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ISSN (Online) : 2455 - 3662
SJIF Impact Factor :3.395 (Morocco)

EPRA International Journal of
**Multidisciplinary
Research**

Volume: 2 Issue: 7 July 2016



Published By :
EPRA Journals

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AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LEVEL OF FISHERMAN IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the impact of Income and Expenditure Level of Fishing workers in Kanniyakumari District. This district marine production was three percent of the total marine production in Tamil Nadu. The most of the catches in the traditional sector are low valued species and mainly for local markets. The major objectives of the study are, to analyze the Income of fishermen in Kanniyakumari District and to analyze the total household expenditure pattern of sample households. The survey method is followed for collecting data and 200 respondents are selected using convenience sampling method. Collecting information from the respondents is interviewed by the fishermen. Secondary data are collected from Journals, books, reports and newspaper. The paper has calculated fisheries income and Expenditure level of fishermen in Kanniyakumari District. This result suggests that it is important to allow fish to the age at which the growth rate is the highest to increase the production. The analysis concluded that, the average annual income of the respondents of this study is Rs.40,886. The minimum income of the respondents is Rs.22,500 and the maximum is Rs.1,70,000 per year. On an average, every fishing workers family spends about Rs.66,720.5 on household expenses. The average amount spent on food is more which is about Rs.45,090 (67.59%). They spend more on social and religious functions, which comes to 5.47 per cent of their income. The expenditure on education and health is very much lesser. This indicates the poor standard of living of the people.

KEYWORDS: Fisher folk, consumption and expenditure

INTRODUCTION

Kanniyakumari is a district of Tamil Nadu, India and is the southernmost land area of mainland India. This Kumari district is traditionally known for its rich fishing grounds tapped by some of India's most energetic and volatile fisher folk. The area comprising the present Kanniyakumari District was a

part of the erstwhile Travancore state. In 1835, when the state was divided in to Northern and Southern divisions, this area formed part of Southern division and was placed in the charge of Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam. In July 1949, when the United States of Travancore and Cochin was inaugurated, the present Kanniyakumari area continued to be a part of

Trivandrum District of Kerala State. The people of Agasteeswarem, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancode Taluks, which formed the southern divisions of the former Trivandrum District, were predominantly Tamil speaking. They agitated for the merger of this area with Madras State. The States Reorganisation Commission also recommended this. Accordingly, the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 was passed and the Kanniyakumari District was formed on 1st November 1956, with four Taluks, viz., Agasteeswarem, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancode are merged with Tamil Nadu.

Kanniyakumari District has a coastline of 68km extending from Cape Comorin to the East and from Cape Comorin to Neerodi on the West coast. The coastal landscape of Kanniyakumari District is mainly composed of beach ridges of rocky, sandy and swampy nature in the estuarine regions. The 68 km long coast has a heavy concentration of fisher folk, almost one village per 1.5 km. On the eastern end of the coast is located Vattakottai, a historically important place. On the western end of this village is situated Cape Comorin. The coast extends up to Neerodi coastal village. According to an estimate 1,18,387 fisher folk are distributed in the 42 villages of Kanniyakumari coast and constitute about 26 percent of the total fishermen of Tamil Nadu. Fisher

folk do not own land but put their hut on the seashore on unsurveyed. The highly potential fishing ground is located very nearer to the Colachel coast. It is one of the biggest fishing grounds in the world.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- The major objectives of the study are,
1. To analyze the Income of fishermen in Kanniyakumari District
 2. To analyze the total household expenditure pattern of sample households in Kanniyakumari district.

METHODOLOGY

The survey method is followed for collecting data and 200 respondents are selected using convenience sampling method. Collecting information from the respondents is interviewed by the fishermen. Secondary data are collected from Journals, books, reports and newspaper.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

The total fishermen population in Kanniyakumari District was 1,43,388 of which the male were 73,471 and females 69,917 during the year 2011. The following table gives details regarding the sex wise distribution of fishermen population in Kanniyakumari District.

Table -1 Sex wise Distribution of fishermen population 2011

Sl. No	Sex	No. of persons	Percentage %
1	Male	73,471	51.24
2	Female	69,917	49.76
TOTAL		1,43,388	100

Source: Tamil Nadu Marine Fisher folk Census 2010

Kanniyakumari District is rich in marine fish resources, the major species were lobster, sardines, clupeids, seer fish, tune, anchovies, carangids, cat fish, pomfret, sharks, rays, silver bellies and mackerels. Marine fish production in Kanniyakumari district was subject to fluctuations and the annual production in this district was 42,525.240 tones. The district marine production was three per cent of the total marine production in Tamil Nadu.

DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME OF FISHERMEN HOUSEHOLDS

This part analyzes the annual income of the sample fishermen of the area. The income is received from the sale of produce at

landing centers. By continuous observation, the average price per kg is estimated by using arithmetic mean. Generally in the study area, fishes are arranged species wise in heaps and sold by auctioning. The practice of weighing is not adopted in the landing centers. The wholesale and retail traders are assembling at the time of landing, and the agents are auctioning the produce. The agents, by mere eyesight, judged the value of the fish by their experience and they knew the markets trends so are acting accordingly.

Distribution of sample households in different Income groups of Fishermen is presented in Table-2.

Table -2 Distribution of Total Annual Income

Sl. No	Annual Income (Rs)	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Mean Income
1	Below Rs.24,000	52	26	20,561.54
2	Rs.24,000 to 35,000	67	33.5	31,107.46
3	Rs.35,000 to 50,000	46	23	42,691.3
4	Rs.50,000 to 1,00,000	30	15	76,000
5	Above 1,00,000	5	2.5	1,56,000
	Total	200	100	40,886

Source: Primary data

All the fishermen households are grouped under five income classes according to their total annual income. Of the 200 sample households, 52 fishermen households (26%) earn less than Rs.24,000 per year. The number of fishermen households earning from Rs.24,000 to Rs.35,000 is 67 (33.5%), 46 (23%) respondents earn Rs.35,000 to Rs.50,000 per year, and 15 per cent of the respondents earn Rs.50,000 to Rs.1,00,000 per year. The number of fishermen households earning above Rs.1,00,000 per year is 2.5 per cent only.

Average annual income of the respondents of this study as seen from Table-2 is Rs.40,886. The minimum income of the respondents is Rs.22,500 and the maximum income is Rs.1,70,000.

ANNUAL FISHERMEN HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE

The level of consumption expenditure per fishermen household is presented in Table-3. Expenditure on food items, clothing, education,

transport, medicine, entertainment, fuel and light and others such as religious festivals and social functions are the major constituents of the fishing workers housed expenditure.

There is a tendency among the low income group to spend a greater part of their income on food and social and religious functions, therefore, an attempt is made to find out the expenditure pattern of the coastal rural people in the study area. It is understood from the Table-3, on an average, every fishing workers family spends about Rs.66,720.5 on household expenses. The average amount spent on food is more which is about Rs.45,090 (67.59%). The average amount spent on clothing is about Rs.3,651 (5.47%), spent entertainment is about 3.61% fuel and light is about Rs.4,698.5 (4.05%). They spend more on social and religious functions, which comes to 5.47 per cent of their income. The average expenditure on education (3.61%) and health (3.00%) is very much lesser.

Table -3 Household Expenditure Pattern

Sl.No	Items	No.of respondents	Total Expenditure	Percentage	Mean Expenditure
1	Food	200	90,18,000	67.59	45,090
2	Clothes	200	7,30,200	5.47	3,651
3	Education	200	4,82,000	3.61	2,410
4	Transport	200	5,88,200	4.41	2,941
5	Medicine	200	4,00,100	3.00	2,000.5
6	Entertainment	200	6,44,700	4.83	3,223.5
7	Fuel and light	200	5,41,200	4.05	2,706
8	Others	200	9,39,700	7.04	4,698.5
	Total	200	1,33,44,100	100	66,720.5

Source: Primary data

The analysis concluded that, the average annual income of the respondents of this study is Rs.40,886. The minimum income of the respondents is Rs.22,500 and the maximum is Rs.1,70,000 per year. On an average, every fishing workers family spends about Rs.66,720.5 on household expenses. The average amount spent on food is more which is about Rs.45,090 (67.59%). They spend more on social and religious functions, which comes to 5.47 per cent of their income. The expenditure on

education and health is very much lesser. This indicates the poor standard of living of the people.

CONCLUSION

It is evident that most of the per capita income earned is spent on the consumption and little to the tune for saving. This indicates that persons in the fishing workers households were living with intense poverty and they spent more on consumption. Steps can be taken to teach fishermen and their families in developing practical techniques in

agriculture, animal husbandry and cottage industries in order to generate additional income. To enrich the knowledge of the fishermen in the above venture training programmes would be required. Therefore arrangements should be made through concrete efforts from the Governments is the need of the hour. During lean season, commercial and agricultural activities need to be supplemented for their bread and butter.

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