal Kakdwip areas of West Bengal, India.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the Sundarbans water ecosystem of West Bengal, various species are available and the local people are dependent on those types of species (Ghosh et al., 2022). The fishermen's communities are fully dependent on marine fishing but some people are shifted from this livelihood due to low income. The fishermen are taking risks to catch fish from the deep sea.

Marine fishing is a life-threatening profession the fishermen have to expose in health risks both onshore and off shore (Woodhead et al, 2018). According to the regional diversity, different types of fishermen communities are engaged in marine fishing. The major fishermen communities of West Bengal are Malos, Kaibartas, Bagdis and Pods (Pramanik, 2009). The fishermen's communities are isolated communities (Cahaya, 2016). Fishermen are classified into two categories, one is coastal fishermen and the other is deep-sea fishermen (Zain et al., 2018). The people who are living in the coastal areas have a link with marine fishing (Ross, 2015).

Marine fishermen have to suffer from different socio-economic problem (Mirja & Biswas, 2022). The social and economic status of the fisherman communities are not satisfactory (Das et al., 2015). The fishermen communities are not conscious about the health sanitation, education of their children and about balance nutrition (Bappa et al, 2014). The fishermen communities are the vulnerable communities of the society they have to endure various problems of the society which are related to their social and economic profile. The fisherman communities are living at lower strata of the society (Rusdiana et al., 2020).

3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The social and economic profile of the fisherman communities is very poor. The marine fishermen communities are the vulnerable communities who are

unable to maintain their lives properly. The marine fishing communities are contributing to our society. This community supplies various nutritious fishes those are important seafood which are consumed by the health conscious people. Most of people who are living in the coastal areas are dependent on the marine fishing. It is very important to uplift this marine fishing community in the main stream of the society. The present study tries to identify the various elements like education and employment status and income which are very much responsible for the social and economic status of the marine fishermen communities. This research paper will be helpful for the fishermen communities for their uplift in the mainstream of the society.

4. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The marine fishermen communities are living in the lower strata of the society they are lagging behind the various societal benefits. They have little education or without education. The fishermen are an important contributor in the society. They contribute to GDP and they are taking a greater role in the improvement of the local economic status. This is very much significant to uplift them into the main stream of society. The government and local people are also supporting the fishermen's communities to uplift them in society. Some Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) try to help the fishermen's communities for their overall development (Rabbani et al., 2017). After the vast literature review, we have framed the following research questions for the present research paper:

What are the factors influencing the social profile of the marine fisherman communities in the Kakdwip area of West Bengal?

What are the elements influencing the economic profile of the marine fisherman communities of Kakdwip areas of West Bengal?

5. RESEARCH GAP

After the vast literature review, it has been identified that there are a few studies conducted on the social and economic profile of the marine fisherman communities in the Kakdwip area of West Bengal, India. There are

various studies which have been conducted in the different areas but recently there are no such studies which are conducted on the social and economic profile of the marine fisherman communities in the Kakdwip area of West Bengal, India. The marine fisherman communities are an integral part of the society. So it is very important to uplift the communities into the mainstream of society. The researchers tried to understand the various factors which are responsible for the social and economic status of the marine fisherman communities in the study areas.

6. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has been conducted depending on primary data that has been collected by an organized questionnaire. After the extensive literature review, the researcher has framed the following objectives of the present study -

- To gather demographic information about the marine fishermen communities in Kakdwip areas of West Bengal, India.
- To highlight the social and economic status of the marine fisherman communities in the Kakdwip areas of West Bengal, India.

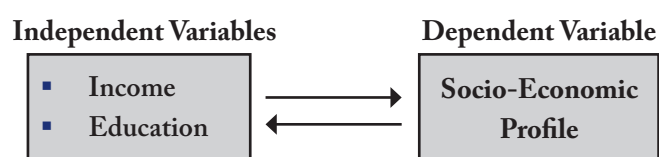
7. HYPOTHESES

H_{11} : There is an association between the Income and Social and Economic Status of the fisherman communities in the Kakdwip areas of West Bengal.

H_{12} : There is a relationship between the Education and Social and Economic Status of the fishermen communities in the Kakdwip areas of West Bengal.

8. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The following conceptualized design for the present study has been formulated by the researcher for the current study:



9. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Study Area: The study has been conducted in the Kakdwip area of West Bengal. Kakdwip is located on the bank of the river Hooghly. The Latitudinal and Longitudinal expansion of the Kakdwip community block is 21°52'34"N88°11'07"E (Palit et al., 2021).

Methodology: This study is conducted to identify the various factors affecting the social and economic profile of the marine fisherman communities in the Kakdwip areas of West Bengal, India. Marine fishermen communities are the targeted population for the study. In the present study, we have applied the Purposive Sampling Method to arrive at the representative sample size. 150 respondents have been selected for the present study.

The researcher has collected primary data through a structural questionnaire. The structured questionnaire has been taken from Raju (2010) and has been used after modification. The selected respondents were asked several questions for the collection of data regarding social and economic elements like age, family size, education, annual income, credit access, sanitary facilities, housing conditions and health benefits. Descriptive and inferential statistics have been applied in the present study. Microsoft Excel and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software applications were used for analyzing the collected data through the structured questionnaire.

10. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

| Characteristics | Number of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Age Group | | |
| Below 30 | 33 | 22 |
| 31 to 40 | 45 | 30 |
| 41 to 50 | 42 | 28 |
| Above 50 | 30 | 20 |
| Education Level | | |
| Below Secondary | 90 | 60 |
| Secondary | 39 | 26 |

| Characteristics | Number of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Higher Secondary | 9 | 6 |
| Graduation | 9 | 6 |
| Above Graduation | 3 | 2 |
| Family Status | | |
| Joint Family | 24 | 15 |
| Nuclear Family | 126 | 84 |
| Monthly Income status | | |
| Below 20K | 93 | 62 |
| 20K – 40K | 42 | 28 |
| Above 40K | 15 | 10 |
| Credit Access facilities | | |
| NGO's Loan | 36 | 24 |
| Bank Loan | 18 | 12 |
| Other Loan | 96 | 64 |
| Housing Condition | | |
| Good | 12 | 8 |
| Medium | 24 | 16 |
| Poor | 114 | 76 |
| Healthcare Facilities | | |
| Good | 18 | 12 |
| Medium | 33 | 22 |
| Poor | 99 | 66 |
| Sanitary Advantages | | |
| Good | 21 | 14 |
| Medium | 45 | 30 |
| Poor | 84 | 56 |
| Drinking Water Facilities | | |
| Tap Water | 96 | 64 |
| Tube Well | 51 | 34 |
| Purified Water | 3 | 2 |

Age Group of the Respondents

According to Table 1, 22 % of the respondents belong to the age group below 30 and 30 % of respondents belong to the age group of 31 to 40. 28 % of respondents belong to the age category of 41 - 50 and 20 % of respondents belong to the age category of above 50 years. Table 1 indicates that most of the marine fishermen are in the age category of 31 - 40. The respondents of the age category of above 50 are very less in the study areas.

Educational Level of the Responders

Table 1 indicates that 60 % of the respondents are below secondary education level. 26 % of respondents are secondary education level. 6% of respondents have having with higher secondary education level. 6 % of respondents have a higher graduation level in education and 2 % of respondents are in the group above graduation level. According to the result of Table No 1 it may be concluded that most of the fishermen in the Kakdwip area of West Bengal are in the group with below secondary level and the fishermen communities are rare in the group of above graduation rarely found.

Structural Status of the Family of the Respondents

According to Table No. 1, it has been shown that 15% of respondents are living with a joint family and 84% of respondents are living with a nuclear family. According to the result of the collected data it has been concluded that most of the marine fisherman communities are staying in the nuclear structural family. The marine fishermen communities who are staying with the joint family are very rare in the Kakdwip area of West Bengal, India.

Monthly Income of Respondents

Monthly income is a very important factor in the social and economic status of the marine fisherman communities. According to table no 1 it has been found that 62% of respondents are in an income level (Monthly) of below 20 thousand. 28 % of respondents are in the group of monthly income level 20- 40 thousand. 10 % of respondents belong to the income level (Monthly) of above 40 thousand. According to the data, it may be concluded that most of the marine fishermen communities of the coastal Kakdwip area of West Bengal are in the group of a monthly income level of below 20 thousand. The marine fishermen communities having monthly income above 40 thousand are very less.

Credit Access

To maintain the fishing system and to meet the needs of their families the fishermen communities have to take credit from the various sources. According to table no 1 it has been found that 24% of respondents

have taken loans from various Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). 12 % of respondents have taken loans from various banks and 64 % of respondents have taken loans from other loan providers like microfinance, and local money lenders. According to the result, we may conclude that most of the marine fishermen communities have taken loans from other loan providers apart from various banks and NGOs. The marine fishermen communities who have taken loans from the bank are very less.

Housing Condition of the Respondents

Housing status is a crucial marker of the social and economic profile of the fishermen's communities. According to the collected data (Table 1) it has been found that 8 % of respondents have the housing in good condition. 16 % of respondents have medium conditions of housing and 76 % of respondents have housing with poor conditions. According to the data, it has been concluded that most of the people in marine fishermen communities are living in poor conditions and the people with good-conditioned housing is very less.

Healthcare Facilities

Health is also a very important marker of the social and economic profile. According to Table 1 it is found that 12 % of respondents are having with good healthcare facilities. 22 % of respondents are having with medium healthcare facilities and 66 % of respondents are having with poor healthcare facilities. According to the data, we may conclude that most of the people of marine fishermen communities of coastal Kakdwip areas of West Bengal have poor healthcare facilities and the people with good healthcare facilities are rare.

Sanitary Facilities

The components of sanitary facilities for the general public are toilets, urinals and sinks. According to Table 1, it has been indicated that 14 % of respondents have good sanitary advantages. 30 % of respondents have medium sanitary advantages and 56 % of respondents have poor sanitary facilities. Based on the data we may say that most of the fishermen of the coastal Kakdwip areas of West Bengal have poor sanitary facilities and the fishermen communities with good sanitary facilities are very less.

Drinking Water Facilities

According to Table 1, it has been found that 64 % of respondents are consuming Tap Water (Water supplies through pipelines and tap), 34 % of respondents are on the consumption of Tube Well (Hand Pump) and 2 % of respondents are consuming purified water (Purchasing water purifier or purified water). According to the collected data, the conclusion may be drawn that most of the fishermen communities are on the consumption of Tap Water in the Kakdwip area of West Bengal and the people who are consuming purified water are very less.

**TABLE 2: RELIABILITY STATISTICS
FOR ALPHA VALUE OF CATEGORICAL
VARIABLES**

(Education, Income and Socio-economic Profile)

| Reliability Test | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Alpha Value | No of Items |
| 0.94 | 3 |

In the present study, the researchers have selected three categorical variables - Education, Income and Socioeconomic profile. The researchers also have tried to identify if there is any relationship or association with the categorical variables like Education with Socio-economic status and Income with Socio-economic status. The normal value of Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Coefficient is between 0 and 1. It is the general thumb rule is that a Cronbach's alpha of .70 and above .70 is good, .80 and above .80 is better, and .90 and above is the best (Statistics Solution, 2024). Table 2 indicates that Cronbach's Alpha value is .940 which indicates that the reliability of the questionnaires that have been used for the collection of data is the best questionnaire and the collected data may be analyzed further.

Chi-square Test Analysis

Hypothesis 1 (H_{11}): *There is an association between the Income and Social and Economic Status of the Fisherman Communities in the Kakdwip areas of West Bengal.*

TABLE NO 3: CHI-SQUARE VALUE

| | Value | df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) |
|---|----------|----|-----------------------|
| Pearson Chi-Square | 225.179a | 4 | 0 |
| Likelihood Ratio | 220.41 | 4 | 0 |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 117.363 | 1 | 0 |
| No of Valid Cases | 150 | | |
| a. 1 cells (11.1%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.52. | | | |

TABLE NO 4: SYMMETRIC VALUE

| | | Value | Approx. Sig. |
|--------------------|------------|-------|--------------|
| Nominal by Nominal | Phi | 1.225 | 0 |
| | Cramer's V | 0.866 | 0 |
| No. of Valid Cases | | 150 | |

A chi-square test with P value = .05 is used to identify if the Income is related to the socioeconomic profile of the marine fishermen communities. It has been found that the Chi-square test is statistically justified in that the P value is .000. The Cramer's Value is .866 which indicates that there is a high association between Income and socioeconomic profile. So as per the results of Table 3 and Table 4, it may be accepted the assumed alternative hypothesis that there is an association between Income and Social and economic status.

Hypothesis 2 (H_{12}): *There is a relationship between the Education and Social and Economic Status of the fishermen communities in the Kakdwip areas of West Bengal.*

TABLE NO 5: CHI-SQUARE VALUE

| | Value | df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) |
|---|----------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Pearson Chi-Square | 209.327 ^a | 4 | 0 |
| Likelihood Ratio | 215.368 | 4 | 0 |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 93.853 | 1 | 0 |
| N of Valid Cases | 150 | | |
| a. 1 cells (11.1%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.36. | | | |

TABLE NO 6: SYMMETRIC VALUE

| | | Value |
|--------------------|------------|-------|
| Nominal by Nominal | Phi | 1.181 |
| | Cramer's V | 0.835 |
| No. of Valid Cases | | 150 |

A chi-square test with P value = .05 is used to identify if the Income is related to the socioeconomic profile of the marine fishermen communities. It has been found that the Chi-square test is statistically justified in that the P value is .000. The Cramer's Value is .835 which indicates that there is a high association between Education and Socioeconomic profile. So as per the results of Table 4 and Table 5, it may be the assumed alternative hypothesis that there is an association between Education and Social and economic profiles.

11. IMPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDY

The study tried to identify the social and economic profile of the fisherman communities in the Kakdwip areas of West Bengal, India. These marine fishing communities are the vulnerable communities that are living in the lower strata of society. Most of the communities are dependent on marine fishing as this profession is the only livelihood of the communities. The marine fishing communities contribute to the local economy and they provide seafood as the source of various vitamins, proteins and minerals. It is very important to uplift the marine fishermen communities in the mainstream of society.

The present study will be beneficial to the people who are engaged in marine fishing and marine fish marketing. The researchers in the current study tried to understand the social and economic profile of the marine fisherman communities in the Kakdwip areas of West Bengal, India. The study will be very beneficial for the implication and to uplift the social and economic profile of the marine fisherman communities of Kakdwip areas of West Bengal, India. The same studies can be performed to understand the social and economic profile of the fisherman communities in this study area or any other coastal areas of the country.

12. CONCLUSION

The study was done in the Kakdwip area of the state of West Bengal, India get an idea about the social and

economic profile of the marine fisherman communities who are involved in marine fishing and marine fish marketing. The researchers tried to understand the factors which are responsible for the social and economic status of the marine fisherman communities. The factors which are identified are the age of the people involved in marine fishing, the family status of the communities, monthly income status, healthcare facilities, education status, credit facilities, drinking water facilities etc.

It has been found in the current study that most of the marine fishermen communities have poorly conditioned houses, poor income levels, poor education status and poor healthcare advantages. It is the responsibility to uplift the communities into the mainstream of the society. The government, the NGO (Non-Government Organization), and the local people should take the initiative and take special care to uplift the social and economic status of the marine fisherman communities in Kakdwip areas in the state of West Bengal, India.

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