CHAPTER V

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS
INTRODUCTION:

The marine fishing industry has made significant contribution towards increased fish production over the past several decades. But the plight of the traditional fishermen has not improved consistent with the development in the fishing industry. So this study “SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF FISH WORKERS IN NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT” was undertaken with the specific objective of analysing the socio-economic conditions of fishermen and understanding the role of organisations engaged in their development. In this chapter the salient findings of the study are presented and suggestions offered based on those findings.

DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

Age and Sex:

Fishing is an unique and hazardous industry which requires the labour of both men and women. Men fish for more hours than women, as they do not usually involve in household works and women usually are involved in supporting roles. A majority of the respondents among the fish workers was male. However, there were many women among the fish workers. The survey revealed that the number of women have been increasing in fishing industry in recent years. This could be due to the implementation of Women Development Programmes and other schemes through Fisheries cooperatives. But, still the presence of women in fishing sector is insignificant as only 10 percent of the selected respondents are women. Fishing involves a variety of fishing process, and social democration of the fishing people plays an important role in deciding the nature and type of fishing works to be attended to. Young fishermen can put in more hard work than old people. Generally, children and old people attend to various preparatory works related to fishing. Majority of the
respondents among the fish workers was male. However, there were many women among the fish workers. The survey revealed that the number of women have been increasing in fishing industry in recent years. This could be due to the implementation of Women Development Programmes and other schemes through Fisheries cooperatives. But, still the presence of women in fishing sector is insignificant as only 10 percent of the selected respondents are women.

Fishing involves a variety of fishing process, and social democration of the fishing people plays an important role in deciding the nature and type of fishing works to be attended to. Young fishermen can put in more hard work than elders. Generally, children and old people attend to various preparatory works related to fishing. For example the technical manipulation of the fishing crafts was attended to by old men. Young and middle age women attend to shore work viz., grading, processing, curing, dry fish and selling. Hence the respondents have been classified according to their age. 43 percent belonged to the middle-aged group and this trend is irrespective of gender.

SOCIAL INDICATOR:

Language:

The mother tongue of fish workers in Tamil Nadu is, generally, Tamil. But, they sometimes stray into neighbouring states like Kerala, Andhra and sometimes into waters of neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka. So knowledge of English, Telugu and Malayalam may help them to extricate out in difficult situations. 96.3 of the respondents know only Tamil. Those who can understand English constitute only 3.7 percent.

Education:

The necessity of education for fishermen needs no emphasis, because the level of education, influences the awareness of the fishermen regarding modern fishing
techniques, new technologies and modern fishing crafts, and helps them to gain
knowledge on the quality, fish processing, cold storage, export and local marketing
view etc. The wide-spread illiteracy among fish workers is evident from the fact that
71.3 percent of the fish workers are illiterate which is well above the national
average. There is not much difference between women and men as far as level of
education is concerned. The percentage of fish workers studied upto primary level
and secondary level being 16.2 and 12.7 respectively.

Caste and Religion:

Caste and religion play a vital role in the community life of the fishermen. The
majority of fishermen are Hindus in the Nagapattinam coast. A majority of the
fishermen belongs to the Pattinavar community. Some of the fish workers belong to
the Parthavars. The fishermen normally do not encourage inter-caste and inter-
religious marriages. The Parathavar and Pattinavar are the two major communities
in Nagapattinam district. The fisher people come under the Most Back Ward Class
(MBC). All the respondents belonging to the Hindu religion. In Nagapattinam District
the fishworkers were not exposed to other religions. This may be due to strict
community control.

Marital Status:

Rarely intercaste marriages take place in the coastal villages and most of the
marriages are arranged by the elders who get the horoscopes of the boy and look for
match with those of the girls and vice versa and those found suited to each other are
married in the presence of their parents, relatives and friends. Intercaste and inter-
religious marriages are not favoured by fisher folk. 98.6 percent of respondents were
married and the percentage of those who had not entered into wed-lock was only 1.4 percent. While all the women folk engaged in fishing were married, only 4 out of 203 male fish workers were not married. Marriage as an institution is highly esteemed by fish workers.

Family Size:

The frequency distribution in the case of family-size indicates concentrations in the size group of 2-4 and family size of fish workers are important factors as they greatly contribute to increasing the family income. As most of the unmarried fisher women are dependent members of the family, their involvement in fish processing will increase the income of family of group of 4 – 8 as they constitute 65 percent of the total respondents. Small families (Below 2 constitute 36 percent and big families (Above 8) constitute 30 percent of the total households.

Social Participation:

Social participation of an individual refers to holding positions in various formal and non-formal social organizations such as Co-operatives, Panchayat Raj institutions, traditional village Panchayats, political parties, NGO’s, Religious Organizations, Caste Organizations, Youth Clubs, Mahila Mandaals, Self Help Groups, Educational Institutions, Government bodies and other non-formal organizations. It is interesting to note that a high percentage of respondents have involved themselves with some social organisation. The percentage of participation is 96 and the participation is slightly higher in case of male fish workers than female fish workers. But the duration of participation concentrated around 6 – 10 years and 11 – 16 years and respective percentages being 37.8 and 39.6. The level of participation
revealed that only 5 percent occupied leadership positions and the rest 95 percent remained only as members. The social participation as a whole is mainly confined only to traditional Panchayats and Co-operatives. This reveals a marked reluctance on the part of fish workers to join the social mainstream.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

Occupation

Fishing has been considered as one of the oldest occupations. Perhaps it is as old as mankind. It provides a source of livelihood to the poorer section of society. The fish is the only livelihood source of fishing community. The sole economic activity of households of fishing community is fishing. Salaried employment, agriculture, etc., form the secondary source of employment. The male workers predominantly participate in fishing and to a negligible extent in fish trade. Some people are engaged in non-fishing activities. Though most of the women folk attend to marketing activities of fish. The respondents who have been involved in fishing related occupations was 94 percent. The fishworkers moving into other occupations did not happen, demonstrated the backwardness of the community.

Fishing days:

Another variable that represents the economic status of the Fishing household is the asset structure. As against 200 normal fishing days per annum for the mechanized boats, fiber boats, gill net boats for catamaran, the actual number of fishing days is estimated on an average at 180 days. An analysis of fishing days i.e. number of days they fish, shows that a high percentage of fishworkers get work for only 10-15 days and the percentage of fishworkers who fall in the range of 16-20 days and 21-25 days being 16.3 and 30 respectively. The fishermen who use catamaran
have more number of working days as they catch fish only in shalow waters and they work for 26-30 days per month and their percentage being 22.7 percent.

**Seasonwise Fish Catch:**

The fish workers of traditional catamaran, mechanized boats and fiber boats are usually get important varieties of fish in limited quantities in certain seasons only. A further look at the data also revealed that the quantity of fish catch season wise from April to March. The high 96 percent of respondents reported very low fish catch during in April – June season as only 0 –15 Kg of fish was caught compared to other season. But in the month July – September, October – December and January – March seasons are slightly different the fish catch in the region of 0.25 Kg. seemed to be standard catch for majority of fish workers.

**Wage System of Labourers:**

The wage system has been divided into two categories. One is daily wage called as bata” i.e. Rs.40. per day second is monthly wage called as “share” i.e. Rs. 1000 per month. Most of the fish workers are working for daily wages and the percentage of fish workers who are working for monthly wages is very low. The above analysis shows that a high percentage of respondents are working for daily wages and the percentage being 95.8 and percentage of respondents working for monthly wages is 4.2 which is very low comparatively.

**Marketing:**

The fishermen are marketing their catches either individually or through their agents – normally the fishes are auctioned at the landing centers where the agent of marine food processing companies compete and the highest bidder collects them. The private marine food processing companies also advance certain amount to the boat
owners with the stipulation that they shall catch them directly and not through intermediaries of any kind.

The fish workers have various channels for marketing the fish themselves in the sea shore auction by Fishermen cooperative and export agency. Fish marketing through seashore auction is 56.7 percentage and through export agency is 43.3 percentage. Similarly in the modes of marketing fish, Van, Train and Cycle are involved. According to the respondents by van 54.7, by train 43 and by cycle 2.3 percentages the catches are marketed.

Annual Employment :

In the traditional fishing sector, in fact, there are millions of subsistence fish workers, without enough work. It is not clear how the introduction of mechanized boats and most sophisticated equipped trawlers provide work to all of them. The fishermen’s daily income depends upon his day’s catch and therefore there will no uniformity of income earned. Normally, it ranges from Rs 100 – 150 a day in the peak season and Rs. 30-50 on normal days. His daily living expenses depends on the size of his family and on his income.

Income:

Generally fish workers do not earn standardised income from fishing. The level of per-capita income of labour fish workers group differed considerably. The respondents who earned in the range of up to Rs. 0-25, was 76.3 and between Rs. 26.50 was 22.3 percent and between Rs. 51-100 income was 1.4 percent. Similarly, labour group fish workers who earned an annual income of Rs. 0-9000 was 74.4 percent, between Rs. 9001-18000 was 22.2 percent and between Rs. 18001-36000
was 3.4 percent. Nearly 90 percent of the fishworker's income fell below the international poverty line of 1 day. Only 3.4 percent earned in the region of Rs. 18,001 to Rs. 36,000.

**Assets:**

**Houses**

In general, the type of houses, space occupied and material used depend on the economic conditions of the fishermen. Majority of the dwellings are built in a haphazard manner and overcrowded. The plinth area of each house ranged from 100 sq.ft., to 500 sq.ft. Some are rectangular while had one or two rooms. Very few houses had more than two rooms.

**Fishing crafts**

The main types of fishing crafts found in Nagapattinam district are mechanized boats, Gillnet boats, Fiber boats and catamarans. Generally, the cost of the boat depends primarily on the type of engine fitted to the boat and varies from Rs. 20000 to Rs. 400000 according to the size of crafts. The various types of engine fitted to the mechanized boats are Ashok Leyland in varies horsepower. Gillnet boat engine fitted Ruston; Leyland and engine fitted to the fiber boats are HUDS engines and Lembordini engines. and Gill net boats. Fibre boats, Cattamarans and trawing boat are using for fishing.

**BORROWINGS**

Cooperatives followed by commercial bank are the sources of borrowings of respondents. But whereas it is commercial bank and non-institutional highly sources are the major sources of owner respondents. Friends, money lenders
and commercial Banks accounted for majority of the borrowings i.e. 73.3 percent. Cooperatives only accounted for only 10.3 percent of the borrowings.

Expenditure:

The main purpose of this expenditure assessment is to analyze the emerging pattern of consumption and levels of living conditions of traditional fish workers. Expenditure pattern revealed that food items accounted for a major share of the total income of the fishing householders. Food items included cereals, Oil, Sugar, Coffee, Vegetables etc. The amount spent on cloth, recreation and other amenities was not much. They have also incurred expenses on medicine and intoxicants.

COOPERATIVE INDICATORS:

There is no significant difference in the duration of membership among membership of fishermen cooperatives and fisher women cooperatives in coastal villages. The benefits derived from cooperatives were restricted to certain areas such as insurance, savings cum relief fund and P.D.S. and the members who utilized service like credit for purchase of Nets, Catamatran and Fibre Glass Boat were almost negligible. Economic participation is measured in terms of participation in share capital and availing service from cooperatives. It is evident that level of economic participation was insignificant in fisheries co-operatives. The percentage of high participation was NIL, while moderate and low participation percentages being 23.3 and 77.7.

Coastal Pollution:

Growing industrialisation, population explosion and destruction of mangroves are major factors responsible for environmental pollution. The disposal of anthropogenic wastes in the neighboring streams and rivers, cause many health
hazards. This plays an alarming role in raising the levels of toxic metals in our biosphere. With problems created by the discharge of heavy metallic toxicants are of great concern in the management of marine and estuarine Eco system. The perception of pollution of sea coast and water was high among the respondents. 85.3 percent of the respondents felt that the sea is polluted.

**Infrastructure in Fishing Villages**

Infrastructure facilities of fishing fishermen villages was quite inadequate; majority of people are suffering from drinking water scarcity, a poor road facility, lack of Health, lack of electricity etc., Drinking water scarcity has been major problem in almost all the villages on the coast.

**Family Planning**

In the early periods fisher people knew not about family planning and control. This condition of fisher folks have led to raising of family members but now a days, the younger fisher people know about family planning. By this research, we know that the younger respondents of the fishery community are much aware of the family Planing. The majority of the fish workers i.e., 65.3 percent have not undergone family planning operation.

**STRUCTURE OF FISHERY CO-OPERATIVES IN INDIA:**

The Structures of Fisheries Co-operatives in the marine states are comparatively strong. At the national level there is the National Federation of Fishermen’s Co-operatives Ltd., (FISHCOFED) which came into being only in the year 1980 and started its functions in the year 1981. The membership of the Federation is open to State and Regional or District level Federations. The Government of India and National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC)
are also members of National Federation. One of the important services rendered by
the FISHCOFED is the Accident Insurance to Fishermen, which has so far covered 6
million fishermen. At the State level there are State level Federations. There were 17
State Level Federations. One each in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat,
Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan,
Tripura, uttar Pradesh, West bengal. Andaman & Nicobar, Pondicherry and Tamil
Nadu. At the Central and Regional level there were 108 Fisheries Federations, at the
Primary level there were more than 12,427 Co-operatives of all types of Fisheries Co­
operatives (both marine and inland) with 1.938 million membership. In Tamil Nadu
State, there were 701 Primary Fisheries Co-operatives (Marine 456, Inland 245), 5
Prawn Farming Societies, 16 Fish Marketing Societies, 182 Fisher Women Co­
operatives, 10 District Fishery Co-operative Federations and 1 State Level Federation.

National Federation of Fishermen’s Co-operatives;

National Federation of Fishermen’s co-operative Ltd (FISHCOFED) began
functioning in 1982. It’s goal is to facilitate the functioning of Fishing industry in
India through co-operatives. Within a short period of its active functioning,
FISHCOFED entered in a number of activities, both business and promotional,
including organizing conferences, supporting training initiatives, facilitating
exchanges, demonstrating new technologies, introducing marketing techniques,
liasoning with member organizations and providing health care and insurance to fisher
folk


PERFORMANCE OF FISHERMEN CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

At the National level there were 9096 Fishermen’s Co-operative Societies with a membership of 1234246, share capital of Rs.3465 crores, working capital of Rs.13,698 crores and sales turnover of Rs.10,921 crores. While in membership and in number of societies Andhra Pradesh tops the list, in working capital and business turnover Karnataka and Maharashtra were far ahead. While compared to other marine states the performance of Fishermen’s Co-operatives was very poor in Tamilnadu.

TAMIL NADU STATE APEX FISHERY CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION (TAFCOFED)

Tamilnadu State Apex Fishery Co-operative Federation was established and started functioning from 19.10.1992 and was registered under the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Societies Act, 1983. At present, 539 fishery co-operatives joined as members with 41570 fisher folk individual members and 9 district Fishery co-operative Federations also has become member of TAFCOFED. The main aim of this TAFCOFED is to improving socio-economic conditions and life status of traditional fisher folk of Tamil Nadu. At present, TAFCOFED is executing a project namely, Integrated Marine Fisheries Development Project under the financial assistance from National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC).

FISHERIES COOPERATIVES IN NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT:

Nagapattinam District has nearly 200 kms. of coastline. The five coastal taluks namely, Sirkali, Tranquebar, Nagapattinam, Kilvelur and Vedaranyam has covered 54 fishermen villages along with 1.5 lakh fish workers. In the Nagapattinam District 73 fishermen and fisher women societies have been functioning with 40118 members. But only 10 societies has been selected for this research. Only 3 fisher women Co-
operative Societies out of 10 Fishery Co-operatives and another 7 from 63 Fishermen Co-operative Societies were selected.

In the study area, most of the fishermen villages have no basic infrastructure facilities like electricity, water supply, link roads, fish marketing facilities, transportation and good medical facilities. It has a unique geographical location. All these sample villages have been located in the belt of Coramandal Coast of Bay of Bengal.

PERFORMANCE OF MADATHUKUPPAM FISHERMEN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.

The Madathukuppam Fishermen Village comes under Sirkali Taluk and Sirkali Block. The Madathu Kuppam Village has a population 650 people in 126 houses. The society has 300 members with the Share Capital of Rs.6,000. This village is located 19 kms. away from Sirkali. Most of the fishermen in the village have Cattamarans and some fishermen have fibre boats with out board motors.

The number of members has increased from 120 in the year 1991-92 to 300 in the year 2000-2001, recording an increase of 180 members during a span of ten years. Similarly, the share capital has gone up from Rs.2400 to Rs.6000, Reserve Fund has gone up from Rs.400 to Rs.6500 working capital has gone up from Rs.11,500/- to Rs.20,500/- during the same period. The financial to indicators have shown positive trend, but the level and extent of improvement has not been rosy.

Business turn over of the Madathukuppam Primary Fishermen Co-operative Society has increased from Rs.1,20,000 in the year 1991-92 to 2,25,000 in the year 2000-2001, recording an increase of Rs.1,05,000 during a period of ten years. Similarly, their net profit has increased from Rs.1,300 in the year 1996-97 to Rs.6,300
in the year 2000-2001, recording an increase during as past of 5 years. We can see from this table that during 1991-92 to 1995-96 society has not earned profit. It has operated on loss.

**PERFORMANCE OF VANAGIRI FISHERMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD:**

The Vanagiri fishermen Co-operative Society comes under the Sirkali Taluk and Sirkali block. This society was started in the year 01-02-1952. The Vanagiri village has a population of 3200 people in 535 houses. The society has 1826 members. This village is located 25 kms. away from Sirkali. Most of the fishermen in this village has Cattamarans and fibre boats. 55 mechanical boats are there. The mechanised boats anchor are not here. All mechanized boats owners and their family members are migrated to Jagathapattinam of Pudukottai District purposively. Water, medical and electricity facility scarcity are prevailing in this area.

The number of members has increased from 450 in the year 1991-92 to 1826 in the year 2000-2001 recording an increase of 1376 members during a span of ten years. Similarly, both the share capital and working capital has increased. Share capital has increased from Rs.33,000/- in the year 1991-92 to Rs.60,520 in the year 2000-2001 and working capital has increased from Rs.33,000/- in the year 1991-92 to Rs.80,520 in the year 2000-2001.

The business turn over of the Vanagiri fishermen Co-operative Society has increased from Rs.4,00,000 in the year 1991-92 to Rs.10,25,000 in the year 2000-2001, recording an increase of Rs.6,25,000 during a span of ten years. The society has functioned in loss from the year 1991-92 to 1997-98. The Society has functioned
in profit in the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and the amount of profit was Rs.25,000, Rs.25,500 and Rs.25,600 respectively.

PERFORMANCE OF CHINNANGUDI FISHERMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD:

The Chinnangudi fishermen village has both men and women Co-operative societies. This village comes under the Tranquebar Revenue Taluk and Sembanar Koil Block. The Chinnangudi village is located 12 kms away from Tranquebar. This village has a population of 3275 people and 520 hamlets. The Chinnangudi Fishermen Co-operative Society was started in the year 29.11.1958. The society has 1017 members. The Chinnangudi Fisher Women Co-operative Society was started in the year 1996. The society had only 60 members. While it was started, but now it has 105 members. In this village most of the fishermen had been traditional fishing crafts, water scarcity is most important problem alongwith medicare, electricity, transport.

GROWTH OF FINANCIAL INDICATORS OF THE CHINNANGUDI SOCIETY

The number of members has heave increased from 598 in the year 1991-92 to 1017 in the year 2000-2001, recording an increase of 419 members during a span of ten years. Similarly, both the share capital and working capital has increased. Share capital has increased from Rs.36,960 in the year 1991-92 to Rs.45,340 in the year 2000-2001 and working capital has increased from Rs.46,170 in the year 1991-92 to Rs.72,840 in the year 2000-2001. The every indicators of financial growth has increased gradually.

The business turn over of the Chinnangudi Fishermen society has increased from Rs.2,40,000 in the year 1991-92 to Rs.4,10,000 in the year 2000-2001 and it has compound growth rate of Rs.13,400 per year. Similarly, net profit was Rs.13,200 in
the year 1991-92 and Rs.26,600 in the year 2000-2001, it has compound growth rate of Rs.1,004. It is well known that this society has gradually increased their turnover and net profit earning year after year.

Financial position of the Chinnangudi fisher women society. It shows that the number of members and share capital has increased from 60 and share capital Rs.1,200 in the year 1996-97 to 105 and share capital Rs.2,100 in the year 2000-2001.

PERFORMANCE OF THALAMPETTAI FISHERMAN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.: Thalampettai fishermen village comes under the Tranquebar Revenue Taluk and Chembanarkoil Punchayat Block. The Thalampettai Fishermen Co-operative Society was started in the year 15.11.1985. This society got Cattumara loans and outboard engine loans from TAFCOFED and to give loans to their them members. This village is located 5 kms. away from Tranquebar. The Thalampettai village has a population 1625 and 82 hamlets. Most of the fishermen in this village having only cattamarans. This village people suffering out of education facility, electricity, transport, water, road and health care etc. Basic needs are not available to this village people. They are socioally -economically, educationaly and politically living in very much backward position.

The number of members, share Rs.2,600 and working capital in the year 1991-92 was 130 capital Rs.2,600 and 14,800 Respectively. It has have been raised, as such number of members 205, share capital of Rs.4100 and working capital Rs.25,600 in the year 2000-2001. The compound growth rate of this analysis, contains number of members 7.28, share capital of Rs.145.50 and working capital of
Rs.1,129.60. The growth and development of Thalampatty Society is shown in the above table.

The business turn over Rs.1,56,000 in the year 1991-92. The business turn over increased to Rs.1,75,000/- in the year 2000-2001. We can realised that business turn over raised an amount of Rs.19,000/- between 10 year study period of the society. Similarly, net profit was Rs.8,800 in the year 1991-92. The net profit increased to Rs.19,800 in the year 2000-2001 from Rs.8,800. We can found that the net profit raised amount in between 10 years research period of the society.

Above table shows the growth of business indications of Thalampettai Fishermen Cooperative Society. The sales turnover of this society increased from Rs. 1.56 lakhs in 1991-92 to Rs. 1.75 Lakhs in 2000-2001.

PERFORMANCE OF NAGORE FISHER WOMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD:

The Nagore village comes under purview of the Nagapattinam Taluk and Nagapattinam Municipal area. Nagore Fishermen Co-operative Society was established in the year 21.06.2000 with 10 members. Now it has 178 members. The village at located in 7 Kms away from Nagapattinam. The Nagore village has 695 hamlets and populaion 4000 people. In this village, 75% are having traditional fishing crafts, another 25% had mechanized and grill net boats. Water, Electricity and health facilities are the major problems in this area.

Nagore Fisher women Co-operative society had 100 members with the share capital of Rs.2,000 in the year 1999-2001. It shows a considerable rise in its members of 178 with the share capital of Rs.3,560 in the year 2000-2001.
PERFORMANCE OF AKKARAIPETTAI FISHERMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.:

The Akkaraipettai village comes under the purview of Nagapattinam Taluk and Nagapattinam block. This is a biggest village with larger population. It is located 1 km away from Nagapattinam. This village was an army godown during the ancient Cholas period. This village had 1235 hamlets with the population of 10845 people. This village had 249 trawlines boats, 65 fibre boats and out board engine Cattamarans. This is one of the biggest fish landing centre in Tamil Nadu. The Akkaraipettai Fishermen Co-operative Society was established in the year 20.01.1951. Now this society had 3945 members. A cute Water scarcity is a crucial problem of this village.

The membership of the society was 1936 with the share capital of Rs.63,720. If the shows a considerable rise in its members year by year. During the year 2000-2001, the membership and share capital was 3845 and Rs. 1.01 lakh. Similarly, the working capital was Rs.86,560 during the year 1991-92 and it has been increased to Rs.1.38.500. During the year 2000-2001 the G.G.R. of share capital and working ranges between Rs. 4828.80 and Rs. 6402.80.

Business turn over of Rs.6.5 Lakhs and net profit of Rs.0.37 lakhs during the year 1991-92. This shows considerable rise in its turn over and net profit year by year. During the year 2000-2001, turn over of Rs.12.00 Lakhs and net profit of Rs.0.84 Lakhs. The average growth rate of turn over Rs. .38Lakhs and net profit Rs. .02 Lakhs respectively.

PERFORMANCE OF VEILANKANNI FISHERNEM COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.:
The Veilankanni village comes under the Kilvelur Taluk and Veilankanni Township control. The Veilankanni is one of the important pilgrimage centers in Tamil Nadu. It is located 20 kms. from Kilvelur and 13 Kms. from Nagapattinam.

The Veilankanni Fishermen Co-operative Society was established in 14.10.1957. Now this society had 425 members. Most of the people living in this village depend upon the tourists of the Veilankanni for income source through sales of some handicraft goods and food items. Veilankanni had been 187 hamlets and 215 fishermen families. The entire fisher people having only traditional fishing crafts like Cattamarans. There is no any trawlers. In this area environment pollution and insufficient health care is major problem.

Members of 355 with the share capital of Rs.7,100 and working capital of Rs.23,300 during the year 1991-92. This shows considerable increase in membership, share capital and working capital. During the year 2000-2001, members increased to 425 with share capital of Rs.8500/- and working capital Rs.30,800. The average growth rate of share capital was Rs.108 and working capital of Rs.1,152.

Business turn over of Rs.3.00 Lakhs and net profit of Rs.0.11 lakhs during the year 1991-92. There is gradual increase every year. During the year 2000-2001, business turn over was of Rs.3.50 lakhs and Net Profit of Rs.15 lakhs. The average growth rate of turn over has Rs.3,400 and net profit of Rs.148.

**PERFORMANCE OF SERUTHUR FISHERMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.:**

The Seruthur village comes under the Kilvelur Taluk and Kalaiyur Block control. This village is located 21 kms. from Kilvelur and 14 kms. from Nagapattinam. The Seruthur Sea Fishermen Co-operative Society was established in
the year 14.10.1957. This Co-operative society had 800 members. The Seruthur village formed with 483 houses and 540 families. This village having 45 trawling boats and 100 fibre boats and cattamarans with out board machine. Now, the younger generation of this village, going on education development. At the same time, this village produced 217 child labours in the age group of 10-17. This village is not having administrative team in village level. Thus, this village administrative regulation also affected. The sea erosion is most crucial problem. Village peoples are suffering by this problem. More than 50 houses was demolished by sea erosion.

Members of 400 with share capital of Rs.33,000 and working capital Rs.33,000 during the year 1991-92. The growth of its membership and share capital very muchless. During the year 2000-2001 there were 800 members with the share of Rs.41,000 and working capital of Rs.65,500. The average growth rate of share capital was Rs.1,056 and working capital of Rs.4,686.

Business turn over of Rs.3.60 lakhs in the year 1991-92. It shows upward trend. During the year 2000-2001 the business turn over was of Rs.5.25 Lakhs. This society functioning under loss from the year 1991-92 to 1996-97. This its profit slightly raised from the year 1997-98 to 2000-2001.

PERFORMANCE OF ARCATTUTHURAI FISHER WOMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.:

The Arcattuthurai village comes under the Vedaranyam Taluk and Block control. It is located in 10 kms. from Vedaranyam. The Arcattuthurai Fisher Women Co-operative Society was established in the year 1996 with 105 women members.
This village has 650 hamlets with 5000 people under the good administration at the Panchayat level. The Arcattuthurai 500 years is 50 years old one.

This village had 200 unmechanised and 100 mechanised cattamarans and 200 trawling boats. Also this village had 130 colony houses. Water, transport and health care is not good. Culturally this village is very backward. They are living with very ancient culture as Adhivasi. Educationally this village people most backward. Thus, some people are being exploited and cheated by others.

Membership of 105 during the year 1995-96 with the share capital of Rs.2100. This shows a considerable rise in its members year by year. In the year 2000-2001, the share capital comes to arrive at five times with that of the initial share capital.

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE PROMOTION OF FISHERY COMMUNITY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The Government in the past has been strongly focused on increasing fish production. Government support for motorization of the fishing fleet began in the 1970s. This allowed vessels to fish further off shore and this increased the quantity of fish loaded and the range of species. The various national and state based agencies and departments associate with support for the supply side of the sector.

The department is the key Government body responsible for formulation of policy and plans and for ensuring their implementation. The administration of the sector is done through six regions each with a Deputy Director responsible to the commissioner. The department also operates a state project unit, which is responsible for the implementation of World Bank project support. The department provides direct support in the expansion of supply from the both capture and culture fisheries. It
monitors and promotes improved management of the resources and actively promotes the involvement of small-scale and poorer participants in the sector.

Over time there have been numerous changes in the identity and the responsibilities of some institutions. Only those that are currently functional are listed below in Indian Fisheries:

1. National Apex Fishermen Co-operative federation (FISCOFED)
2. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)
3. Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT)
4. CENTRAL institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE)
5. Integrated Fisheries Project (IFP)
6. Marine products export Development Authority (MPEDA)
7. Fishery Survey of India (FSI)

POLICIES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES IN INDIA

I. INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES:
The river mouth and creeks which are open to the sea and which are being used for navigation by both artisan and mechanized sectors get closed due to the formation of sand bars, periodically, due to reduced outflow. These mouths need to be kept open by periodical dredging or by manual removal of sand with participation of Fishermen. Fisheries wealth is a potential source with promising future for generation of food and employment. The condition of the existing fishing harbors have to be improved with proper lights, roads, toilets, parking facilities, and water supply. Dredging of the navigational approach channel to the existing fishing harbors may also be taken up. Due care has to be taken up to maintain the existing fishing
harbors in a hygienic condition far from pollution. The responsibility for the management of small and minor fishing harbors may be vested with a “Fisheries terminal organization” to be formed by the state Fisheries Department.

All Fishing harbors with have to be developed with adequate and effective infrastructure to extend all services for which handling, preservation and movement of Fish, maintaining hygiene and sanitation etc. service charged will have to be collected from users of Fishing harbors live crafts owners, traders, transport operators, and other facility users. The list would cover all maintenance operations including dredging. These changed should be revised periodically so as to realize necessary revenues to meet maintenance charges at least on a “no profit no loss” basis for each year.

Fisheries In Tamilndu State:

TamilNadu’s share in India’s fish production during 1992-93 was 9.3% of the total production; 11.9% in the case of marine and 5.5% for inland, which was far below the levels of 15.2% (total), (15.6% marine and 14.5% inland), in 1984-85. In the case of marine fisheries, Tamilnadu has been trailing behind Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra.

TYPES OF WELFARE SCHEMES OF GOVERNMENT:

1. Saving cum Relief Scheme

Fishermen in general are not in the habit of saving for the rainy days and they tend to spend all they earn during good fishing season and borrow heavily during the lean seasons. To alleviate the hardship caused in the year i.e., three months in which there are unable to receive a regular income from their occupation either due to inclement climate condition or on account of depletion of fishstocks. The Government have created a fund named “Tamil Nadu Marine Fisheries Saving Cum
Relief fund" in which the sum of Rs.240/- comprising the marine fishermen subscription and the State and central Government matching contribution is distributed to the subscriber marine fishermen at the rate of Rs.80/- per month during the three lean months. This scheme is in force from 01.06.1988. The scheme was implementing in all coastal districts. The Saving-Cum-Relief amount allotted was Rs.1183.53 lakhs for the year 1998-99 and 167045 Fishermen benefited from it.

2. Districtwise Diesel subsidy for the year 2001

Diesel subsidy was provide only for three districts out of the total of 13 coastal districts. The amount sanctioned to the Chennai district was Rs 1893125 and there were 184 beneficiaries, the amount sanctioned to the Nagapattinam district was Rs.4627296 and there were 1112 beneficiaries and the amount sanctioned to the Tuticorin district was Rs.2768721 and there were 425 beneficiaries. The Nagapattinam district fishermen got more diesel subsidy and more number of beneficiaries than Chennai and Tuticorin district.

3. Supply of Out board Motors and Inboard Engines under Centrally Sponsored Scheme Shared Equally Between State and Centre

Out Board motors and in Board Engines were distributed to the fishermen under the centrally sponsored scheme. Under this scheme 400 Engines were allotted and value being Rs.30 lakhs. 259 Engines were distributed for the year 1991-92. Thus the number of Engines and motors were sanctioned and distributed showed an increasing trend.

4. Fishermen Group Accident Insurance Scheme
A total of 166312 members were covered by insurance and insurance claims settled amounted to Rs.16,2500 to the 122 members in the year 1991-92. Thus every year insurance coverage and claims settled increased. Similarly, 292000 members were covered by insurance and insurance amount settled was Rs.11245000 to the 390 members.

5. Districtwise Free Houses for Fishermen upto 2001

To Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts 8355 free houses were sanctioned, but 6263 houses were only constructed and in the Nagapattinam district 6425 houses were sanctioned, but 5074 houses were constructed, and in Kanniyakumari district 5800 houses were sanctioned, but only 5467 houses were constructed. However Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts occupied the first place in the free house scheme implementation. The Nagapattinam district occupied second place and Kanniyakumari district got third place.

6. Fishermen Training Centers

The special training programmes were organised for fishermen. The district wise traninees being Chennai 1299, Cudalore 1455, Nagai 1798, Ramanathapuram 1581, Thuthukudi 2187 and Kanyakumari 1610.

Cyclone Shelters

15 cyclone shelters were constructed in Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur districts, 20 shelters were constructed in Cuddalore and Villupuram districts, 30 shelters were constructed in Nagapattinam, Thiruvurur & Thanjavur Districts, 27 shelters were constructed in Ramanathapuram District, and 24 shelters were constructed in Pudhukottai District. We can find, from this table cyclone shelters
were constructed in a coastal districts. But 13 coasted district are located in the Tamilnadu state and Shelters were not constructed in anther four districts.

ROLL OF NGGS IN THE PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC CONDITION OF FISHWORKERS

Working Area of Organisation

There were 4 NGOs involved with fish workers were two NGOs working at district level, one at Statelevel and last one at Taluk level. Tranquebar Taluk NGO namely ROSA, SNEHA had been working in Nagapattinam and Karaikal districts, Avvai at Nagapattinam and Thiruvarur Districts and NEITHAL at State level.

Financial Sources of Organisations

Avvai NGO was also involved in women’s development scheme of Tamilnadu government. Among the four NGO’s, Avvai has getting Rs.30 lakhs, followed by SNEHA Rs.28 lakhs. But SNEHA have been involved like sustainable rights, Environment protection, and Economic upliftment of fisher people.

Particulars of SHGs and Credit

187 SHGs formed by SNEHA with 3327 members has Rs.2870850 as savings Rs. 972000 as credit, Rs.13,50,000 as subsidy. Rs.530000 was maintained as Revolving Fund. 75 SHGs were formed by ROSA with 1275 members and with Rs. 63750 as savings and the SHGs have not received any Government or banking assistance. 100 SHG formed by AVVAI with 1862 members and Rs. 186200 Savings amount. Rs.510000 was the Credit provided and Rs. 750000 was subsidy, and Rs. 450000 was revolving fund.
SUGGESTIONS:

I. Living conditions and standard of living in the fishery villages do not give a rosy picture. Improvements in the quality of life are far from satisfactory. General infrastructure has increased to a certain extent in the fishery villages; but it is more the result of the development efforts of the State rather than due to increase in earnings from fishing. Fisherwomen are still unable to enjoy the status and role expected of them in the society and the family. Modernisation has resulted in a shared ownership-pattern which ensures the majority the chances for work and a share of the income. Total investments in craft and gear have increased substantially with the participation of greater number of workers in the process. However, increased investments have only contributed to helping the workers to survive in the sector. It is difficult to find a fishing family that has not debts. There has been no major change in the borrowing patterns. Borrowings remain a significant burden to the borrowers. For the vast majority of fishermen, motorisation and the accompanying developments have been only a means for survival. State intervention and support requires to be continued for making the sector more self-reliant.

II. Sustainable development is a multifaced concept including biological, human and technological dimensions. Fish being a renewable resource, biologically, it would mean that the rate at which the resources are harvested should be in harmony with the rate at which they multiply. Humanly it means that principles of equity and basic needs get a high priority. Technologically it implies, using means that
augment rather than displace human skills, utilise renewable energy resources and methods which are environmentally appropriate and less destructive. From the organizational and employment points of view, the policy of increased people's participation and decentralization of investments and planning will offer added impetus. This kind of development will improve the socio-economic condition of the traditional fisherfolk.

III. Improving the socio-economic-condition of the traditional fisherfolk means to guarantee their present employment. They should not be displaced due to development. The need to restrict the right of ownership of fishing assets only to those who are willing to fish. With one stroke the breed of absentee fishermen will be pushed out. This will significantly reduce the excessive fishing effort-particularly by trawlers and the salutary effect of this will go a long way to enhance the ecologist productivity of the active fishermen.

IV. The entire territorial waters must be exclusively kept for the use of only traditional fisherfolk. The necessary legal protection must be ensured. Granting the rights and responsibilities of management of fishery resources in this area to such a community of owner-workers fishermen. This will further improve the socio-economic condition of traditional fisherfolk.

V. With improvement/modernization in the fishing activity, problem of proper use of non-conventional catch from marine sources has become all the more important. It is necessary to convert non-conventional varieties of fish into suitable/value added products such as such as fish fingers, fish soup powder, processed and frozen fish, fish fillets, minced meat, etc. for better returns to
the fishermen. Products have to be developed and their domestic consumption promoted. Technologies to be developed and their domestic consumption promoted. Technologies to develop such products are already available in developed countries. However, these technologies will have to be adopted in developed countries. However, these technologies will have to be adopted by fishermen cooperative societies who can take up this challenge and establish lucrative business.

VI When we compare the economic conditions of fishermen vis-à-vis the development in the fishery sector, it is generally found that the position of the poor fishermen has not improved commensurately with the developments in the fishery sector. Rather some of the programmes introduced to develop fishery, have adversely affected the economy of the fishermen. It will not be out of place to mention that the emphasis in most of these programmes of fishery development was not on the human resources development, engaged in the fishery sector traditionally. Fisheries cooperatives are the only accepted instrument which may save the poor fishermen from exploitation. It may be asserted here that the real and genuine fishermen cooperatives are the only answer for upliftment of the poor fishermen. Fishermen’s cooperatives should be more concerned with the traditional fishermen’s operating in the coastal areas and the inland fishermen engaged in fishing traditionally. Further, they have to provide infrastructural and marketing services to fish farmers who have been identified by the Fish Farmer’s Development Agencies. Based on these, the entire issue of promotion of fisheries cooperatives needs to be considered.
The structure of fishery cooperatives should be based on the local conditions of fishermen. The state governments would be the best judge to decide about the tiers to be included in the structure of these cooperatives i.e. whether there should be a 2 tier, 3 tier, or 4 tier structure. But it is essential that higher tier of the structure, can support the primary level societies which are strong, viable, professionally managed, multi-purpose primary fishermen’s cooperatives.

At the central level, the structure is to be developed on the basis of need. In case of inland fisheries there is a need to have district level societies, particularly in districts covered by Fish Farmer’s Development Agencies. This is in view of the fact that the project document of FFDA has recommended the organisation of a district level cooperative fish marketing society in every district. Further, the efficacy of this set up has been proved in case of Vidarbha, where the Evaluation Report of FFDA prepared by National Council for Applied Economic Research clearly brought out the fact that the existence of cooperative marketing services in the FFDA districts in Vidarbha Region saved the fishermen from exploitation. It is strongly felt that each FFDA district must have a district level cooperative marketing institution.

So far the regional federations are concerned, the State Governments decision to set up such federations may be taken if their need is felt. TAFCOFED, the regional federation in Tamilnadu has been in existence since 1992. Its activities has be more comprehensive, to cover such activities as marketing, processing etc.
A paradoxical situation is seen when an analysis of the available institutional framework for providing finances to fishery cooperatives and the actual financial assistance received by fishery cooperatives is done. As early as in 1968, the erstwhile Agricultural Credit Department of the Reserve Bank of India desired that the cooperative banks should formulate schemes for financing fishery cooperatives and these shall get reimbursement, of such loans on the same terms and conditions that were applicable to agricultural credit. However, not much could be done in this behalf and fishery cooperatives remained deprived of the concessional rate of finance on which agricultural cooperatives availed credit from the cooperative banking structure. Commercial banks have come in a big way to finance to fishery sector. These finances may also be diverted to the fishery cooperatives but this has also not happened, and banking finance is going to individual rather than fishery cooperatives.

Cooperatives is a democratically managed economic institution and the management set up includes the members, the elected directors and the paid managers. Election of proper leadership depends on the understanding of the member about their rights and duties towards their cooperative. The success of cooperatives depends on vigilant membership. In case of fishery cooperatives, the members are generally illiterate and hence ignorant about their rights and duties. This situation helps vested interests to create a stranglehold on fishery cooperatives. Whenever genuine leadership has been elected by the members the result of the working of fishery cooperative societies have been excellent.
This aspect of leadership development and member education will be discussed in later paragraphs. The government intervention and mass supersession of the boards of cooperative Societies has resulted in the poor performance of cooperatives. The need of the hour is restoration of democracy in cooperation.

X. The most important aspect, which remains most neglected in fishery cooperatives, is the availability of paid manpower. Today when everybody is talking of professionalised management, it is found that at the primary level majority of fishery cooperatives lack paid and professionalised management with the result that after registration most of them become dormant and defunct. The need of professionally trained and paid person at the primary levels can hardly be over emphasised. It is one of the essential requirements. The non-existence of a professionally trained manager in most of the primary level societies, generally is the result of non-availability of resources with the societies to appoint and sustain the services of qualified and professionally trained managers. This issue is related to both the viability the society and the support which the society is supposed to receive at the primary level from the Government. So, it is absolutely necessary to appoint paid professional personal to man the fisheries cooperatives.

XI. Lack of marketing infrastructure may be one of the causes of this malady and cooperatives would be most suited to create marketing infrastructure duly supported by preservation facilities and quick transport arrangements with financial assistance from the NCDC. Effective marketing services in the fishery sector would mean provision of credit for inputs, provision of inputs,
provision of consumption credit, arrangements of scientific grading, pooling and auctioning of the produce of members and immediate payment of price so that he is not forced into the lap of the middlemen. What is actually needed is effective marketing services as a complete package of all those services which are being provided to the fishermen by the middlemen for their own vested interests. The cooperative package should not only be attractive but comprehensive.

XII. The government should draw up comprehensive fisheries legislation and management policy should aimed conservation of the fishery wealth and management of fishworkers. The monsoon trawl ban should be implemented in total. The regulatory and welfare measures so far introduced in our fisheries sector are mainly due to the demands and agitations of fishworkers and their organisations. If comprehensive policy should be drawn which addresses the problems of fish workers as well as eco-degradation.

XIII. Once the Co-operative organisation has attained a sound financial footing, it can start providing social and community services. Of course, in areas like education and training and provision of infrastructure like roads, input from government and Co-operative apex organisations may be required. Provision of housing or loans to build houses is an important way of improving the living conditions of the fisherfolk. Provision of first aid posts with pharmacy and medical services is another area for providing community service. Fishery stores can be opened for providing consumer goods supplies.
XIV There is need for recognising the crucial role women play in the distribution of fish and net making in the marine sector. These two will improve the socio-economic conditions of the traditional fisherfolk. In order to improve the working condition of women in processing plants, a women's wing of Fisheries Department should undertake the following functions: registration of all women workers in fish processing plants, skill development. All labour laws must be strictly implemented concerning women and child workers in peeling sheds and processing plants.

XV The death-cum-Accident Insurance Scheme should continue and it should cover the women too. The subsidies should be made available to enhance the ownership of gears and crafts by the traditional fisherfolk. A comprehensive housing legislations should be enacted by state governments to guarantee every family of the traditional fisherfolk own a house. The lump-sum grant must be guaranteed. The recommendation of the Mandal commission, that all the traditional fisherfolk be recognised as Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe should be adopted. And the reservation of the coastal assembly and parliament segments should be created exclusively for traditional fisherfolk.