

ANNUAL REPORT

The Pandit Karuppan Chair

The programme Pandit Karuppan Chair for Policy Studies on Livelihood security and Socio-economic Empowerment of Fisher folk is being operated under the Plan Project of Kerala University of Fisheries Ocean Studies (KUFOS) funded exclusively by Government of Kerala. The project was originally started in 2013. The major objective of the project is to assess the socio-economic Status of the fisher folk, and to explore the livelihood security of the fisher folk since its inception. The current Principal Investigator of the programme is Dr. M.S.Raju, Professor & Director, School of Management and Entrepreneurship. The supporting personnel include one Project Scientist (Mr. Ambrose. T.V) and one Technical Assistant (Mr.Sreenath. K). The Project Scientist joined the office on 6th January 2018 and the Technical Assistant on 10th December 2019. The Project Scientist resigned on 5th January 2019.

Tabulation and data analysis on the Socio-Economic Status for the year 2018-19 was completed. Report on the Socio-Economic Status for the year 2018-19, the final report is ready for printing. Field level survey for the year 2019-20 was done based on a modified questionnaire. As part of data and literature collection, we have Visit to MPEDA and CMFRI. Field survey were carried out for collecting data from different national & state institutes. A pre tested interview schedule was developed for collecting the primary data.

A brief review of the work carried out during 2019-20

Villages from each stratum were selected at random and the households in the selected villages were chosen by adopting snowball sampling technique. Thus, of the 222 marine fishing villages 7 districts were selected and 1290 households were surveyed. The field survey was conducted during April 2018- March 2019. Field work is conducted in 1290 households from 42 fishing villages from the following Districts: *Alappuzha district*: - Omanappuzha (30HHs) Pollathai (30), Thaneermukkam (27), Alappuzha beach (30), Thumpoli (30), Muhamma (30), Punnapra (30), Ottamassery (30), Arthungal (30), Pallana (30), Cherthala (30), Purakkad (30), Aroor (30), Pathiyankkara (30). *Trivandram dist*: - Poovar (30), Adimalathura (30), Vizhinjam (30), Pullvilla (30). *Kottayam dist*: - Kozhikattu (31), Pollasserri (30). *Kollam dist*:-Parayakadavu (30HHs), Eravipuram (30), Thankkassery (30), Neendakkara (30), Alappad (30), Mayyanaduthanni (32), Azheekal (30), Mukkad (30). *Thrissur Dist*: - Valappad (30), Blangad (30), Chavakkad (30), Perinjanam (30), Koolimuttam (30), Vadanapilly (30), Azhhekode (30), Edavilangu (30), Nattika (30).

Malappuram Dist:- Tannur (30), Kadalundi (30), Koramankadappuram (30), Purathur (30HHs). *Calicut Dist:-* Chriyamankkad (30), Kuriyadi (30).

Major Finding, Suggestions and Conclusion

The profile of the fisher folk households showed that 62.64 % were from BPL families and 37.36% were APL families. The profile the fisher folk indicated that, 75.50% of the fisher folk belongs to OBC group while only 24.50% of fisher folk belongs to Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe. Analysis of age wise distribution of population data indicated that, majority of the fisher folk belonged to the age group between (16-30 & 31-60) age group, 13.80% were above 60 years, 14.76% falls under the age group of 16 years. The profile indicated that the population of the 1290 households was 5351. The males constituted 53.37% of the population and females constituted 46.63%. The sex ratio was estimated to be 0.87. The sex ratio is defined as the number of Female per 1000 males. Out of 1290 households, 91.01 % are from nuclear family rest 8.99% are joint family.



• Fish net checking and mending by fisherman of Alappuzha

The details about the level of education attained by the fisher folk population are also analyzed. It was found that majority of them were educated only up to primary levels i.e. (48.89 %), followed by secondary (37.42 %), graduates (10.50 %), professionals (1.30%) and illiterates (0.81%). The religion wise categorization showed that out of 1290 households, 48.99% were Hindu, 27.44% were Christians and the remaining 23.57% were Muslims. The housing pattern showed that majority of the fisher folks dwell in thatched houses (38.47%) against 29.88 % in tiled, 18.24 % in hut houses and the rest 13.41% in concrete houses. Analysis shows that 41.52 % of the households possess house with tile flooring, 24.42 % had

mud flooring and 16.67 % lived in cement flooring houses. The study revealed that among the 1290 households majority of them are electrified i.e. 78% and 21.63 % were not. The study found that 73.84% of the households have sanitation facilities like latrines and only in 26.16 % cases it was absent.

The details relating to the ownership was analyzed as part the study. Results showed that 83.26 percent of them possessed own land and 16.74 percent had no landed property. In the state as a whole, majority of the households, i.e., 40.16 % had landed property below five cents while 34.81 % had land below 10 cents, 21.47% of them possessed land below 20 cents. 3.57 % possessed above 50 cents. The information regarding occupational profile shows that fishing is the main vocation to 45.34 % of households; which is followed by fish vending (2.08), peeling (1.98%) and private jobs (23.23%). Very few people were going to *Thozhilurappu*, fish drying and other jobs. 24.40% were students and 2.10% were pensioners.



• Fishermen at Kollam District

In 1290 households, 99.46 % were traditional fisherman and 0.50% were from acquired Fisherman category. The details about the income status of fishermen families revealed that majority of them (51.86 %) earned income in the range of above Rs.10000/month, 29.84 % of them had income class in the range between Rs.5001-10000, 15.35 % were included in the range of Rs. 1501-10000/-. The per capita income of fisher folk was found to be Rs.2232/- The study revealed that out of the 1290 HHs, 40.78 % were indebted and other 59.22 % houses are not. The study found that the HHs were highly indebted. In the state wise analysis most of the fisher folk registered their name with various

fisheries agencies. Most of the fisher folk registered with Fisherman co-operative society (65.31%) and fishermen welfare fund board (34.69%). In the State as a whole, the most common consumer durable in the HHs was television (36.33%). About 32.12 % owned furniture. A few of them (1.34 %) had ownership of computer. 5.45 % had radio. The usage of computer by fisher folk is less when compared with other appliances. 17.23 % fisher folk households subscribed newspaper and 7.51% had fridge.

Government provides grants for buying fishing implements, land purchasing and house repairing. This study shows that mainly grant was provided for education and housing. For fishing implements total value provided was Rs.359697/-. From the surveyed districts total value provided for education was Rs 588029/-. From the 1290 households surveyed, 8.14 % youngsters are interested in fishing. Most number of persons engaged in fishing were from Calicut and Malappuram (25%), and lowest were from Kollam (4.13 %). 74.73 % respondents marketed the fishes directly and 25.27 % depended on intermediate parties for marketing. Fish famine, pollution and reclamation are the major problems affecting fishing. From this survey it is revealed that fish famine was the major problem affecting fishing i.e. (56.81%). Pollution was the second most affecting factor (19.54%) and another problem was reclamation. Reclamation was the major problem affecting the inland sector (23.56 %).



• Fishermen catch landed at Kollam

Among 1290 households, average expenditure of rice and wheat was found to be Rs. 7201.44/-. The average expenditure of fish was found to be Rs. 5815.71/- . From the above table the average expenditure of meat was Rs.6123.89/-. The average expenditure of tuber was Rs.2539.85/-. Out of 1290 houses examined the average amount spent for clothes

at the time of survey was Rs. 3574.49 /-. An average expenditure of Rs. 6986.88/- was spend on education .The average expenditure on housing was Rs.1737.45 /- .

Most of the infrastructure facilities like school, potable water, landing center, cold storage, telephone booth, roads, banks etc. are within the radius of 3 to 9 km range in most of the districts. Certain facilities like accessibility to Fisheries Department, Colleges, police station are not in convenient places. It can be concluded that there should be more infrastructure facilities like landing centres with high-tech facilities, ice plants, marketing centres nearby fishing villages to encourage fisher-folks to create better environment for their fishing activities.

Other Activities of the Centre

- One day training programmes was conducted for BFSc students under the University on “the methods of collecting Socio-economic data of fisheries in Kerala.
- Participated in a workshop on Econometrics and Data Analysis conducted by the St. Peters’ College Kolencherry on 21-23rd November 2019.
- Participated and presented an Article on AQUABE 2019 conducted by KUFOS which was held at Le meridian on 28-30 November 2019.
- Data entry of socio economic data for the year 2019-20 is continuing.