

CHAPTER III

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Social Status
- 3.3 Economic Status and Knowledge of FWCSs
- 3.4 Summary

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a brief account of the social and economic status of the members of Fisher Women Co-operative Societies in Kanyakumari district. The independent socio economic variables such as age, educational status, marital status, size of family, occupation, experience, ownership, nature and type of house owned and sanitation facilities are chosen for analysis.

3.2. SOCIAL STATUS

Social status of the members of FWCS depends upon their personal character and the environment in which they live. Age, literacy level, size of family, housing, experience as members in FWCSs, extent of involvement in group activities and the level of participation in social and family functions are the important determinants of one's own status in the society. A taluk-wise analysis of respondents with respect to these factors is presented in the following paragraphs.

3.2.1 Age

A fisherwoman is eligible to join in FWCSs only when she attains the age of 18. The respondents were grouped into three categories depending upon their age and the classification is presented in Table 3.1.

TABLE 3.1
Distribution of Respondents by Age

Sl. No	Age group (Years)	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	30-40	42(51)	30(37)	10(12)	82(27)
2	41-50	28 (25)	60(55)	22(20)	110(37)
3	51-60	50(46)	40(37)	18(17)	108(36)
	Total	120(40)	130(43)	50(17)	300(100)

Source: Primary data
Figures given in parentheses denote percentages

Table 3.1 shows that in Agestheeswaram taluk, out of 120 respondents a majority of 50 (46%) members belonged to the age group of 51-60 years, 42 (51%) came under 30-40 years category and only 28 (25%) hailed from the age group of 41-50 years. In Kalkulam taluk, of the 130 respondents, a majority of them namely 60 (55%) belonged to the age group of 41-50 years, followed by 40 (37%) from the age group 51-60 years and 30 (37%) from the age group of 30-40 years. Similarly, in Vilavancode taluk, of the 50 respondents 22 (20%), 18 (17%) and 10 (12%) belonged to age group of 41-50 years, 51-60 years and 30-40 years respectively. On the whole it was observed that 110 (37%) respondents were among the age group of 41-50 years.

3.2.2. Education

Education is an important factor that determines the socio economic conditions of the people. The importance of imparting education to female

fisherfolk is yet to get its due recognition in rural areas in general and coastal area in particular due to many reasons. The educational level of sample respondents is presented in Table 3.2.

TABLE 3.2
Distribution of Respondents by Educational Status

Sl. No	Educational Level	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Below elementary	97(46)	91(43)	22(11)	210(70)
2	Above elementary	23(26)	39(43)	28(31)	90(30)
	Total	120(40)	130(43)	50(17)	300(100)

Source: Primary data
Figures in parentheses denote percentages.

It is evident from Table 3.2 that in Agestheeswaram taluk, of the 120 respondents 97 (46%) had studied upto elementary level and 23 (26%) had their education above elementary level. In Kalkulam taluk out of 130 respondents, 91 (43%) respondents studied below elementary level and 39 (43%) above elementary level. In Vilavancode taluk out of the 50 respondents, 22 (11%) and 28(31%) had their education below elementary and above elementary levels respectively. On the whole a majority of 210 (70%) had below elementary level education.

3.2.3 Marital Status

Among the socio-economic factors, marital status is of great significance. For the purpose of analysis the respondents were categorized

as those who were married and others. The others include unmarried, widows and the separated. Table 3.3 shows the marital status of the respondent FWCS members.

TABLE 3.3
Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Sl. No	Marital Status	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Married	101(42)	107(45)	32(13)	240(80)
2	Others	19(32)	23(38)	18(30)	60(20)
	Total	120(40)	130(43)	50(17)	300(100)

Source: Primary data
Figures in parentheses denote percentages

Of the 120 respondents from Agestheeswarm taluk, a majority of, 101(42%) were married and the rest numbering 19(32%) were coming under others category. Of the 130 respondents from Kalkulam taluk, 107(45%) were married and 18(30%) were unmarried and widows. Among the 50 respondents in Vilavancode taluk, 32 (13%) were married and 18 (30%) belonged to the others category. On the whole a majority 240 (80%) respondents were married and the others were only 60 (20%).

3.2.4. Size of Family

The size of family is determined by the number of members in the family. A family with three members is treated as small family and the family with four members is categorized as medium size family and the one

with more than four members is treated as large size family. Table 3.4 shows the distribution of respondents by size of the family.

TABLE 3.4
Distribution of the Respondents by Size of Family

Sl. No	Size of family	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Small	58(54)	33(31)	16(15)	107(38)
2	Medium	49(33)	82(54)	20(13)	151(50)
3	Large	13(31)	15(36)	14(33)	42(14)
	Total	120(40)	130(43)	50(17)	300(100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages.

It is observed from Table 3.4 that in Agestheswaram taluk, out of 120 respondents, a majority 58(54%) belonged to the small size family, 49(33%) came under the medium size category and only 13(31%) hailed from the large size family category. In Kalkulam taluk, of the 130 respondents, 82(54%), 33(31%) and 15(36%) came under medium, small and large size family respectively. Similarly in Vilavancode taluk, of the 50 respondents 20 (13%) were under the medium size family, 16 (15%) under the small size family and 14 (33%) belonged to the large size family. On the whole the majority of respondents (50%) were from the medium size family.

3.2.5 Occupation

Occupation plays an important role in determining the socio-economic conditions. The economic position of one's life is known by one's occupation. Occupation means the work that a person does to earn his living.

In this analysis the respondents were categorised as those engaged in marketing of fish and other fishing allied activities such as fish drying, salting and processing.

TABLE 3.5
Occupational Pattern of Respondents

Sl. No	Occupation	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilvancode Taluk	
1	Fish Marketing	69(34)	106(53)	27(13)	202(67)
2	Fishing allied activities	51(52)	24(24)	23(24)	98(33)
	Total	120(40)	130(43)	50(17)	300(100)

Source: Primary data
Figures in parentheses denote percentages

It is inferred from Table 3.5 that out of 120 respondents in Agestheeswaram taluk, a majority of 69 (34%) were engaged in fish marketing and 51 (52%) in other allied activities. Of the 130 respondents, a majority of 106 (53%) were involved in fish marketing and 24(24%) in other fishing allied activities. Among the 50 respondents, in Vilavancode taluk 27 (13%) and 23 (24%) were engaged in fish marketing and fishing allied activities respectively. On the whole out of 300 respondents, 202 (67%) were engaged in fish marketing.

3.2.6 Experience

Experience is the practical acquaintance with facts or events. Through experience one can acquire skill and knowledge in one's work or

activity, keeping in line with the proverb "Experience is the best teacher". The level of experience of the respondents in marketing and fishing allied activities is presented in Table 3.6.

TABLE 3.6
Distribution of Respondents by Level of Experience

Sl. No	Experience	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Upto 10 years	89(41)	111(50)	20(9)	220(73)
2	Above 10 years	31(39)	19(24)	30(37)	80(27)
	Total	120(40)	130(43)	50(17)	300(100)

Source: Primary data
Figures in parentheses denote percentages

It is evident from Table 3.6 that the level of experience was lower among 220 respondents who formed 73 per cent of the total respondents. Agestheeswaram taluk had the largest number of experienced respondents with 31(39%) followed by Vilavancode and Kalkulam taluks with 30(37%) and 19(24%) respectively.

3.2.7 Ownership of House

Owning a house is one of the major problems confronted by the coastal fisherfolk particularly after the occurrence of Tsunami. The tsunami that hit the Coromandel Coast of India on 26th December, 2004 uprooted the fishing community along the Tamil Nadu coast. Most of the fisherfolk in

Kanyakumari district lost their dwellings. Table 3.7 shows the present position of sample respondents.

TABLE 3.7
Distribution of Respondents by Houses Owned

Sl. No	Occupation	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilvancode Taluk	
1	Own house	96 (40)	104 (43)	40 (17)	240(80)
2	Rented	24 (40)	26 (43)	10(17)	60 (20)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50(17)	300(100)

Source: Primary data
Figures in parentheses denote percentages

Table 3.7 shows that a sizeable number of respondents 60 were dwelling in the rented houses after having lost their residential house in the recent tsunami devastation. They accounted for 20 per cent of the total respondents. Of the respondents who took shelter under rental basis, 43 per cent were from Kalkulam, 40 per cent from Agestheeswaram and the rest 17 per cent from Vilavancode taluk.

3.2.8. Type of Housing

Type of housing is yet another important indicator of the economic status of the family. Fisherfolk live in four types of houses namely hutments, thatched house, pucca house and mansion. The type of house which remained unaffected by Tsunami and were occupied by the respondents is shown in Table 3.8.

TABLE 3.8**Distribution of Respondents by Type of Houses Owned**

Sl. No	Type of housing	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Hutments	15 (31)	21 (44)	12 (25)	48 (20)
2	Thatched house	59 (41)	65 (46)	18 (13)	142 (59)
3	Pucca house	7 (35)	8 (40)	5 (25)	20(8)
4	Mansion	15 (50)	10 (33)	5 (17)	30 (12)
	Total	96 (40)	104 (43)	40 (17)	240 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages

It is observed from Table 3.8 that out of 240 respondents, 15 (31%), 59 (41%), 7 (35%), 15 (50%) in Agestheeswaram taluk; 21 (44%), 65 (46%), 8 (40%), 10 (33%) in Kalkulam taluk, and 12 (25%), 18 (13%), 5(25%), 5(17%) in Vilavancode taluk had 'Hutments' (made of thatched roof and mud), 'Thatched house', Pucca house and Mansion' (made of concrete roof and brick walls) respectively. On the whole, it is observed that 142(59%) were in thatched houses during the time of survey.

3.2.9. Nature of Houses Owned

The nature of house owned by the respondents was categorised into own construction, supplied by Government and inherited from/gifted by their parents. Details are given in Table 3.9.

TABLE 3.9**Distribution of Respondent by Nature of Houses Owned**

Sl. No	Nature of house owned	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Own construction	57 (44)	53 (40)	21 (16)	131 (55)
2	Supplied by Govt.	35 (46)	31 (40)	11 (14)	77 (32)
3	Gifted/inherited	4 (12)	20 (63)	8 (25)	32(13)
	Total	96 (40)	104 (43)	40 (17)	240 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages

It is seen from Table 3.9 that out of 96(40%) respondents in Agestheeswaram taluk, 57(44%) were in houses constructed by themselves, 35(41%) in houses supplied by Government under various schemes and four (12%) in gifted or inherited houses. Of the 104(43%) respondents from Kalkulam taluk, 53(40%) were in houses constructed by themselves, 31(40%) in houses supplied by Government and 20(63%) in houses gifted/inherited. Similarly, among the 40(17%) respondents of Vilavancode taluk, 21 were in self constructed houses, 11(14%) in houses supplied by Government and 8(25%) in houses gifted/inherited. On the whole, 131(55%) respondents had houses constructed by themselves.

3.3 ECONOMIC STATUS AND KNOWLEDGE OF FWCSs

Economic status of members refers to their income level, expenditure pattern, habit of savings, sources of borrowings and the like. Economic status determines the social status and the living conditions of a family. In

this section an attempt is made to furnish data relating to economic status of the respondents and their knowledge about FWCSs.

3.3.1 Income Level

The average annual income of the respondents is an important determinant to evaluate one's economic status. Income is the reward of one's economic endeavors and reflects one's standard of living. The higher the income level, the greater is their economic status, the lower the income level the lesser is their economic status. Income is the most powerful economic factor that influences the living conditions of the respondents. Table 3.10 shows the classification of respondents on the basis of their income.

TABLE 3.10
Income wise Distribution of Respondents

<i>Sl. No</i>	<i>Income level</i>	<i>No. of Respondents</i>			<i>Total</i>
		<i>Agestheeswaram Taluk</i>	<i>Kalkulam Taluk</i>	<i>Vilavancode Taluk</i>	
1	Upto Rs. 10,000	18 (35)	13 (26)	20 (39)	51 (17)
2	Rs. 10,001-20,000	70 (44)	80 (50)	10 (6)	160 (53)
3	Above Rs. 20,001	32 (36)	37 (42)	20 (22)	89 (30)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50(17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages

As seen from Table 3.10, out of the 300 respondents surveyed, 18(35%), 13(26%) and 20(39%) had an annual income upto Rs. 10,000, 70(44%), 80(50%) and 10(6%) had the annual income between Rs. 10,001 and Rs.20,000 and 32(36%), 37(42%) and 20(22%) had an annual income

above Rs. 20,001 in Agestheeswaram, Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks respectively.

3.3.2 Expenditure

The amount spent on essential goods and basic needs is yet another important economic factor. The size of amount incurred for these expenditures varies from member to member. The average annual expenditure on food, clothing, housing, education, health care, fuel lighting, transport, social functions and recreation, religious functions, charity, other expenditures and the relative share to the total are given in Table 3.11.

TABLE 3.11
Distribution of Respondents by Expenditure Pattern

<i>Sl. No</i>	<i>Item of Expenditure</i>	<i>Average in percentage</i>	<i>Rank</i>
1	Food	42	1
2	Clothing	7	3.5
3	Housing	7	3.5
4	Education	5	6.5
5	Health care	9	2
6	Fuel and lighting	2	12
7	Transport	4	9.5
8	Social functions & Recreation	5	6.5
9	Religious function	4	9.5
10	Charity/gift	5	6.5
11	Consumer durables	4	9.5
12	Other expenditures	6	5
	Total	100	

Source: Primary data

It is evident from Table 3.11 that, of the various items of expenditure, the amount spent on food stood first, followed by the expenditures on health care, housing, education and the like.

3.3.3 Sources of Borrowings

The sea is the only source of income for the members. The catch is considered to be the gift of God. Very often the nature, in the form of high tides, turns violent to claim their lives and properties. Since the income of the respondents is seasonal, they were forced to borrow from different sources to meet requirements. Table 3.12 shows the sources of borrowings.

TABLE 3.12
Distribution of Respondents by Sources of Borrowings

Sl. No	Source	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Money Lenders	18 (46)	10 (26)	11 (28)	39 (13)
2	Self Help Groups	57 (63)	25 (28)	8 (9)	90 (30)
3	Relatives and friends	13 (27)	30 (63)	5 (10)	48 (16)
4	Commercial Banks	17 (55)	10 (32)	4 (13)	31 (10)
5	NGOs	15 (16)	55 (60)	22 (24)	92 (31)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages

Table 3.12 indicates that in Agestheeswaram taluk out of 120 respondents, 18(46%) borrowed from money lenders followed by 57(63%),

13(27%), 17(55%) and 15(16%) from Self Help Groups, relatives and friends, Banks and NGOs respectively. Similarly, in Kalkulam taluk respondents numbering 10(26%), 25(28%) 30(63%), 10(32%) and 55(60%) borrowed from moneylenders, Self Help groups, relatives and friends, banks and NGOs respectively. Out of the 50 respondents in Vilavancode taluk, for 11(28%) respondents, the money lender was the prime source of borrowing. On the whole, a majority of 92(31%) borrowed from NGOs.

3.3.4 Type of Loan

The types of loans availed of by the respondents were classified into long, medium and short term as shown in Table 3.13.

TABLE 3.13
Distribution of Respondent by Type of Loan Borrowed

Sl. No	Type of loan	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Long term	20 (39)	21 (41)	10 (20)	51 (17)
2	Medium term	80 (43)	80 (43)	29 (14)	189 (63)
3	Short term	20 (34)	29 (48)	11 (18)	60 (20)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (48)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data
Figures in parentheses denote percentages

As it could be seen from Table 3.13 that in Agestheeswaram taluk respondents numbering 20(39%), 80(43%), 20(34%); in Kalkulam taluk 21(41%), 80(43%), 29(48%); and in Vilavancode taluk 10(20%), 29(14%) and 11(18%) borrowed, long term, medium term and short term loans

respectively. It is observed that of the 300 respondents, a majority of 189(63%) respondents availed of medium term loan in all the three taluks.

3.3.5 Habit of Savings

The importance of savings is highlighted by the government and various other agencies. The role of NGOs including SHGs is appreciable in promoting the saving habit among the people living in rural area. Social insecurity and awareness of children's education also motivate them to save for the future. Data relating to the agencies, which motivated the respondents to save for the future, are presented in Table 3.14.

TABLE 3.14
Agencies Motivating the Respondents to Save

Sl. No	Agency	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Co-operative Societies	95 (51)	81 (44)	9 (5)	185 (61)
2	LIC	5 (21)	13 (54)	6 (25)	24 (8)
3	NGOs	15 (37)	16 (39)	10 (24)	41 (14)
4	SHGs	5 (10)	20 (40)	25 (50)	50 (17)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data
Figures in parentheses denote percentages

Table 3.14 reveals that out of 120 respondents in Agestheeswaram taluk 95(51%), 5(21%), 15(37%) and 5(10%), in Kalkulam taluk, out of 130 respondents 81(44%), 13(54%), 16(39%) and 20(40%), and in Vilavancode taluk, out of 50 respondents, 9(5%), 6(25%), 10(24%) and 25(50%)

preferred to save in FWCSs, LICs, NGOs and SHGs respectively. Generally, people preferred to save in Fisher women Co-operative societies where saving was compulsory.

3.3.6. Knowledge of Membership in FWCSs

Fisher Women Co-operative Societies were formed by the Fisheries Department under a special programme for the upliftment of the socio-economic conditions of Fisher Women. In order to identify the sources through which the respondents acquired knowledge of FWCSs, data were collected and presented in Table 3.15.

TABLE 3.15
Knowledge of Membership of FWCSs

Sl. No	Agency	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Authorities of FWCSs	45 (39)	52 (45)	18 (16)	115 (38)
2	NGOs	8 (40)	8 (40)	4 (20)	20 (7)
3	Friends and relatives	34 (45)	31 (42)	10 (13)	75 (25)
4	Voluntarily	14 (27)	29 (56)	9 (17)	52 (17)
5	Parish Priests	19 (50)	10 (26)	9 (24)	38 (13)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (47)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages

Table 3.15 shows that out of the 120 respondents in Agestheeswaram taluk 45(39%), 8(40%), 34(45%), 14(27%) and 19(50%), of the 130 respondents in Kalkulam taluk, 52(45%), 8(40%), 31(42%), 29(56%) and

10(26%); among the 50 respondents in Vilavancode taluk 18(16%), 4(20%), 10(13%), 9(17%) and 9(24%) became members in FWCSs through the authorities of FWCSs, NGOs, friends and relatives, voluntarily (own interest) and Parish priests respectively. In all the three taluks, many became members by the interest and initiative taken by the authorities of FWCSs.

3.3.7. Reasons for Joining in FWCSs

There are many reasons for joining as members in FWCSs, the details of which are presented in Table 3.16.

TABLE 3.16
Distribution of Respondents by Reasons for Membership

Sl. No	Reason	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Financial help	78 (47)	67 (41)	20 (12)	165 (55)
2	Thrift	26 (47)	20 (37)	9 (16)	55 (18)
3	Personal interest	16 (20)	43 (54)	21 (26)	80 (27)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages

It is seen from Table 3.16 that, of the 120 respondents in Agestheeswaram taluk, 78(47%), 26(47%) and 16(20%) became members to get financial help, thrift and out of personal interest respectively. In Kalkulam taluk, out of the 130 respondents, 67(41%), 20(37%) and 43(54%)

joined FWCS for financial help, thrift and out of personal interest respectively. Similarly, among the 50 respondents, 20(12%), 9(16%) and 21(26%) were the members joined for financial help, thrift and out of personal interest respectively in Vilavancode taluk. A majority of 165(55%) became members only to get financial help and assistance.

3.3.8. Tenure of Membership

FWCSs have been organised in 36 coastal villages of Kanyakumari district with 22539 members. Experience of members is an important factor that may influence their attitude in FWCSs. Therefore, the respondents were classified into two groups namely those who had upto 15 years tenure and those with more. Details of tenure of membership are shown in Table 3.17.

TABLE 3.17
Distribution of Respondents by Tenure of Membership

Sl. No	Tenure	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Upto 15 years	101 (82)	12 (10)	10 (8)	123 (41)
2	Above 15 years	19 (11)	118 (67)	40 (22)	177 (59)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data
Figures in parentheses denote percentages.

As could be seen from Table 3.17 that out of 120 respondents in Agestheeswaram taluk, 130 respondents in Kalkulam taluk and 50 respondents in Vilavancode taluk 101(82%), 12(10%) and 10(8%)

respondents gained experience upto 15 years and 19(11%), 118(67%) and 40(22%) respondents gained above 15 years experience. On the whole, a majority of 177(59%) members had put in experience of more than 15 years.

3.3.9 Mode of Sale

The respondents of the study area were engaged in sale of catches. The mode of sale carried on by the respondents were categorised into retail sale, sale in nearby markets and retail sale in distant markets Details are given in Table 3.18.

TABLE 3.18
Distribution of Respondents by Mode of Sale of Fish

Sl. No	Mode of Sale	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Retail Sale	25 (45)	30 (49)	6 (10)	61 (20)
2	Sale in nearby markets	58 (39)	57 (38)	34 (23)	149 (50)
3	Distant markets	37 (41)	43 (48)	10 (11)	90 (30)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in Parentheses denote percentages

It is observed from Table 3.18 that out of 120 respondents in Agestheeswaram, 130 in Kalkulam and 50 in Vilavancode taluks, 25(45%), 30(49%) and 6(10%) respectively carried on retail trade, 58(39%) 57(38%) and 34(23%) respectively were selling in the nearby markets and 37(41%), 43(48%) and 10(11%) sold their catch in distant markets. On the whole 50

per cent of the respondents were engaged in retail trade in the nearby markets.

3.3.10. Mode of Transport Used

Transport plays an important role in transferring the catches from the sea shore to the market. The mode of transport used by the respondents is either private or public carriers. Buses, tempos and trucks are the common conveyance used by the members. The mode of transport used by the respondents for selling the fish is given in Table 3.19.

TABLE 3.19
Distribution of Respondents by Mode of Transport Used

<i>Sl. No</i>	<i>Conveyance</i>	<i>No. of Respondents</i>			<i>Total</i>
		<i>Agestheeswaram Taluk</i>	<i>Kalkulam Taluk</i>	<i>Vilavancode Taluk</i>	
1	Bus	36 (33)	60 (54)	14 (13)	110 (37)
2	Tempos & Trucks	25 (56)	15 (33)	5 (11)	45 (15)
3	Auto	51 (54)	32 (34)	12 (12)	95 (32)
4	Head load	8 (16)	23 (46)	19 (38)	50 (16)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages

It could be seen from Table 3.19 that out of 300 total respondents, 110 (37%) respondents used buses whereas 45 (15%) respondents used tempos and trucks. The number of respondents using auto were 95(32%). It is surprising to note that 50 (16%) respondents carried their catch by head load to the nearby market.

3.3.11. Time of Sale

Time utility has an impact on the income earned by the respondents. Members sell their catches either in the morning or evening or till the stock is over. The details are given in Table 3.20.

TABLE 3.20
Distribution of Respondents by Time of Sale of Fish

Sl No	Time of sale	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Morning only	95 (48)	80 (41)	21 (11)	196 (66)
2	Evening only	10 (40)	11 (44)	4 (16)	25 (8)
3	Morning & Evening	12 (29)	25 (60)	5 (11)	42 (14)
4	Till the stock is over	3 (8)	14 (38)	20 (54)	37 (12)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages

It is evident from Table 3.20 that most of the respondents (66%) sold their catch in the morning and only eight per cent of respondents sold it in the evening.

3.3.12 Type of Sale

The type of sale carried on by the respondents of the study area is either cash or cash and credit. The details of the type of sale of fish are shown in Table 3.21.

TABLE 3.21**Distribution of Respondents by Type of Sale**

<i>Sl. No</i>	<i>Type of sale</i>	<i>No. of Respondents</i>			<i>Total</i>
		<i>Agestheeswaram Taluk</i>	<i>Kalkulam Taluk</i>	<i>Vilavancode Taluk</i>	
1	Cash only	55 (38)	60 (42)	29 (20)	144 (48)
2	Cash and Credit	65 (42)	70 (45)	21 (13)	156 (52)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages

It is seen from Table 3.21 that in Agestheeswaram taluk, 55 (38%), respondents sold the catches for cash and 65(42%) preferred to sell for cash and credit. Similarly 60(42%) and 70(45%) respondents in Kalkulam taluk sold for cash only and cash and credit respectively. But in Vilavancode taluk 29(20%) respondents sold for cash and 21(13%) sold for cash and credit. The majority of the respondents preferred to sell for cash and credit. The credit period varied from a week to a month.

3.3.13 Place of Business

The place of business of the respondents varies from time to time. They do not have a permanent place of business. They prefer to sell in the same market or different markets or sell door to door by shouting. The places in which the respondents do business are clearly shown in Table 3.22.

TABLE 3.22**Distribution of Respondents by Place of Business**

Sl. No	Place of Business	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilvancode Taluk	
1	Same market	81 (39)	90 (43)	39 (18)	210 (70)
2	Different market	10 (29)	18 (53)	6 (18)	34 (11)
3	Door to door by shouting	29 (52)	22 (39)	5 (9)	56 (19)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages

The place of business could be seen from Table 3.22 that out of the 120 respondents in Agestheeswaram taluk, 130 in Kalkulam taluk and 50 in Vilavancode taluk, 81(39%), 90(43%) and 39(18%) did their business in the same market, 10(29%), 18(53%), 6(18%) preferred to carry on their business in different markets and 29(52%), 22(39%), 5(9%) did not have any particular place, but they sold by shouting from door to door. A majority of them namely 210(70%) of the respondents did business in the same market in all the three taluks.

3.3.14. Nature of Fish

The nature of goods to be sold by the respondents was classified into fresh items, iced and dried items. But some people preferred to do business with all the items depending on the demand and supply factors. Table 3.23 shows the nature of items dealt with.

TABLE 3.23**Distribution of Respondents by Nature of Fish Sold**

Sl. No	Nature of fish	No. of Respondents			Total
		Agestheeswaram Taluk	Kalkulam Taluk	Vilavancode Taluk	
1	Fresh	44 (35)	60 (48)	21 (17)	125 (42)
2	Iced	37 (51)	25 (35)	10 (14)	72 (24)
3	Dried & Salted	26 (53)	19 (39)	4 (8)	49 (16)
4	All the above	13 (24)	26 (48)	15 (28)	54 (18)
	Total	120 (40)	130 (43)	50 (17)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data

Figures in parentheses denote percentages.

It is observed from Table 3.23 that in Kalkulam taluk 60(48%) respondents sold only fresh items and in Agestheeswaram taluk 37(51%) dealt with iced items. Similarly 26(53%) did business with dried and salted items in Agestheeswaram taluk. In Kalkulam, 26(48%) respondents dealt with all the items. On the whole a sizable number of the respondents traded in fresh items only.

3.4 SUMMARY

The socio-economic status of the members of FWCSs functioning in Kanyakumari district has undergone tremendous changes. The socio-economic conditions are analysed taluk-wise with the help of classification tables and percentage calculations. An evaluation of these economic conditions helps in understanding the present standard of living of each fisherwoman.

A majority of the respondents were found to be in the age group of 41 years to 50 years. A majority of the sample members (70%) had low level of education. Most of the FWCS members hailed from medium and large size family. Their main occupation was fish marketing and most of the respondents were found to have less than 10 years experience.

The income level of the respondents was found to be very low. A major portion of their income was spent on basic needs like food and clothing. They borrowed mainly from SHGs and NGOs. They joined FWCSs with the primary objective of getting financial help. The economic conditions of the members improved a lot with the help of FWCSs, NGOs and voluntary agencies.

A majority of the respondents had houses constructed by themselves. Generally respondents preferred to save with co-operative societies. Many of the respondents joined in FWCSs only for getting financial help. It was found that 50 per cent of the respondents were engaged in retail trade in the nearby markets. They used bus and auto as their mode of transport for selling their catch. A majority of the respondents sold their catch in the morning only and that too on cash and credit basis.