CHAPTER IX

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION
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9.1. Introduction

This dissertation report enumerates introduction of research problem, explanation of methods followed in sample selection, data design and the methods of analysing it, review of contemporary knowledge in the research area, justification of the suitability of the study area to conduct the primary data survey and the discussion of data results. The findings of the data results are recapitulated in this chapter, Conclusion arrived about the research problem and policy implications are given subsequently.

Fisheries sector in India with a fisher folk population of 14485354 have produced around 9.58 million tonnes of fish. But the living condition of fisher folks around India is not amicable and they are in the margin both in acquiring livelihood and education. The fisher folks in the study area i.e. Pudukkottai District of Tamilnadu best reflects the fisher folks population of India. Thus, the generalisation of results from this research may be applied to whole India. The analysis of this research is based on primary data collected from the samples through well structured interview schedule. The selected samples are classified into three categories viz. Craft Owners (144), Fishermen (192)/Fisherwomen (132) and Fisher children (208) engaged in Marine Fisheries and allied activities in the study area. The collected data are analysed through sophisticated statistical tools in order to explore the socio-economic conditions of Marine Fisher folks engaged in Pudukkottai District, Tamilnadu. The tools include, frequency tables, averages, ratio, percentages, Cross-tabs, Karl Pearson’s Co-efficient of correlation, t-test, Kruskal Wallis test, Whitney Mann U test and ANOVA. The results of all these tools are presented in this chapter in detail.

9.2. Summary of Findings: Craft Owners

The first section presents the summary of findings of socio-economic conditions of Craft Owners in Pudukkottai District.
1. There were 32 villages in the two Taluks (Manamelkudi and Avudaiyarkovil). The craft owners were selected from almost all the villages.

2. All the craft owners in the study area are male i.e. craft ownership are male dominant.

3. About 91 percent of the craft owners are under the age of 50 years. The average age of the craft owners is 40.25. Only 16 percent craft owners are aged less than 30 years which is considered as the youngest age.

4. The craft owners in the study area belong to Hindu and Islam religions. That is 64 percent of craft owners belong to Hindu Religion and the remaining Muslims. There is no Christian and other religion population in the study area.

5. About 58 percent of craft owners belong to Schedule Castes (SC) and 50 respondents belong to Islam who are Backward Class (BC). It is important to be noted that in India the ‘General Castes’ or Other Castes (OC) are not having the habit of eating fish and meat food, therefore they are not engaged in fisheries sector.

6. Fishing is characterised by unskilled labour. About 50 percent craft owners were educated only 8th standard. Around 94 Percent of craft owners’ education is also only upto 8th Standard. No craft owners are there in the study area with an education of Higher Secondary Level. But 10 respondents (7 percent) who have entered college were dropouts and 6 craft owners were illiterates.

7. Around 91 percent of the craft owners are married and the remaining are single. The unmarried craft owners are aged less than 28 years. Late marriages, in large, in India due to poor income and employment is factual feature.

8. About 50 craft owners belong to Hindu Religion have completed education upto 8th Standard; whereas only 22 Craft Owners belong to Islam Religion have finished their 8th Standard.

9. No Craft Owners belong to Islam have entered into Higher Education.
10. The size of the family of craft owners in the study area ranges from 2 to 7. The size of the family excludes the craft Owner. 46 Craft Owners live with a family size of 8 (7+1 respondent) which constitute around 32 percent.

11. About 124 craft owners (86.11 Percent) are living in Joint family system.

12. About 72.2 (104) percent of the craft owners live in the terraced house and 24 craft owners i.e. 16.67 percent live in the Tsunami Relief Funded Free House.

13. No craft owners live in thatched and other type of House. 24 out of 104 respondents reside in rented terraced house.

14. The maximum Craft Owners own a house worth a maximum of ₹ 20 Lakhs. The market value of the houses of 30 (20.83 percent) craft owners is between ₹ 15 and ₹ 20 Lakhs.

15. The rent expenses of the craft owners ranged upto ₹ 3000 in the study area.

16. Out of 26 craft owners 16 live in a house with rent less than ₹ 1000 per month.

17. Out of 144 sample craft owners 92 (63.89 percent) were unaware of the size of their house. The size of 28 craft owners’ house is less than 500 square foot.

18. The size of the houses of 8 craft owners is between 2000 and 2500 square foot.

19. About 97.22 percent i.e. 140 craft owners do their profession as full time job.

20. Craft owners working under part time have never revealed the reason for it. But, the observation by the researcher showed that the part time craft owners let out the craft for rent and earn rental income.

21. Hereditary is one of the reasons for 106 craft owners working under full time. For 56 craft owners, ‘since no alternative’ is one of the reasons for choosing this profession and Experience, as one of the reasons, made the respondents to enter into this profession for 32 craft owners. Only for 12 craft owners, the fisheries profession is profitable.

22. Since 1990, 70 (48.61 percent) craft owners are doing the fisheries profession.
23. 42 (29.17 percent) craft owners work in the fisheries since 1981 and 2 are working for more than 4 decades in marine fishing.

24. Around 92 percent craft owners have an experience of more than 15 years in fisheries.

25. A majority of the craft owners under full time profession belong to Hindu Religion (92).

26. About 110 craft owners have conveyed that they live in the same village without migration. 10 craft owners have migrated from other district.

27. Out of 144 sample craft owners 102 had earned upto ₹ 500 as their weekly income when they have started their profession. 19.44 percent craft owners’ income was upto ₹ 100. Income of above ₹ 1400 was earned by 16 craft owners in study area.

28. About 50 (34.72 percent) craft owners have earned a weekly income between ₹5001 and ₹ 7500. For 46 craft owners the weekly income is between ₹ 2501 and 5000. 10 craft owners have earned a weekly income of ₹ 10001 and above, of them 6 own Mechanised craft.

29. During off-season 18 craft owners have earned a weekly income of ₹ 500 per week. 4 craft owners have earned more than ₹ 500. Majority of the craft owners i.e. 84 (58.33) have not responded to this question.

30. The monthly income of 80 (55.56 percent) craft owners is ranged between ₹10001 and ₹20000. For 34 (23.61 percent) craft owners the monthly income is ₹20001-₹ 30000. There are 12 craft owners whose monthly income is beyond ₹40001. The result of t-test for identifying difference between weekly income and monthly income revealed that there is a significant difference between the weekly income (multiplied by 4) and monthly income with a p value of 0.018 (<0.05).
31. The respondents take food in both seasons 3 times a day. Thus, there is no difference between these two seasons in fulfilling the basic needs of the craft owners.

32. About 96 sample craft owners (66.67 percent) obtained ₹ 6000 as financial assistance during fishing holidays from the Government.

33. 28 craft owners haven’t obtained any type of support from the government.

34. All the 144 sample respondents do not pay income tax and file return.

35. The monthly expenditure of craft owners on food is upto ₹ 20000. About 56 craft owners (38.89 percent) have spent between ₹ 2501 and ₹ 5000 per month for food and 2 spent more than ₹ 17,501 per month for food.

36. About 56 sample craft owners spent annually between ₹15001 and ₹20000 for cloth. The annual expenditure for cloth purchase is between ₹10001 and ₹15000 to 48 (33.33 percent) sample craft owners and 4 craft owners have spent more than ₹30001.

37. In Tamilnadu, the charges for electricity consumption are computed once in two months and domestic electricity is offered with subsidised price. There are two craft owners with no power connection at their home. About 72 sample respondents have spent upto ₹200 for power consumption.

38. In India, an important fuel component for cooking are firewood and kerosene, because firewood is the cheapest and some-times available free of cost and kerosene is subsidised by the Government that help reduce the household expenditure. Further, the use of firewood in cooking is one of the indicators of poverty. 42 use firewood in cooking. Among them, 38 spent upto ₹ 500 per month for firewood. 2 craft owners’ family has spent between ₹ 1501 and ₹ 2000 for firewood. 22 craft owners spent upto ₹200, 4 spent above ₹801 for Kerosene.
39. LPG is also subsidised by the Government for the welfare of the people. A total of 106 (74 percent) sample respondents have used LPG and 104 have spent upto ₹ 800 for LPG.

40. The craft owners of the study area are unaware of the importance of education i.e. Out of 144 sample craft owners 90 (62.5) spent nothing for education. Only 4 craft owners spent between ₹7501 and ₹ 10000 annually for the education of their children and dependents.

41. About only 33.33 percent sample craft owners have no habit of liquor and tobacco. Around 58 percent of sample craft owners have spent upto ₹ 2000 per month for liquor and tobacco and 12 craft owners (8.33 percent) spent more than ₹ 2000 on tobacco and liquor per month.

42. About 80.70 percent (92) craft owners have spent upto ₹2000 for their medical treatment. 2 respondents spent more than ₹ 8000 for medical needs.

43. The conveyance expenditure constitutes only a meager portion of the craft owners’ income i.e. 140 craft owners have spent only ₹ 300 or less for a month. About 140 craft owners spent nothing on entertainment.

44. Around 50 sample craft owners have no savings. 42 (29.17) craft owners save only through Nationalised banks. Chit funds play no role in savings in the study area.

45. The amount of savings ranges upto ₹ 10000 per month among the sample craft owners. 60 percent craft owners have an amount of savings upto ₹ 2000 and 60 (41.67 percent) craft owners saved upto ₹ 1000 per month. The savings habit of the craft owners infers that they have poor savings because their income is not sufficient to save.

46. About 62 (43.06) percent craft owners have no assets. 48 possess vehicles alone as assets. 16 craft owners possess only jewels and 8 craft owners possess upto 50
grams of gold. 12 craft owners possess above 100 grams of gold. Almost all the craft owners possess comfort consumer durables in all their houses.

47. Majority of the craft owners i.e. 83.33 percent have no borrowing. 20 have borrowed money from local business man i.e. unorganized sector. 4 craft owners borrowed through bank and Co-operative Society. The purpose of borrowing as stated by the craft owners are boat repair (14 craft owners) and private use (10 craft owners).

48. On an average, all the craft owners have repaid 50 percent of the borrowed money.

49. Regarding the basic amenities available at home, there are 126 craft owners use LPG at their homes, 142 craft owners have electricity connection and all the 144 samples have an access to drinking water facility. The money spent for getting drinking water per week ranges from ₹100 to ₹1000 and 102 sample craft owners get drinking water through public well.

50. About 96 sample craft owners have fully satisfied in their profession and 44 (30.56 percent) work as craft owners with moderately satisfied and only 4 craft owners conveyed that they are not satisfied because of the interference of Navy, mediators, maintenance cost of craft, poor support of Government, etc. The satisfaction level of craft owners is presented through the following Pie chart.

51. Except 6 craft owners all are member in National Fishermen savings cum relief scheme in the study area.

52. 20 craft owners are member in Fishermen Accident Group Insurance Scheme.

53. In Fishermen Accident Individual Insurance Scheme 14 craft owners were members.

54. 24 craft owners are member in at least two schemes and 6 were not a member in any of the national level schemes.
55. There are 3 types of crafts used in marine fishing in the study area viz. mechanised boat, Non-mechanised boat and Motorised boat.

56. Majority of the craft owners (88.89 percent) own FRP – motorised boat i.e. 126 own it.

57. There are three types of fishing gear are used in the study area viz. Trawl nets, drift or gill nets and traps.

58. Majority of the craft owners use Trawl nets which i.e. 110 (76.39 percent) craft owners use it.

59. All the 144 craft owners have registered their boats under the Government regulation.

60. About 142 sample respondents own fully their crafts and 2 own under partnership. 142 respondents own 1 craft and 2 own 2 crafts.

61. The amount of money invested in the mechanised craft ranges from ₹ 8 Lakhs to ₹ 10 Lakhs.

62. The majority of the craft owners i.e. 128 invested in the motorised boats which ranges to a maximum of ₹ 5 Lakhs.

63. The mechanised craft owners haven’t availed loan for investment in the craft.

64. About 4 non-mechanised craft owners and 32 motorised craft owners have borrowed upto ₹ 1 Lakh. 22 motorised craft owners borrowed between ₹1 Lakh and ₹2 Lakhs and 8 borrowed above ₹ 3 Lakhs.

65. About 46 craft owners borrowed from local money lenders,

66. Only 16 craft owners have repaid fully the borrowed loan.

67. Among the 4 craft owners who borrowed from Nationalised Banks, 2 haven’t repaid properly resulted in action against them.

68. Only 50 craft owners have availed sales tax exempted diesel. About 8 craft owners have availed 30 litres per trip.
About 48 sample craft owners have availed the 50 percent subsidy for the purchase of craft engine and the remaining 96 samples haven’t availed the subsidy.

Around 64 craft owners have revealed that they are not interested in availing the subsidy.

Among subsidy availed craft owners, 16 obtained ₹20000 and 32 obtained ₹28000.

About 76 (52.78 percent) fish at night time and about 50 (34.72) craft owners go for fishing during day time. 16 craft owners fish during day and night times daily.

Around 95.83 percent craft owners used to go for fishing 1 trip per day.

A maximum of 40 KMs is travelled by the craft owners for fishing.

80 craft owners travel between 21 and 30 KMs for fishing which constitute the maximum respondents.

‘Pavam’ is the measurement of depth travelled by craft owners while fishing in the study area. One pavam is equal to 3 foot. Craft owners in the study area do fishing with a maximum depth of 60 foot.

Majority of the craft owners i.e. 58 (40.28 percent) do fishing a depth between 41 and 50 foot.

The sample craft owners are not definite about the exact number of days of fishing during a month.

Fishing Holiday in the study area as announced by the Government is April-May of every year.

Around 87 percent of craft owners caught fish up to 100 KGs per week. A majority of craft owners i.e. 46 (31.94 percent) caught between 76 and 100 KGs of fish in a week. The Karl Pearson’s co-efficient of correlation is employed between average weekly fish catch and weekly income during on-season of craft owners, which shows r=0.860 i.e. 86 percent positive correlation between income and size of fish catch.
81. Ray Fish, Shark, Prawn, Belonidae, Silver Bellies, Octopus, Crabs and Kanava Fish are caught by almost all the craft owners in the study area.

82. About 64 craft owners caught Prawn, Crab and Kanava. The ray fishers, about 88 percent ray fishers, 50 percent shark and Belonidae fishers, 71.13 percent Prawn catchers and 100 percent octopus catchers sell immediately. The remaining fisher men ice and sell it later. This infers that, the craft owners in the study area are not aware and care about the future price. They want to clear the products at the prevailing price.

83. Crabs, shark, Belonidae and Silver Bellies are sold on the basis of weight only.

84. Ray fish and prawn are sold by two methods viz. Weight and Heap. Octopus was sold through heap and count methods.

85. The price of fish is determined by the wholesaler, retailer and other intermediaries in the study area. For 95.83 percent of craft owners, price of their fish was determined by the retailers.

86. Majority of the craft owners i.e. 108 (75 percent) sell their fish in the local market. 18 have participated in the Auction for sales.

87. All the 144 sample craft owners have a tendency to sell the fish on cash and carry basis.

88. No craft owners have engaged in Export of fish and fish products.

89. The supply of fish or amount of fish catch is the major factor which determines the level of income.

90. About 140 craft owners have used diesel to run the craft which ranges above 200 litres per week. Majority of the craft owners (86) consumed diesel upto 50 litres per week.

91. The annual expenditure on oil ranges between `20001 and `30000 for 86 (59.72 percent craft owners). 20 respondents spent upto `10000 annually for oil and 2 craft owners spent between `40001 and `50000.
92. About 50 craft owners spent monthly between ₹10001 and ₹20000 and above ₹200001 were spent by 8 craft owners for repairs during last one month.

93. About 14 sample craft owners spent nothing on wages as they haven’t employed any wage labourers.

94. Around 88 craft owners spent upto ₹1000 daily towards the payment of wages and 6 craft owners spent between ₹6001 and ₹7000.

95. A total of 56 sample craft owners do not spend for transporting fish from craft to shore as it is carried to the selling spot by the labourers employed in the craft. 66 (45.83) craft owners spent upto ₹250 per Week for transporting fish.

96. About 110 sample craft owners didn’t employed any wage labour for cleaning the net, thereby spent nothing. 26 craft owners spent upto ₹100 for cleaning.

97. A total of 60 craft owners spent upto ₹100 daily for ice and salt.

98. The constraints on the part of craft owners are non-availability of labour (manpower), financial unavailability, fixation of low price for fish by the buyers, problems vested with mediators (marketing) and the Sri Lankan Navy as well as Indian Navy obstruct fishing (operational).

99. Majority i.e. 102 craft owners stated that Marketing of fish is the major problem. For 112 craft owners low price for the fish is the problem.

100. About 138 (95.83 percent) sample craft owners are affected by general fatigue and no other disease.

101. About 58 craft owners have knowledge about the festivals in their area viz. Kotta Pattinam Dharga Festival.

102. 50 samples do not know about any festivals and all the samples are having no knowledge about the history of their village and district.

103. Around 40.28 percent craft owners haven’t attended any type of training and 46 craft owners have attended the training on the use of GPS.
104. About 42 sample respondents have taken private life insurance policies to protect their life.

105. All the 144 sample respondents have no knowledge about mutual fund.

106. No co-operative fund for the mutual benefit or member is formed by the sample respondents.

107. About 50 samples not answered anything about the government functioning and welfare schemes. 76 (52.78 percent) responded that they are not satisfactory in the welfare schemes of the present Government as they are not reaching them.

9.3. **Summary of Findings: Fishermen/Fisherwomen**

The second section lists out the findings of socio-economic conditions of Fishermen/Fisherwomen.

1. Around 96 percent fishermen and 91 percent fisherwomen are in the age group of 20-50. Majority of fishermen (75) comes in the age group of 41-50 and majority of fisherwomen (72) comes in the age group of 31-40.

2. The average age of fishermen and fisherwomen in the study area are 38.79 and 40.81 respectively.

3. Out of 192 fishermen, 120 belong to Hindu Religion and remaining Islam.

4. There are no fisherwomen belongs to Islam.

5. There are 96 fishermen belong to BC community,

6. About 108 fisherwomen belong to MBC.

7. About 18.75 percent fishermen and 18.18 percent fisherwomen are illiterates in the study area.

8. Only 12 fishermen have crossed the higher secondary level of education and this is zero percent in case of fisherwomen.

9. About 93 sample fishermen have studied upto 8th standard and 96 fisherwomen have studied upto 5th standard.
10. A total of 87.5 percent fishermen are married and all the 132 sample fisherwomen are married.

11. There are 27 fishermen and 24 fisherwomen belong to Hindu religion and illiterates.

12. 66 fishermen belong to Hindu have an education upto 8th standard.

13. Around 34.38 percent fishermen have a family size of 4+1 members. As far as fisherwomen are concerned, 72 have family members of 3.

14. A total of 79.68 percent fishermen and 81.82 percent fisherwomen are living in the joint family system.

15. About 70.33 percent fishermen and 81.82 percent fisherwomen are living in the terraced houses and 36 fishermen and 24 fisherwomen are living in the Government offered free houses for the tsunami victims.

16. Among the 192 fishermen, 162 live in their own houses and 27 in the rented houses.

17. No fisherwomen live in the rented house.

18. The value of the houses of fishermen and fisherwomen ranges upto ₹ 20 Lakhs.

19. ₹ 10 Lakhs is the maximum value of the houses of fisherwomen. But for fishermen, 48 live in the houses which have a value of more than ₹ 10 Lakhs.

20. Rent of the house in the study ranges from ₹ 600 to ₹ 1000 per month. No fisherwomen live in the rented houses.

21. Around 54 fishermen and 36 fisherwomen are living in a house lesser than 500 square foot. 123 fishermen and 84 fisherwomen are unaware of the size of their houses.

22. Concerning the migration, 98.44 percent fishermen and 90.91 percent fisherwomen are living in the same village. 3 fishermen migrated before 25 years and 12 fisherwomen have migrated before 30 years in search of employment.
23. All the 192 fishermen and 120 fisherwomen are working under full time.

24. Hereditary and no alternative employment are the two reasons for 39 respondents for being fishermen. For 66 fishermen and 24 fisherwomen, ‘no alternative’ employment is the reason for entering into this occupation. 15 fishermen have stated that the profession is ‘Profitable’. ‘Attracted by profession’ is the reason for 54 fishermen and 60 fisherwomen.

25. About 156 sample fishermen and all the fisherwomen are having entered into this profession only after 1981. About 48.42 percent fishermen and 45.45 percent fisherwomen have entered in this profession during 1991-2000; therefore their experience is more than 16 years.

26. About 6 fishermen have entered in this profession before 1970 which shows that they have more than 4 decades of experience in this profession and still they are working as fishermen and not uplifted to a craft owner or otherwise.

27. Around 27.28 percent fisherwomen have more than 26 years of experience in their occupation.

28. All the 192 fishermen are having the fishermen identity card issued by the Government Authorities and 54.54 percent fisherwomen do not possess such identity card.

29. Majority i.e. 90.63 percent fishermen and 90.91 percent fisherwomen are working in the motorised boats.

30. About 189 fishermen go for fishing 1 trip per day and no fisherwomen are going in the boats for fishing.

31. About 96 fishermen and 60 fisherwomen work in all the 7 days of a week.

32. About 117 fishermen have engaged only in direct fishing.

33. Fisherwomen are doing only allied activities i.e. 17 engaged in dried fish trade, 16 in allied activities, and 51 in net making, cleaning and other activities. 48 fisherwomen have engaged in fresh fish trade, net making and allied activities.
Further it is important to be noted that many fisherwomen work in the place where their husband works in the coastal region.

34. About 93.75 percent of fishermen and 100 percent fisherwomen receive their wages daily.

35. The daily wages of the sample respondents range from ₹100 to ₹1000 per day. Majority of fishermen i.e. 69 received ₹400 to ₹500 as their daily wages.

36. Large number of fisherwomen i.e. 36 received only ₹100 as their daily wages. The maximum wage of female respondents is ₹700 only.

37. The initial income (weekly) of 26.56 percent fishermen and 63.64 percent fisherwomen was between ₹101 and ₹200.

38. A total of 57 fishermen and 48 fisherwomen have earned a weekly income of ₹5001-₹6000.

39. The maximum weekly earning of fisherwomen is ₹7000 but for fishermen it goes upto ₹25000.

40. The weekly income during off-season ranges from ₹50 to ₹1500. About 82 fishermen and all the 132 fisherwomen have stated that their income is ₹50 or less.

41. About 56.25 percent fishermen and 45.46 percent fisherwomen are using their past savings during off season to maintain their livelihood. 75 fishermen and 72 fisherwomen have borrowed money to maintain their family.

42. As both fishermen and fisherwomen take food 3 times a day during on-season and off-season implies that the sample respondents maintain their livelihood on all seasons intact.

43. Around 9.38 percent fishermen and 9.09 percent fisherwomen have received no support from the Government during off-season. 147 fishermen and 108 fisherwomen have received ₹6000 as financial support from the Government during off-season.
44. The monthly expenditure on food for 96 fishermen and fisherwomen is upto ₹2500. For 32.81 percent fishermen, the monthly expenditure on food is between ₹2501 and ₹5000. ₹7500 is the maximum amount of money spent for food by the fisherwomen.

45. About 63 fishermen spent annually between ₹5001 and ₹10000 for cloth. Large number of fisherwomen i.e. 48 spent upto ₹5000 annually for cloth.

46. About 108 fishermen and 84 fisherwomen are spending an amount upto ₹200 for electricity consumption once in two months.

47. About 139 (72.40 percent) fishermen do not use firewood. 47 fishermen and 120 fisherwomen had spent upto ₹500 per month for firewood.

48. A total of 41 sample fishermen do not use kerosene for cooking which constitutes 21.35 percent and about 67.71 percent fishermen and 75.76 percent fisherwomen have spent upto ₹200 for kerosene as a source of energy for cooking.

49. No fisherwomen is using LPG as a source of energy for cooking and the households of 139 fishermen are using the LPG and spend upto ₹1500 per month.

50. Like craft owners, fishermen and fisherwomen too spend poor on education i.e. 69 fishermen and 48 fisherwomen have spent nothing on education annually. About 72 fishermen and 24 fisherwomen had spent ₹501 to ₹1000 annually for education of their dependent children.

51. Both men and women respondents have the habit of using tobacco in the study area. About 114 fishermen and 72 fisherwomen are using tobacco and majority has spent monthly between ₹501 and ₹1000 for tobacco consumption.

52. About 72 fishermen and 60 fisherwomen are not spending on medical treatments which infer no disease to them. 81 fishermen and 48 fisherwomen have spent upto ₹1000 per month for medical reasons.
53. Many sample respondents i.e. 31 men and 36 women never traveled to other places. About 80 fishermen and 60 fisherwomen have stated that they spent between ₹101 and ₹200 for conveyance.

54. Only 6 fishermen have spent on entertainment and others including fisherwomen spend no time and no money for entertainment.

55. About 3 fishermen and 12 fisherwomen have no savings. The majority of the respondents i.e. 120 fishermen and 84 fisherwomen have saved through Chit funds.

56. Only about 14 percent fishermen and 9.09 percent fisherwomen have savings through nationalised banks. For 39 fishermen and 24 fisherwomen the monthly savings was between ₹ 501 and ₹1000. The maximum amount of savings for the sample respondents is ₹ 2000 per month.

57. About 120 men and 96 women sample respondents have saved between ₹ 1501 and ₹ 2000.

58. A total of 104 fishermen and 72 fisherwomen possess no assets. Majority of the male respondents possess vehicle (two wheeler) to their assets and majority of the fisherwomen possess jewels to their credit as assets.

59. About 159 (82.81 percent) fishermen and 132 (100 percent) fisherwomen borrowed nothing.

60. 15 fishermen have borrowed from Nationalised banks and 9 sample fishermen have borrowed upto ₹ 50000 and 30 percent of the amount was repaid by them.

61. About 139 fishermen utilise LPG as a source of energy for cooking. 16.15 percent fishermen and 100 percent fisherwomen are using kerosene and firewood only for cooking.

62. About 92.18 percent fishermen and 90.9 percent fisherwomen are having electricity connection at their home.
63. Around 97.40 percent fishermen and 83.33 percent fisherwomen are having drinking water facility at their home. Hence, the respondents have to spend money to get drinking water.

64. 100 percent fisherwomen take water from the public well hence, spent nothing on drinking water.

65. Concerning the satisfaction of Job of sample respondents, 51.56 percent fishermen and 36.36 percent fisherwomen are fully satisfied with their job. Only 1.56 percent fishermen are not satisfied with the present job. About 90 fishermen and 84 fisherwomen are moderately satisfied with the current job.

66. Almost all the fishermen have caught prawn as it is available amply in the study area.

67. Out of 192 fishermen and 132 fisherwomen, 141 and 121 not responded respectively regarding the respect given by their employers. Only 26.56 percent of fishermen and 9.09 percent fisherwomen have stated that their employers give respect at the workplace.

68. About 98.44 percent fishermen and 100 percent fisherwomen said that there is no harassment from the employers in any kind but while fishing, the Indian navy and Sri Lankan Navy harasses by damaging the net, procuring the fish, shooting, arresting, etc. which affects the livelihood of the households of fisher folks.

69. Regarding the problems at home, 168 fishermen and 108 fisherwomen said that there are no problems in their home.

70. Many fishermen drunk even in the day time and working time, but they said that they don’t have drinking habit.

71. Some sample fishermen said that they are not able to educate their children properly and a considerable income goes to the money lenders as interest and hence financial burden.
72. General fatigue and health does not co-ordinate to go for work regularly is the problem for 12 fisherwomen.

73. Addiction to Liquor is a major problem that is observed by the researcher in the study area.

74. About 76.56 percent fishermen and 18.18 percent fisherwomen are given with the safety equipments (GPS, Walkie Talkie, Swimming Pad, etc.) by their employer.

75. Around 66 fishermen and 72 fisherwomen are unaware of the training programmes organised by the Government. 111 fishermen and 60 fisherwomen have attended a training programme organised by the Government. (Fishing, climate change, Kadal Pasi and Prawn cultivation, mechanics of boat, net making and GPS).

76. About 156 fishermen and 60 fisherwomen are having no disease. 27 fishermen and 60 fisherwomen have stated that they suffer from general fatigue.

77. 100 percent respondents have no private insurance and mutual fund.

78. Both men and women respondents about 100 percent are unknown about the history of the village. 81 fishermen and 84 fisherwomen perceived that there is a local temple festival like Kottai Pattinam Kandoori.

9.4. **Summary of Findings: Fisher Children**

The second section lists out the findings of socio-economic conditions of Fisher Children.

1. The age of the fisher children range from 10 years to 15 years. About 68 (32.69 percent) belong to the age of 14 years. There are 12 respondents less than 11 years old.

2. Among the 208 sample respondents 90.38 percent are male children and remaining 20 are female.
3. About 73.08 percent belong to Hindu Religion, 25 belong to Islam and 1.92 percent Christians.

4. Large numbers of children (120) are Scheduled Castes (SC).

5. About 92.31 percent respondents have studied upto 8\textsuperscript{th} Standard and 12 respondents are illiterate.

6. All the female children are educated upto 8\textsuperscript{th} Standard.

7. About 84 respondents' family size is 4.

8. Out of 208 fisher children 112 live in a joint family system.

9. Around 144 (69.23 percent) fisher children live in the terraced houses and 52 respondents live in a house provided by the Government at free of cost under the Tsunami Relief Fund.

10. About 132 children are unaware of the value of the houses they live. About 24 children have stated that the value of their house is between ₹ 15 Lakhs and ₹ 20 Lakhs.

11. About 4 children pay ₹ 380 as monthly rent.

12. Only 20 children have stated that their house size is 380 square foot. All the remaining 188 respondents are unaware of the size of their house.

13. A total of 144 children doing their work under Full time, 46 under part time and 8 occasionally. Not interested in education is the major reason for the 78 children (37.50 percent) working under full time.

14. Regarding the reasons for working under part time, 24 male and 4 female children have stated that they are going to school.

15. About 148 (71.15) sample children work only during day time.

16. Majority of the children i.e. 152 (73.08 percent) work for 5 to 10 hours per day.

17. Around 108 (51.92 percent) children work for all the 7 days in a week. Overall 88 children engaged in direct fishing.
18. About 192 children work in net cleaning and 72 children work in Fish dividing i.e. classification.

19. A total of 80 children have stated that there is no alternative other than this profession for their livelihood.

20. About 64 (30.77 percent) fisher children have an experience of 3-4 years in fishing. 56 children respondents have long years of 9-10 in this profession.

21. The questions related to migration received no response from the respondents but they have stated that they live in the same village since their birth.

22. About 80 (38.46 percent) respondents have earned a weekly income of ₹501 to ₹1000 when they have entered into the profession for the first time. 68 children’s income is below ₹500 per week.

23. The current weekly income of 24 respondents is below ₹500.

24. Another 24 children’s current income is above ₹6000 per week.

25. About 64 children have earned a weekly income between ₹1501 and ₹4000.

26. The student t-test to identify the significant difference between the initial income and current income shows that there is a significant difference exist between the initial income and current income of fisher children with $t = -5.189$ (p = 0.000 i.e. p<0.05).

27. Pocket money is the main reason for 204 fisher children for working at their childhood. Supporting the family, education are other reasons.

28. The monthly expenditure on food for 92 (44.23 percent) children’s family is below ₹2500. Children are taking food for 3 times every day during on-season and off-season.

29. The annual expenditure on cloth is between ₹10001 to ₹15000 for the majority of the children (72).

30. The expenditure on power consumption once in two months to majority of the children i.e. 140 ranges upto ₹200.
31. About 20 respondents spent up to ₹ 200 per month for firewood and 24 respondents spent above ₹ 201 and up to ₹500 per month for the purchase of firewood.

32. About 164 respondents do not use kerosene for cooking and the remaining respondents spend a considerable portion of their income to purchase kerosene which ranges up to ₹ 500 per month.

33. About 9.62 percent children have no LPG at their home and the remaining respondents spent up to ₹800 per month for LPG.

34. About 57.69 percent spent up to ₹1000 on education annually.

35. The part time workers spent their income on their education.

36. About 88 respondents have stated that they don’t have the habit of liquor and tobacco.

37. About 58 percent respondents have the habit of using tobacco and liquor. 56 (26.92 percent) respondents spent between ₹ 501 and ₹ 1000 per month for tobacco and liquor and 32 respondents spent above ₹ 1501 and up to ₹ 2000 per month for tobacco and liquor.

38. Out of 208 respondents, 152 spent nothing for medical reasons. The remaining respondents spent less than ₹ 500 for medicines to cure general fatigue and fever.

39. About 57.69 percent of fisher children spent between ₹101 and ₹ 200 per month for conveyance.

40. Regarding entertainment expenses, only 4 respondents spent ₹ 200 for entertainment and the remaining spent nothing.

41. A total of 168 children have no savings habit. The remaining 40 respondents save through bank (20), keeping cash at hand (4) and thrift through school teacher (16).

42. The amount of monthly savings by the sample children ranges from ₹ 100 to ₹2500.
43. About 44 children own houses only and another 44 sample respondents own vehicles only.

44. 80 i.e. 38.46 percent respondents own house and vehicle (bike) as their assets.

45. No fisher children have borrowed.

46. Electricity, Kerosene, Firewood and LPG are the sources of energy for cooking at the homes of sample fisher children in the study area.

47. About 188 respondents use LPG at their home for cooking and 44 respondents use kerosene and firewood for cooking.

48. All the 208 respondents’ houses are equipped with electricity facility and drinking water facility.

49. No fisher children are fully satisfied with their job. Majority i.e. 164 children are moderately satisfied and 44 not satisfied with the present job.

50. Among the total 208 sample children, only 9.62 percent i.e. 20 have attended the training programmes organised by the Government.

51. There is no chronic diseases exist to the children i.e. 196 responded that they have no disease.

52. About 55.77 percent of children do not know about the festivals of the village and the remaining respondents have stated that there is a Kottai Pattinam Dharga festival (60), local temple festival (20) and boat races (12). But no children have knowledge about the history of their villages as well as district.

9.5. **Areas for further research**

The current research has fully dealt with the socio-economic conditions of marine fisher folks in Pudukkottai district. The research can be extended to analyse the production, processing and export of fish. Inland fisheries sector is totally neglected in this research. A major portion of fish production is contributed by the inland fisheries sector. The socio-economic conditions of inland fisher folks can also be studied as a separate research.
9.6. Policy Suggestions

1. Educational awareness campaign should be organised in the Study area. The education status of the people living in the study area is weak as a few fisher folks have gone for higher education. Further, Education will definitely play a positive role in the upliftment of their social and economic life. Hence, the Government should continuously organise campaigns on the importance of education, loss to them without education, etc.

2. Income during Off-season should be ascertained by establishing fish processing units and fish multi product firms. During off season, the fisher folks catch enormous amount of fish and sell them immediately to meet out their basic economic life and to avoid loss. To postpone the selling of fish, there is no preserving capacity available in the study area. Thus, they clear the market as soon as the fish reaches shore. During off season, they suffer for their livelihood. Hence, the Government should establish fish processing units to preserve the fish and dry fish to postpone the selling and to have control over the supply. This will ascertain a higher price for the fish as well as earning throughout the year.

3. Financial support from government should be increased during off-season.

4. Security, through Indian Navy, at the time of fishing should be ascertained, in order to protect from Sri Lankan Navy.

5. Modern technology should be implemented and contemporary equipments be provided to the fisher folks in order to ascertain the borders between India and Sri Lanka.

6. Minimum wages should be strongly implemented in the study area in order to reduce the discrimination of wages between fishermen, fisherwomen and children.

7. In order to prevent child labour in the study area they should be monitored, controlled and diverted to education.

8. Each coastal area should be accompanied by a marine research institute.
9. Training programmes should be organised very often. Each fisher folk should attend a training programme atleast once in two years in order to update the latest knowledge and technologies invented in fisheries sector. This should be ascertained by the department or ministry of fisheries.

10. Income tax to fishermen should be exempted 100 percent like Farmers in order to avoid black money velocity.

9.7. Conclusion

The on-going research on socio-economic conditions from time to time is an inevitable part of research in social sciences especially in economics as it helps policy makers to address the issues faced by the people. This research is in no way an exception as it revealed exhaustively the socio-economic conditions of Marine Fisher folks in Pudukkottai District, Tamilnadu. An alarming problem in the study area is that Education is poor among all the fisher folks especially among the present generation (Fisher Children). No awareness exists about education among them. Wage Discrimination exists between the fisher folks. Further, the present economic status is pulled out by the border issue especially by Sri Lankan Navy and in off-shore the mediators, poor infrastructural facilities for fish processing, etc. Thus, Government both at Central and State Level should take necessary steps to uplift and maintain the higher level standard of living of the Marine Fisher folks.