

## **Socio-Economical Status of reservoir Fishermen in Tribal Area, Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh**

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### **Abstract**

Present study deals with the Socio-Economical status of fisherman concerned with three reservoirs Pedderu (367 acres), Konam (807 acres) and N.T.R (214 acres) in the tribal area of Visakhapatnam district. This study was done to assess fundamental status of fishermen during the year from Jan- 2013 to Dec. 2013.

**KEYWORDS:** Tribal Area, Fisherman, Socio-Economic status

### **INTRODUCTION**

The fishery sector is one of the world's fastest growing sectors and it contributes to the nation's animal protein. At present the global per capita fish consumption is approximately increased from 9.9 kg in 1960 to 19.2 kg in 2012(FAO, 2014)It can reduce the malnutrition problem by increasing the production of fish. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)estimates that fishery sector provide livelihood for 10-12 percent of the world's population (FAO, 2014). Fisheries are an important source of cheaply available protein rich food, and generate income, employment, recreation, and Health to the people. The Government also encourages enhancing fishery production by harnessing the natural resources and renders fishermen welfare schemes.

Fishermen are the basic line of the fishery but their economic problem influence the method of production, production requisites and marketing. Proper management policies involving appropriate choice of inputs can a major impact on production in fishing that may influence the poverty of the fishermen (Soumyendra and Ruma, 2007). Illiteracy and other social conditions of fishermen are used to exploit by middle man (Joshi and Ravindra, 2014). Fishermen get poor returns of their catch and they are invariably under debt. The yield in reservoir fishery is the indicators of the status of social and living standards of fishermen.

The indigent fishermen who are lack of knowledge of latest fishery technology and proper attitude to fishery development are strengthened by institutional support and finance for their performance (Chakraborty, et al., 2005). Co-operatives are supposed to play an important role in between improved status of the fishermen and sustained development of the fishery.But in rural area the prospect of fishing depends on in a critical way on the attitude, capability and expectation of fisher folk, associated with the co-operatives or groups.

The fishermen associated with the reservoirs of study area are originally belongs to STs basically agriculturists and agriculture labour. But after a little basic training in fishery by the government organization, Integrated Tribal Development Agency now mostly they are turned as fishermen. They grouped as fishermen cooperative societies,the government providing the subsidizedseed which is a low in quality.They didn't follow any advanced technology in management of reservoir

fishery to get good yield. The fishermen of the tribal area face a number of complex factors such as inadequate infrastructure facilities, lack of investment and natural calamities like heavy rains, floods which affect ultimately of their performance and involvement.

In addition to these, the involvement of middle man in marketing and or due to need of money in slack season, they sale the fish at the pre-determined prices mostly half of the market price. In view of that to examine the socio-economic conditions, living status and constraints faced by reservoir fishermen in tribal area of Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

In the present study three reservoirs Pedderu (367 acres), Konam (807 acres) and Thatiparthi (214 acres) were selected in the tribal area of Visakhapatnam district. The fishing activity has been carried out by STs and a few SCs and BCs are also associated in these three reservoirs. The primary source of data was collected through conducting personal interviews by randomly selected individuals and pre-tested schedules. Analysis also carried out by MS Excel (MS Excel, 2010) to determine the differences in fishing income and social status. The results are presented in textual, tabular and graphical forms to understand the present livelihood status and constraints of the fishermen in studied area.

## **RESULTS**

In the present study, the table -1 reveals that the fishermen depended in Pedderu reservoir is noticed high (367/96) rate of density, where as it is low (214/38) in Thatiparthi reservoir. The seed released (600 per acre) in all reservoirs are equal in ratio, but the investment and production rates fluctuation is noticed in among the reservoirs. The annual production highest 3.537 t/hct in Pedderu and lowest 2.857 t/hct in Thatiparthi reservoirs is recorded. Similarly the investment highest Rs.5,952/hct in Thatiparthi and lowest Rs.4,591/hct in Konam reservoirs is noticed. But the highest returns Rs.12,870/hct in Pedderu and lowest Rs.8,332/hct in Thatiparthi reservoirs were observed. Ultimately the average income generated per month to each fisherman is maximum Rs.2786 in Pedderu and minimum Rs.2302 in Thatiparthi reservoirs.

To assess the socio-economic status of the fishermen, various parameters in their living standards were observed. It understands from the table-2 and graph-1 the social standards concerns, old age fishermen are dominated more than all other age groups. Illiterates are very high but very few secondary education level standards fishermen were noticed. The majority fishermen family size is small, a few large size families are also recorded in case of Thatiparthi reservoir fishermen and in remaining very few and negligible.

Regarding the facilities, of Pedderu reservoir maximum fishermen are residing in concrete houses, the fishermen Konam and Thatiparthi reservoirs are still residing in thatched houses. The fishermen of three reservoirs use mostly tap water for drinking, fire wood as cooking fuel, public transport system, treatment in government hospitals. In case of toilets, all fishermen are still using open toilets and a few individual toilets were observed. The economic status reveals that majority are gaining less than Rs.4000/- per month together with the alternate source by working

as labour. The support of co-operative society is very limited which is not satisfying them.

**Table 1: STATUS OF THE TRIBAL AREA RESERVOIRS IN VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH.**

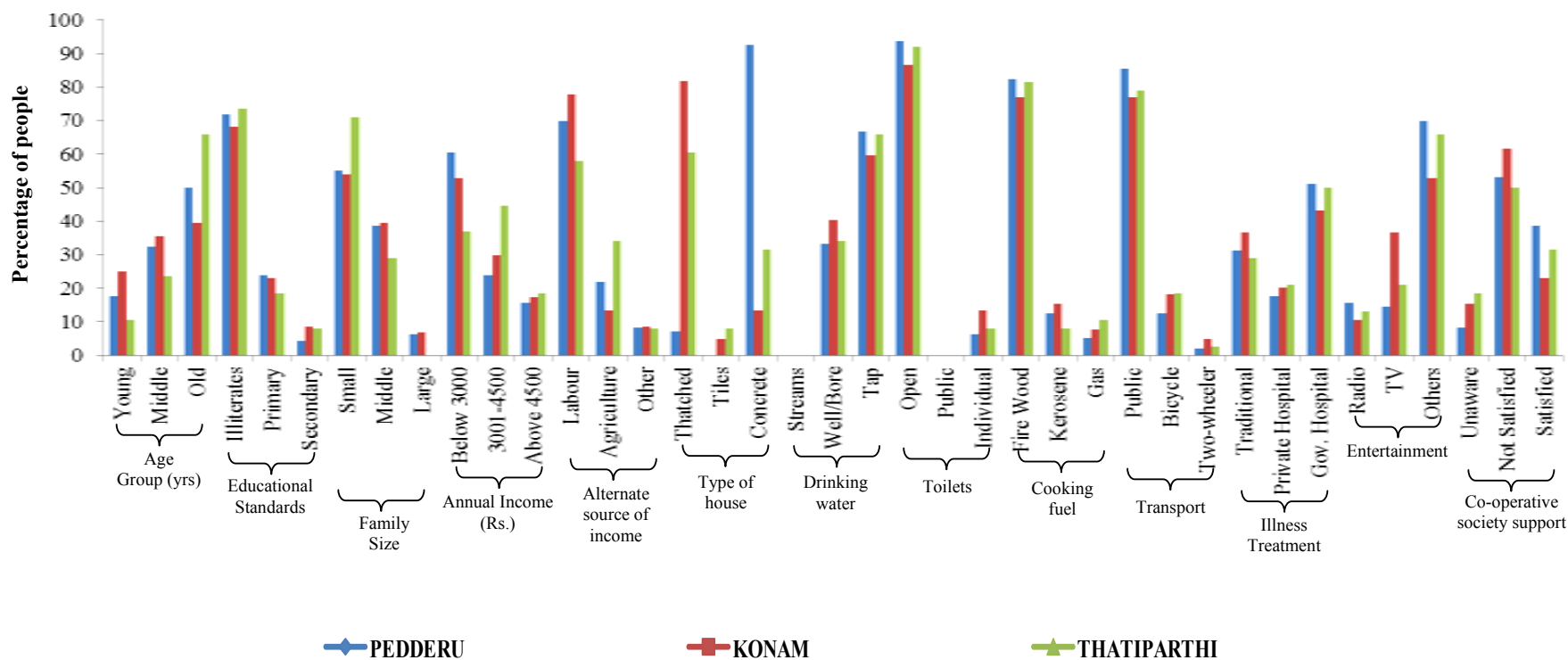
S.No.	PARTICULARS OF THE RESRVOIR	RESERVOIR		
		PEDDERU	KONAM	THATIPARTHI
1	Registration No.& Year	A118/2006	A96/1996	A119/2006
2	Total Fishermen	96	104	38
3	Foreshore Area (Hectors)	148.40	326.70	86.60
4	Fishing Activity (days)	275	275	275
5	Seed Released /Hector	600	600	600
6	Production/Annum/Hector in tones	3.537	2.969	2.857
7	Returns in Rs./Hector @ Rs.50.00/Kg.	12,870	14,845	14,284
8	Investment Rs. /Hector	4818	4591	5952
9	Profit Rs. /Hector	12870	10254	8332
10	Income/Head /month in Rs.	2786	2375	2302

**Table-2: SOCIO-ECONOMICAL PARAMETERS OF RESERVOIR FISHERMEN IN TRIBAL AREA, VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH**

S. No.	SOCIO-ECONOMIC PARAMETRS		RESERVOIRS		
			PEDDERU	KONAM	THATIPARTHI
1	Age Groups (Yrs.)	Young	17.71	25.00	10.53
		Middle	32.29	35.58	23.68
		Old	50.00	39.42	65.79
2	Educational Standards	Illiterates	71.87	68.27	73.69
		Primary	23.96	23.08	18.42
		Secondary	4.17	8.65	7.89
3	Family Size	Small	55.21	53.85	71.05
		Middle	38.54	39.42	28.95
		Large	6.25	6.73	0
4	Monthly Income (Rs.)	Below 3000	60.42	52.88	36.84
		3001-4500	23.95	29.81	44.74

		Above 4500	15.63	17.31	18.42
5	Alternate Source of Income	Labour	69.79	77.89	57.89
		Agriculture	21.88	13.46	34.21
		Other	8.33	8.65	7.90
6	Type of House	Thatched	7.29	81.73	60.53
		Tiles	0	4.81	7.89
		Concrete	92.71	13.46	31.58
7	Drinking Water	Streams	0	0	0
		Well/Bore	33.33	40.38	34.21
		Tap	66.67	59.62	65.79
8	Toilets	Open	93.75	86.54	92.11
		Public	0	0	0
		Individual	6.25	13.46	7.89
9	Cooking Fuel	Fire Wood	82.29	76.92	81.58
		Kerosene	12.50	15.39	7.89
		Gas	5.21	7.69	10.53
10	Transport	Public	85.42	76.92	78.95
		Bicycle	12.50	18.27	18.42
		Two-wheeler	2.08	4.81	2.63
11	Illness Treatment	Traditional	31.25	36.54	28.95
		PrivateHospital	17.71	20.19	21.05
		Govt. Hospital	51.04	43.27	50.00
12	Entertainment	Radio	15.63	10.58	13.16
		TV	14.58	36.54	21.05
		Others	69.79	52.88	65.79
13	Co-operative Society Support	Unaware	8.33	15.38	18.42
		Not Satisfied	53.13	61.54	50.00
		Satisfied	38.54	23.08	31.58

Graph.1. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF RESERVOIR FISHERMAN IN TRAIBAL AREA, VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT



## DISCUSSION

The tribals of Visakhapatnam district are having good water body resources, but they are unable to produce the maximum quantity of fish. Even after maintain the equal ratio of stocking density, there is fluctuations in the production among the reservoirs due lack of proper maintenance (Petters and Feustel, 1997), affect of floods and mortality the fishermen unable to gain proper production. The investment is also a major role in the production (Panikar and Alagaraja, 1981), in the tribal area fishermen are due to unawareness and poverty could not invest on the reservoir fish production. And the fluctuations in income may be due to transport expenditure in interior reservoir.

When compare to the Thatiparthi reservoir the fishermen of Konam and Pedderu reservoirs are interior in the district and having poor transport convenience. The annual income is less, working as labour for alternate source of income and poor in other living styles are appear more in fishermen of Konam reservoir. The fisherman of this reservoir middle age, illiterates, living in thatched house, using open toilets and less cooperative support ranks high and having small family size ranks low indicates their living standards revealed as in the studies of Rejwan Kabir et al., (2012).

The Tatiparthi reservoir which has good convenience facilities and near to the semi urban area, fishermen having good literates, a few are having secondary educational standards and earning little more income. Dependence on other income source the fishermen are little better than other fishermen of the tribal area. And comparatively the fishermen better utilizing co-operative society facilities and enjoying entertainment facilities.

The fishermen all in the tribal are still using open toilets, dependence on public transport, using fire wood as cooking fuel. But most of them are having pakka (concrete) house, drinking water facility and utilizing government hospitals for treatment which has provided by the welfare schemes. The low level living status of the fishermen of three reservoirs in the tribal area is reflects their poverty. The alternate source of income generation indicates that the per capita income of fishermen in the tribal area is very less and it is not encourageable to them. The production of fish in the reservoirs per hector is very less even after availing the large source of water bodies. Lack of enough knowledge, skills and investment has forced the tribal area fishermen to allow the private party involvement and it ultimately reflects gaining on the income. Agarwal, (1990) and Ekka et al., (2012) also pointed out the same factors which interferes each other in fishery production, literacy and awareness, per capita income and their living standards.

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