CHAPTER-VI
SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION
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Summary

Fisheries sector is an instrument of livelihood for a large section of economically backward population of the country. It is the only sector that offers cheap and good animal protein to the people, particularly to the economically weaker sections of the society and thereby it serves as a means of ensuring national food security. It is also a major contributor of foreign exchange earnings for several countries including India through export. The potential forward and backward linkages through boat building, construction of fishing harbours, fish processing etc., contribute further to diversification and strengthening of the regional and national economy.

Production of inland fish production in India has increased from 15.36 lakh tonnes in 1990-91 to 28.10 in 2005-06. But at the same time, the production went to range of 35.26 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 which is high amount that of recent production during 2005-06. Though, the production over the year shows impressive growth, the country largely depends on either traditional methods of capture or culture fisheries or on a very few commercially viable technologies.

The fish and fish products are highly exported during 2002-03 and 2004-05 with the exported quantity of 70147 and 70809 respectively. But at the same time the yearly export quantity is some what less, when compared with the past. The incident like Tsunami may be one of the reasons for reduction in fish export particularly in the year of 2003-04, while it is more in 2002-03 and 2005-06.

The people in the study area are traditionally involving in fishing and its related activity. Most of the people in the study area have attained only middle school education and no one has obtained higher education. The primary reason for the low level of education in this
area., because, the school going children are also very interested to go for fishing when thee potential forward and backward linkages through boat building, construction of fishing harbours, fish processing etc. contribute further to diversification and strengthening of the regional and national economy.

The problem of insufficient funds commonly exists with both the fishermen and boat owners. At the beginning, there were some discouragements for the fishermen in the form of non-availability of sufficient funds, non-availability of equipments, lack of technical skills, and absence of the time. During 2004-2005, the country exported 4.37 lakh tonnes of marine products, resulted the export earning of Rs. 6188.92 crores. Efforts are being made to boost the export potential through diversification of products for export.

Most importantly, fishery sector area is the primary source of livelihood for a large section of economically backward population in the study. As the people are traditionally involving in fishing and related activities, the fishermen have gained more experience in the same field and the fishermen’s families could draw maximum income. The problem of insufficient funds commonly exists with both the fishermen and boat owners. The fishermen have invested a large amount of money in fishing crafts and gears. The fishermen and their families have also involved in saving in various modes such as insurance and group saving (SHG), etc. and on the other side the fishermen have borrowed various amount of money for the purpose of investing and to fulfill the family needs. In some period, the quantity of fish catching goes down due to so many reasons. It could be easily observed that there is no great smash up by the incidence of tsunami.

**Findings**

This part of the report deals with the findings and conclusion, based on the study on economic activities of fishermen in the coastal villages of Tuticorin district. From primary survey it is understood that the important factors viz. living condition, level of literacy, saving, investment, and pattern borrowing which are related to the economic activities of the
fishermen in this district. Major findings of the study regarding the economic activities of the fishermen in the study area are presented in this chapter.

- The fishermen are at the age level of 28-50 and above. 20 per cent of the respondents are at the age group of 28-35, 50 per cent of the respondents are at the age group of 36-45 and 30 per cent are at the age group of 46-50 and above.

- In the total samples, 56 per cent of the respondents have received middle school education, only 2(4 per cent) have crossed high school education, 19(38 per cent) have obtained primary education and 1(2 per cent) is illiterate. The data, observed from the sample revealed that nobody has obtained higher educational qualification in this area.

- The fishermen have obtained 2 to 20 year experience, 32 per cent have obtained 2 to 10 years of experience, 24 per cent are with 11-15 years of experience, 30 per cent have got 16-20 years of experience and only 14 per cent are experienced for more than 20.

- The respondents of 66 per cent out of 50 respondents are residing in terraced house and only 17 (34 per cent) respondents family belongs to middle income group are receding in tiled house.

- In the total population, majority of the respondents families (84 per cent) are having 2-4 members and the rest of families consist of 5-6 members. The family having more than 4 members could earn more income due to more contribution of family households in fishing activities.

- Only 14 per cent of the fishermen’s families in the total population are having additional employees those who are engaged in fishing and its allied activities.

- Among the total respondents, 86 per cent respondent’s family follow nuclear family system, rest of 14 per cent is belonging to joint family system. Mention should be made that the families belonging to the high income group are as nuclear families.
In the total, 50 per cent of the boat owners in the total have invested on Vallam at the range of Rs.350001-450000. 44 per cent of the owners have invested Rs. 250001-350000. 6 per cent have invested the amount of below 250000 on Vallam.

Only 10 per cent of the fishermen are involving in the fishing activities with below 6 members and rests are with more than 7 members.

The fishermen in the study area are capable of catching could catch up to 600 kilogram during the peak season. Of the 50 samples, 38 respondents are able to catch 400-600 kg of fish in a trip. In the total, 20 per cent respondents are unable to get fish than 400kg. Only 4 per cent fishermen are reaching the quantity of fish-catch more than 600kg.

In the 50 samples, 66 per cent of the respondents are normally spending Rs. 901-1800 for fuel. The rest of 17(34 per cent) are spending up to Rs.900.

The sample respondents are getting income from fishing activities at the range of Rs.6000-9000 and Rs.9001-12000. Out of the total samples, 62 per cent of the sample respondents are able to getting their income from fishing activities at the rate of Rs. 9001-12000.

In the total, 52 per cent families are getting income up to Rs. 2000 from selling dry fish. Of the total samples, the number of the families not involving in dry fish making is 48 per cent.

Most of the sample respondents (80 per cent) are able to get ready cash by selling their fish, and remaining 20 per cent are getting latter.

It is very interesting to mention that 96 per cent of the family is able to save their income, in which 27.08 per cent of the respondents are saving a part of their income even though they are belongs to the low income group.
Conclusion

Fisheries have been as a powerful income and employment generator as it stimulates growth of a number of subsidiary industries and is a source of cheap animal protein. It is an instrument of livelihood for a large section of economically backward population of the country. Fishery is the only sector that offers cheap and good animal protein to the people, particularly to the economically weaker sections of the society and thereby it serves as a means to ensuring national food security. In the previous studies, it is well documented that it is also a major contributor of foreign exchange earnings for several countries including India through export. The potential forward and backward linkages through boat building, construction of fishing harbours, fish processing etc., contribute further to diversification and strengthening of the regional and national economy.

Fishing has been a traditional occupation for a large section of the people inhabiting the sea coast of all over the world. As a source of food, fisheries stand almost in equal position as agriculture and animal husbandry. More than 14.4 million people are engaged in fishing and its related activities in India. It is appreciable that the production of inland fish production in India has increased from 15.36 lakh tonnes in 1990-91 to 28.10 in 2005-06. The share of marine product in exports has steadily grown over the years from mere Rs.3.92 crore in 1961-62 to Rs.7245.30 crore in 2005-06 accounting to approximately 2.1 per cent of the total India’s exports.

On the basis of above trend, there is a fact that the efficient performance of the fishermen leads to the positive progress of the country as well as the people especially those who are living in the coastal regions. In this dependency, each and every fisherman in the study area is gets full involvement in fishing activities. At the time of canalization it is stated that the education level among the people very low. Only 14 per cent of the fishermen’s families in the total population are having additional employees to generate additional source of income. 50 per cent of the boat owners have invested on Vallam at the range of Rs. 250000-450000 and this lumps sum amount of investment induce the fishermen to the habit of borrowings. Income of the fishermen only from fishing activities which accounts to the range of Rs.6000-12000 and 96 per cent of the family is able to save their income, in which 27.08 per cent of the
respondents are saving a part of their income even though they are belonging to the low income group.

**Suggestion**

The present study has not only brought the socio-economic conditions of the fishermen community but also provides some valuable suggestions. The suggestions given in this part would pave way for evolving suitable policies for promoting the fisheries and the livelihood of the coastal people, the most vulnerable people living in the most fragile zone.

(i) Financial strain is the primary problem of each and every fishermen particularly those who are belonging to the poor family and also they do not know the proper way to avail the financial assistance. In order to reduce the financial burden of the fishermen, the Government may take some measures to provide loans and subsidies to the fishermen.

(ii) As the fishermen are spending more money for their children's education as well as transport, the government may provide free education and the technical education should be provided for those who are involving in technical profession such mechanism of gear and graft, vessels management, etc.

(iii) The fishermen are usually suffering from high expenses on fuel for fishing boats. The government may supply fuel (diesel, kerosene) in cheap rate to make the fishermen to actively involve in fishing activities. As a result, the lack in supply of fish even in the off season can be compensated.

(iv) In order to increase the supply of fish and to reduce the clash among the fishermen communities in every region, the government may provide at least one landing centre with a distance of every ten kilometers.

(v) Non-availability of storage facilities to keep the fish for a long time till the fishermen reach the landing centre is one of the problems existing among the fishermen. As a
result more quantity of fish is to be wasted within a few hours. To solve this problem, the Government may provide the for storage facilities, with required equipments.

(vi) The people who are living on marine belt couldn’t forecast the natural disaster like tsunami to safe guard the people such this critical situation, the government may launch the warning system to previously know the sea waves changes.

(vii) The branches of national fisheries development bank should be established in the study area, which will finance exclusively for the over all development of fisheries sector.

(viii) Government concentration on basic amenities such as good transport telephones and other facilities will lead to quick market clearance.

(ix) A separate institute for skill development use of new technologies, discussion making will give a life to the fishing community.