irrespective of religion, caste, colour, language, had extended the whole hearted support to ameliorate the people had suffered due to the natural calamities.

CONCLUSION

Fishing, one of the oldest and primitive professions in the world, constitutes an important factor not only for the sustenance and thriving of fishing community but also for the development of the economy of a nation. It is an income deriving factor, which suffered a lot during the pass years due to negligence of the government as well as the fishing community.

The fishing communities living in the coastal Tamil Nadu are generally very poor, occupying a low social status with very few representation in the political field. However, the community always enjoyed certain autonomy and dignity. The fishing people though skilled in their profession, had no access to formal education. They hardly entered into other areas of human life because of non-availability of other trades on the coastal belt and inadequate literary level.

Before the conversion to Christianity they suffered a lot by the other dominating communities. After the arrival of St. Francis Xavier they are converted to Christians from then they feel a shy of relief from caste discriminations.
They are economically unsound. Lack of proper planning, alcoholism and illiteracy are the main factors responsible for the backwardness of the fishermen. As a result they occupy a low status in the society.

The middlemen thoroughly exploited the fishermen. Under such circumstance the fishermen because alcoholics. More money was spent on drinking. The major problems confronted in the villages are water scarcity, lack of adequate transport facilities, lack of adequate school facilities, lack of medical facilities, lack of adequate toilet facilities, dowry problem and superstitious belief. Another major problem is unstable income. Drinking water is the a perennial of the fishing community.

Unemployment is another major problem which torments the youth of the fishing community. The youth in the fishing community are developing a kind of indifference towards fishing, their main avocation. It is mainly because of the fact that they do not like to go out for fishing in the catamarans. They prefer mechanised boats for fishing, but the poor parents are not in a position to fulfill their desire. As a result, they waste their time and addicted to habits like tobacco and alcohol consumption, beedi and cigarette smoking and chewing churo.

The fishermen were a behind in literacy. In order to remove illiteracy from the fishermen community, the fisheries department urged the government to start schools in the coastal areas.
The health of fishing people was rapidly deteriorating. The sanitary condition of villages and evil of drinking prevalent among them are the causes of deterioration of their health. The periodical outbreaks of cholera, plague, small pox also carried away their lives. So the government should come forward to over have Health Care Delivery system.

Indebtedness is yet another problem of coolie fishermen and is the most serious handicap in the life of poor fishermen. To avoid this problem the government to give loans under subsidised and low rate of interest.

Sea based occupation are the most dreadful and different one among the many avocations of human being. In spite of knowing the dangers of fishing and related jobs in the seas fishermen ventured upon involving in this fatal jobs from time immemorial as they did not find an alternative.

The fishermen, who are engaged in the work in different status and different countries are facing enormous problems in their day-to-day services. So the problems faced by the fishermen engaged in fighting in the overseas countries. Some suggestions are given.

International forum should be established to protect the interest of the fishermen engaged in catching overseas.

The regional organisations working on the welfare activities of the fishermen should come forward to offer joint support to the cause of bottom level workers in the industry.
Like the other international associations, regulating laws and legislations to safeguard the workers in different function similar units must be started and specific legislations should be passed to protect fishermen and the officials of the embassies should take care of the ill-treated fishermen from perennial problems.

Fishermen organisations should come to serve the fishermen’s rights and exploitations. Some organisations like, NFF, SIFFS, WFFP, NAPM, TFU, KSMTF, KDSAFU, ADSGAF, TSSS, NCL, CPO, CCR and OTFWU are agitating the government and private sectors to protect the fisher people.

The problem of territorial sea boundaries between India and Sri Lanka continued now. Sometimes Indian fishermen unknowingly enter into the Sri Lankan sea waters, however very often the Sri Lankan Navy enters into the Indian territorial waters. So the poor fishermen of Tamil Nadu in the hands of Sri Lankan Navy and Sri Lankan fishermen for over a decade are still continuing. The poor and helpless fishermen are rotting in jails for years making their families in utter distress. They are facing starvation and acute economic problem in the absence of their bread-winners. There are untold hardship and misery of these fishermen in Ramanthapuram, Pudukkottai, Nagapattinam, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, and Kanyakumari. Number of incidents continue still, boats are damaged, sunk and fishermen killed or injured. Eventhough the successive Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu in different occasions expressed their deep anguish over the number of unprovoked shooting incidents that took away the lives of poor fishermen and urging for early solution to Prime Minister of India. Still shooting incidents that took away the lives of poor fishermen and urging for early
solution to Prime Minister of India. Still this problem persists in south India. If appropriate the solutions for the problem of Indian fishermen, are to be devised the Kachcha Thivu from SriLanka should be taken back to India.

The Christian missionaries are to work for the promotion of social welfare. They have established many charitable institutions and through them contribute generously to various needs in all part of the world by alleviating the sufferings of people by providing food, cloths, medical aid and enabling them to be trained in gainful occupations. The fishermen had faced acute housing problem mainly due to poverty and sea-erosion. Tamil Nadu government extend many housing schemes, but government attempted to solve this problem, but not upto the expectation.

With progress of science and technology they were used to mechanised gill netters, mechanised hood and line fishery, purse-seine fishery, motorised ring seine fishery and motorised trawling operation by a fishermen. But with mechanisation particularly trawling and purse-seining, the fishing labour started migrating to centres of harbour based cities like Chennai, Pondicherry, Tuticorin, Cochin, Visakapattinam, Gujarat and Kandla Mumbay in search of seasonal better employment and income.

As a result of the mechanisation and motorisation process, the non-motorised sector is presently a marginalised group. Similarly to the artisanal sector prior to motorisation now non-motorised fishermen who have the least access to the welfare schemes of the government and other
agencies have stratified in the most economically backward states of the community.

In an attempt to overcome their growing marginalisation the catamaran fishermen have in many places adopted innovated new fishing methods like fishing with artificial fish habits by constructing them in the vicinity of their villagers.

Fishermen, the primary producers, were closely tied to dealers not only by the normal trading relationship but also by heavy habitual indebtedness. In view of the obvious need to reform such a monopolistic set up the Fishermen Co-operative Societies were organised in many places in the state. It is to help and relieve the fishermen from the clutches of money lenders, net owners, merchants and middlemen. It gives long and medium term loans.

The fishing industry is a seasonal one and the yield change from time to time according to the nature of the climate. In the lean season government give, Rs.1080/- to fishermen from the saving-cum-relief fund. It is not enough to spend during the lean season. So the government to give additional money to fishermen during the lean season. So the co-operative societies should come forward to protect the people from the middlemen and money lenders.

Prior to independence, fisheries sector received little attention due to low social status, poor economic conditions, illiteracy, heavy leaning on middlemen, traditional fishing equipments and methods of fishing, low
production rate and income influence of socio-economic conditions of fishermen.

Hence the implementation of the five year plans with specific objectives to improve the socio-economic conditions of fishermen. In all the five year plans the government allotted money to fisheries sector and it introduced many developing schemes for the benefit of the fishermen. Though many schemes were introduced, yet the fishing sector has been treated in a step-motherly way. To avoid this lacunae government appoint the committee consisting of experts relating to fisheries science and fisheries economics, policy makers and other officials relating to fishing industry, representatives of fishing entrepreneurs and fishermen to go into the details of various aspects of fisheries development for efficient use of the resource for the benefit of the people of the state.

The marketing of the fishes caught is yet another problem which is a crucial one because the economic standard of the fishermen centre around it are so poor. Further fisheries is a means for creating employment, raising the nutritional level, food, earning foreign exchange and the factors associated with marketing.

Thus the fore-going analysis indicates that the problem of marketing fish are inadequate transport facilities, lack of preservation, inadequate ice plant and cold storage, interference of intermediaries, inadequate dry fish processing facilities, the co-operative societies are controlled by the businessmen, which were always profit motivated. The natural calamities which affected the fishermen too compelled them to by and borrow for
meeting out their daily needs. To relieve the fishermen the government is compelled to probe into their problems for redressal. All such defects have their own echo over the marketing, so the government had brought out many useful schemes for the welfare and uplift of the fishermen as well as fishing industry. They are beneficial for the fishermen. The five year plans have also promoted the well being of the fishermen.

The impact of natural disasters on the economic life of the coastal people had its own repercussions. The equipments necessary for the fishing were damaged. The houses in which the fishermen were living were collapsed. In spite of all these havocs caused due to calamities the fishing community thrive with great hardships. The people from whole part of the country irrespective of religion, caste, colour, language had extended the whole hearted support to ameliorate the people had suffered due to the natural calamities.

Since India has a long coastline one has to safeguard it from such an attack, some primitive measures are given:

(a) Tsunami working system have to be installed, covering the entire coastline and the coast factor has to be possessed considering the human lives involved.

(b) As mangrove forests near sea-shore have saved many villages, the Government of Tamil Nadu along with the NGO should concentrate on raising such plantations along the entire coast.

(c) The government also restricted the people to construct the houses within the range of 500 metres from the sea and the government plans to make this region as tourist parts. This was objected by the fishermen
because it affected their day-to-day fishing. They can’t have a free movement on the shore to dry fishing nets, operating their equipments and marketing their catches.

This study is a breakthrough in the socio-economic condition of the people engaged in an impermanent occupation, where the income and profit are always uncertain depending upon various factors. The analysis of their living condition, different progressive measures undertaken by the government as well as private enterprises and national and international, non-governmental organisation will enable the researchers to pursue further in the direction of presenting solutions to all complicated problems in the days to come.