INTRODUCTION

The Fisheries division has been perceived as a vital employment and income generator, as it animates the development of various backup enterprises, which provide animal protein to meet the food security for future era. Tamil Nadu is one of the important coastal States in the East Coast, having a coastline of 1076 kms. There are 13 Coastal districts and 591 fishing villages, with an aggregate fishing populace of around 8.38 lakhs, of which 2.81 lakhs fishing villages are effectively occupied with fishing activities. The marine fishery assets involve 1.9 lakhs sq. km of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (9.4% of India’s EEZ) and a continental shelf of around 41,412 sq. km. Tamil Nadu is one of the main makers of both marine and inland fish and fishery items. At present, around 6200 automated fishing crafts and 50,360 customary crafts (18,727 Vallams and 31,633 Catamarans) are occupied with marine fishing. The yearly yield of marine fish in Tamil Nadu is assessed at 3.93 lakhs tons. The State can possibly develop as a noteworthy exporter of marine items. Amid 2007-08, around 72,644 M.T. of marine items esteemed at Rs.1, 81,314 lakhs, was exported from Tamil Nadu.¹

The inland fisheries occupy around 3.71 lakhs ha of water spread, range including repositories, significant water system and long seasonal tanks, estuaries, short regular tanks and lakes, backwaters, and so forth., which are maintained for both catch and culture fisheries. The inland fishing populace is around 2.16 lakhs. The inland fish catch is assessed at 1.65 lakhs tons. Around 5,000 ha are being used for crisp water aquaculture, under the program of the
Fish Farmers' Development Agency. There are eight fish seed generation plants and 29 fish seed raising plants, situated in different spots, with an ability to create 2750 lakhs of fish seed every year. The aggregate salty water zone, accessible for aquaculture production, is 56,000 ha. Aside from that, shrimp culture is being cultivated in 6,066 ha.

There are 1,366 primary fishermen cooperative societies, which incorporate 399 inland fishermen/fisherwomen cooperatives. TamilNadu is positioned 6th in fish generation in the nation. The tremendous fishery assets of both marine and inland waters, have not yet been completely exploited. The fishery assets in the inshore territories have been overexploited while the offshore resources and deep-sea resources are yet to be tapped to the ideal level. The prime duty of the Department is to wisely adjust between fish production and protection of resources and also to enhance the financial advantages of the fishermen in the process.

Inland fishermen complain that they have been adversely affected by scant rainfall. With reservoirs, ponds and tanks parched everywhere, inland fishermen find it extremely difficult to earn even Rs. 50 a day. They are demanding dole, similar to that given to seafaring fishermen during the fishing ban period. An inland fisherman of Mettur P. Ramar, said that dam had only a few feet of water and the fish have not grown. Usually, they will have a minimum of 40 feet of water but this year with no rains, fishermen, who have bought annual licences from the Fisheries Department, are travelling to Karnataka as labourers, where they were paid Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per kilo for the fish they catch. He also
demanded urgent drought relief. They fish either in coracles or by wading in water. In many places, the fish that is caught in dams, tanks and ponds, are sold through fishermen cooperative societies. V. Velmurugan of the Kulithalai Vatta Ull Nattu Meenavar Kooturavu Sangam, in Karur District, said that 700 members affiliated to his society, were finding it very difficult this year. Since there were no agricultural activities now, some found employment in the sand industry but that too has come down now. Some others sell fruits and fishermen and they are worried how they could pay school fees. The cooperative society ensures that outsiders do not fish in ponds meant for members and fish are not killed, using poison or by detonation.

**Major Fishing Districts in Tamil Nadu**

Tamil Nadu has turned out to be one of the main producers of marine fish. The yearly marine fish production in the State remains at 3.93 lakhs tons. The actual fish production recorded a negligible change, from 3.93 lakhs tons in 2007-08 to 3.97 lakh tons in 2008-09. Of the significant marine fish delivering regions in the State, Ramanathapuram reported 81,569.65 tons, followed by Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur and Thanjavur (78,881.50 tons), Tuticorin (48,510.27 tons), Kanyakumari (39627.60 tons) and Chennai (32086.60 tons).

**Women in Fishery**

It is interesting to note that women have been included in different parts of the fishing business. There are cases where women have customarily been co-workers with their men folk even in capture fisheries, like in Vietnam, Sri Lanka,
a few nations in South America, West Africa, the Caribbean, and the South Pacific. In some of these nations, they are hailed as skilful navigators and, in some others, they take an interest in the development of maritime specialty. But the standard, notwithstanding, is that there is a gender-based division of work in this industry. It is likely that there is a division of work but there are different reasons as well Women in Kerala are not permitted to venture. into the ocean since she, being "polluted" would "defile" it. Comparable taboos and myths are seen in different nations as well. Muslim women are bound to the house. Due to these taboos and physical constraints, men deny women parallel association.

Women take part in fishing industry mostly by marketing or by making nets. Tragically, such a division of work perpetually suggests that the woman's contribution is less commendable. Nonetheless, as Alice Schlegel (Ed. Gender Stratification: A culturally diverse review, Columbia University Press, New York. 1977.) says, "...under states of subsistence, complementarity of the isolate male and female areas of work is the trademark mode, in view of differing qualities."  

The Indian Fisherwoman - A Profile

In India, in the marine division alone, fisherwomen numbering around 11 lakhs, operate in around 2500 beach front towns (CMFRI 1980). The basic problem faced by these women, all through the nation, is the hardship, for the most part monetary in nature that they confront. Even the fisherwomen, who are lucky to be occupied with some financial advantage, face a large group of issues.
For instance, there is little protection of wages or work, as small scale fisheries are normally governed by unwritten rules. The perishable nature of fish, inability to purchase fish specifically from the landing centres, and rivalry between groups, add to the issues of the fisherwomen. The yearly wage of a common fishing family in India, ranges from Rs. 2500 to 3500, substantive amount of which is spent on sustenance. Income is controlled by the sort of fishing, access to business sectors and presence of supplementary sources of wage. The fishing towns are regularly remote and difficult to reach, and they are also subject to ocean-related events like Tsunami. Lodging is deficient. Essential facilities, like clean drinking water are frequently inadequate. Since women for the most part endure the worst part of these hardships, fisherwomen have been considered for support.4

**Trend in Role Transformation of Fisherwomen**

Women are assigned back end jobs like basic leadership, monetary administration, family welfare, net making, running unimportant shops etc. The more straightforward contribution of women are in post-harvest related exercises like peeling, fish exchanging, small scale business enterprise, fish curing, and so forth.

The rise, in the pay of the spouse, due to modernization, drove women to the role of run of the mill housewife. Her part in basic leadership had declined (Shet, 1994) since she did not have any stake in the income of her significant other. In other words, the fishing home did not have to depend upon the
supplementary income of the women and hence decline of the independent of
the fisher women.\textsuperscript{5}

Multi-day fishing has become possible thanks to present day gear like fish
finder, GPS, and cell phone because these gadgets have empowered fishermen
to go for remote ocean fishing, which would stretch fishing trips to 10 days or
more. In Kerala, the gross income for a multi-day trawler worked out to Rs.
24,935, with the working expense of Rs.15433 (Kumar and Sathiadhas, 2001).
In spite of the fact that the family salary had increased, long periods of absence
of fishermen have driven women to manage more duties.\textsuperscript{6}

Government and non – government organizations have been working to
meet this challenge. The social assembly (and unionization later), among the
fisher folk in Kerala, interestingly was led by a Mahila Samajam in Trivandrum
region, to demand a statutory clearance, to utilize open transport by women fish
vendors.\textsuperscript{7}

Establishments like CMFRI have been initiating women empowerment
programmes like Mahima shrimp culture. Different interventionist programmes
for proliferating marine culture among women fisher-people, have been
launched at waterfront towns of south-west coast (Immanuel et al., 2000).\textsuperscript{8}

**Social Issues Challenging the Fisherwomen of Capture Fisheries**

In a customary fishers society, women's societal position is frequently
inferior to her better half. At the point when a fisherwoman goes for some
employment, it will be, considered the powerlessness of her better half to support the family. As a result, fisher women shy away from the opportunity to go for some work or associate with change operators, particularly when the specialists are men. In the community of fisher men, traditional patriarchal values dominate and naturally, independent functioning of women to generate additional income for the family is not appreciated. In fact, the supplementary income brought in by the women folk is considered as weakness of the man of the house to support the family economically reflection on the which is the basic foundation of patriarchy. Under traditional patriarchy man is tasked with the instrumental role according to which man alone should function in the space outside home and provide for the economic needs of home. In some rare cases, women from the fishing community, are compelled to adopt the ways of men to sustain the family. Under such circumstances, their behavioural changes are associated with androgyny (Visvanathan, 1996).9

Financial Issues

Fisherwomen, in any work segment, can be discovered by their position of subordination or performing routine parts. 10 In business sector, women, are offered simple assignments in a remote corner. Vendors, between women, are not very many. Women dry fish traders, occupied at Chala, are rare. In Trivandrum, women from business sectors as far off as Mangalore, are not very many (Muhammad, 2000). 11
In spite of the fact that a significant number of the respondents assessed poor pay as one of the main economic issues, it is just suggestive of some other formal issues. Lack of additional work, in off-seasons, constructs copious complications. In fact they are constrained to obtain cash more often then and now, from private moneylenders, at high usurious interest. In spite of the fact that they could settle it during fishing season, they can hardly pay back the cash, as the interest paid would have increased by then. The infinite circle of requirement build ups. The concern is not about the lack of openings but illiteracy level of the community.

**Indian Scenario**

There are around five lakh fisher families found all along the Indian coast and a total of three lakh fisher folk reside in the coastal villages. The average number of maritime fishermen is in coastal villages is 282. (Sathiadhaset al., 1998). Though fisher women play a insignificant role in the pre and post-harvest processes in catch fisheries their presence is apparent in every one of the segments of culture fisheries. Nevertheless, their share in family administration is far greater. Women are establishing themselves in the pre-handling and processing plants of shrimp. Women are also mostly involved in preparing of cuttlefish, lobsters, and fin fish assortments.

Fish curing, supporting, net making and prawn seed gathering are some of the activities reserved for women in Tamil Nadu. Salt-pans are alternative real
sector, which engages a considerable number of women in Tamil Nadu, where the proportion of women to men is 4:1.

One of the routes in which nations and their business sectors are associated is through commodity chains. These chains interface producers in one part on the planet to purchasers in another part of the world. Connecting markets, in distinctive parts of the world to each other, will have results, which can be great or terrible. Contingent upon the way the commodity chain is organized, issues of one player in the chain can have effect on another part of the chain. This effect cannot be anticipated effectively previously (Phyne and Mansilla, 2003).12

One of the examples of commodity chains connecting the world is the fish production chain. India is the seventh largest country, exporting capture fish in the world and the population of fishermen is estimated to be one million in number (Bavinck et al., 2008).13 The processing and trading sector linked to fishermen is not even mentioned while this sector is at least as big as that of the fishermen themselves, maybe even bigger. Women’s work in the fisheries, working in the pre-harvesting and post-harvesting periods such as mending nets, preparing meals for the fishermen or simply cleaning and selling the fish after it is landed, is often not mentioned or downplayed in fisheries studies and statistics (Weeratunge, Snyder & Sze 2010).14

A standout amongst the most serious issues in the realm of catch fish is that fish stocks in the seas are declining. The issue has been raised everywhere
throughout the world and measures have been put in place to manage the population of fish, caught in every nation. For India, this implies that its huge catch fisheries must be directed to help restore the fish stocks in the ocean. In 1999, the Central Government of India chose to declare a yearly shut fishing season in its seaside States. This was at last accomplished, and the catch fisheries of the eastern seaside states and western seaside announce have a yearly shut fishing season, (fishing holidays) for 45 days. The shut season controls just the motorized pontoon area, which incorporates the bigger vessels, with an inboard or detachable engine of more than 15hp, known as 'trawlers'. Because of the planning of the rainstorm downpours and other specialized reasons, the fish shut season differs from the east coast and the west coast (Bavinck et al., 2008).

**Status of Fisherwomen**

Through the eyes of the Indian world, the status of a fisherwoman is not especially high. Fishing profession is considered "dirtying" on the grounds of conventional religious belief system, and in addition, this unsafe and grimy difficult work is thought to contaminate the person performing it. Fishing communities are additionally thought to be non-Aryan relatives of aboriginals, who initially settled and exploited the seaside areas. Hence there is a "racial" or ethnic stigma attached to the fishing community. (Rubinoff, 1999).

On top of their low standing status, the women need to manage the disgrace of being a fisher woman, being manly, unrefined and uneducated, by and large, being ‘fishwives'. Despite the fact that fish exchange is obviously
considered as female, women working in fish exchange are considered lowly in status (Hapke, 2001). Even the more seasoned women do not get away from being disreputable, both in the eyes of the outside world and inside their own particular fishing group (Ram, 1991). A case of this is a little tale from a book about women in an fishing town: "Returning from the business sectors following a day in the hot sun, fisherwomen who stop at a tea-house are served at the entryway, and must drink their tea independently, either remaining outside or situated in the corner. On the off chance that they utilize open transport to convey their bushel of fish to the market, they might be requested off the transport at the impulse of the conductor". In other words, the presence of fisherwomen is considered something dishonourable and corrupting about their work in the business sectors despite the fact that many are keen specialists (Rubinoff, 1999).

Fisherwomen make money and their economic influence in nearby markets, has upgraded their individual feeling of pride and their class but this has not improved their social status inside the territorial society (Rubinoff, 1999).

Class is an economic category and this has improved because fisherwomen could make money. But social status is birth-oriented. Hence this contrast between fishing women as an economic class and women in rural untouchable standings (Ram, 1991). Women in the fish exchange are a great deal more autonomous and venturous contrasted with the women in the farming positions.
In a few cases, spouses might be negligible to family welfare, particularly in the event that they are drunkards, sick, or have neglected to make the move to more present-day strategies for fishing and have a low profitability (Rubinoff, 1999). Yet the household connection between men and women, inside the fishing groups, is an example of the prevailing patriarchal values of Indian culture.\textsuperscript{22}

**Profile of Kancheepuram District**

Kancheepuram District is located on the northeast of the State of Tamil Nadu in India. It is bounded in the west by Vellore District and Thiruvannamalai District, and in the north by Thiruvallur District and Chennai District, and in the south by Viluppuram District and in the east by the Bay of Bengal. It lies between 11° 00' and 12° 00' N latitudes and 77° 28' and 78° 50' E longitudes. The District has a overall geographical area of 4,432 square kilometers (1,711 sq. mi) and coastline of 57 km (35 mi). The Metropolis of Kancheepuram is the district headquarters. It is the third most populous District of Tamil Nadu (out of 32), after Chennai and Coimbatore. The Chennai International Airport is located in Tirusulam and it is situated in Kancheepuram District.

**Kancheepuram –Historical Backdrop**

Kancheepuram has a long history of several centuries before the common era. Its name is found in Patanjali’s Mahabhashya, which was written in the Second Century BCE. Manimekalai, the distinguished Tamil classic and Perumpanattu Padai, another sangham Tamil poetical work, Kancheepuram city, Pathupattu, another work of the Sangam literature, records that the king
Thondaiman Ilandirayan reigned the town around 2500 years back. Kancheepuram District was controlled by the Pallavas, the Cholas, the Vijayanagar rulers and the Britishers in the past. Kancheepuram was once a part of Tondaimandalam, a part of the ancient Tamil country, encompassing the present day, Districts of Chennai, Tiruvallur, Vellore and Thiruvannamalai. The capital of Thondaimandalam was Kancheepuram City. Since the period from 3rd to the 9th Century AD, Kanchi was the capital of the Pallavas. Pallava kings ruled over the territory from the river Krishna in the north to the river Cauveri in the south. Pallavas developed the City with ramparts, moats, etc., with wide and well laid out roads and with fine temples. Pallavas, with naval power had established contacts with far-off China, Siam, Fiji, etc., through their chief Port Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram). After the Ninth Century, the Cholas came into existence and ruled this region from the 10th Century to the 13th century. Kings of Vijayanagar reign ruled from 14th Century to 17th Century. Kanchi was considered a major seat of Tamil learning center as well as an vital place of pilgrimage for the monks belonging to Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism. The famous poet Kalidasa has pronounced it to be the paramount among the cities (Nagareshu Kanchi), just as Jati (jasmine) is the sweetest amongst the flowers, Rambha being the most beautiful lady among women and Grihasthasrama the being best model among the four asramas of human life. One of the famous kings of Kanchi, Mahendravarman-I, was considered to be a great scholar and musician, a man of great intellect and also a great dramatist.
The great Chinese traveler, Yuan Chwang, visited Kancheepuram City in the 7th Century. He admired the city establishment, the path extended up to 6 miles in circumference and also, he proclaimed that its people were legendary for bravery and goodness as well as for their love of justice and admiration for learning. He further recorded that Lord Buddha had visited this place. Regarding learning, Kanchi stood in the second place in glory only to Banaras. Once the base of learning and religious fervour, it started its climb down with the great Mughal annexations followed by two centuries of colonial rule under the British. The British coined the name, Conjeevaram, the anglicised name of Kancheepuram. During the reign of the British government, a Collector was appointed to the District for the first time in 1788 AD. The District was further separated into two divisions, that is, Northern and Southern, and it was under the administration of two District Collectors. During 1790's, Clerk and Balfour were appointed as collectors to look after the entire administration. Lionel Place, the Collector in 1794-1799, created the posts of Sharistadars, who came directly under the control of the Collector. Clerks were officially appointed to assist the Sharistadars. The renowned Madurantakam and Uthiramerur tanks were created by Place. Hodgson, who was Head Assistant to Place, succeeded him as the Collector. The place Hodgson stayed at Kancheepuram is still recognized in the name of Hodgsonpet. In 1800, Greenway, Senior Assistant was appointed as Collector of Kancheepuram District.

In the Nineteenth Century, Karunguzhi became the headquarters of the Kancheepuram District and it persisted till the year 1859. Meanwhile it was
shifted to 'Home Garden' Saidapettai, except for a short period from the year 1825-1835 during which Kancheepuram functioned as the district headquarters. From 1859 to 1968, the Collector's office was located in Saidapettai. During Post Independence period, Kancheepuram City became the headquarters of Chengalpattu District officially with effect from 1 July 1968. Then the Chengalpattu-MGR District was divided into two as Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur Districts from 1 July 1997. Thus, the new Kancheepuram District was formed on 1 July 1997, consisting of eight Taluks, via, Kancheepuram, Sriperumbudur, Uthiramerur, Chengalpattu, Tambaram, Tirukalukundram, Madrandakam and Cheyyur.23

**Geography**

Kancheepuram District is situated on the north east coast of Tamil Nadu. It is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal in the east, in the west by Vellore and Thiruvannamalai Districts, Thiruvallur and Chennai Districts in the north, and by Villuppuram District in the south. It is located between 11° 00' and 12° 00' latitudes and 77° 28' and 78° 50' longitudes E. The District is spread over an area of 4,43,210 hectares with a coastline of 57 km.

The Table below indicates the maximum and minimum temperatures, experienced in the District during different seasons.
The pre-monsoon rainfall is nearly uniform all over the District. The coastal areas receive more rainfall than the central ones. The District is mostly reliant on the monsoon rains. Failure of rainfall during monsoon season can pave way towards miserable condition. Northeast and Southwest Monsoons are the major contributors, with 54% and 36% contribution each to the total annual rainfall during the year. During normal monsoon, the District receives a rainfall of 1200 mm. The Palar River is the most essential river, running through the District, which is utilized for cultivation and house hold purposes. Hardly a few hills of noticeable altitude are seen in the study area. The southern part of Maduranthakam Taluk contains minor hills of less importance. The total forest area, in the District, is 23,586 hectares.
**Table 3**

Climatic Condition, January - July

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average high °C (°F)</strong></td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(84 )</td>
<td>(87.1)</td>
<td>(90.9)</td>
<td>(94.5)</td>
<td>(99.5)</td>
<td>(99.1)</td>
<td>(95.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average low °C (°F)</strong></td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(68.7)</td>
<td>(70.2)</td>
<td>(73.6)</td>
<td>(78.4)</td>
<td>(81.7)</td>
<td>(81.3)</td>
<td>(79.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rainfall mm (inches)</strong></td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>100.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1.358)</td>
<td>(0.492)</td>
<td>(0.602)</td>
<td>(0.697)</td>
<td>(1.689)</td>
<td>(2.114)</td>
<td>(3.969)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Avg. rainy Days</strong></td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean daily sunshine hours</strong></td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>6.0</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average high °C (°F)</strong></td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(94.1)</td>
<td>(93)</td>
<td>(89.4)</td>
<td>(85.1)</td>
<td>(83.3)</td>
<td>(99.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average low °C (°F)</strong></td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(78.1)</td>
<td>(77.5)</td>
<td>(75.7)</td>
<td>(72.9)</td>
<td>(70.2)</td>
<td>(68.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rainfall mm (inches)</strong></td>
<td>129.2</td>
<td>125.3</td>
<td>290.9</td>
<td>348.9</td>
<td>145.6</td>
<td>1,317.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Avg. rainy Days</strong></td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>87.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean daily sunshine hours</strong></td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>7.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: tnenvis.nic.in/files/KANCHEEPURAM)
Table: 4

Number of Families in Research Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Neelangarai</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pannayur kuppam</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Injambakam</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Kovalam</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Mamallapuram</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Department of Fisheries, Neelangarai, Tamil Nadu)

Table: 5

Population details of Fishing women in Kancheepuram District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>2010 Census</th>
<th>Sex ratio</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>2010 Census</th>
<th>Sex ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kancheepuram</td>
<td>13,179</td>
<td>12,630</td>
<td>1: 0.95</td>
<td>14,989</td>
<td>14,756</td>
<td>1: 0.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Role of women in fishery sector in Tamilnadu by Dr. Joseph Durai & Dhanalakshmi - *IJAIE* - ISSN 2319 – 4847. Volume 4, Issue 10, October 2015

Table: 6

List of coastal villages in Kancheepuram district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.NO</th>
<th>NAMES OF COASTAL VILLAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Kottivakam kuppam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Palavakam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>China Neelangarai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Periya Neelangarai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Chinandi kuupam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Injambakam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Nayanar kuppam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Kanathur Reddy kuppam</td>
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Source: M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. Taramani, Chennai.113
Governance of Kancheepuram District

Kancheepuram, which is considered as the Temple Town, is the district headquarters. For administrative convenience, the District has been separated into three revenue divisions, consisting of eight taluks with 1214 revenue villages. It was again divided into 13 development blocks, with about 648 Village Panchayats. The eight Taluks of Kancheepuram district are Chengalpattu Taluk, Cheyyur Taluk, Kancheepuram Taluk, Madurantakam Taluk, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Tambaram Taluk, Thirukkalukundram Taluk, Uthiramerur Taluk, Alandur Taluk, Sholinganallur Taluk and Thiruporur Taluk.

Demography

According to the 2011 Census, it has been estimated that the Kancheepuram district has a population of about 39,90,897 people, approximately equal to the nation of Liberia or the US State of Oregon. Hence occupies 59th rank in all over India (out of a total of 640). The District has a population density of 927 inhabitants per square kilometre (2,400 /sq mi). the population growth rate, over the period 2001-2011, was estimated at 38.69%. Kancheepuram has a sex ratio of 985 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 85.29% which was considered very high.

Economy

Agriculture is the major occupation of the people and about 47% of the population are engaged as farmers. Paddy is the main crop cultivated in Kancheepuram District. Groundnuts, Sugarcane, Cereals, Millets and Pulses are
the supplementary major crops cultivated. 76.50 metric tonnes of fuel wood are cultivated and 8.039 tonnes of Cashew are also raised. The water obtained from Palar River, was the source for agricultural purposes. Water from tanks and well is used for cultivation. Kancheepuram is also known as the 'Silk City', because the chief profession of the people is weaving silk sarees. The silk weavers of Kanchi settled in the study area settled more than 400 years ago and they have given it an desirable status as the manufacturer of the best silk sarees in the country.

History reveals that more than 70 percent of the 163 inhabited areas (megalithic sites) in the State of Tamil Nadu, are in Kancheepuram District and they consist of Kunrathur, Erumaiyur, Nandampakkam, Sirukalathur, Sikarayapuram, Kadaperi, Tiruneermalai, Ayyancheri, Kilambakkam and Nanmangalam. Kancheepuram is also considered to be one of the most industrialized Districts in the country, due to its proximity to the State Capital of Chennai. The areas surrounding Sriperumbudur have become the largest manufacturing hub of Tamil Nadu All leading companies from foreign countries prefer to settle in and around Sriperumbudur. The District is home to the manufacturing companies like Hyundai, Ford, Mitsubishi, Nokia, Samsung, Dell, Saint Gobain, etc. The district also acts as a center of the IT companies and served multinational IT companies like Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, Wipro Technologies, Cognizant Technology Solutions, etc. have established their offices, in Kancheepuram District. TCS and Infosys have built huge offices with a large capacity of 22,000 and 25,000 employees, respectively.
Government’s Initiatives

Coastal Protection Initiatives --Devaneri

This stretch of the coast has a flat beach. However, in the vicinity of this coast, a large number of fishing settlements had suffered damages due to the tsunami disaster. This stretch of the coast can be protected with a flat seawall, with a higher crest elevation for 0.5 km backed by plantations in between the dwelling units and the crown of the seawall. On the south of Devaneri, present plantations act as barriers against the tsunami runup. Hence Devaneri stretch of the coast can be protected by a blend of rubble mound seawall and plantations. In the coastal stretch between Devaneri and Mamallapuram, the shoreline undergoes short term changes and hence this stretch of the coast need not be considered for putting up any hard structures and only plantations could be taken up as a long-term solution. Meyyur Kuppam and Sadras Kuppam are situated south of Kalpakam Atomic Power Station. The impact of tsunami was severe in this stretch. In the immediate south of this village, presence of coconut plantations gave slight relief, as the land in this area is not in an elevated location. During tsunami, the water level rose by three meters and penetrated into land. This stretch of the coast has a number of houses, which need to be protected. A number of dwelling units adjacent to the coast were washed away due to tsunami. The village of Oyyalikuppam is situated north of Palar River. The Palar River traps some of the sediment transport, directed towards north, leading to a deficit of sediment supply, causing erosion along this stretch of the coast.
**Awareness Initiatives**

There are at least eight environment NGOs, dealing with environmental awareness programs and cleaning campaign. Various awareness creation activities have been organized among the fisher folk on tsunami and coastal regulation issues, by different Government and Non Government organizations. Attempts have been made to develop bio shields, rebuild livelihoods, and establish the 'Village Knowledge Centers’ and reclaim soil in the tsunami affected agricultural fields in Kancheepuram District.24

**Tamil Nadu in Fishing Sector**

In Tamil Nadu, fish drying or curing and fish marketing are the two main areas in which women are involved in both the marine and inland fisheries sectors. While women are engaged in drying and curing fish all along the coast, it is in the marine districts of Ramnad, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and Thanjavur that they play a predominant part in the sun-drying of fish on the beaches and in the curing of fish in fish-curing yards. Marketing of fish, including the auctioning and purchase at fish landing center, and retail marketing of fresh and dried fish in roadside stalls and in village and town markets, is the domain of women, especially in the northern districts of Chennai, Chingleput and South Arcot. Hand-braiding and mending of nets is a third important area of women’s involvement in ancillary industries, especially in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli Districts. The scope for further involvement of women in such activities as drying and curing of fish and hand braiding of fishing nets is limited. It has
become difficult for women to compete with machine made nets in commercial plants. The lack of educational facilities for women in small-scale fishing communities is the main handicap to greater participation by them.

**The Vulnerability of Fisher Women**

The low literacy rate among fisher women, prevents them from adopting world class skills, required in the competitive business environment. Besides, outdoor activities are dominated by males, and male-female contact is not allowed socially. A woman was tasked to perform only the expressive role under patriarchy. The job of a woman is to keep the relationships at home warm. The second problem is lack of sanitation and poor housing. The fishing villages are often remote and inaccessible, and with unproductive lands that are also subject to sea erosion. Basic facilities such as drinking water and health services are often missing. Health issues is the third deterrent. Nutritional food is a vital factor determining health. Fisher women in India generally suffer from malnutrition and dietary imbalances. Cereals and fish comprise the major portion of the diet, and hence only 75 per cent of the calorie and 50 per cent of the protein needs are met (Srinath, 1987). Commonly seen disorders are malnutrition and vitamin A and B complex deficiency (Devadas and Nirmala Murty, 1979), apart from ailments like gastroenteritis and allergic bronchitis. Women are the worst affected and this is reflected by the imbalance in the sex ratio and their lower life expectancy. Fourthly women in some fishing communities are not permitted to work outside home or without men folk, chaperoning them. This is closely linked to religion, class or caste to which the household belongs. Such socio-cultural
restrictions limit women’s contribution to household income and narrow down options for employment and income sources. This restriction on mobility is a serious draw back. Fifthly women have less access to credit or financing sources due to the various socio-cultural restrictions and low literacy. Lack of possession over assets makes it difficult to procure loans from banks or any financial institution. Sixthly fisher women confront marketing problems. Fisher women are not equipped with marketing strategies. Fisher women, under study, lack imagination and fail to work with SHGs for their benefit. Seventhly Entrepreneur Development Programmes, offered by the Government, mostly remain further on paper rather than in practice for many reasons. Fisher women are mostly not aware of these programmes conducted by the Government. SHGs do not take initiatives and implement the trainings offered to their groups. Eighthly, introduction of machines in fishing industry seems to have benefited fisherwomen in some areas, as reported by Gulati (1979), but it has had an adverse effect in many other parts of the country. For example, the introduction of mechanized fishing in Vypeen Island (Srinath, 1986) and the introduction of automation in net making (Vivekanandan, 1988) have reduced employment opportunities for fisherwomen considerably. Thus, technology has negative impact on their livelihood.

In the fishing community, women play either a role of a housewife or as a source of income generator through fishing jobs. Involvement of women in the primary sectors of capture fisheries is negligible (mostly in the margin while trading their catch and they are largely engaged in peripheral activities like
cleaning and drying of the catch which yield low wages) and hence they have to deal with the deplorable household situation due to decreasing fish catch and downsized income. Women, who are involved in marketing, face many problems like fluctuating market prices, unhygienic market places, lack of basic amenities in the market place.

Economic uplift of the fisherwomen mainly depends on the growth and development of fisheries sector. Hence location- oriented and resource- based developmental schemes are required to be implemented for each region, which would help in area planning for socio-economic improvement of fisherwomen. At landing centres, women engaged in fish drying are permitted to collect small sized by-catches. In Kerala, there are 2703 fish markets, comprising 185 wholesale and 2518 retail outlets, which include 1126 wayside markets (Anon., 2000). But women are rarely whole sale dealers in selling fish. They normally sell low value products in a distant corner. In the absence of alternative employment, in off-season, fisher women are forced to borrow money, frequently from private moneylenders, at usurious rate of interest. Though they make money in peak season, they find it very difficult to pay back the money, as the interest rate would have doubled by then. The cruel circle of indebtedness continues. However, the problem is not lack of avenues of employment but their ignorance about such options.

There are no such special schemes to improve the social and economic conditions of women, in small-scale fishing communities. But there are opportunities for women in the field of aquaculture, marine goods processing,
manufacture and export development, management of fishery infrastructure, marketing and export as well as in research and technology development. Literacy is considered an indicator of development but the literacy level of fisherwomen is very low. Low literacy incapacitates their bargaining capacity in the trader-dominant market, thus divesting them of their reasonable price compensation for the risky endeavours in the marine environment. They remain unaware of the new technologies and innovations. Further, there is the problem of health. The fisherwomen carry loads of fish from the shore or ports to the nearest markets every day. Women carry the fish on their head and with the load of 35-40 kgs, pressure is exerted on their body, especially on their back. The subsistence fisherwomen are prone to health hazards like diarrhea, cholera and fever. Nutrition is a crucial factor determining health. Fisherwomen in India generally suffer from malnutrition and dietary imbalances.

Cereals and fish comprise the major portion of the diet and hence only 75 per cent of the calorie and 50 per cent of the protein needs are met (Srinath, 1987). Commonly seen disorders are malnutrition and vitamin A and B complex deficiency (Devadas and Nirmala Murty, 1979), apart from ailments like gastroenteritis and allergic bronchitis. Women are the worst affected and this is reflected in the imbalance in the sex ratio and their lower life expectancy. On the contrary, women’s participation is changing with the mounting pressure on land and water resources, environmental degradation, out-migration of male family members and increasing rural poverty. Thus, women participation carries certain benefits.
Integrating gender in aquaculture does carry benefits for the fisher women to supplement family income and improve nutrition (practical needs/efficiency goal). Women gain control over their own livelihoods and improve their status, both within the household and the community (strategic needs/empowerment). Improved access to income and livelihood options are advantages to fisher women. Higher household income due to added human capital improves their economic and social status. Increased participation in various decision-making processes within the family enhances their level of empowerment.

For greater participation of women in aquaculture, better understanding of the existing gender relations in the community and the household must be gained by organizations working for the development of aquaculture. Participatory technology development offers more scope to incorporate women's experiences. Successful cases of women's involvement in aquaculture can be emphasized. Aquaculture training and extension efforts should be improved, by taking a more holistic approach that encompasses women's time use, household responsibilities, literacy levels, as well as all aspects of their daily chores. Involvement of women is monitored on a regular basis so that their activities or participation in aquaculture can be refocused regularly. Even though women are the ones who do the retail marketing of fish in many of the Southeast Asian countries, their information on market is very limited. A mechanism is necessary to expose women to more extensive market information and to link them to a wider market network.
The Kancheepuram District is rich in fishing resources. Potential for exploitation of marine fisheries in the District is high, with a coastal line of 57 km. The proportion of urban population to total population has increased over the decades in this District. One of the largest industrial areas of Tamil Nadu, Kancheepuram is the proud home to vital production bases of international industrial groups. The only power project available in the District of Kancheepuram, is the atomic power plant, located in Kalpakkam.

**A Preamble to the Review of Literature**

An extensive review of literature was undertaken to highlight the various studies on the process of fisherwomen empowerment through SHGs in their pursuit to reduce poverty and unemployment and empower the members of the group.

**Review on Women Empowerment and SHG**

Chandrika Sah, in her book entitled, *Gender and US Foreign Policy* critically examines the different dimensions of gender and US policy and its overall impact on the formulation and implementation of the policies, both in developed and developing countries. But it should be equally important to ensure that gender issues are incorporated and implemented properly by agencies on the ground as well.

K.L. Chanchreek and M.K. Jain in their book, *Encyclopaedia of Women*’s stress that The modern age is an era of global women liberation it is a unique and rich collection of biographical sketches, life long struggle,
achievements and contributions of selected and talented women educators, administrators, scientists, politicians, writers, artists and athletes from European countries who had excelled in their respective fields and earned international acclaim in a variety of disciplines and selling.  

Sushala Nayar and Kamala Mankekar in their book entitled, ‘Women Pioneers in India’s Renaissance’ report that the active role of a large number of women in the growth of Indian nationalism talks about pioneering women in our country who have brought remarkable change in the society which led to women’s emancipation.

Sakuntala Narasimhan, in the book ‘Empowering Women an Alternative Strategy from Rural India’, discusses congruence between women empowerment and economic development. Gender justice is essential for the upliftment of women.

Posh Charak and Chandra Mohan, in their book entitled, ‘Women and Development. Self, Society and Empowerment’, reveal that the effective implementation of constitutional laws against social evils in the society is of paramount importance and negligence of women in the development process constitutes a waste of human resources.

T.Lavanya in her book entitled, ‘Women Empowerment through Entrepreneurship’, reviews the important contribution of women towards economic development of a country. It is very important to offer adequate training, participation in decision making, vocational training etc. to women
entrepreneurs and enable them in the production process and production management.  

In an article, in ‘The Hindu’, Dennis S Jesudasan, reveals about single women households across the country. About 8.11 lakh women in the State live alone which means 4.39% that of the total 1.84 crore households in Tamil Nadu are “one woman” households. There are over 5.15 lakh one-woman households in the rural areas against 2.95 lakhs in urban areas. Among various factors behind this they are victims of desertion, domestic violence, dowry etc. The Government has taken measures to safe guard these women, through several welfare schemes and movements like Arivoli Iyakkam. 

Gariyali C.K., and Vetrivel S.K. in their book, ‘Pillars of Hope’ investigate how the government and NGOs have successfully partnered to bring about changes among women and empowered them from grass root level. By implementing Mahalir Thittam and Pudhu Vazhvu, the Government of Tamil Nadu have done a lot to eradicate poverty in the society.

Hemraj Meena and Kanta Meena in their book entitled, ‘Women Empowerment and Self-Help Group. Gender Disparity and Democratic Safety’ examined social evils such as dowry, violence against women, gender difference and argued for their removal. Constitutional safety and reservation for women, could help the security of women in all walks of life.

Sudhindra R. Gadagkar, in his publication titled, ‘Women in Fisheries in India’, argued that the involvement of women in the fisheries sector at earlier
times was very largely restricted to retail sale of fish and simple indigenous methods of fish processing. The emergence of modern fish processing industries provided a new avenue of employment to innumerable women.\textsuperscript{36}

Purushotham, in his paper, Rural Empowerment Through Self-Help Groups, Non-Government organizations And Panchayat Raj Institutions, states that Self Help Group functions as a channel of marketing the products and goods, produced by women entrepreneurs, thus securing back ward linkages of input markets and forward linkages of output markets.\textsuperscript{37}

Amita Saxena in his book entitled, ‘Fisheries Economics’, highlights Tenth plan of national policy for empowerment of women on areas like human rights, equal access to health, quality education, career, social security, remuneration etc.\textsuperscript{38}

Nagarajan A, in his book, ‘Micro Finance in India’ argues that Micro Finance is a powerful tool used for the eradication of poverty, increase of rural women empowerment, utilization of local resource, loans to small scale entrepreneur, poor farmers, artisans and so on. Due to the implementation of micro finance, number of progressive activities, in many countries across the world have been achieved.\textsuperscript{39}

S.P Malhotra and V.R.P. Sinha, in their book entitled, ‘Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture in a Globalizing Economy’ maintained that financial support for women in fishing communities are given mostly by The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). It has made an analysis of
developments in the fisheries sector and recognized several fisheries technologies, which could enable women to become entrepreneurs and enhance their income.\textsuperscript{40}

Manju Yadav, in her book entitled, ‘\textit{Fish-Fishing Technology}’ discusses the technology in aquaculture must be upgraded and fishing community must be aware of these developments. Also, there is an intricate link between various fishing techniques and knowledge about the fish and their behavior including migration, foraging and habitat. Aquatic resources are highly exploited and hence to achieve Blue Revolution one needs more technologies and awareness on aquaculture.\textsuperscript{41}

Arumugam in his book, ‘\textit{Aquaculture}’, analyses the marketing channels in fish marketing. The fish farmers are the producers and the fish eaters are the consumers. The money flows in reverse from fish eaters to fish farmers. Due to intermediaries, the fish farmers are highly exploited.\textsuperscript{42}

Krishna Chandra Badapanda in his book, ‘\textit{Basics of Fisheries Science}’ demonstrates that fish markets are not well organized and the marketing channels are too diverse and out of contact with one another. Proper execution of market infrastructure must be available in fish markets to enhance hygienic and safe place for fisher folks.\textsuperscript{43}
A Review on Fishing in India

Maarten Bavinck, in his study on, ‘Caste Panchayat and the Regulation of Fisheries along Tamil Nadu’s Coromandel Coast’, has considered the ramifications of non-state panchayat action in the field of marine resource management. He investigated how Fishermen Panchayats were involved in regulating access to and usage of fish resource, and also examined the mechanization regulation and other occupational settings. His main point of contention is that the establishment of a strong mechanized boat fishing sector and State involvement in the fishery field, are now putting caste panchayat under pressure. However, Panchayats continue to play a critical role in whatever resource management is taking place.44

Kishor Samal, in his study on, ‘Socio-Economic Survey of Villages in and around Chillka: A Report. Bhubaneswar: Navakrushna Chaudhury Centre for Development Studies (NCCDS)’, examined, the fish economy of the Chillka Lake, which underwent a series of dramatic changes from the early 1990. Liberalization that boosted exports and modernized techniques, has also seen shifts in the Chillka Lease Policy and the entry for the first time of non-fishermen into the shrimp culture industry. The infrastructure facility for education and healthy delivery is poor in the villages. In the month of December 2001, the fishermen of Chillka started agitation against these illegal and unauthorized shrimp culture in the lake. The Government of Orissa has recently banned shrimp culture in Chillka. The non-fishermen in the area are demanding the continuance of shrimp culture.45
Shiyani has made an analysis on district-wise and species-wise growth and instability of marine fisheries in Gujarat. It has been concluded from the study that relative share of Junagadh, Kutch and Jamnagar Districts in the total marine fish production of the state increased substantially over a period of time whereas a drastic decline in the case of Valsad and Amreli districts was noticed. The instability indices were comparatively higher, during 1970-80, in all the districts except Kutch, Amreli and Jamnagar. The compound growth rates of fish production of almost all the species were positive and significant. It has been suggested that awareness campaign among the fishermen on the importance of mesh size regulation, would be useful for the sustainable benefit of marine fisheries in the long run. The Government should take necessary steps to enforce sea law, demarcating different fishing grounds for different craft gear combination, which will help maintaining socioeconomic balance instead of creating socio-economic conflicts among the fishermen.46

Review about women in fishery sector

Tanuji Kumar Bisoyi, in his book ‘Women in Fishery’, examined the gender issues of married coastal women in Philippines. Shinagaysay (2000) reveals that women from fishing community are basically either illiterate or they would have completed basic education. Hence the income for the family is not sufficient and hence married women tried to work more hours to meet their expenditure.47
Malarvizhi, in her book entitled, ‘Socio Economic Status of SHGs in Tamil Nadu’, explains the micro credit provided to fisher folk through NABARD. SHGs are assisted through NGOs, which are supported by providing monetary help of less interest to undertake income generating activities. They are regularly given training through NGOs and they are monitored about their performance frequently.48

**Statement of the Problem and Research Question**

The fisher women play a significant role in a family. They work hard to run their family; hence they are in a condition to go for fish vending, mending nets, fish processing, sorting, peeling, salting and curing. They are stereotyped in the society. Fisher women face problems in fish market due to lack of transport, sanitation, water problem and storage facility. Her contribution towards family and society is remarkable. This Thesis is sought to get the reliable answer to the following questions as:

1. What are the factors that influence the role and status of fisher women?
2. What are the problems faced by fisher women in fish marketing?
3. How far SHGs have brought changes in fisher women in entrepreneur skills and leadership qualities?

**Period of study**

This study covered a period of five years, starting from 2013 to 2017.
Objectives

The Study has the following objectives.

1. To analyze the socio-economic problems of fisher women in Kancheepuram District.
2. To assess the adequacy of the microcredit, extended to fisherwomen, through SHGs in coastal areas of Kancheepuram District in Tamil Nadu.
3. To evaluate the role of SHGs in the empowerment process of the fisher women under study.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were framed, to be tested in this study.

1. Fisherwomen encounter a number of socio-economic problems in marketing fish.
2. The microcredit, extended to fisherwomen through SHGs, has largely benefited them in taking up entrepreneurial work in coastal areas of Kancheepuram District in Tamil Nadu.
3. The participation of fisherwomen in SHGs, has largely changed the socio-economic condition and paved the way for their economic empowerment.

Scope of the Study

The study is important for applied research as well as basic research, in the field of rural development. The study would provide a framework, for drawing suitable programmes, for the upliftment of traditional fisher folk, with particular focus on fisherwomen. The opportunities for the creation of supplementary sources of income could be explored. In short, the study would be highly useful to researchers, planners and policy makers, in overcoming the
problems of fisherwomen and in formulating strategies for the socio economic
development and empowerment of fisher folk, through micro credit in Tamil
Nadu in general and in particular, in Kancheepuram District in particular and
specifically, Neelangarai, Injambakkam, Pannayurkuppam, Kovalam,
Mamallapuram of the State of Tamil Nadu.

Limitations

The major limitation of the study was lack of responses from the
respondents, at the time of data collection, due to lack of literacy level. Also, the
male members of the family did not permit the fisherwomen to give the
information, required for the study. Few fisherwomen hesitated to respond due
to their routine work and it was very difficult to gather information. Though a
conscientious effort was made, in the present study, to maintain clarity and
coherence, repetition of known facts was at times unavoidable. Some of the
published works were silent, with regard to the author, publisher’s name, place,
and year of publication.

Design of the Study

The Thesis was framed into six chapters, besides an Introduction and a
Conclusion. In the Chapter on ‘Introduction’ an outline of the women in fishery,
major fishing districts in Tamil Nadu, trend in transformation of fisherwomen,
empowerment of women, and profile of Kancheepuram District have been
furnished. It is worth noting that women have been included in different parts of
the fishing business. In some nations, they are hailed as skillful navigators, and
in some others, they take an interest in the development of maritime specialty. It
also furnishes statement of the problem, objectives of the study, hypotheses, period of study, limitations, review of literature methodology, and design of the study.

**Research Methodology**

The study was taken up in Kancheepuram District. It consists of 40 villages located very close to the coast. The villages chosen for the study had maximum number of women fish vendors. The selected villages were viz Neelangarai, Injambakam, Pannayru kuppam, Kovalam and Mamallapuram. Proportional random sampling technique was employed to select 300 (60 x 5= 300) respondents from the selected villages. Percentage were taken to explain the survey undertaken.

The study was mostly exploratory in nature and the relevant primary sources of data were the questionnaires, personally administered by the Researcher and statistical details garnered from the Department of Fisheries at Neelangarai. On the basis of the data collected through primary sources and supplemented insight from secondary sources, the Researcher posited a model for economic empowerment of the study group.

The first Chapter entitled **WOMEN IN FISHERIES- NATIONAL AND GLOBAL SCENARIO**, presents the status of fisherwomen from the national and international perspective. The main hurdle to the economic empowerment of fisher women is the ideology of patriarchy and the first chapter explains the powerful hold of patriarchy on the fisher women community.
The Second Chapter entitled, ‘ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN’. The Researcher elaborates on the theme of paradigm shift and how patriarchy – dominated society of the past has been replaced by the achievement-oriented Industrial society this chapter also refers to the CEDAW and the policy statement by India called the National policy for Empowerment pf Women of 2001 and explains how these policy statements combined with the emergence of achievement society, have helped women to realise their empowerment, including economic empowerment. This chapter also explains how women could economically develop themselves by under taking entrepreneurial activities with the help of microfinance. This chapter expounds the details of 1995 Beijing Conferences and argues in favour of economic empowerment of the fisher women under the study, by tapping their vast untapped potential through motivation and promotion of entrepreneurial projects.

The Third Chapter, entitled, ‘IMPACT OF MICRO FINANCE’ explains microfinance as an economic instrument to empower women in rural India. The Self-Help Groups function as the intermediaries between the lending institution and the borrower, some microfinance institutions even provided skills training, appropriate for entrepreneurial ventures. This chapter also presents the details of the report of Jayaram of NABARD on the impact of micro finance on the target group.

The Fourth Chapter entitled, ‘THE ROLE OF SELF HELP GROUP’ presents several business models of which the Thenkumari SHG is an outstanding example of how a group of fisher women could break loose from
patriarchal inhibitions and strike out a bold journey towards economic empowerment.

The Fifth Chapter entitled, ‘DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION’, throws light on the types and sources of data, sampling techniques, size, method, procedures for collection and analysis of data on the empowerment of fisherwomen, SHG, socio-economic measures of fisherwomen in Kancheepuram District. Primary data were taken from the Department of Fisheries, at Neelangarai. Questionnaires were used, as the source for collecting data from the respondents from Neelangarai, Injambakkam, Pannayurkuppam, Kovalam, and Mamallapuram locations of Kancheepuram District.

The Sixth and Last Chapter is ‘FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS’. In this Chapter the findings of the study and suggestions for the empowerment of fisherwomen have been provided.

The ‘CONCLUSION’ presents the summary of all the chapters, and trends in the lives of the fisherwomen. It also answers specific objectives of the research and substantiated the hypotheses. The majority of fisherwomen in the sector are small-scale and they derive their livelihoods from fishing, cleaning, processing and small-scale trading activities.
END NOTES


2. Ibid., p. 1


10. Anon., State level workshop on *Fisheries Development*. NABARD, Trivandrum, 2000


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