CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

The world oceans cover over 70% of the planet earth. It is home to more of the planet's higher groups of organisms and biomes, than the land and contains much of the planet's biodiversity. Humans and their livestock's utilize over 90 million tonnes of marine fish per annum from the world ocean. The fishery resources are of vital importance of humanity and offer opportunity for perpetual harnessing at sustainable levels.

Fishery has been a source of cheap animal protein. It is an instrument of livelihood for a large section of economically and socially backward class population of the country. About 7 million people are directly or indirectly dependent on fishery. Fishery has become an important sector of the Indian Economy in the recent past and a large number of schemes are under implementation to increase fish production and to augment supply and marketing infrastructure facilities. Indian fishery has strong competitive advantages because of bountiful and diverse natural resources, besides cheap labor. Currently, India is among the seven major fish producing countries in the world. In addition, it contributes 4% of the world production. Given the enormous, export opportunities after liberalization
of the economy aquaculture has emerged as a major export earner. Fisheries in India can provide large-scale employment as deep-sea fishing and many diversified small-scale fisheries can be organized.¹ The marine fish production is exclusively from capture fisheries, barring the annual production of about 70,400 tonnes of brackish water prawns through aquaculture.

Fishing has been the backbone of social and backward class people in India. The fishing sector has a place of pride in the national economy. This sector is significant from two dimensions i.e., employment potential and export potential. There are 1,44,85,354 fishermen in the country, at the end of 2004-05². Out of the total fishermen population, about 9,33,124 are full time fishermen, 10,72,079 are part-time fishermen and 10,17,000 are occasional fishermen³. Fishery is responsible for generation of employment for millions of people in seafood and ancillary industries. As it stimulates the growth of a number of subsidiary industries, the fisheries sector is regarded as a powerful income and employment generator.

Marine fishing in India is generally confined to a narrow region of near shore areas. Until fifties marine fishing was
mostly by indigenous crafts throughout the Indian coast. In spite of successful experimental fishing or small-mechanized boats introduced by Indo-Norwegian project, mechanized fishing could not take strong roots until the end of sixties. Entering prawn export trade was the turning point in the annals of fishing history of India. Entitling returns from exportable varieties encouraged introduction of mechanized boats on large scale. This has brought in a new set of manpower generally not drawn from traditional fishing communities.

In terms of employment, the fishing sector provides full time employment to about 20 lakh personnel and part-time employment to about 14 lakhs. Of the total fish production of the country, marine and inland sub-sectors contributed to about 56% and 44% respectively.

India ranks seventh among the major fish producing countries of the world and eighth in the marine fish production. The fishery sector, contributing about 1.3% to the GDP, occupies a very important place in the socio-economic development of the country. It is a powerful income and employment generator and stimulates development of a
number of ancillarly industries. It is one of the major foreign exchange earning sectors and at the sometime an instrument of livelihood for a large section of economically backward coastal population. Contribution of the sector of the food and nutritional security is equally significant. With the declaration of the 200 nautical miles legal regime in the year 1976, India acquired sovereign rights with attendant responsibilities to explore, utilize and manage the marine living resources in the 2.02 million sq.km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The seas around India consist of varied ecological habitats, harboring diversified and luxuriant fauna, and we are endowed with a rich heritage of fishery wealth. Over the successive five-year plans the harvesting sector has achieved remarkable progress and now the annual marine fish production is of the order of 3 million tonnes, forming about 40% of the production from the Indian Ocean.

In India, for the development of fishery there is a separate division in the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. This fisheries division looks after administrative aspects at the national level. It formulates the national development plans strategy and other policies for resource management and development in fishing industry and provides technical
and financial assistance to various states for the development of fisheries.

**EXPLOITATION OF MARINE FISHERIES**

Marine Fishery is a Common Property Resource owned commonly and exploited under individualistic competition. Exploitation of Fishery as common property resource under open access harvesting, where there is free entry and exit to fishing industry is always biologically and economically inefficient. It is biologically inefficient because free entry of firms or fishing vessels leads to over exploitation of fishery resources and result in depletion of fish stock. It is economically inefficient because free entry to exploit fishery resources increases total catches so long as fish stock is to the right of the MSY. Due to over exploitation when fish stock comes down to the left of MSY, catches per unit of effort decrease, increasing operational cost of boat. Therefore, harvesting under private property right is advocated. It is both biologically and economically efficient. As the private owners choose that unit of effort, which sustains maximum yield over long time.
Fishery resources can also be exploited on co-operative basis. As co-operative principle stands for common benefit to members of the co-operative society, co-operativisation of entire fishing activity manages fishery resources in the interest of fishing industry in general. It overcomes the problem of biological and economic inefficiency associated with the common property right.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

M. B. Schaefer (1954) in his work “Some Aspects of the Dynamics of Populations Important to the Management of Commercial Marine Fisheries” has formulated a formal theory of fisheries management based on biological parameters. The Schaefer model presents the relationship between sustainable yield, Population and fishing effort. It postulates that the biomass of an unexploited fish-stock increases at various rates depending on its initial weight, recruitment, individual growth and mortality rates, the last being a negative factor. Here the catch responds to changes in Population and fishing effort. But it recognizes that changes in Population are caused by changes in fishing effort as the latter variable affects Population by taking more or less fish from the original stock.
The author maintains that if the objective of management is to maximize the catch it should regulate fishing effort at such levels where it can reap the maximum net addition to the stock maintaining effort at such levels ensures the protection of stock as well.

R. B. P. Devies and K. Sakamoto (1975)\textsuperscript{8} the authors have summarized "Report of the First open World Conference on Co-operative Fisheries." They have concluded that co-operatives were the agencies best suited for fisheries development and the aid to fishermen should be channeled through co-operative organization.

S. N. Dwivedi (1976)\textsuperscript{9} in his article "Fishery Resources and Development through Fishermen Co-operative" has observed that fishermen co-operatives have ample scope to adopt new type of fishing gear like Purse-seines, utilize low priced fishes for fish oil, fish meal, dry fish, fish papads, fish kababs and other products. The author has suggested for the fishermen to start aquaculture in low lying coastal areas. In inland fisheries, the fishermen co-operative societies should tend to develop around working centers like reservoirs, ponds and fish farms. Fishermen co-operative societies can work effectively in
the areas of making fishery requisites like nets and marketing of ancillary equipment, gear and tackle etc., to increase fish production and improve socio-economic conditions of fishermen.

C. L. Yap (1977) the author has studied impact of trawling on employment in the context of West Coast of Peninsula Malaysia. He concluded that improved technology brought about a reduction in the greater size and significant unemployment among fishermen who had no alternative occupations.

R. Pollanac (1978) in his study “Socio-cultural Aspects of Technological and Institutional change among Small Scale Fishermen” has offered a concise study of the peculiarities of fishing communities and their relevance of development design. He has identified social and cultural characteristics, which are rooted in Fishermen mode of production. He examined the issue of incremental income distribution in small-scale fishing communities. The author contends that frequently only wealthy fishermen or others who are already well off, can afford the costly new technology to increases production. He opines that this new technology gives them a
further advantage over the poorer fishermen. The author has examined the trade off between increased technological efficiency and adverse social effects such as unemployment and greater social dissatisfaction. He has stressed the role of co-operatives in fishery development projects.

A. R. Prasad and K. R. Krishna (1981) in their article “Helping Fishermen to a Better life” have presented their research findings based on their survey of fishermen and their socio-economic status in two coastal villages in Andhra Pradesh. The authors have found that in the two sample villages there are hardly any facilities for marketing, processing, cold storage of fish. The authors have pointed out that in the absence of these facilities the middlemen find it convenient to exploit the fishermen to the maximum extent possible.

The fishermen in the two study villages are found to be in the clutches of money landers and co-operatives and bank are unable to relieve the fishermen their stranglehold. They have suggested to arrange the facilities for the marketing of fish to prevent distress sales of fish to middlemen.
**Kurien and Mathew (1982)** In their study on “Technological change in Fishing, It’s Impact on Fisheries” have analysed the impact of technological change in fishing. The authors have concluded that there are regional variations in the country. Observing that the nutritive values of all species of fish are almost the same, the authors have concluded that there are different type of market demand and prices for various species. They have concluded that there is direct impact of mechanization on fish production in quantitative as well as qualitative nature.

**U. K. Shrivastava, M. Dharmareddy, B. Subramanayan and V.K.Gupta (1982)** The authors in their work “Management of marine fishing Industry” have studied the impact of mechanization on small fishermen. They have divided their study into two periods, viz pre-mechanisation (1956-69) and post-mechanisation (1970-81) periods. The authors have concluded that despite the mechanization of small shrimp trawlers after the mid-sixties the growth rate of fish production has decelerated during the post mechanization period. The total fishing efforts during the 1970-71 increased at the rate of 4.58 per cent annum. The actual fish production has increased at the rate of 2.32 per cent per annum during
this period, increase in productivity per unit effort accounted for over 40 per cent of the fish production. The authors observed that there was a marked deceleration in the growth rate of productivity. The authors have further observed that the states showing a higher growth rate of fish production during the post mechanization period are the ones where the level of mechanization is low.

K. Surendra Babu and K. Sasira Babu (1983)\textsuperscript{15} in their article “Role of Fisheries in Indian Economy” have referred to a persisting imbalance between the demand for and supply of fish in India. The production potential of fish is immense but the exploitation is slow due to lack of modernization. The authors have focused on the high ratio of wastage of fish due to lack of adequate storage facilities. The authors have stressed the need for stepping up of the export of manure products.

Developing of fisheries can provide to a number of economic activities such as fish net making and mending, ice making, canning, freezing, transportation, boat building and dry docking etc., The authors have suggested that setting up of fishery co-operative may give a boost to the economy of the
areas in the coastal regions, Packaging industry can develop considerably as a direct result of large scale commercial fishing.

R. Sathidhas and G. Venkatraman (1983) 16 have conducted a case study on “Indebtedness and Utilisation of Fisheries Credit in SAKTHIKULNAGARA and NEENDAKARA, Kerala” – The study covers the entire fishermen households of these two villages, and attempts to find out the extent of indebtedness among fishermen, and to assess the role of institutional and non-institutional credit agencies in providing finance to the fishermen community. It is observed that the average outstanding debt per indebted house in Neendakara and Shakthikulnagara was Rs 6,671 and Rs 29,766 respectively.

P. S. Rao (1983) 17 “Fishery Economics and Management in India” a notable work carried out by P.S.Rao explains the trends in the world fish production as well as in India. In this study, he has effectively discussed the role of fisheries in the world and the Indian economics. He has further examined the primitive and modern methods of fishing as well as profitability in fishing Industry, fish marketing and
management and some social and legal aspects of fisheries in India.

N. Subha Rao (1984) in his paper "Fishermen's Co-operative Federations in India – Performance and Problems" has made an analysis of the fishermen's co-operative federations. The areas covered in his analysis include progress in membership, financial resources credit and non-credit activities, cost of management and profit.

The author on the basis of his study has identified some major problems of the fishermen's co-operative federations in India.

The author has emphasised structural gap of the fisheries co-operative societies. They are weak and non-viable and do not have trained managers. He has mentioned that among a total of about 10 million fishermen in the country only 0.6 million were brought into co-operative fold and hence they are denied the benefits of co-operative organization. The author has indicated that most of the existing fisheries co-operatives are of credit type and these should be converted into multipurpose societies to extend their scope of operations.
so as to increase production and arrange marketing to ensure remunerative price to the fishermen.

The study by Mr. N. Subba Rao has pointed out that nearly 50 percent of the fishermen's co-operative societies are incurring losses and another 1/5 are running without loss or profit. The poor loan recovery has been mainly attributed to the losses of the fisheries co-operatives. The author has suggested that regional and district federations should have competent staff to collect fish prices and to arrange marketing of fish. Further the federations should in coordination with primaries should set up cold storage, ice factories, transport and other infrastructure for the fisheries in the regions.

R. Sathiadhas and K. K. P. Panikar (1989)\textsuperscript{19}, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Cochin, have studied empirically the "Socio Economic Status of Marine Fishermen along Madras Coast" All the 137 fishermen households in Pattinverkuppam segment of Thiruvottiyooruppam and 601 households in Paduminikuppam were covered in this study. It compares average size of fishermen families with population composition, literacy and educational status, occupational
pattern, income generation and expenditure pattern and availability of Credit, between these two villages.

N. Thanulingam and Sister Caroline (1992) in their paper "Economic Impact of Fisheries Co-operative Society on Members – A Case Study of Amalinagar Fishermen Co-operative Society, Chidambaram District, Tamil Nadu" have concluded that most of the fishery co-operatives have not been able to play their role effectively in meliorating the conditions of their members. The illiteracy and ignorance of the poor fishermen has been attributed to be the main reason. This according to the authors has led to their unawareness of their rights and duties towards their co-operatives. Further the ignorance about the principles and practices of co-operative acts as a deterrent to the successful working of fishery co-operatives in the country. Use of out dated boats by fishermen is another area of weakness in the progress of the fishing industry in the area.

The authors have recommended for greater extension of credit to the fishery units at economic interest cost and at adequate quantity. Better information system to enlighten the members of the co-operative units regarding the marketing of
fisheries and the use of upgraded technology in catching the fish etc., should be ensured.

**M. Muktha Shet (1995)** in her article “Socio-economic conditions of Fishermen in Dakshina Kannada District” has observed that increase in the market area and initiating co-operative marketing societies will improve the participatory role of fisherwomen. She has suggested for increasing the credit assistance given by the existing co-operative societies with assistance from IRDP and other programmes to small fishing households. There is also need for proper recovery of loans.

The author has stressed the need for special efforts to obtain bank credit to motorize the boats of small size households of fishermen who belonged to the non-mechanized sector. It can help them in improving the technology in fish processing and also in marketing.

**P. Routray, R. K. Samanta and M. V. Prasad (1995)** in their article “Fisheries Co-operatives: A New Vista for Rural Development in India” have emphasized that organization of fishermen co-operatives would aim not only to improve the economic conditions of fishermen but also mobilize the
resources and increase investment predominantly of small means and who have great difficulty in marketing and processing of fish. The authors have referred to the fact that the co-operative organization would render much needed service and gradually uplift the fishermen from the economic clutches of middlemen.

The authors have mentioned some of the major weaknesses, which have resulted in misfunctioning of co-operatives of fishermen viz., lack of technical skill on the part of the members, non availability of technical guidance, lack of financial for adequate, timely and cheap credit, lack of marketing facilities in the vicinity, members disloyalty towards their co-operatives, lack of understanding of the philosophy of co-operation and loopholes in co-operation and non viable units etc.

T. G. Ramaiah (1995) in his article “Fishermen Problems and Prospects – A Case Study of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh” has advocated for starting a fisheries co-operative society in the area covered by his study. He has made an elaborate list of failures and weaknesses in the prevailing fisheries management in the private sector. The author study
has revealed that though the potential for prawn fish farming in India was 2.5 million hectares the actual utilization was less than five percent. He has mentioned that fishermen are being continuously exploited by the private traders/contractors by not giving remunerative price for their produce. The author has suggested that the Government should provide financial assistance to fishermen by starting fisheries co-operative society. Spread of literacy among fishermen through starting adult education centers would help in minimizing the exploitation created by the private traders and contractors. The author has also pleaded for better housing for fishermen who are staying in thatched houses.

U. Narkeswasdi (1996) has evaluated Kaula Linggi Fishermen’s Co-operative Credit and Marketing Society of Kaula Lumpur. The author has observed that in one fishery development project in Malaysia for example, the source of credit for the fishermen was a Government sponsored co-operative. Many of the fishermen in the region reasoned that it is duty of the government to help them. However the loan is just like subsidy or charity and did not have to be repaid. Because of the fishermen’s approach neither the loans nor the
equipment provided were treated as a scare resource and the project encountered serious difficulties.

K. G. Kumar (1998)\textsuperscript{25} in his article "Organising Fisherfolk Cooperatives in Kerala" has observed that co-operative enterprise was the best means for fisherfolk to improve their socio-economic standards. The Government in Kerala linked the organizations of co-operations to attractive incentives like the provision of mechanized boats, long-term loans and grants. The author has referred to the major lacunae in the fisheries co-operatives viz., inaccessibility of funds from financial institutions and consequent inability to meet the credit needs of fisherfolk, lack of working capital to operate the mechanized boats, failure of marketing co-operatives due to the lack of supply from producer co-operatives.

M. Bavinck (2001)\textsuperscript{26} in his article "Caste Panchayats and the Regulation of Fisheries Along Tamil Nadu's Coromanded Coast" has analysed the ramifications of non-state panchayat action in the field of marine resources management. He has investigated how fishermen panchayats are involved in replacing access to and usage of fish resources. He has also examined the mechanisms of regulation and has discussed the
likelihood that similar structures have emerged in other occupational settings.

The study by Marten Bavinck has revealed that the caste system plays a role in the management of common pool resources such as fisheries. The author perceives that the resource management activities of the Coromandel Coast are not only the manifestation of a value system but the product of an effective administrative structure which itself is constantly being renewed. The author has concluded that until the commencement of the ‘Blue revolution’ in the 1960’s marine fishing was an economically marginal and a socially disparaged activity, neglected by the state as well as by private initiative. Consequently the fishing population was largely left to fend for itself. The author says the establishments of a strong mechanized boat fishing sector and state involvements in the fisheries field are now putting caste panchayats under pressure.

K.C. Samal and S. Maher (2003) in their paper “Co-operative Societies of Fishermen of Chilika Lake – Problems and Prospects” have identified some problems faced by co-operative societies of fishermen of Chilika. The authors have
mentioned major problems of the fisheries co-operative societies as; (i) lack of resources of the societies and non-repayment of loans by its members. (ii) Corruption of office bearers (iii) Competition of fish merchants (iv) Centralization of Power with the registrar of co-operative societies and (v) Political and administrative interference.

The authors have affirmed that co-operatives succeed when the group is small and homogenous and whose members enjoy a high level of equality in their socio-economic status. This trait is found among the fishermen of Chilika. They have strongly suggested that co-operatives including fisheries co-operative societies require constitutional protection to be an effective rural financial institution and to be an independent organization. The authors firmly believed that there is need for democratizing, deofficialising and depolitizising the co-operative movement.

**B. Mohan and K. Srinath (2004)** The authors have made an analysis of the structure and role of fishery co-operatives of Maharashtra. They have concentrated their study on the infrastructure available with the co-operatives for small-scale fisheries development. The authors have examined the
constraints involved in the management and operation of the societies and they have tried to make some useful suggestions for improvement of the working of the fisheries co-operatives in the state.

In spite of a substantial growth of fisheries trade handled some weaknesses to which small scale fisheries sector is exposed to the study has revealed that increasing investment and operational cost have been faced by the small scale fisheries sector is faced with competition from large trawlers and foreign vessels. The findings suggest that there is a reduction in the total fish catch. The berthing facilities are inadequate for boats and the fisheries trade of the centers faces pollution problem. The fisheries co-operative societies have been striving to improve the fisheries industry in the state. They have been able to contribute to the development of small-scale fisheries by providing the necessary infrastructure viz., ice factories, cold storage, diesel pumps, fish requisites, fresh fish sale shops, prawn sale shops etc. they supply inputs for the fisheries units, credit and training and welfare programmes for members. The societies support the fish marketing and repairing facilities. The societies have provided insurance for boat and life of the members.
A. Sharma, P. Mahanta and R. Sharma (2005) in their study 'Status Categorization of Members of a Fishery Co-operative Society in West Bengal' have evaluated the socio-economic conditions of members of the Bon Hooghly Fishermen Co-operative Society Limited in West Bengal. The data were collected through a survey covering 41 of the 70 members of the BHFCSL. The results of the survey revealed among others that the fishermen belonged to middle status of society. The training needs of the respondents were also identified by the research study.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS

Fisheries co-operative society in Uttara Kannada is facing some of the problems. This affects its working and performance, which leads to less economic and social development in the field of fish marketing business and other areas of development. Some of the problems facing by fisheries co-operative societies are as follows:

1. **Rehabilitation of people due to Sea Bird Project in Uttara Kannada District**: The problem faced by most of the people, mainly the fishermen in Uttara Kannada District is due to the rehabilitation of people
from one place to another from the coastal line of Karwar area and other districts by the restrictions influenced by Sea Bird naval project. There is lot of influence of this on the fish production and fish catch mainly in Karwar. The villages in Karwar such as Binaga, Sankrubhag, Arga, Bellikeri, Baithkol are restricted for the fish catch and the people of this villages are rehabilitated to other areas like Chittakula, Todur, Mudgeri and other areas where is less scope for fishing. Thus, it indirectly influences the working of the society because of the less fish marketing.

II. **Lack of Sophisticated technology:** The first problem of the societies that it has not gone for sophisticated and advanced technology in production for catch of fishes or in post harvest operatives, which are beyond the grasp and operational capability of heir members. No scope for diversification. This can ensure for financial viability and long-term sustainability.

III. **More interference of Government:** The government plays a major role in the working of the society.
Almost all the workings of the society is handled and directed by the Government. The staff, members and employees have to follow and interpret the rules and regulations laid down by the government.

IV. **Inadequate facilities of credit and finance:** Society has to depend in majority on the finance provided by the government and funds or loans through various types of government schemes, which leads to inadequate facilities to the society. Sometimes the society has to wait and go through many of the governmental and other formalities for sanctioning of the loan to the society. Thus, it may be delay in its transaction.

V. **High dependency:** The high dependence of the co-operative societies on government share capital contribution and government loans and subsidies lead to acute working capital shortages, poor accounting and financial management. It also sometimes leads to dubious and short term leasing policy further restricting scope for long term financing from regular and commercial sources.
VI. **Transportation Problem:** Collecting the fish and transporting to the fish landing centers which is situated in a difficult terrain area in time is a very difficult task to the society. The problem may be created due to improper roads and occasionally there is a breakdown of the van carrying the fishes mostly in times of rainy season. Due to hilly region and ghats there is more risk in the transportation of the fishes to the areas of the marketing.

VII. **Threats from Industries:** The industries around the Arabian Sea and Kali River affect the fishing occupation of the people. The industries which are coming up in the coastal region and utilizing the sea for dumping their pollutants, damaging the fishery resources and also the threats from deep sea fishing companies over the fishing ground and resources of coastal fishermen (technological externalities) affect the fish production in Uttara Kannada district. As the society exclusively involved in fish marketing the low fish catch and fish production affects it.
VIII. Marketing of fish: There are many problems regarding marketing of fish. Such as lack of standardization, poor planning, lack of quality control, poor bargaining power, lack of scale of production, distribution channels, lack of knowledge of marketing, competition, ignorance of potential markets, unfamiliarity's with export activities, lack of consumer preference and taste, and inadequate storage facilities.

IX. Firstly, the fish is perishable item. The storage of fishing is a difficult task because it is to be disposed or sold before it is spoiled. Secondly, the local and neighboring markets cannot consume the large harvest and it has to transport to marketplace to the district places. This requires a lot of information, market planning, sophistication, centralization and capital investment. While the fishermen can successfully manage production and local marketing, distant marketing puts to demand on them. Marketing of fish landing or catch especially the fish landed by traditional fishermen is not sold to cooperatives at high price.
X. **Management:** There is a restrictive legal provision regarding elections, re-elections and audit. Requirements of prior permission of the government on virtually every aspect of management and day to day functioning leads to lack of symbiotic relations with usually non-functional and non-viable higher tier organization, weak infrastructure support and weak forward linkages. It also leads to weak interface with modern technology and almost non-existent advocacy activities.

XI. **Manpower:** Non-professional and frequently transferable government officials have little stake in the society that give rise to the dismal co-operative and business training and less leadership promotion activities.

XII. **Recovery of Loan:** The loan granted to the fishermen are not able to recover at the right time because of the problems of fishermen such as low fish catch, inadequate marketing of the fishes, low stock of fishes, slack season etc. when the loan to be
recovered by the society is delayed creates a problem in further granting or loans to the fishermen.

XIII. **Competition from other Institutions and private merchants:** The private Traders, merchants or any other institutions are granting loans and advances to the fishermen for a longer period. As the fishermen are economically backward, unable to pay the loan they go for private trader for loans and advances. Cooperatives are failing to either replace the traders or at least give them competition because they did not provide an integrated service covering the input supplies, working capital requirements and marketing as the traders did and that get the commission from the marketing and increase its profit.

XIV. **Inadequate information of Market:** The society is not getting the adequate information about the fish markets and its prevailing prices. Thus, inadequate information of the market is one of the defects in marketing of fishes. For marketing purposes, it is necessary to be aware of the market information and the demand and supply in the market.
OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are;

➢ To study the role of fish production in Indian economy.

➢ To analyze the structure of fish product in Karnataka.

➢ To assess the Socio-economic condition of the different occupational groups of fishermen in the district.

➢ To assess the growth of mechanized boats and its relative share in the total fish landings in Uttara Kannada district.

➢ To know the nature and functions performed by the fisheries co-operative societies.

➢ To study the working conditions of fisheries co-operative societies.

➢ To examine whether the present structure of co-operatives will help co-operativisation of entire fishing activity.
NEED FOR THE STUDY

India faces several problems like large population, unemployment and imbalance in distribution. Our government desires to create employment opportunities to reduce imbalances and to play a major role in the development of Fisheries co-operatives in the country. The government has given priority in developing these co-operatives societies so, that the economic objectives could be fulfilled. This study attempts to examine the contribution and role-played by fisheries co-operative societies in Uttara Kannada district.

Under the circumstances a need was felt of a research to study evaluate performance of Fisheries co-operative societies in Uttara Kannada district. The study intends to provide an insight to in progress of Fisheries co-operative societies. It attempts to trace the policy of government in this regard.

Finally, the information relevant to the activities of the societies is analyzed to know how the societies are successful in fulfilling the objective for which they are created. i.e., 1. Establishment of societies. 2. Procurement and distribution of fisheries. However, the present study is different from the earlier research work.
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Selection of the Study Area

To study the performance and prospects of marine fisheries co-operative societies in Karnataka coastal state. Uttara Kannada one of the coastal district of Karnataka was selected. Of the three coastal districts of Karnataka, Uttara Kannada district was selected because the total membership of fisheries co-operative societies is highest in Uttara Kannada district and more than 70 per cent of the members belong to economically and socially backward. Gabit, Ambigas, Kharvi, Moger, Halakki, Gowdas community. This is classified as scheduled caste.

Selection of the Topic

The main objective of the study is to assess the performance and prospects of fisheries co-operative societies in Uttara Kannada district. Uttara Kannada district is a coastal district, where fishery is one of the oldest and an important occupation of the people of many communities and religions. Many nationally and internationally sponsored
projects on fisheries have sought to develop the fisheries sector.

The present study is aimed at analyzing the fisheries cooperative societies in coastal talukas like Karwar, Ankola, Kumta, Honnavar, Bhatkal and evaluate the growth of mechanization, trends in fish production, development of infrastructure and aquaculture development in the district.

**Sampling Design**

Selection of Fisheries Co-operative Societies (FCSs):

The criteria followed in the selection of FCSs for evaluation were basically two-

1. The FCSs that have been started before 2000,

2. They should not be defunct.

Since, the study aims at continuous evaluation of the performance of the FCSs from 2000-01 to 2004-05, only those FCSs, which were started before 2000, were selected. Out of those, two FCSs were selected randomly as sample societies from each coastal taluk in the study area. All 10 selected sample FCSs are listed in Table 1.1.
Table 1.1
Sample FCSs in the Five Coastal Taluks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Talukwise Selected FCSs</th>
<th>Date of Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Karwar Taluk.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Harikantra-Kharvi FCS.</td>
<td>23-06-1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Karwar Mahila FCS.</td>
<td>22-05-1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Ankola Taluk.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Belekeri FCS.</td>
<td>19-02-1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ankola Mahila FCS.</td>
<td>26-06-1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>Kumta Taluk.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Tadri FCSs</td>
<td>29-07-1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Kumta FCS.</td>
<td>25-03-1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.</td>
<td>Honnavar Taluk.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Belkound FCS</td>
<td>13-09-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Honnavar Mahila FCS</td>
<td>17-12-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.</td>
<td>Bhatkal Taluk.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mavinakurve FCS</td>
<td>13-05-1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Alvekodi FCS.</td>
<td>24-10-1968</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey.

Selection of Sample Members

In each of the selected taluk level FCSs, a list of selected taluk level FCSs, a list of members was obtained, and the members were classified into four categories viz:

a) Boat owner-members [B.O.M.].
b) Crew men-members [C.M.M.].
c) Fish trader-members [F.T.M.].
d) Allied Activities-members [A.A.M.].
Which works out to 120 members from each taluk. The total sample size, therefore, was 600 members from both the talukas. Table 1.2 presents the talukwise distribution of sample members.

Table 1.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boat Owner Members (B.O.M.).</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew men Members (C.M.M.).</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Traders Members (F.T.M.).</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allied Activities-Members (A.A.M.).</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The distribution of sample members selected for personal interviews is indicated in Table No.1.2. The taluka wise distribution of the members of the respondent Fisheries co-operative societies covered by the study is provided below;
1. A sample of 45 Boat Owner Members of Fisheries co-operative societies have been selected from the five talukas each viz., Karwar, Ankola, Kumta, Honnavar and Bhatkal, taking the total number to 225.

2. Samples of 45 Crewmen Members of the Fisheries Co-operative societies have been selected from the five talukas each. The total number of the selected members of this category too comes to 225.

3. A sample of 10 Fish Trader Members of the Fisheries co-operative societies have been taking the total number of the selected respondent members to 50.

4. A sample of 20 Allied Activities Members of the Fisheries co-operative societies have been selected from the five talukas each with a total sample number of the respondents of this category to 100.

5. The sample number of the selected members of the Fisheries co-operative societies belonging to the four categories for each taluka is 120.
Sources and Methods of Data Collection

Both primary and secondary data were collected from different sources to evaluate the various objectives of the study.

Primary Data

To collect primary data on Fishermen socio-economic conditions of FCSs, two different types of pre-tested structured interview schedules were employed. The data were collected through personal interviews by the researcher on performance of FCSs, for the years 2000-01 to 2004-05.

Secondary Data

The secondary data on the financial performance of the societies were collected from the annual reports, audit reports and other official records of the FCSs for a period of five years viz., 2000-01 to 2004-05. The financial aspects of the FCSs such as trading account, balance sheet, and profit and loss account were abstracted from the audit of the FCSs for constructing the performance of the societies.
Scope and Limitations of the Study

The study is limited by the availabilities of information. The areas that can cover in the study of U.K. district, parporane of rast and hence limited to operational performance and prospects of Fisheries co-operative societies. Ratio analysis used for the study though is simple to calculate and rasy to understand, do not provide exact solutions to financial problems. There is always a question of judgment as to what significance should be given to figures.

The five coastal talukas of U.K. district covered by the Fisheries co-operatives societies. The respondents are selected on a sample random base. Hence, an element of bias cannot be ruled out.

Organization of the Study

The study is divided into seven chapters. First chapter deals with a brief introduction of the performance and prospects of Fisheries co-operative societies in Karnataka and its significance to a country. This chapter also includes a brief explanation about the objective of the study, review of existing
literature on the subject, methodology, need for study, followed by the scope and limitation of the study.

The second chapter provides a detailed description of fisheries in the world, India and Karnataka and its impact.

The third chapter develops an economics profile of Uttara Kannada district.

The fourth chapter provides details of fishing industry and fishing activity in Uttara Kannada District.

The fifth chapter provides details of social and economic condition of fishermen in Uttara Kannada district.

The sixth chapter deals with the evaluation of performance of Fisheries co-operative societies. Particularly evaluating the working co-operative society and activity strength.

The seventh chapter covers major findings and suggestions for improvement of the performance of fisheries co-operative societies. The chapter is to be followed by a detailed bibliography and appendices used for the research study.
END NOTES:


