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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In India social mobility studies have mainly been carried out in terms of departure from traditional caste-based livelihood. A survey conducted in Poona showed in the respect of mobility that traditional relationship between caste and occupation had considerably changed (Ghurye, 1961:273-6). A study carried out on those employed in handicrafts in Bengal shows that even though various occupations are found within a single caste there still remain a number of castes which tend to follow traditional vocation (Mukherjee, 1965:40).

There are studies conducted about the condition of fisher folks in Southern part of coastal villages but not much study was carried out in coastal villages especially in Kasaragod district. Studies which have been carried on coastal fishing community in Kerala are confined to some description of their socio- economic status and problems related to their occupation. Much importance is not given on the social mobility aspects among the fishing community in any study on North Kerala fishing community.

The present study is an attempt to understand the social mobility pattern among the fishing community in coastal district of Kasaragod. The study title has been entitled as “Social mobility among the fishing community: a case study in Kasaragod district of Kerala State”. The objectives of the study are to understand the trends of social mobility
among the fishing community. Social mobility is measured in terms of inter-generational and intra-generational mobility and tries to identify with various factors which have influenced the mobility among the fishing community in the study area.

The study also tried to assess the demographic profile of the respondents. The researcher has tried to elaborate issues such as socio-economic position, cultural aspects of community, family, family background, size of the family, indebtedness, savings, types of housing, education, mobility, health condition, religious life, taboos, marriage, festivals and community institutions. This study has helped to bring about the different facets of this community through this study. The socio-cultural activity of fishing community in the study area seems to be isolated lifestyle and they maintain their own socio-cultural values. Festivals, beliefs, folk dances, deity worship, annual celebration related to temple and other worships are part of the fisherman culture. Most of their festivals have a resemblance to those festivals celebrated by the Hindus.

The study has attempted to understand the problems related to fishing occupation. Fishing occupation has many problems such as problems related to marketing, storage, mechanized trawling, less catch due to reduction of fish resources, lack of availability of operational requirement, occupational risk and lack of safety guards, tourism and other development activities, high operational cost, lack of landing facility, scarcity of kerosene, lack of transport facility, technological change etc. Traditional fishing occupation is under threat due to the
changes in method of its operation, the high cost of fishing gadgets such as gear, net, engine, fuel etc.

Kasaragod district consists of sixteen coastal villages which are taken into consideration for the study and proportionate stratified sample method is used to select 300 households for data collection. The district consists of two taluks named Hosdurg and Kasaragod. The quantitative and qualitative data were recorded and after that they were cross checked, verified, processed and simple table was constructed and the facts were analyzed by using statistics concepts and percentages for drawing inferences.

The researcher used interview schedule and observation as a tool for data collection for achieving the objectives of the study. Secondary data such as facts and figures of the community and profile of the fishing community were collected through magazines, annual reports, journals, and government departments’ documents. The elderly and experienced members of the community have actively participated and supplemented as key informants as a source of such data for the study.

In 1975 all Hindu fishing castes in Kerala joined in a common state-wide caste organization as the ‘Dheevara Sabha’ (caste organization). It aims at representing the fishermen politically and coordinates their claims and attempts to raise their standard of living and social status. It includes the sub castes such as Arayan, Valan, Nulayan, Mukkuvan, Arayavathi, Valinjior, Apaniakkal, Mokaya, Bovis-mogeyar and Mogavirar.
In Kerala fisher folk castes are found in all the three major religious communities. The fishing community belongs to the social categories of Mukkuva & Anjootty (Latin Catholic), Dheevara (Hindu) and Pooislan (Muslim). According to George and Domi, (2002:17) the fishing community among Muslims is known as Kadappurathukar (beachmen). The southern districts have predominantly Latin Catholic Christians with small pockets of Hindus and Muslims, while central Kerala has a concentration of “Arayar” or ‘Dheevara’ of Hindus. The northern districts are dominated by “mapila” of the Muslim community. There are sub-castes such as mukkuvar, mugayira, ezhava and vellava of Hindu communities as well. Although there are various other castes among the religious groups in fishing communities, they are mainly among the inland fishers. While there are clear distinctions among fishing communities in Kerala particularly in the kind of craft and gear they use, there are community institutions that deal with local governance and in the establishment of equal fishing rights that are unique to some fishing communities.

The researcher has also tried to understand the social mobility among fishing community and the various factors that influenced the social mobility among fishing community in the study area. The mobility among fishing community has taken due to the expansion of educational attainment at the same time other factors have also influenced on mobility such as means of transport and communication in the state as a whole.
Social mobility leads to social and economic changes in the villages. It is a trend of readjustment of the population to change in the occupation, which strengthens and promotes many aspects of economic and social change. It plays a basic catalytic role in the structural change in the traditional primary sector. Structural change in the traditional primary sector is closely associated with development.

From the preceding chapter, it is possible to draw certain conclusion about the social mobility pattern as well as other aspects of fishing community in Kasaragod district of Kerala state. The major highlights of the study are presented as follows.

Under the demographic profile the respondent's age, sex and education, type of family, marital status, economic condition, expenditure and savings of the members of the fishing community are included. There are 846088 (2.53% of state population) fisher folks residing in the Kerala coast, out of which 46565 are residing in Kasaragod district. The demographic profile of the respondents shows that, 24 percent of them are in the age group of 35-40 years, 8 percent of the respondents are in the age group of 40-45 years, 16 percent of the respondents are in the age group of 45-50 years and 22 percent of the respondents are in the age group of 50-55 years.

There is a general awareness created in the state by the renowned social reformers and community leaders that the education is the only way to liberate and achieve social development. It is revealed that 14 percent of the respondents are having primary education 24 percent of the
respondents have middle level education, 21 percent of the respondents have high school education, 20 percent of the respondents have higher secondary education, 6 percent of the respondents are having university degree education and 4 percent of the respondents have post graduate degree education.

It is found that majority (82%) of the respondents are residing in the fishing village for more than 20 years. It is found that majority (80%) of the respondents are residing in the Panchayath area. It is found that 32 percent of the respondents have access to the town within three kilometer and 34 percent of the respondents get access to the town which is located 6 kilometers away from their dwelling.

There is an inclination of workers to change their work in all fishing villages. Mobility changes the structure of the social strata in the area due to the shift from traditional occupation. Change in traditional occupation and structure leads to mobility among the fishing community. The study indicates that 76 percent of the respondents are pursuing fishing as their traditional occupation and remaining 24 percent of the respondents are not pursuing fishing as their occupation. Regarding the preference of occupation of the respondents, 27 percent of the respondents expressed that they prefer to be School teachers 8 percent of the respondents expressed that they prefer to be Mechanics, 6 percent of the respondents expressed that they prefer to do fishing as their occupation and 16 percent of the respondents do not have any preference on their occupation.
There are deviations from the traditional occupations, as it seems due to many reasons. The dropping of traditional occupation is the indication of upward mobility. The deviations from traditional occupation to a new or present occupation are not judged by the community as higher/equal or lower to their traditional occupation. The people who have accepted present or new occupations are not away from the community functions as well as celebrations and feel that they are united for the welfare of their own people. It is found that there is a digression (33%) from the traditional occupation among the fisher folks in Kasaragod coastal district of Kerala state. It is found that there are various reasons for digression from traditional fishing occupation by the respondents such as, due to hardship of the work (12%), the earning is less and uncertainty (22%), as work status was low (10%), do not have sufficient investment (11%), not interested (11%), due to lack of family support (10%) and on account of other reasons (13%).

The analysis shows that majority (80%) of the respondents are married among the fishing community. It is found that 53 percent of the respondents are living in joint family organisation, 43 percent of the respondents are living in nuclear family organization. The study shows that 40 percent of the respondents are having 3-5 members in the family, 36 percent of the respondents are having 6-8 members in the family and 16 percent of the respondents are having above 9 members in the family.

The daily income of the fishermen has increased but compared to the modern machines and equipments and operational cost the income remains low. They are not able to find other source or subsidiary source
of income due to the nature of operation of this occupation. The analysis of economic condition shows that 58 percent of the respondents have the income in the range of rupees 2001-4000, 16 percent of the respondents have the income in the range of rupees 4001-6000, 10 percent of them have the income in the range of rupees 6001-8000, 9 percent of them have income in the range of rupees 8000-10000 and 6 percent of the respondents income is above rupees 10000.

It is found that 58 percent of the respondents have expenditure in the range of above rupees 5000, 12 percent of them have the expenditure of rupees 4000 to 5000 and 17 percent of them have the expenditure of rupees 3000 to 4000. It is understood that 66 percent of the total expenditure has incurred for the consumption of food for the family members, 35 percent of total expenditure has incurred only for the consumption of dress for the family members, 24 percent of the total expenditure is used for the educational purpose of the family members and 30 percent of the total expenditure is spent for medical treatment of the family members.

From the analysis it is understood that majority of the respondents borrow loan from formal and informal sources. It is found that 64 percent of the respondents are indebted to bank loans It is found that the money has been spent for various purposes such as meeting family expenditure (34%), for purchase of inputs (25%), educational purpose (19%) and 20 percent got credit for other purposes including personal purposes. It is found that 40 percent respondents save their money in the form of chit,
28 percent respondents save their money in the Hundi and 31 percent save their money in different forms.

It is understood that 60 percent of the respondents are living in tiled houses, 27 percent of the respondents are living in RCC houses. It is seen that 60 percent of the respondents are feeling happy about the condition of the house in which they live and nearly 40 percent of them are not feeling happy about the condition of their house. It is found that majority (65%) of the respondents are having their own house in the coastal area of Kasaragod. It shows that majority of the houses in the study area were electrified and it is evident that the basic requirements of modern living conditions are feasible to them.

From the study it is seen that 20 percent of the respondents pay regular visit for religious worship, 56 percent pay occasional visit to such places of worship and 24 percent of the respondents rarely visit religious places. It is understood that majority (77%) of the respondents participate in festivals that are taking place in their village annually. It can be observed that almost all the members are ready and they are actively involved in joining hand in hand for making the community festival celebration a grand success and exhibit their rich cultural heritage. It is clear from the study that only 37 percent of the respondents said that taboo was practiced in their home and 62 percent said that no taboo was practiced in their home.

Out of married people, 82 percent of the respondents married through arrangement and negotiations and 16 percent of the respondents
had love marriage. Regarding mate selection it is seen that 25 percent of the respondents said that the bridegrooms were selected by themselves, 55 percent of them said that it was decided by their parents in the family, 13 percent of them said that bridegrooms were selected by the elders in the family. It is observed that 70 percent of the respondents agreed that parents play an important role in selection of their partner and deciding the proposal of marriage from both the parties. Though inter-caste marriages take place among the fishing community the social approval and recognition is not sanctioned by the community immediately, but later it will not be a problem in living along with the community members. It is found that 76 percent of the respondents like to marry from outside blood relatives.

It is found that out of 300 samples 53 percent of the respondents fully encourage and support widow-remarriage, 16 percent of the respondent said that they partially encourage and support widow-remarriage. It can be seen that a vast majority do not agree with the practice of dowry. It is clear that there is a change of attitude among the fishing community that they are not infavour of the practice of dowry system. It is found that the criteria for selection of partner is their educational background (13%), occupation (15%), character (18%), family background (25%) and 12 percent of them are of the view that other factors are the criteria for selection of partner. The data indicates that 22 percent of the respondents selected their partners from their own village, 45 percent of the respondents selected from nearby village, 8 percent of the respondents selected partners from outside the Taluk, 21
percent of the respondents selected their partners and married outside the district.

Mobility takes place in numerous forms based on place and work-related characteristics. There are traditional occupational changes with no change in residence. There is Mobility in which neither the people’s occupation or residence changes but their job changes. Occupation changes with no change in region. It is identified that there are changes in occupations which are not accompanied by the changes in residence. Most of these types of mobility involve a shift into available occupation nearby the area in other sectors. There is a movement of people from one job once to the same (other sector) or similar job in another.ie geographic change with no change of employment (other sectors). Some people change their geographical position or location with a change in occupation in other sector. These include geographic and occupational mobility. These job-related moves are accompanied by changes in occupational pattern.

The augmented income and other factors might influence the degree of mobility. These factors are educational level, training received by the people and other services such as transport and communication that encourages mobility. By and large there is a trend which shows that people are more likely to move to nearby areas in other sectors than to distant or unfamiliar areas. More than this seasonal nature of traditional occupation makes young people to move in other areas including gulf countries seeking better job. Unemployed youth tend to migrate to other places as well other countries.
Illiteracy has been continued to decline from one generation to another and at the same time literacy and educational attainment has continued to rise from grandparents to parents and the present generation. It is found that fathers were better educated than the grandparents and respondents are better educated than their parents. The study findings show that there is an increase in the level of education and intergenerational educational mobility takes place among the fishing community.

The fishing community is persistently changing with the progress of education, modernization and better standard of living. The main occupation of fishing community is facing extermination and there will be few people in the new generation who wish to select fishing as their main occupation as they are in search of other occupations as their main source of living. The new generation is in receipt of education and they are trying to be employed in other sectors. Their ambitions are to become professionals and a very few people are willing to get attached to their traditional occupation.

With regard to the education of respondents it is understood that 52 percent of respondents are able to complete their high school education by the age of fifteen, 32 percent of respondents are able to complete their higher secondary school education before attaining the age of twenty and 10% of the respondents are able to complete their graduation by the age of twenty five.
It has been observed that there are various reasons for not continuing further education. 21 percent have no access to educational institution and they lack motivation to continue education. Further, 21 percent are not interested in education and 31 percent of the respondents are not able to say any specific reason for not continuing their education. As per the study findings 89 percent of the respondents showed a positive attitude towards education and they would like to educate their children to have better learning and attain better position in their life. 10 percent of the respondents showed no interest in educating their children.

It is clear that the reasons for educating their children are that 23 percent of the respondents are educating their children to gain knowledge. 37 percent of the respondents are educating their children to get prestigious occupation, 8 percent are educating their children to help to fulfill their needs. 17 percent believe that education will lead to an increase in their standard of living. Thus it is seen that the fishing community has begun to give much importance to educate their children.

The preference of children’s education by their parents shows that 6 percent of the parents want their children to be Doctors, 14 percent opined to be Engineer, 4 percent as Lawyers, 4 percent as IAS/IPS officers, 5 percent managers, 16 percent as Bank employees, 2 percent as Businessmen, 32 percent as teachers and 14 percent as other better occupations. It is clearly indicated that fishing community is well aware of different occupational aspiration and they are ready to educate their children to achieve upward mobility.
On the matter of interest in children’s education and role of parents it is seen that 21 percent of parents have arranged private tuition to their children, 32 percent are visiting schools to know the progress of their children in academic performance, 19 percent by sending their children to the people who can guide properly for their future career and 25 percent of them are spending their time with the children during the study hours to motivate the children.

The preference of education of boys and girls by their parents revealed that 69 percent respondents have opined that their preference is towards educating boys and 30 percent opined that their preference is educating girls. Regarding the medium of school preferred by parents indicates that only 26 percent respondents preferred English medium school and 73 percent respondents like to educate their children in Malayalam medium schools.

Majority of the respondents’ children has taken the benefit of the scholarship as educational facility provided to them. 45 percent have made use of these facilities, 27 percent of them have opined that their children are benefitted by the facility of free boarding and lodging. 28 percent got benefited from other facilities such as financial support from community organization for selected meritorious students.

Occupation through different generations shows that fishing occupation has been shifting from grandparents and parents’ generation to respondents’ generation. There is an increase of non-traditional
occupation in the succeeding generations. At the same time fishing occupation is slowly decreasing from grandparents to parent generation and also has decreased in the respondents' generation. Inter-generational mobility clearly indicates that there is a slow and steady shift from traditional occupations to non-traditional occupations from parent generations to respondents' generation. Thus it is evident from the study that there is an inter-generational mobility taking place in fishing community very slowly and steadily.

From the analysis of the methods and crafts used for fishing across the generation it is seen that there is a decrease of manual operation as well as use of wooden crafts in the succeeding parent generation in carrying out the fishing activities. At the same time, manual operation has been completely stopped in the respondents' generation and the use of wooden gear has decreased and there is an increase in the use of modern fiber boat for fishing operation. Methods and crafts used for fishing by the respondents show that the mobility regarding the use of new technology and its adaptation is increasing by the increase of the age of the respondents. This shows the degree of intra-generational mobility among those who continue the traditional occupation in fishing community.

Regarding the type of houses used by three generations' shows that tiled and RCC houses have considerably increased over the years and Hut, Kutcha and Puckka houses are declining over the generation. Therefore it is clear that there is an upward intergenerational mobility among fishing community.
The analysis of possession of materials across the generation tells us that there is a clear upward mobility in terms of possession of fishing equipments. Moreover, in the possession of equipments technological changes have influenced over the generations compared to the respondents’ generation to parents’ and grandparents’ generation.

It is found that 45 percent women members in the family are engaged in fishing related activities. In the respondents’ households 54 percent of the women are not engaged in traditional fishing activity.

Regarding the type of occupation engaged by women in the traditional sector indicates that 17 percent of the women are engaged in fish vending in the market, 27 percent of the women are engaged in door to door fish vending, 22 percent of the women are engaged in dry fish making, 21 percent of the women are engaged in dry fish marketing and 11 percent of the women are engaged in other activities.

Regarding the feeling of the present occupation of the respondents shows that 9 percent of them are very much satisfied with their present job, 33 percent are satisfied with their present job, 44 percent have expressed the opinion that they are dissatisfied with the present occupation and 13 percent are not able to answer the question. The main reason for their dissatisfaction was lack of opportunity for occupational mobility. These people are employed in traditional occupation. With regard to the achievement of their goal it is found that more than half (51%) of the respondents have achieved their goal, but at the same time
48 percent of them opined that though they are satisfied with the present occupation, they have not achieved their goal.

There are various reasons for not achieving their goal. 35 percent of them are not able to achieve the goal due to lack of sufficient income and also due to the low status of their job. 8 percent of them have opined that because of less education, they could not accomplish their objective. About 10 percent of the respondents opined that they could not achieve their goal due to family problems and nearly 9 percent of the respondents expressed the fact that they could not achieve their ambition due to personal problems.

The fishing community is not devoid of certain problems. When a change takes place in the traditional occupation in the fishing villages there is a corresponding change in the social structure also. Due to mechanization and other development, occupations themselves have undergone changes and new occupations emerged out of existing one over a period of time. In general, there is a trend to switch over to new job as they need to raise their earnings and to reduce the risk of a long unemployment due to the seasonal nature of fishing occupation.

Lack of participation in the traditional occupation by the present generation may not affect the fishing production as it is fully mechanized on account of change in technology and its adoption by the fishing economy. In the study area the fishing communities have followed their traditional method of fishing with motorized boats. Large trawlers were not much used by this community as they cannot able to afford to own
and maintain such modern vessels for catching fish. The experienced elders of fishing community opined that the usage of trawlers by the big businessmen and large boat owners had depleted extremely the population of fish and it has also affected the catch by those who follow traditional method and with low motorized engine capacity. As huge mechanized trawlers began to dominate the coastline, traditional fishermen with small vessels were unable to compete with the trawlers; as a result they were pushed to the sidelines. The fishing operation had its own risks that need to be faced by those who engage in this occupation especially in the high seas. There are chances of cyclone, tornadoes, tsunami, and high pressure and such dangers which sometimes lead to accidents during the fishing operation.

As social mobility takes place in all communities, it is clear from the study that social mobility has taken place in the fishing community also. The fishing community under the study has given due importance to educate their children and it has shown a positive attitude towards education. They agree that education is a social instrument towards achieving social mobility and it is only through education that can bring changes in their community and it is substantiated by the growth of rate of literacy among the succeeding generation. Moreover, the respondents are having a high expectation from their children by providing good education. There is an upward educational mobility. Educated parents are motivating their children and they are giving personal interest to their children’s studies. The occupational mobility is seen among the fishing community. 24 percent of respondents have deviated from traditional to non-traditional occupations. Further, there is a clear upward inter-
generational mobility among fishing community. The old hut, Kacha and Puckka houses were replaced by tiled and RCC houses and the use of modern gadgets for fishing operation have also increased over the generation.

**Suggestions and recommendations:**

- Scholarship should be extended in order to strengthen educational development for selected fishermen students from poor families.
- Fisheries Technical school need to be opened along with free boarding and lodging for the selected students.
- There is a need of new housing colonies for fishermen through department of fisheries for those who lost houses due to natural calamities.
- More sanitation and health amenities like wells, latrines, approach roads in the fishing villages should be provided by the governmental agency.
- New training centers should be opened to provide training on operation of modern methods for mechanized fishing especially for youth.
- Group insurance scheme must extend to all the fishermen.
- Financial assistance should be provided to the dependent of fishermen who happen to die during the fishing due to some accidents without considering the income of the family.
- Poor fishermen need more financial assistance for the marriage of their daughters.
• The amount given to fishermen through saving cum relief scheme should be increased by the department of fisheries.

• As majority of the fishermen who had taken loan from various sources are needs of write-off their debt as early as possible.

• All the fishermen who had attained the age of sixty and above years need to provide old age pension according to the increased cost of living.

• There is a requirement of process of public consultation, especially with fishing communities and their organizations during the planning of developmental activities in the coastal area.

• There is a need of an explicit recognition for traditional and customary rights of fishing communities in the coastal area. Particularly in their right to housing in coastal areas/existing fishing villages, settlements or fishing hamlets, with or without legal title deeds.

• Livelihood interests of natural-resources-dependent communities, including fishing communities, should be prioritized in the coastal area management and development. Fishing communities should be the part of decision-making processes related to coastal area management planning and development.
Suggestions for further Research:

- A comparative study of fishing communities with a similar type of sample from another community may provide interesting and meaningful insights into the mobility pattern.
- An independent study on women belonging to fishing community, their empowerment and contribution to the community and their economy will be a relevant research.
- An empirical research on caste hierarchy within the community and mobility pattern is also an interesting area for future studies.
- An in-depth study on the religious practices, beliefs, and customs followed by the fishing community in relation to their occupation will be of significance for further research.