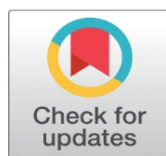
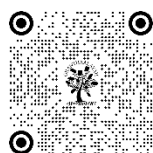


SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT OF COLACHEL FISHERFOLKS

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ABSTRACT

The Colachel fishing community in India faces financial struggles due to limited savings and borrowing. The community faces various demographic challenges, including gender, age, marital status, and family structure. To address these issues, government should enhance fish preservation, expand export markets, improve infrastructure, educate the community, and provide financial assistance.

Keywords: Foshersfolk, Savings Habit, Frequency of Savings, Borrowings, Loan, Development Strategy

1. INTRODUCTION

The Colachel fishermen's limited savings capacity is depends on their major income. Only small portion of their income is set aside for savings and spend the rest towards food and non-food products. The fishing community is considered the poorest, and the joint family size often results in them borrowing loans to meet their basic needs. This backward socio-economic condition leaves them struggling to meet their expenses.

2. SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT

Unless an increase in the general public's knowledge of science is seen as an important part of social progress in and of itself. As someone who has been working for a long time to make scientific literacy an important trait for every self-respecting citizen of India (and this world), Colachel fisher people would definitely put it at the top of the list of things that are important for social improvement.

UPLIFTMENT SCHEMES

The main plans to improve the lives of fishermen:

- Carrier guidance programmes

- Educational assistance for fishermen children for postmetric studies
- Adoption of children of diseased fisherman
- Adoption of children of diseased fisherman
- PSC, UPSC exam Coaching
- Bank Test Coaching
- Civil service exam coaching
- Medical entrance and coaching programmes
- Housing

SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT

According to the study, male fisher-folk dominate the fishing activity, while female fisher-folk care for their families. As a result, both the husband and wife must contribute equally to the upkeep of their family. It has been discovered that the majority of fishermen obtain drugs from a medical shop without consulting a doctor. People should be educated about the dangers of purchasing drugs from a medical store without first consulting a doctor. The fisherfolk live in thatched cottages, which are especially dangerous during heavy rain and storms. As a result, fishermen can begin to restore their homes.

Fishing is not a permanent career, and the money from fishing is sporadic, therefore the fishermen can employ him in another job to supplement his family's income. The government can assist fishermen by providing scholarships to children of fishermen, which encourages them to continue their education. The majorities of fisherfolks obtain loans by mortgaging their jewellery in a bank and are unable to return the amount owing to low income. As a result, the government can take steps to stop the interest on the mortgaged gems.

During the short season, the fisherfolk do not earn much money, making it difficult for him to support his family. As a result, the researcher proposes that he give up fishing during the short season and take on another temporary job to help him cope with the problems. Because fisherfolks like to save money at the post office and L.I.C., the interest rate on deposits should be increased to encourage fishermen to save more. Because the fisherfolks do not repay the loan amount in a timely manner, the bank may issue special offers and special discounts in order to enhance the thrift to pay the debts. The children can be placed in government schools, where they will receive not just an excellent education but also nutritious meals under the State Government's Mid-Day Meal Scheme, so that the youngsters can be healthier and study better. The government can assist the children of fishermen by providing scholarships to those who choose to further their education.

Low income is caused by insufficient fish productivity. As a result, the government must establish a "Fisheries Development Mission" with the goal of incentivizing fisheries output for increased local consumption and export in an environmentally sustainable manner. The state government, local municipal bodies, and revenue authorities must take the necessary and suitable measures to improve the living and working conditions of the fishermen in Kanyakumari District. The lack of timely weather forecast information while deep sea fishing endangers fishermen's lives, crafts, and gears, so the government should provide sophisticated devices like satellite mobile to know the weather information immediately while deep sea fishing to alert the fishermen to reach a safe place or take precautions.

The majority of respondents reported problems with protracted storage of fish during deep sea fishing, which diminishes the quality and nutritional content of fish and has an impact on the health of the fish-consuming community. Due to the government's continued stay in the sea for fishing for approximately 28 or 29 days, the government should establish a market centre in the sea by introducing mother ships to buy from fishermen who capture the fish and bring it to the land for quick sale. This way, the freshness and nutritional value of the fish will be preserved while saving fuel and maintenance costs.

The majority of fishermen believe that the operation of more automated vessels in the sea contributes to pollution through fuel leakage and the disposal of plastic garbage in the sea. This endangers the marine ecology. As a result, fishermen should respect the sea, which provides them with food, and ensure that the engine is in excellent working order to avoid fuel leaks, as well as have a dust bin in the craft to collect plastic garbage and dispose of it in the land where the waste is collected, given the potential need for fish meal products, one fish meal facility need to be established in the Colachel area.

Landing zones should have basic amenities such as sheds, cold storage, and refrigerated areas. A regulated marketing system should be implemented so that producer fishermen can earn a better price and consumers may buy fish at a reasonable price. In the current marine fish trade, retailers, who are mostly illiterate women, keep seafood even without

ice. This does not preserve the quality of the fish for a longer period of time. As a result, modern fish preservation facilities should be installed in market yards. The expansion of the export market would be critical in realising the benefits of technical improvement. The lack of an export market would discourage producers from adopting contemporary technologies, as fish prices in the home market would fall as production increased, unless domestic fish demand increased at a faster rate. The outcomes have also emphasised the necessity for value addition and product variety for domestic consumers

Infrastructure development for transportation, storage, and processing would be critical to competing in the international market, and would necessitate significant public and private sector expenditures. These initiatives must be backed up by sound fiscal and regulatory policies. Marine fish should be stored in a cooled and covered godown in Colachel with a large capacity. Due to the lack of these facilities, marine fish are destroyed and thrown out in the open, causing a slew of diseases to individuals who live in the surrounding areas. Due to insufficient transportation, there is no fresh fish accessible in potential markets located distance from the landing centres, and surplus fish at harbours is being delivered to fish meal facilities. Furthermore, it has been noticed that particular species, such as sardines and mackerels, are caught in enormous quantities throughout the fishing season, resulting in a surplus at producing centres. Quality fish with strong consumer preferences receive a higher share from fishermen than inexpensive types. They proposed the necessity for a quick and effective transportation system to increase fish marketing. To conserve the fish resources, the government should implement more control mechanisms. The government should take the necessary steps to educate the fishing community about the importance of safeguarding fish resources. The government should take steps to improve the social and economic situations of marine fishermen. Measures should be implemented to stimulate migration from the non-mechanized to the mechanised sectors. The government should take steps to assist marine fishermen with the purchase of expensive fishing equipment. It is imperative that the government take the necessary precautions to prevent other commercial vessels from entering the fishing grounds of marine fishermen.

The government ought to implement stringent regulations to combat the use of unscientific fish capturing practises. There ought to be procedures in place for the correct registration and licencing of fishing vessels, and these procedures ought to be made mandatory. The regulation of money lenders requires the implementation of mechanisms that will expeditiously provide financial assistance from banks. Building more infrastructure facilities should be done in order to improve the living conditions of the fishing population. This would, in turn, alleviate the strains and stresses that the fishing population is under in order for them to have a better life in the villages. The relevant authorities need to make sure that people have access to the most fundamental necessities of life, such as clean drinking water, adequate lighting on all of the city's streets, and consistent transportation options that include pucca link roads.

Making available positions of employment to fishermen and fisherwomen, during the lean season, this will allow them to decrease their borrowings, which will allow them to better weather the storm to reach a level of sufficiency with regard to the consumption expenditures. The government should increase the sum of Rs. 45/- per-household paid by the members of the fishery co-operatives, towards National Marine Fishermen Savings cum Relief Fund, to Rs. 100/- per household. This will help the fisher-folk families to some extent during the lean season to meet out their consumption expenditure. The government should take steps to disburse quickly, the same amount by at least in the beginning of the lean season (say, towards the end of the month of September).

Introduction of an insurance policy for the fishing crafts and gear will reduce the risk in handling the fishing implements by the owners of the crafts. The government should introduce new schemes for the fisher-folk to augment the fish catch by means of deep-sea fishing. Deep sea fishing is highly capital intensive and risk prone. In order to reduce the debt burden of the owners of fishing implements, the rate of interest on loans towards the purchase of fishing implements and conditions governing repayment of loans should be favourable to the fisher-folk. Only then more and more fishermen will come forward to buy, the mechanized fishing implements.

3. CONCLUSION

This article examines the savings and borrowing problems of Colachel's fisherfolk, focusing on their socio-economic status. With a large household size, they often struggle to meet their basic needs, leading to high interest rates on loans. The research reveals that Colachel fishermen's ability to save is limited due to their poor income, and only a small portion is set aside for food and non-food products.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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None

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