

PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OF FISHER FOLK COMMUNITY IN PRAKASAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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Abstract

The country with a long coastline of 8118 KM has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending to 2.02 million Sq.Km., 0.86 million Sq.Km. on the west coast, 0.56 million Sq.Km on the east coast and 0.60 million Sq.Km. around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands - which is highly suitable for developing captive and culture fisheries. With the absolute right on the EEZ, India has also acquired the responsibility to conserve, develop and optimally exploit the living marine resources within this area. Inland fishery resources are vast and comprises of rivers and canals (171 334 KM), reservoirs (3.0 million hectare), ponds and tanks (2.36 million hectare), floodplain lakes and derelict waters (1.07 million hectare) and brackish water areas (1.42 million hectare). The marine fishery resources in Indian EEZ have been estimated at about 3.934 million tones, constituting 51 per cent demersal, 43 per cent pelagic and 6 per cent. Against this background, the study has been taken to assess the perceptions towards development of fisher folk community in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh.

Key words: Coastline, marine resources, conserve, etc.

Fishery has been one of the oldest and most important livelihood options for the inhabitants of the coastal line of the country since time immemorial. This natural resource, along with the marine environment, has been the custodian of livelihood security of the coastal populace. The web of life of the coastal community is woven around it, be it festivals, weddings or even death, the community is intricately related to the natural marine resource.

An approximate of about 1 % of the total population depends upon fishery sector in India as the primary source of livelihood –direct employment to about 6 million fishers and to another six million people who are employed in fishery related activities.

Universe and Sampling:

The study is taken up in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, three mandals are selected randomly such as Chilara, Kothapatnam and Vetapalem. The researcher selected three fisher folk villages from each mandal and the villages are 2000 and below population are finalised of 9 villages from three mandals. The respondents in household setting are selected 30 in each village in sequential order by using simple random sample method. Thus, a total of 270 respondents from all the nine villages are finalised. The detailed sample of mandals, villages, population and sample respondents selected for the study.

Table–6.52: Possessing of Craft Vs. Place of Residence

Place of residence	Do you possess Craft				Total
	Individually owned	Jointly owned	Lease	Wage earner	
Chilara	4	37	29	20	90
	1.5%	13.7%	10.7%	7.4%	33.3%
Kothapatnam	11	39	22	18	90
	4.1%	14.4%	8.1%	6.7%	33.3%
VetaPalem	1	26	38	25	90
	.4%	9.6%	14.1%	9.3%	33.3%

Total	16	102	89	63	270
	5.9%	37.8%	33.0%	23.3%	100.0%

$\chi^2=18.333$, $df=6$, $P < 0.005$, **Significant at 0.01 level**

The economics of catamaran fishing along the Madras coast has been studied and concluded that the catamaran owners can enhance their earnings by increasing the size of craft as well as number of gears. The poor economic condition coupled with limited availability of finance from the institutional agencies force the fishermen to sustain with the less equipped fishing equipment's, which in turn results in less returns entangling them in a vicious circle of poverty (Sathiadhas and Panikkar, 1991).

Table 6.52 shows the ownership status of craft. More than half of the fisher folk (37.8 percent) are jointly owned craft. It is followed by 33.0 percent of the fisherfolk have leased, whereas 23.3 per cent of them wage earners. Further, 5.9 per cent of the fisherfolk are owned individually. Thus, it is concluded that majority of the fisherfolk are jointly owned crafts.

The study shows the results of the Chi-square test that there is significant difference between place of residence and possessing of craft ($P= 0.005$) at 0.01 levels. The results show that there is statistically significant difference in possessing craft by their place of residence.

Table -6.53: Possessing of Gear Vs. Place of Residence

Place of residence	Do you possess Gear				Total
	Individually owned	Jointly owned	Lease	Wage earner	
Chirala	1 .4%	47 17.4%	25 9.3%	17 6.3%	90 33.3%
Kothapatnam	16 5.9%	27 10.0%	26 9.6%	21 7.8%	90 33.3%
VetaPalem	0 .0%	26 9.6%	38 14.1%	26 9.6%	90 33.3%
Total	17 6.3%	100 37.0%	89 33.0%	64 23.7%	270 100.0%

$\chi^2=42.207$, $df=6$, $P < 0.000$, **Significant at 0.01 level**

The impact of globalization and sea food trade legislation on poverty in Andhra Pradesh shows a growing trend in districts like Srikakulam, East Godavari and Prakasam, for boat owners to remove the engines from their boats during certain periods, to operate them non-motorized boats, in view of the high cost of operation, poor catches and undertaken returns. The implications of such high initial investments and operating costs for ownership patterns of craft and gear need to be explored (ICM, 2002).

Table 6.53 describes the ownership status of gear used in fishing and the fisherfolk. Majority of the fisherfolk (37.0 per cent) are jointly owned gear. Subsequently 33.0 per cent of fisherfolk are used leased gear for fishing and 23.7 per cent are wage earners. Whereas, 6.3 per cent of the fisherfolk have individually owned gears.

The study shows the results of the Chi-square test that there is significant difference between place of residence and possessing of gear ($P= 0.000$) at 0.01 levels. The results show that there is statistically significant difference in possessing gear by their place of residence.

Table-6.54: Skill Training for Fisherfolk Vs. Education

Education	Skill Training for Fisherfolk		Total
	Yes	No	
Illiterate	91 33.7%	37 13.7%	128 47.4%
Primary	11 4.1%	75 27.8%	86 31.9%
Secondary	11 4.1%	33 12.2%	44 16.3%
Degree &	6	6	12

above	2.2%	2.2%	4.4%
Total	119	151	270
	44.1%	55.9%	100.0%

$\chi^2=78.722$, $df=3$, $P < 0.000$, **Significant at 0.01 level**

The above table shows that among the respondents engaged in catching fish 44.1 per cent respondents had taken formal training in fishing and 55.9 per cent respondents had not taken any formal training in fishing, out of their own experience they were doing fishing. They had enhanced their efficiency in fishing out of experience.

The chi square table 6.54 shows that relationship between education and skill training for fisherfolk. There is highly significant among education wise and skill training for fisherfolk at 0.01 level. Hence, there is impact of education on skill training for fisherfolk for getting training.

Table-6.55: Trained fishermen earn more money Vs. Income

Income	Fishermen who takes training in fishing earns more than that of non trainees		Total
	Yes	No	
< - 5000	18	25	43
	6.7%	9.3%	15.9%
5001 - 10000	17	13	30
	6.3%	4.8%	11.1%
10001 - 15000	39	53	92
	14.4%	19.6%	34.1%
15001 - 20000	11	16	27
	4.1%	5.9%	10.0%
20001 - >	34	44	78
	12.6%	16.3%	28.9%
Total	119	151	270
	44.1%	55.9%	100.0%

$\chi^2=2.250$, $df=4$, $P < 0.690$, **Not Significant at 0.01 level**

It can be observed that the fisherman who takes formal training in fishing earns more than that of non trainees. About 44.1 percent took training in formal fishing which is provided by the Government fisheries department either by their society. Further, 55.9 per cent are not undergone any training also earning on par with who takes training in fishing.

The chi-square table revealed the relationship between income and Fishermen who takes training in fishing earns more than that of non trainees. There is a relationship in between income and Fishermen who takes training in fishing earns more than that of non trainees and there is no statistically significant association at 0.01 level.

Table-6.57: Type of Fishing Method Vs. Age

Ho: There is no statistically significant difference in between traditional and scientific method of fishing by their age.

Age	Type of Fishing Method		Total
	Traditional	Scientific	
< - 25	17	46	63
	6.3%	17.0%	23.3%
26 - 35	33	39	72
	12.2%	14.4%	26.7%
36 - 45	37	66	103
	13.7%	24.4%	38.1%
46 - 55	7	15	22
	2.6%	5.6%	8.1%
56 - >	3	7	10
	1.1%	2.6%	3.7%
Total	97	173	270
	35.9%	64.1%	100.0%

$\chi^2=5.572$, $df=4$, $P < 0.233$, **Not Significant at 0.01 level**

The traditional fisherfolk were undertaking fishing primarily subsistence with a sense of companionship and community participation. Through continuous interaction with the ocean and fish the artisanal fisherfolk had accumulated a trans generationally treasure of scientific knowledge on diverse marine eco-systems and fish behavior. The new modes of fish production and distribution have resulted in loss of traditional skills and knowledge systems, and had converted passive gear to an active gear technology; a low cost to a high cost technology: and from an eco-friendly to an eco-destructive technology (Rajan, 2000). As per this study, majority of the respondents (35.9 per cent) use traditional methods of fishing. The remaining 64.1 per cent use scientific methods in fishing. It is noted that majority of the respondents use scientific methods in fishing. The chi-square table 6.57 revealed the relationship between age and Type of Fishing Method. There is no relationship in between age and Type of Fishing Method. It is statistically no significant difference at 0.05 level. Hence, the null hypothesis was accepted and research hypothesis was rejected.

Table–6.59: Landing centre in your locality Vs. Type of family

Type of family	Is there landing centre in your locality		Total
	Yes	No	
Joint	13	30	43
	4.8%	11.1%	15.9%
Nuclear	40	153	193
	14.8%	56.7%	71.5%
Extended	5	29	34
	1.9%	10.7%	12.6%
Total	58	212	270
	21.5%	78.5%	100.0%

$\chi^2=2.943$, $df=2$, $P < 0.230$, Not Significant at 0.01 level

If any single factor could be pin-pointed for the economic ills of the fishing sector, it is inadequacy of infrastructural facilities. Among the infrastructural facilities the availability of a suitable berthing and landing centre where the fishing vessels can safely berth and land fish and get all their requirements such as fuel, water, ration, cargo etc. is an important necessity. The table reveals that 21.5 per cent of the respondents have the landing centres and 78.5 per cent not having the landing centres.

The chi-square table revealed the relationship between type of family and landing centre in your locality. There is no relationship between type of family and landing centre in your locality. Hence, there are statistically no impact of type of family on Is there landing centre in your locality at 0.01 level.

Table–6.60: Berthing facility Vs. Occupation

Occupation	Is there berthing facility		Total
	Yes	No	
Fishing	2	80	82
	.7%	29.6%	30.4%
Boat owner	3	81	84
	1.1%	30.0%	31.1%
Fish vender	2	32	34
	.7%	11.9%	12.6%
Fish processor	2	32	34
	.7%	11.9%	12.6%
Fish marketing	1	35	36
	.4%	13.0%	13.3%
Total	10	260	270
	3.7%	96.3%	100.0%

$\chi^2=1.363$, $df=4$, $P < 0.851$, Not Significant at 0.01 level

It is important that berthing facility is very important and playing vital role in fishing at sea in the sample villages there is no berthing facility but they have landing facility to stop their motorised boats. The majority (96.3 per cent) does not have the berthing facility at their locations. Only 3.7 per cent have the berthing facility in their location.

The study shows the results of the Chi-square test that there is no significant difference between berthing facility and occupation ($P= 0.851$) at 0.01 levels. The results show that there is no statistically significant difference in berthing facility by occupation.

Table–6.61: Freezing centre Vs. Place of Residence

Place	Is there freezing centre		Total
	Yes	No	
Chirala	27	63	90
	10.0%	23.3%	33.3%
Kothapatnam	31	59	90
	11.5%	21.9%	33.3%
VetaPalem	28	62	90
	10.4%	23.0%	33.3%
Total	86	184	270
	31.9%	68.1%	100.0%

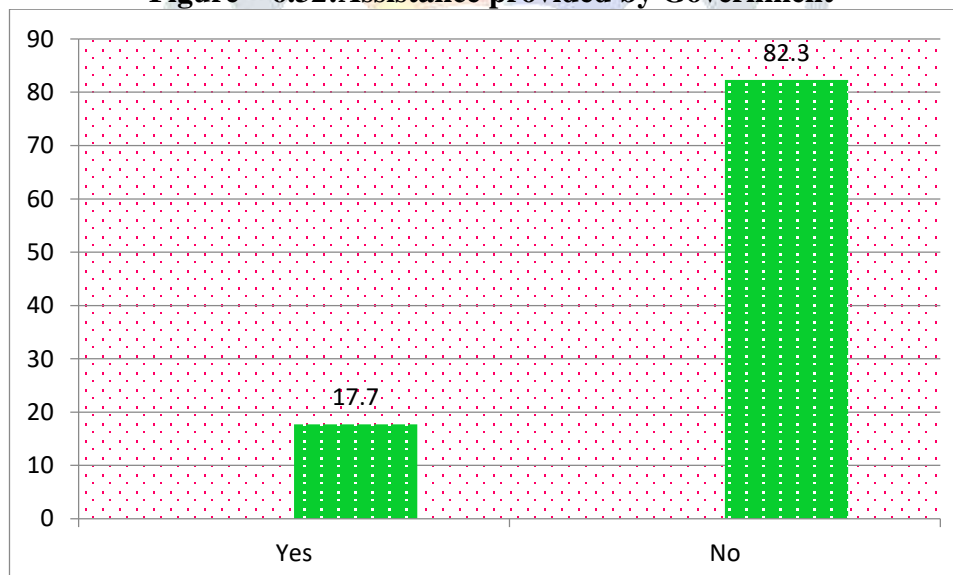
$\chi^2=0.000$, $df=2$, $P < 1.000$, **Not Significant at 0.01 level**

The table 6.61 revealed that any freezing centre is available in the study area. 31.9 per cent of the respondents are expressed that the freezing centres are available at their nearest places. Whereas, 68.1 per cent of the respondents expressed that there in no freezing points in the study area.

The chi-square table revealed the relationship between place of residence and freezing centre. There is no relationship between place of residence and freezing centre. Hence, there are statistically no impact of place of residence on any freezing centre in your locality at 0.01 level.

Table–6.63: Assistance provided by Government

Sl. No	Statement	Yes	No	Total N=270
1	Financial	29.6	70.4	100.0
2	Fishing equipment	31.1	68.9	100.0
3	Vocational training	11.9	88.1	100.0
4	Technical assistance	08.1	91.9	100.0
5	Any other	07.8	92.2	100.0
Total Average Per centage		17.7	82.3	100.0

Figure – 6.32: Assistance provided by Government

The table shows that assistance provided by government to the fisher folk community for their socio economic development. The statement reveals that the financial assistance about 29.6 per cent of the respondents benefitting whereas, 70.4 per cent not benefitted with financial assistance.

The other statement is similar to that 31.1 per cent are receiving fishing equipment and 68.9 per cent are not receiving any fishing equipment.

The vocational trainingwerereceiving about 11.69 per cent of the respondents and the majority (82.3 per cent) not receiving any vocational training.

About 8.1 per cent are receiving technical assistance and the majority (91.9 per cent) are not receiving any technical assistance from the government.

An overall total percentage, the respondents 17.7 per cent were receiving assistance from government and 82.3 per cent are not receiving any assistance from government.

Table–6.65: Level of satisfaction on Government welfare schemes

Sl. No	Particulars	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Moderate	Dissatisfied	Highly dissatisfied	Total N=270
1	Fishermen Group Accident Insurance	29.6	22.6	2.2	11.9	33.7	100.0
2	National Fishermen Savings-cum-Relief	23.0	33.0	2.2	8.9	33.0	100.0
3	Provide Motors to the Traditional crafts	17.4	20.4	10.7	19.3	32.2	100.0
4	Supply of Deiseal at subsidized price	12.2	18.1	3.0	19.3	47.4	100.0
5	Cash awards to 10 & 12 students of Fishermen families	11.9	18.1	2.6	20.7	46.7	100.0
6	Daily relief assistance to families of missed fishermen	12.2	18.5	3.0	18.1	48.1	100.0
7	Relief to the families of deceased fishermen	11.9	18.1	2.6	20.7	46.7	
Total Average Per centage		16.9	21.2	3.8	17.0	41.1	100.0

Figure – 6.33:Level of satisfaction on Government welfare schemes

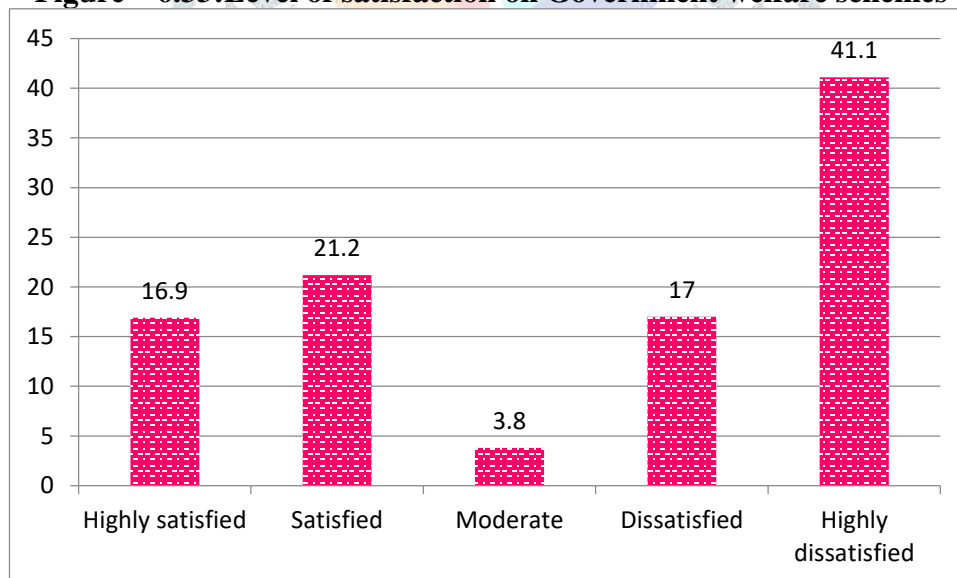


Table 6.65 shows the level of satisfaction of the respondents regarding Government welfare schemes. As regards to Fishermen Group Accident Insurance that 29.6 percent of the respondents highly satisfied followed by 22.6 percent of the respondents satisfied and 2.2 percent of the respondents are moderately satisfied to Fishermen Group Accident Insurance. About 11.9 percent of the respondents are dissatisfied while 33.7 percent highly dissatisfied to Fishermen Group Accident Insurance.

Table 6.65 shows the level of satisfaction of the respondents on National Fishermen Savings-cum-Relief. About 23.0 percent of the respondents are highly satisfied. 33.0 per cent of the respondents satisfied followed by 2.2 per cent are moderately satisfied. About 8.9 per cent and 33.0 per cent of the respondents are dissatisfied and highly dissatisfied to National Fishermen Savings-cum-Relief.

Table 6.65 conveys that about 17.4 percent are highly satisfied to Provide Motors to the Traditional crafts, 20.4 per cent of the respondents satisfied followed by 10.7 per cent are moderate. About 19.3 per cent and 32.2 per cent of the respondents are dissatisfied and highly dissatisfied respectively to Provide Motors to the Traditional crafts.

Table 6.65 explains the Supply of Deiseal at subsidized price that 12.2 per cent and 18.1 percent highly satisfied and satisfied Supply of Deiseal at subsidized price. Further, 3.0 per cent are moderate with the Supply of Deiseal at subsidized price. About 19.3 per cent and 47.4 percent dissatisfied and highly dissatisfied to Supply of Deiseal at subsidized price.

As regards the Cash awards to 10 and 12 students of Fishermen families that 11.9 per cent of the respondents highly satisfied. 18.1 per cent and 2.6 per cent are satisfied and moderate to Cash awards to 10 and 12 students of Fishermen families and 20.7 per cent and 46.7 per cent are dissatisfied and highly dissatisfied to Cash awards to 10 and 12 students of Fishermen families.

The table revealed that Daily relief assistance to families of missed fishermen about 12.2 per cent and 18.5 per cent are highly satisfied and satisfied respectively. Further, 3.0 per cent of the respondents are moderate. About 18.1 per cent and 48.1 per cent of the respondents are dissatisfied and highly dissatisfied with the Daily relief assistance to families of missed fishermen.

The level of satisfaction of the respondents regarding Relief to the families of deceased fishermen. As regards to Relief to the families of deceased fishermen that only 11.9 percent of the respondents highly satisfied followed by 18.1 per cent of the respondents satisfied and 2.6 per cent of the respondents are just moderate. About 20.7 percent of the respondents are dissatisfied while 46.7 per cent highly dissatisfied to Relief to the families of deceased fishermen.

The overall level of satisfaction on government welfare schemes, the respondents 16.9 per cent are highly satisfied followed by 21.2 per cent and 3.8 per cent are satisfied and moderate respectively. About 17.0 per cent and 41.1 per cent are dissatisfied and highly dissatisfied to government welfare schemes.

Table-6.66:

Level of satisfaction on Government welfare schemes Vs. Religion

Ho: There is no statistically significant difference level of satisfaction on government welfare scheme by their religion.

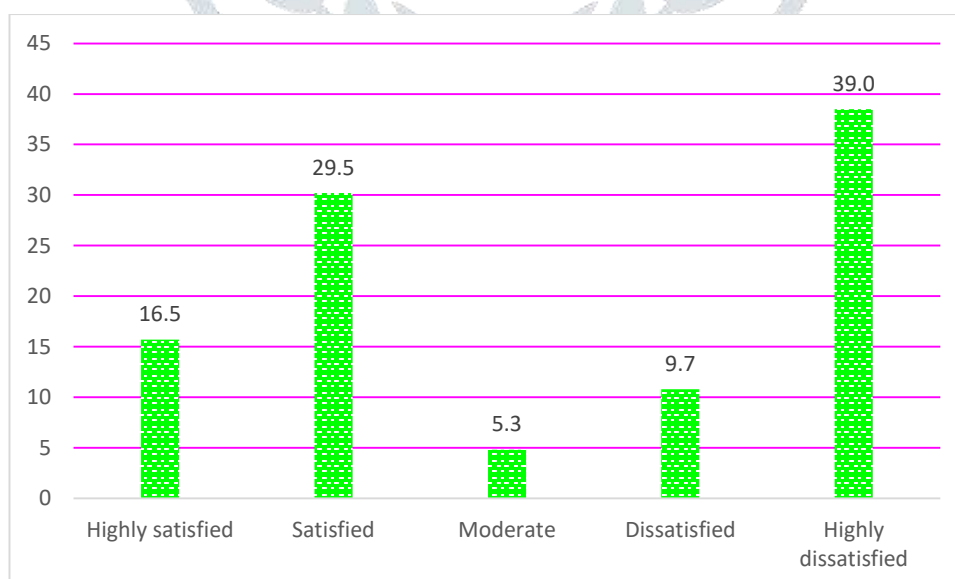
Statement	Religion	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	F Value	P Value
Fishermen Group Accident Insurance	Hindu	230	3.0522	1.70457	3.307	.070
	Christian	40	2.5250	1.61702		
	Total	270	2.9741	1.69935		
National Fishermen Savings-cum-Relief	Hindu	230	3.0087	1.63742	1.427	.233
	Christian	40	2.6750	1.59144		
	Total	270	2.9593	1.63210		
Provide Motors to the Traditional crafts	Hindu	230	3.3261	1.53068	1.126	.290
	Christian	40	3.0500	1.44914		
	Total	270	3.2852	1.51944		
Supply of Deiseal at subsidized price	Hindu	230	3.7130	1.49681	.002	.963
	Christian	40	3.7250	1.55229		
	Total	270	3.7148	1.50222		
Cash awards to 10 & 12 students of Fishermen families	Hindu	230	3.7087	1.48865	.128	.721
	Christian	40	3.8000	1.50555		
	Total	270	3.7222	1.48870		
Daily relief assistance to families of missed fishermen	Hindu	230	3.7348	1.50519	.271	.603
	Christian	40	3.6000	1.54919		
	Total	270	3.7148	1.50962		
Relief to the families of deceased fishermen	Hindu	230	3.7217	1.48087	.000	.990
	Christian	40	3.7250	1.55229		
	Total	270	3.7222	1.48870		

ANOVA has been applied to find whether there are any significant differences between Government welfare schemes to Fishermen and their religion. The responses of respondents on welfare schemes the descriptive table 6.66 displays the sample size, mean, standard deviation, F value and P value. The study shows the results of the ANOVA test that there are significant difference responses on the welfare schemes by their level of religion. Fishermen Group Accident Insurance F value (3.307) P Value (0.070), National Fishermen Savings-cum-Relief F value (1.427), P Value (0.233), Provide Motors to the Traditional crafts F value (1.126), P Value (0.290), Supply of Deiseal at subsidized price F value (0.002), P Value (0.963), Cash awards to 10 & 12 students of Fishermen families F value (0.128), P Value (0.721), Daily relief assistance to families of missed fishermen F value (0.271), P Value (0.603), Relief to the families of deceased fishermen F value (0.000), P Value (0.990) and its corresponding P-values are not significant at 0.01 levels. The results show that there are no significant difference responses on Government welfare schemes to Fishermen in between religion wise categories of fisherfolk. Hence, we accept null hypothesis and reject research hypothesis.

Table–6.50: Level of satisfaction on life style conditions

Sl. No	Particulars	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Moderate	Dissatisfied	Highly dissatisfied	Total N=270
1	Fulfilment of all basic needs	10.4	12.6	17.0	4.4	55.6	100.0
2	Fulfilment of all social needs	15.6	50.4	1.5	8.9	23.7	100.0
3	All facilities are available in home	27.8	30.7	2.2	8.9	30.4	100.0
4	Take adequate nutrition food	8.9	34.8	2.6	13.3	40.4	100.0
5	Lives comfortable life	20.0	18.9	3.0	13.3	44.8	100.0
Total Average Percentage		16.5	29.5	5.3	9.7	39.0	100.0

Figure – 6.31: Level of satisfaction on life style conditions



The table 6.50 and figure 6.31 explains the satisfaction level of the respondents regarding the life style conditions such as fulfilment of all basic needs, fulfilment of all social needs, all facilities are available in home, take adequate nutrition food and lives comfortable life.

It is revealed that 10.4 percent and 12.6 per cent highly satisfied and satisfied the Fulfilment of all basic needs followed by 17.0 percent of the respondents moderately satisfied. About 4.4 per cent and 55.6 per cent dissatisfied and highly dissatisfied to Fulfilment of all basic needs respectively.

Table 6.50 show the opinion of the respondents towards Fulfilment of all social needs. 15.6 per cent of the respondents highly satisfied that Fulfilment of all social needs. The majority (50.4 percent) of the respondents satisfied while 1.5 per cent of the respondents moderately satisfied that Fulfilment of all social needs. Only 8.9 percent and 23.7 per cent of the respondents dissatisfied and highly dissatisfied on Fulfilment of all social needs.

About 27.8 per cent of the respondents are highly satisfied with All facilities are available in home. 30.7 per cent of the respondents are satisfied with All facilities are available in home. 2.2 percent of the respondents are moderately satisfied all facilities are available in home. 8.9 per cent and 30.4 per cent of the respondents are dissatisfied and highly dissatisfied respectively. Here most of the respondents are satisfied with the All facilities are available in home.

The table 6.50 depicts that the opinion of the respondents about the Take adequate nutrition food. 8.9 per cent of the respondents are highly satisfied with the Take adequate nutrition food. 34.8 per cent of the respondents are satisfied, 2.6 per cent of the respondents are moderately satisfied, 13.3 per cent of the respondents are dissatisfied, and 40.4 per cent of the respondents are highly dissatisfied.

It can be seen from the table that the opinion about the Lives comfortable life. 20.0 per cent of the respondents feel highly satisfied while 18.9 per cent of the respondents feel it as satisfied. 3.0 per cent of the respondents feel moderately satisfied, 13.3 per cent of the respondents feel dissatisfied while 44.8 per cent of the respondents feel highly dissatisfied. It depends upon the need of the respondents towards the livelihood they met with.

The overall half of the respondents satisfied and remaining are dissatisfied with the life style conditions which they fulfil day to day needs.

Conclusion:

The fisher folk along the coastal area, are socially and economically backward class. They lack various basic amenities like education, drinking water and food. Thus, their standard of living is not up to the expected level. Fishing community is considered the poorest group of people in all sectors of the economy. Majority of the people look weak, poorly dressed, drunk and live in poor housing structure, and are economically backward as well. They have a large household size to maintain yet their income is not enough to meet their expenditure.

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