

A Study on Problems and Prospects of Female Fish Street Vendors in Port Blair Municipal Area of South Andaman District

^aVijay Prasad, ^bS. Allah Baksh

^aPh.D. Research Scholar, Annamalai University, Annamalainagar, India

^bAssistant Professor, Sociology Wing, Annamalai University, Annamalainagar, India

Abstract

The seas surrounding Andaman and Nicobar islands are known for their marine fish and fishery resources. The availability of marine resources makes islanders regular eater of fresh fish in the diet, to which the female fish vendors supply to consumer after procuring it from fishing boat owners, trader or from auction. The fisher community is one of the illiterate and socio-economic backward communities in the society. Despite of their hard work, still exist poverty, financial instability, poor working and living condition. Women fish street vendors are a vital part of fisher community, works for improving their socio-economic condition and for providing better education opportunity to their children by mode of their hard works.

The present study is on female fish street vendors analyzing the socio- economic condition in terms of their income and disbursement pattern. It is an attempt to analyze the various issues based on primary data related to female fish street vendors in Port Blair Municipal areas of South Andaman District. A total of fifty female street fish vendors were randomly selected for the study and collected data is shown in percentage form. The present study also highlighted the various departmental schemes and programmes of the Administration meant for fish vendors and available marine infrastructure facilities available in the Port Blair Municipal areas of South Andaman District, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

KEYWORDS: Female fish street vendors, door to door sell, Port Blair Municipal areas, socio- economic condition, schemes and programmes.

Introduction:

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI), a union territory (UT) of India lies in the Bay of Bengal, having status of archipelago, lying between 6° 45'N and 13 41' E and longitudes 97° 57' and 93° 57' E longitude. It consists of about 527 islands both only 38 islands are inhabited. The ANI have a coastal length of 1,912 Km, coral reef of 2000 Sq. Kms, mangrove cover 906 Sq. Kms and the continental shelf area of about 35,000 Sq.Km. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around these islands is about 6,00,000 Sq.Kms, forming 28% of the total EEZ area of the country.

The majority of the populations are settled in these islands including the fisher community. In the year 1970s the Government of India (GOI) had taken an effort and encouraged the fishermen from mainland to settle down in these Islands for having fishing activities, administration provided incentives like free accommodation,

concessions on travel and fishing assets to settled fishing community. Fisheries sector was expected to develop at greater height but due to lack of strategic planning, long-term vision, artisanal /traditional fishing, lack of marine infrastructure facilities, numerous challenges and constraints makes lack behind to develop steered socio- economic problems for fishing community.

Fishery resource is the major natural resource captured for commercial activity by the fisher community being the source of livelihood. The seas surrounding ANI are known for their marine fish and fishery resources (Crustaceans, Molluscs, Echinoderms with approximately Pelagic 56000(MT), Demersal 3200 (MT) and Oceanic 50000 (MT). Sea foods are the main cuisine of these islands, are known for their exquisite sea food delicacies and one can find variety of sea foods such as prawn's fish lobsters, crabs and so on. The availability of marine resources makes islanders regular eater of fresh fish in the diet, to which the female fish vendors supply to consumer after procuring it from fishing boat owners, trader or from auction. They bestow in significant ways to the food security needs of a diverse range of consumers.

A study on problems and prospects of female fish street vendors in Port Blair Municipal area. A street vendors defined as a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public in a street without having a permanent built-up structure (National street vendor policy 2009). It further classifies that street vendors based on their mobility into 'stationary' (those who sell regularly from a specific location in a public space), 'peripatetic' (those who hawk their wares by roaming the streets on foot, carrying their wares on their person), and 'mobile' (those who move around using some kind of public or private transport that may or may not be motorized). In Port Blair Municipal area, the majority of street fish vendors are female belongs to first two categories and third is dominated by men vendors.

Female fish vendor play indispensable roles within the fisheries and fishing communities, roles that are often not recognized or supported. Women are active in postharvest fisheries. They contribute in significant ways to providing nutritional value products and the food security to people.

These women fish vendor's faces wide range of problems on regular basis, unstructured to deal with these problems and having responsibilities of children, family care limit the extent of their trading. Problems experienced by female fish street vendors include inadequate fish market facilities, trading spaces, infrastructural challenges, less access to finance and capital to expand their businesses and hassle by the Port Blair Municipal Council and local police.

The fish and fishery resources are highly perishable, needs effective mode of marketing infrastructure for vendors. The fisherwomen procure fish directly from fishing boat owners or from auction on cash payment or use to pay after sell of fish which is credited in her name. Fisherwomen procured the fishes, used to sell the fish in basket type aluminum container having carrying capacity 20kgs. In these islands various mode of fish marketing is practices, its involves auction, export agents, fish market, street vendors and door to door sell of fish. The majority of the fish vendors are female; they are in marketing and use to sell fishes to consumers. For the study, street and door to door sell of fish done by female fish vendors are selected. The present study is on female fish street vendors analyzing the socio- economic condition in terms of their income and

disbursement pattern. It is an attempt to analyze the various issues based on primary data relates to female fish street vendors in Port Blair Municipal area of South Andaman District. A total of hundred twenty female street fish vendors found vending, fifty were randomly selected for the study and collected data is shown in percentage form. The present study also highlighted the various departmental schemes and programmes of the Administration meant for fish vendors and available marine infrastructure facilities available in the Port Blair Municipal area of South Andaman District, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Objectives:

The study analyzes the problems, prospects and the socio- economic condition of female street fish vendors in Port Blair municipal area in South Andaman. The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To highlight the administration schemes and programs meant for fish vendors.
2. To examine the existing marine infrastructure facilities in Port Blair Municipal area
3. To examine the income, saving, fish borrowing and sell patterns of the respondents
4. To study the problems faced by the female street fish vendors in unstructured marketing of fish

Review of Literature:

K. Rekha (2017) a study conducted on socio-economic conditions of women fish vendors of coastal Kerala. The study highlighted the role and services of women fish vendors in the society and many socio economic problems within the house and in the vending place is emphasized.

B.S.V. MeeraShetty (2016) conducted study to discuss the role of rural fisherwomen entrepreneur in rural Andaman region Mayabunder Tehsil. The study focus on pattern of fishermen families, their income, economic status, marketing of fish produce and livelihood of their families and assistance from various agencies. The study highlighted the issues of fisherwomen based on primary data and observation.

Dr. Anitha S (2014) studied the challenges faced by women fish vendors in unorganized market (street market) in Trivandrum. The study illustrates the challenges faced by retail women fish vendors

specifically in the unorganized markets. The external and internal environment analysis helps to analyze the money management, work life balance and other work related issues faced by women in unorganized fisheries sector.

A Subramanian (2015), studied on women fish vendors in Poducherry Region- Problems and Prospects-the study analyzed the socio-economic conditions of the fish vendors and illustrates to handle certain process in a systematic manner and to struggle for the privileges. The study highlighted the problems faced by the fish vendor's lack of infrastructure and proper transportation and exploitation by the middle men or money lenders. The study further highlighted for remedial measures for the development of fish vendors.

Research Gap

The researcher had review number of research works, articles and books already published relating to the study on female fish vendor used to sell fish in fish market. The researcher identified that there is no research undertaken focusing on problems of female street fish vendors having no fish market facility to sell fishes. There is no study focusing the problems and socio-economic condition of female street fish vendors of Port Blair municipal area, South Andaman District of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(3). Materials and methods

The study analyzes the problems, prospects and the socio- economic condition of female street fish vendors in Port Blair municipal area in South Andaman. Study is also analyzed administration schemes, programs and existing marine infrastructure facilities. A questionnaire has been prepared on income, economic status, living standard, saving, expenses, mode of fish borrowing and sell patterns and highlighted the problems faced by the respondents. For the study primary data collected through field visit, secondary data has been collected from the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration and by review of relevant research articles, journals and local newspapers.

Existing Marine Infrastructure facilities at Port Blair Municipal Area

Sl. No.	Type of marine Infrastructure	Details	Owned By
1.	Cold Storage	Storage capacity of 15 tones per day)	Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration
2.	Ice Plant	05 tones capacity per day located at Lambaline	M/S Andabar Cold storage
		15 tones capacity per day located at Garacharma	M/s. Andaman Ice Plant

		16 tones capacity per day located at Sisty Nagar	M/s. PLA Ice Plant
		12 tones capacity per day located at Dollygunj	M/S Aplomb Marketing
		20 tones capacity per day located at Prothrapur	M/s TSG Ice Plant
		60 tones capacity per day Located at Sippighat (nearest to Port Blair Municipal area)	M/.s Rubin Sea Foods Assisted by Fisheries Department under RKVY scheme
3.	Fish Landing Centre	01 No. at Fish landing Centre, Junglighat	Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration
4.	Temporary Fish Market	03 Nos. at Mahanpura, Junglighat and Bhatubasti	02 Nos. constructed by Department of Fisheries and 01 PRI at Bhatubasti
7.	Modern Fish Market	02 Nos. at Junglighat and Mohanpura	Constructed by Department of Fisheries. Modern Fish Market at Junglighat constructed completed and at Mahanpura construction is under process.

Source: Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration

Subsidized Schemes and Programmes for fish vendors implemented by Department of Fisheries

1. Supply of Insulated Ice boxes on subsidy

Pattern of subsidy: Maximum of 02 ice box of maximum 150 liters capacity for fish vendors engaged in retail marketing of fish under RashtriyaKrishiVikasYojana(RKVY)

2. Scheme for establishment of modern fishing retail outlet

Pattern of subsidy:- 20% of the cost of various items subject to a maximum of Rs.1.00 Lakhs

3. Issuance of Biometric Identity card to coastal fishers

Pattern: Those engaged in fishing and fishery related activities.

4. Subsidy for purchase of Moped for selling of fish:

Pattern of Assistance: 50% of the actual cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 30000/- under RashtriyaKrishiVikasYojana (RKVY) scheme

5. Central Sector Scheme / Blue Revolution

i). Insulated Truck of minimum 6 tones capacity.

Pattern of Assistance:- 40 % of the unit cost with a ceiling of Rs.7.50 lakh per truck for General States for general fishers & 60% subsidy for women/ tribal fishers

ii) Auto rickshaw with Ice box.

Pattern of Assistance: 40% of the unit cost with a ceiling of Rs.1.00 lakh per truck for General State for general fishers & 60% subsidy for women/ tribal fishers

Scope of study

The present study is useful for the administration and various other government agencies to taking various welfare measures through schemes, programmes, UT plan and policy decision for socio-economic development of fisher community in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Table No.1 Village/Ward Streets and door to door sell of fishes used by female fish vendors

Sl.No.	Place / Street	Total No. of female fish vendor
1.	Garacharma junction	06
2.	Bhatubasti Opp. Syndicate Bank	03
3.	School Line	04
4.	Old Pahargaon Junction	04
5.	Dollygunj Junction	06
6.	Patharguda	03
7.	Prathrapur Near to Bus Stop	06
8.	Carbin Cove Junction	10
9.	South Point	03
10.	Nayagaon Near Bus stop	04
11.	Nayagaon Junction	06
12.	Dignabad	28
13.	Buniyabad Junction	05
14.	Dairy Farm Near Bus Stop	08
15.	Haddo Junction	10
16.	Chatham Junction	08
17.	Mohanpura Next to Tiranga Park	02
18.	Mohanpura near vegetable market (dry fishes)	01
19.	Aberdeen Bazar near Mazid	03
	TOTAL	120

Source: Primary data

Table No.1 shows village/ward streets and door to door sells of fishes by female fish vendors. Total of 120 female fish street vendors found vending fishes in the Port Blair municipal area of South Andaman District of A&N Islands. For the study randomly selected 50 female fish street vendors.

Issues and problems faced by female street Vendors

1. Street and door to door fish vending / unstructured marketing of fish.
2. Lack of marine infrastructure and transport facilities.
3. Lack of fish market and fish preservation and storage facilities.
4. Non issuance/grant of fish street vendor license and non-execution of street vendor policy for fish vending.
5. Inclement climatic condition.
6. Lack of credit facilities.
7. Exploitation of middleman and money lenders.
8. Lack of fisher women cooperative society.
9. Illiterate and socio-economically backward community in society.
10. Non aware of government schemes and programmes.
11. Overcrowded poor working and living condition.
12. Un-hygienic handling of fish.
13. Uniform fishing ban or closed season for fishing from 15th April to 14th June 2018 (both days inclusive) for 61 days.
14. Fine levy by the Port Blair Municipal Council.

For violation the provisions of the Port Blair Municipal Council Solid Waste (Handling and Management Bye Laws 2017) fine amount Rs.500/- is collected from each street female street fish vendors. When unable to pay fine, the fishes and fish sold accessories forcefully taken by the staff of PBMC.

Findings:

1. The study reveals the Age group and marital status of fisherwomen fish vendor. It shows that 100% respondents are married; of which 54% of respondents belongs to 30 to 35 years.
2. The study shows that 74% respondents are illiterate and only 26% respondents have studied up to primary education and none of the respondents have secondary education
3. The study shows that 48% are having Medium (4-6 members) in their family, followed 28% of large (7-10 members), 18% of small (1-3 members) and 06% of very large (11 and above members) in their family.

4. The study shows that 46% respondents are living in their own house and 54% of respondents are living in rented house. It also shows that 06% respondents are living in Pucca House, 78% respondents in Semi Pucca house and 16% respondents are living in tin made roping Kutcha house.
5. The study shows that 84% respondents are living Above Poverty Line and 16% respondents are living Below Poverty Line.
6. The study shows that the respondents information and knowledge about various welfare schemes and programmes of Government. None of the respondent has information and knowledge about PMEGP, 76% respondents are knows about Pradhan Manti Mudra Yojana, 84% knows about MGNREGA.
7. During the study it reveals that due to non-issuance/ grant of fish vendor license from Port Blair Municipal Council, the respondents are unable to avail benefits of various welfare schemes implemented by the Department of Fisheries.
8. The study shows that 32% of the respondents are having Bio-metric cards issued by the Fisheries Department.
9. The study shows that 46% respondents knows about subsidy schemes for fish vendors implemented by Department of Fisheries and none of the respondents knows fish sale price fixed by the Administration.
10. The study shows that 56% of the respondents use insulated ice box, 36% of respondent use thermacoal box and 08% of the respondents use deep freezer to preserve fish.
11. The study shows that 100% of respondent use streets for sale of fish including 52% of them used both door to door and street vending mode for sale of fish. None of the respondents sell fish in fish market as they do not get place in fish market constructed by government. It reveals that marketing of fish done by the respondents are unstructured and unhygienic.
12. The study shows that 46% of the respondents average sale of fish per day profit of Rs.501 to Rs.1000/- and 54% of the respondents profit of below Rs.500/- including transportation charges.
13. The study shows that 100% of the respondents in fish selling activity are because of self, children education and family financial problems. All the respondents belong to fishing family background and illiteracy push them to choose fish selling activity.
14. The study shows that 72% of the respondents are Telugu and 28% of the respondents are Tamil of Hindu religion.
15. The study shows that 52% of the respondents take help from financer (money lender) for arrangement of capital, 30% from their family members and 18 % from the friends and relatives. During study 40% of the respondents reveal that they had applied for loan by PradhanMantri Mudra Yojana, but none of them availed any personal loan from any Nationalized Bank due to non-availability of security provider and high rate of interest.

Conclusion & Suggestion:

1. Creation and development of marine infrastructure facilities like fish markets, ice plants, cold storage and transport facilities.

2. Creation of hygienic structured fish market for female street fish vendors.
3. Grant / issue of fish vendor license for sale of fish.
4. Provides credit facilities from Bank to remove the exploitation of middleman and money lenders.
5. More welfare schemes and programe for fish vendors for improving the socio-economic condition.
6. Housing facilities are to be provided through development of modern fishermen villages.
7. Creating fisher women cooperative society and self-help group with active involvement of female fish vendors.
8. Training, awareness and entrepreneurs development on hygienic handling and sell of fish and fishery products with issuance of street fish vending license.
9. Insurance coverage for fish vendors.
10. Financial assistance during the ban period.
11. The study reveals that due to lack of marine infrastructure facilities, preservation accessories, unstructured and unhygienic working condition compelled the female fish vendors to sold fish at lower price as they could not preserved fish for longer periods.

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