CHAPTER - IV

METHOD OF STUDY

PRILIMINARY FIELD WORK

Prior to designing the assessment of methodology, the researcher invested several hours reviewing secondary data, discussing the expected outputs of the study with a range of stakeholders, and discussing field visits reports. The researcher reviewed the available literature in detail. The significant and appropriate data such as Census 2010 data of Tamil Nadu Fisheries, Demographic and Social Profile of Kanyakumari district, Craft Registration Book maintained at the Fishermen’s Unions, Relevant books, Documentaries, Articles, Encyclopaedias, Internet, District Information Centre, Government policies, NGOs and other fishery organizations were referred for the present study.

The purpose of the visits and the day-long discussions were to have a sense of the appropriateness of methods to be used for the study:

- How approachable are the households?
- What types of questions may be appropriate and not appropriate?
- What are the best ways to approach the communities?
SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The present study discusses how social capital may enlarge our understanding of society and social wellbeing. The measurement of social capital may inform policy in their area of responsibility, and the types of policy questions that measures of social capital may help to answer and the ways in which policy initiatives may impact on social capital. The study is concerned with how levels of social capital may contribute to particular outcomes in a range of areas of social wellbeing. The present study may help in understanding why some communities adapt better to change than others, why some communities are able to do better with a given set of resources, and what influences shape community confidence in achieving goals, and also understanding about the role social capital may have in shaping these outcomes. If the links between social capital and social wellbeing are shown to be sufficiently strong, then building social capital in communities is likely to become an increasing focus of policy.

Most of the studies in fishery and the fishing communities are common in dealing with a few aspects of productivity in terms of input, management, technology and socio-economic background. The present study is important as it deals with social capital as a main feature of the community and considers the level of trust and other aspects of social capital existing among its members that will have
implications for the degree of civic engagement for improving the well-being of the community as a whole. The study may also help in understanding how the individual household can be supported and integrated with social support structures, and empowered them to actively engage in supporting each other by exchanging resources they need.

The study is significant in that it investigates social wellbeing in the light of social capital, which may help in identifying ways and means of enhancing social capital so as to provide better social health.

There is also lack of clear and accurate data on the question under investigation. This study is the first of its kind in this part of the country. The study will provide reliable set of data that would serve as baseline data for future work.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To know about the extent of social capital among the coastal communities
- To know about the extent of social wellbeing among the coastal communities
- To assess the relationship of personal profile variables with social capital and social wellbeing
- To assess the relationship between social capital and social wellbeing
- To compare the two major caste groups in the coastal communities in terms of their social capital and social wellbeing
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The measurement of social capital can potentially provide valuable insights into the social networks and links that individuals and communities have, and importantly how these networks and links can be utilized to contribute to positive outcomes for the individual and the community alike for their social wellbeing. In this way, the measurement of social capital may enlarge our understanding of how individuals in a community can work cooperatively to achieve shared goals and to deal with common difficulties. Shared social norms such as reciprocity and trust enable those in a community to more easily communicate, cooperate and to make sense of common experiences. Trust has an important role in reducing social transaction costs. Tolerance of different beliefs and cultures also stem from shared norms that imply tolerance, acceptance and respect. Reciprocity encourages the individuals to balance self-interests with the good of the community.

Social capital denotes ties between people in immediate family, close friends and neighbours. It is beneficial for a community as it enables a sense of trust and reciprocity. It enables a community to easily mobilize the members when there is a strong positive tendency
to reinforce community bonding. Such a tendency will help them to grow in mutual trust, which will lead to mutual help. Social capital is related to positive family relations. Coastal communities having a strong social capital would mean that they are outward looking and engaging with all people across different social divides. It is important for their wellbeing because it brings networks for better linkages to external assets and for information diffusion. It also helps them reach out to people in dissimilar situations, such as those who are entirely outside of the community, thus enabling them to leverage a far wider range of resources than the limited ones as available in the community.

The underlining theoretical perspective of this study is that high level of social capital increases the chances of aspects of social wellbeing. It is hypothesized that coastal communities endowed with higher stock of social capital are perceived to be in a stronger position to deal with social resolve disputes and take advantage of new opportunities in order to work together towards solving communal issues, the aspects of community governance and creates optimism about future, which, in turn, leads to better life.
As shown in the above figure, social capital with its seven dimensions, viz. group participation, generalized norms, togetherness, everyday sociability, neighbourhood connections, trust and volunteerism, are hypothesized to have positive influence on social wellbeing with its five dimensions, viz. social integration, social coherence, social contribution, social acceptance and social actualization. The personal profile variables like age, gender, education, caste, income etc. will have influence on both social capital and social wellbeing.
OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

**Group participation** is the extent of involvement in social groups. It includes number of group memberships, frequency of participation, contribution of money and participation in group decision making.

**Generalized norms** refers to helpfulness of people, trustworthiness of people and fairness of people.

**Togetherness** refers to the feeling of belonging prevailing in the neighbourhood / village / community and the extent to which people get along.

**Everyday sociability** refers to one’s engagement with other people by way of getting together to do something of common interest.

**Neighbourhood connections** refers to the likelihood of receiving help from and extending help to neighbors in times of need, such as taking care of child when one is sick.

**Trust** refers to the extent to which one has confidence in family, people in neighbourhood, people from same and other social groups, business owners, government officials, government service providers, local government, courts and police.

**Volunteerism** refers to the level of people in the community coming forward to help in community activities. It includes community expectations, criticism for not participating and contribution to community activities.
**Social capital** refers to the sum of social resources one has. It is the composite of Group participation, generalized norms, togetherness, everyday sociability, neighbourhood connections, trust and volunteerism as defined above.

**Social integration** is the evaluation of the quality of one’s relationship to society and community. It is the extent to which people feel that they have something in common with others who constitute their social reality, as well as the degree to which they feel that they belong to their communities and society.

**Social acceptance** is the construal of society through the character and qualities of other people as a generalized category. Individuals who illustrate social acceptance trust others, think that others are capable of kindness, and believe that people can be industrious. Socially accepting people hold favorable views of human nature and feel comfortable with others.

**Social contribution** is the evaluation one’s social value. It includes belief that one is a vital member of society, with something of value to give to the world. Social contribution reflects whether, and to what degree, people feel that whatever they do in the world is valued by society and contributes to the commonweal.

**Social actualization** is the evaluation of the potential and the trajectory of society. This is the belief in the evolution of society and the sense that society has potential, which is being realized through
its institutions and citizens. Healthier people are hopeful about the condition and future of society, and they can recognize society’s potential. Socially healthier people can envision that they, and people like them, are potential beneficiaries of social growth.

**Social coherence** is the perception of the quality, organization and operation of the social world, and it includes a concern for knowing about the world. Healthier people not only care about the kind of world in which they live, but also feel that they can understand what is happening around them.

**Social wellbeing** is the appraisal of one’s circumstance and functioning in society and it is the composite of social integration, social coherence, social contribution, social acceptance and social actualization as defined above.

**MEASURES**

**Social Capital**

There have been developed some scales and indexes to measure social capital with varying dimensions. Inglehart et al (1997 quoted in Narayan and Cassidy, 2001), developed the World Values Survey which has two dimensions. The Index of National Civic Health (National Commission on Civic Renewal, 1996 quoted in Narayan and Cassidy, 2001) with five dimensions, the Barometer of Social Capital developed by Sudarsky (1999 quoted in Narayan and Cassidy, 2001) with eight dimensions and New South Wales Study measure by Onyx
and Bullen (1997 quoted in Narayan and Cassidy, 2001) with eight dimensions are some of the different measures of social capital. After analyzing all these measures thoroughly Narayan and Cassidy (2001) offered a comprehensive tool covering more aspects of the concept to measure social capital named as Global Social Capital Survey. The present study uses the Global Social Capital Survey developed by Narayan and Cassidy. It is a composite index consisting of 31 items with seven dimensions. The dimensions and their respective number of items are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Number of items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group participation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generalized norms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togetherness</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyday sociability</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood connections</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteerism</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social capital</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are different kinds of response options for different items and dimensions of the index. In some cases, there are absolute frequencies, such as number of groups, number of times and the like. In other cases, the responses were in the scale form like: very unlikely, unlikely, neither unlikely nor likely, likely, very likely. The responses
were assigned scores accordingly. Thus, separate scores for the seven dimensions were obtained. The total of all the seven scores was the social capital score.

**Social Wellbeing**

For measuring social wellbeing, the social wellbeing scale developed by Keyes (1998) was used. It is a composite scale consisting of 33 items with five dimensions. The dimensions and their respective number of items are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Number of items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social integration</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social acceptance</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social contribution</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social actualization</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social coherence</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social wellbeing</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Response options range from strongly, moderately or slightly disagree to slightly, moderately or strongly agree. The scores assigned are: Strongly disagree = 1, Moderately disagree = 2, Slightly disagree = 3, Slightly agree = 4, Moderately agree = 5, and Strongly agree = 6. There are negative items and they are reverse scored. Separate scores for the five dimensions were obtained. The total of all the five scores was the social wellbeing score.
RESEARCH DESIGN

The study is both descriptive as well as explanatory by its design. It is descriptive in that it describes the extent of social capital, social wellbeing and community life satisfaction as present in the coastal communities. It is explanatory in that it hypothesizes the relationship between social capital and social wellbeing, explaining social wellbeing in terms of social capital.

MAJOR HYPOTHESES

Social capital is positively related with social wellbeing.

Each of the social capital dimensions as well as the composite social capital has positive relationship with each of the social wellbeing dimensions and the composite social wellbeing.

SAMPLING

Collecting primary data from all the coastal communities will be far beyond the ability and resources of the researcher. Therefore, representative hamlets were identified and sampled for analysis. The Tamil Nadu fisheries department has divided the 71.5 km coastal line of Kanyakumari district into East Coast and West Coast for administrative and management reasons.

As for the Fisheries Census Report of 2010, the 42 coastal villages are studded with 34,779 households with 1,43,388 population. In the East Coast, 11.5 km coastline has 11 villages, 7,728 households with 32,772 populations. The 60 km coastline of
West Coast is studded with 31 fishing hamlets, having 27,051 households with 1,10,616 populations.

Three fishing hamlets of the East Coast, viz. Kovalam (943 households), Chinnamuttom (579 households), Periakadu, (239 households), and three fishing hamlets of the West Coast, viz. Colachel (2062 households), Muttom (1804), Keezhmidalam (304 households) were chosen for the study.

These villages were chosen on the basis of the following reasons. All types of traditional, motorized and mechanized sector fishermen are available in these villages. One out of three is active in fishing and there is a large population dependent on fishing in each of these villages. They share common important features. They reside in a specific locality and interact with one another on an ongoing basis. They have a shared sense of identity, interests, values, governmental and non-governmental institutions, cultural and historical heritage. While they are homogeneous in these aspects, they are also heterogeneous in terms of size, caste and occupational distribution. Some of the villages are exclusively populated with one caste while others are populated with both the castes, viz. Mukkuvars and Paravars. Choice of these villages will ensure adequate representation of caste groups as well as occupational groups.

Taking into account of the number of households in these six villages, it was decided to select 5% of the households from each
village, to get adequate number of sample size. Each of these villages is divided into small units called Anbiams assigned with identification numbers for administrative purposes. Anbiam in Tamil means a place of love. The number of Anbiams in one village varies 15 to 50. Each Anbiam is composed of 35 to 50 households. The researcher contacted the Anbiams to get information about as well as access to the households for collecting data. Each Anbiam has a list of households affiliated to it. The researcher got the list and worked out the number of households corresponding to 5% of the total number of households in the Anbiam. The total number was divided by the number of households to be selected. The obtained number was the size of class, with which the list was subdivided into so many classes as equal to the number of households to be selected. From the first class in the order, one household was selected using lottery method. Thereafter, from each of the subsequent classes, the corresponding nth household was selected. Thus, the households from all the Anbiams in a village were selected and following suit from all the villages. Thus, the households for the study were selected by systematic random sampling method.

The number of households available and the number of households selected for the study from the villages are presented hereunder.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Village</th>
<th>Total number of households</th>
<th>Selected number of households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>East Coast</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kovalam</td>
<td>943</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinnamuttom</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periakadu</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West Coast</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colachel</td>
<td>2062</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muttom</td>
<td>1804</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keezhmidalam</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,931</strong></td>
<td><strong>297</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DATA COLLECTION**

**Tool and Period of Data Collection**

It was decided to collect data from the respondents by using an interview schedule. Direct interviewing would be the best way of collecting the data as required by the present study, because the respondents were expected to comprise many persons with low levels of education who would not understand the questions if they were supplied with questionnaires. Hence, a structured interview schedule was prepared that contained questions on the personal background of the respondents, and questions concerning social capital and social wellbeing. The respondents were to be heads of the household. However, since many of the heads of the household were active fishermen, who were often not available on the shores, the researcher
had to interview their counterparts. Thus, a considerable number of women respondents became part of the sample. This, in fact, helped in incorporating the gender variant perspective to a good extent on social capital and social wellbeing. On average, it took three to four hours to collect data from a respondent, as in each case considerable time was spent on establishing rapport and explaining the purpose of the interview. It took six months to interview 297 respondents. Data collection was carried out during the period of January 2012 – June 2012.

**ANALYSIS OF DATA**

A codebook was prepared for assigning numerical codes for the responses of all the questions. With the help of the codebook the responses were converted into codes and entered into the Excel spreadsheet. The entered data were checked to know if all the responses were correctly entered. Thereafter they were entered into the SPSS datasheet and necessary statistics were obtained along with tables.

The statistical methods include percentage, ANOVA (analysis of variance), correlation and multiple regression. Percentage is used to describe the data in terms of frequency distribution. Analysis of variance is used to assess the mean differences for the different categories/groups of categorical variables. Correlations are used to assess the relationships for quantitative variables. Multiple regression
is used to assess the independent as well as combined effects of the independent variables that are found to have correlations with a particular dependent variable. All tests are evaluated at a 0.05 level of significance. The significant values are highlighted in bold. To highlight the correlated variables, diagrams are also presented.

PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY

The study is presented with the following chapters along with appendices.

Chapter I Introduction

This chapter introduces the concepts of social capital and social wellbeing with their historical development.

Chapter II Review of Literature

This chapter deals with review of different studies in different settings with diverse perspectives and findings on social capital and social wellbeing.

Chapter III Research Setting

This chapter describes the setting in which the present study was conducted. It narrates the social as well as economic organization of the coastal communities.

Chapter IV Method of Study

This chapter describes the methodology adopted for the present study, including the objectives, definitions and measures of concepts, sampling, tool for data collection, and the methods of data analysis.
Chapter V Analysis of Data

This chapter presents in detail the various analyses of the data with tables and diagrams. It has separate sections dealing with the personal profile of the respondents, social capital, social wellbeing, social wellbeing in relation to social capital, community life satisfaction and comparative analysis of the caste groups.

Chapter VI Findings

This chapter summarizes the findings of the study along with plausible explanations and the implications of the study with suggestions for policy references and further research.

Appendices

Bibliography

Interview Schedule

Tamil Nadu Marine Fisherfolk Census – 2010.