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Economic and Health Hazards of Women Fish Vendors in Chennai District of Tamil Nadu, India

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Abstract

The women constitute 48.1 percent of the total population in India. (CIA, 2020). The women pay vital place within the fisheries societies, that they are often invisible unsupported or not recognized. In the economic activities of fisheries, women are mostly engaged in post-harvest of fishes among the marine fisher communities in India. Because, the women constitute nearly 75 percentage of fish marketing and selling activities. The women are the primary troupes in processing of fish, marketing and selling to the ultimate consumers and contributing a sizable income to the family. (ICSF, 1997). But the women workforce has not yet recognized fully. The women fish vendors work as a pivotal role in between the fisherman and consumers in an intangible way in the urban area. Fish selling or vending is a non-conventional form of occupation and it is main kind of livelihood mass population in many Indian states. The women contribute an important function in fisheries especially the post-harvest of fishes, i.e marketing and selling of fishes. According to the marine fisheries census (2005), reveals that the whole marine fishier populace of 9 seaside states and the union territories in India is around 3519116. To carry out the research study, the researcher is followed the empirical research method. The empirical research study is uses to prove the instances through the empirical relevance. The present study aims to prove the socio-economic implications of the women fish vendors through the direct field survey. So that the empirical method of research type is more appropriate and apt for this research work. The main idea of applying this research method to gain the knowledge through direct method of observation and experience. The average income of the respondent is calculated as 6111.11 per month. The minimum income per month is recorded as rupees 4000 and the maximum recorded as rupees 9000. Average investment level of the women fish vendor is registered as rupees 2611.111 per day with the minimum amount of rupees 1500 and the maximum amount of rupees 4000. Almost all the respondents are suffering from occupational health issues. The mean amount of savings per month of women fish vendors have recorded as 266.667 with the minimum of zero savings and the maximum of 500 rupees per month. The average borrowings of the respondent were rupees 7848.485 per month. On the whole, the women fish vendors are economically poor vulnerable section in the society.

Keywords: Women, Fisheries, Fish Vending, & Development

1. Introduction

The women workforce participation is playing a key role in economic development of India. Because India's economy is developing with an increasing gross domestic product and with working population age is estimated to scramble to over 8 hundred million persons by 2050 (Bansar,2020). The women constitute 48.1 percent of the total population in India. (CIA, 2020). The women pay vital place within the fisheries societies, that they are often invisible

unsupported or not recognized. In the economic activities of fisheries, women are mostly engaged in post-harvest of fishes among the marine fisher communities in India. Because, the women constitute nearly 75 percentage of fish marketing and selling activities. The women are the primary troupes in processing of fish, marketing and selling to the ultimate consumers and contributing a sizable income to the family. (ICSF, 1997). But the women workforce has not yet recognized fully. The women fish vendors work as a pivotal role in between the fisherman and consumers in an intangible way in the urban area. Fish selling or vending is a non-conventional form of occupation and it is main kind of livelihood mass population in many Indian states. The women fish vendors do their vending activities starting from procurement of from landing points, auction place, or from whole sale merchants from the market. (Kumar et al, 2008)

2. **Literature Review**

Narayanakumar et al (2000) emphasized the social and economic status of the marine fishermen and their characteristics towards the developmental schemes would assist as fundamental information which is important for implementing new and advanced technologies and poly implications. They also analysed the important socio-economic indicators such as size of the family, educational attainment, age of the fishermen, occupational status and standard of living.

Radhakrishnan & Sellamalle (2000) reported that the women micro entrepreneurs are facing various socio-economic issues such as low level of income, illiteracy and lack availability of loan.

Mahesh et al (2014) study indicated that the majority of the contribution on fisher people's livelihood depending upon fish harvesting and fish vending. The fisher women are playing a n important place in the sale and marketing of fishes. Their study also found that 52 percent of women included in fish processing works and 42 percent of the women are doing the selling activity of fishes in the market. The study also found the income generated by the women is comparatively high than male based on the efficiency in selling and marketing tactics. It also reveals the various factors of income earning capacities such as size of investment, educational level, size of the family and hours spent for selling of fishes etc.

Environmental Management and Economic Development Organization (EMEDO, 2017) study reported that role and place of women

Krishnaveni & Shankar (2020) found in their study conducted in Kanyakumari district that among the subsidiary economic activities, fish vending is one of the main economic activity generates income to the poor women.

Mathew (2020) discussed in virtual dialogues on the road to the 34th committee on Fisheries held on 13-17 July 2020 that fish are acknowledged as the vital food commodity and fishing and fish processing industries are comes under the essential commodity services since 11th March, 2020. The work carried out on marine fishing pitcher is measured at little risk of exposure. Regarding the existence fishing, gathering activities and the subsistence fish eating seem less pretentious in distant zones. He also discussed the fear of infection and poor admittance to healthiness facilities of small and medium scale and artisanal fishing societies.

The various studies found that the women fish vendors facing several social, economic and psychological issues during the process of the vending activity. The major problem is distance between the procurement and selling area of fishes. The women fish vendors have to travel a very long distance to procure the fish from the harvest point. They have to bring the

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fish basket to the fish market and residential area also so long in distance. The women frequently have been affected due to non-availability of toilet facilities and shelters.

2.1 Significance of the Study

Women contribute a crucial traditions and approach to the food security requirements of an assorted variety of consumers. India stood the second largest fish production across the globe, followed by China, with a total yield of 7.3 million tons during the year 2007. (International Collective in Support of Fish workers, 2010). India's yearly per capita intake of fish is estimated at 4.8 kilo grams in 2003. (FAO, UN). The domestic fisheries are particularly vital for food and almost all production used for the human needs. A very large set of peoples are depending on fisheries for their livelihood and income generation. According to Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, 14 million people were estimated to be employed in the fisheries industry. This contributes 1.07 percent of total India's GDP.

The women contribute an important function in fisheries especially the post-harvest of fishes, i.e marketing and selling of fishes. According to the marine fisheries census (2005), reveals that the whole marine fishier populace of 9 seaside states and the union territories in India is around 3519116. Specifically, around 756391fisherfolk concentrated in fishing-oriented services, 365463 people engaged in these activities are women with 152692 of them are involved in selling of fish. On the other hand, the men constitute only 54670 from the total fish sellers (ICSF, 1997)

2.2 Objectives of the Study

To find out economic and working conditions of the women fish vendors in the study area.

To bring out the various occupational health problems of sample respondents in Chennai district.

2.3 Hypotheses

Null Hypothesis

Ho_1: There is no association between income and working condition of the sample respondent

Ho_2: There is no relationship between working condition and health issues of the women fish vendors.

3. Research Methodology

To carry out the research study, the researcher is followed the empirical research method. The empirical research study is uses to prove the instances through the empirical relevance. The present study aims to prove the socio-economic implications of the women fish vendors through the direct field survey. So that the empirical method of research type is more appropriate and apt for this research work. The main idea of applying this research method to gain the knowledge through direct method of observation and experience.

Judgmental sampling technique were applied to select the sample from the whole population. The judgmental method of sampling, would also be called as purposing sampling technique in which the respondents are selected only the researcher's judgment and knowledge. Since the number of population universe is infinite and the nature of the sample will also be unique, it is decided to apply the judgmental sample design to carry out the primary survey from the study area. Subsequently, the researcher knowledge on the population is the instrumental

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force in identifying the sample through judgmental technique. It is having the chances that results attained will be highly precise with a minimum error. The expert sample or the judgment sample is being applied and carefully chosen sample without any bias. Structured questionnaire is prepared and data has been collected from 99 sample respondents from the study area. The Chennai is selected as the study area for the present research work. The study area including Kasimedu Fish market, Nochi Kuppam Fish Market, Besent Nagar Fish Market, Chindadripet Fish Market, Vanagaram Fish Market, Pallavaram Fish Market, Harnour Fish Market and Rayapuram Fish Market. All these locations are easily connected with other main areas of Chennai.

4. Data Analysis and Findings

The collected data has been analyzed through an appropriate statistical model. The table 1 provides the descriptive statistical information on the basis of primary data collected from field survey. The average income of the respondent is calculated as 6111.11 per month. The minimum income per month is recorded as rupees 4000 and the maximum recorded as rupees 9000.

Table. 1 Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Education	99	1.0	4.0	2.000	.9476
Income	99	4000	9500	6111.11	1512.795
Investment	99	1500.0	4000.0	2611.111	972.9913
Health Issues	99	1.0	2.0	1.020	.1414
Savings	99	.0	500.0	266.667	153.8619
Borrowings	99	3000.0	20000.0	7848.485	5353.5486
Valid N (listwise)	99				

Average investment level of the women fish vendor is registered as rupees 2611.111 per day with the minimum amount of rupees 1500 and the maximum amount of rupees 4000. Almost all the respondents are suffering from occupational health issues. The mean amount of savings per month of women fish vendors have recorded as 266.667 with the minimum of zero savings and the maximum of 500 rupees per month. The average borrowings of the respondent were rupees 7848.485 per month.

Table 2. Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics					Durbin-Watson
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change	
1	.221[a]	.049	.008	1506.415	.049	1.208	4	94	.313	1.347

a. Predictors: (Constant), Borrowings, Health Issues, Investment, Savings

b. Dependent Variable: Income

The regression model has been used to establish the relationship between the functional variables. Regressor value is calculated at 0.221 for the independent variables such as borrowings, occupational health issues, level of investment and savings. The R square and the adjusted R square values are calculated as 0.049 and 0.008 respectively.

Table. 3 Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	4630.483	1219.197		3.798	.000
	Investment	-.057	.157	-.037	-.363	.717
	Health Issues	2032.093	1079.244	.190	1.883	.063
	Savings	-.689	1.006	-.070	-.685	.495
	Borrowings	-.033	.029	-.117	-1.143	.256

a. Dependent Variable: Income

Income is calculated t - test value of 3.798 with the significant value of 0.000, which is less than the accepted value of 0.005 (5 percent) at 99 percent confidence level.

The relationship between income and investment test value is calculated at -0.363, significant at 0.717, which is greater than the accepted level 0.005. So, the null hypothesis is accepted. The health issues and the savings levels test values are calculated at 0.090 and -0.070 significant at 0.063 and 0.495 respectively. So, both the independent variables such as health issues and savings of the respondents did not have association with income. So, the null

hypothesis is accepted.

5. Conclusion

The women fish vendors work as a pivotal role in between the fisherman and consumers in an intangible way in the urban area. Fish selling or vending is a non-conventional form of occupation and it is main kind of livelihood mass population in many Indian states. The women fish vendors do their vending activities starting from procurement of from landing points, auction place, or from whole sale merchants from the market. (Kumar et al, 2008). The women contribute an important function in fisheries especially the post-harvest of fishes, i.e marketing and selling of fishes. According to the marine fisheries census (2005), reveals that the whole marine fishier populace of 9 seaside states and the union territories in India is around 3519116. Specifically, around 756391fisherfolk concentrated in fishing-oriented services, 365463 people engaged in these activities are women with 152692 of them are involved in selling of fish. On the other hand, the men constitute only 54670 from the total fish sellers (ICSF, 1997). The average income of the respondent is calculated as 6111.11 per month. The minimum income per month is recorded as rupees 4000 and the maximum recorded as rupees 9000. Average investment level of the women fish vendor is registered as rupees 2611.111 per day with the minimum amount of rupees 1500 and the maximum amount of rupees 4000. Almost all the respondents are suffering from occupational health issues. The mean amount of savings per month of women fish vendors have recorded as 266.667 with the minimum of zero savings and the maximum of 500 rupees per month. The average borrowings of the respondent were rupees 7848.485 per month. On the whole, the women fish vendors are economically poor vulnerable section in the society.

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