

Socio-economic status of fishermen in district Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir

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ABSTRACT

A Socio-economic status of fishermen living on the banks of River Jhelum, Dal Lake and Anchar Lake was investigated in district Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir. The total numbers of 150 samples of respondent were selected randomly from the areas and the information was collected by in-depth guided interviews through well structured pre-tested schedule developed for the study. The result of the study revealed that the age group of the fishermen varied between 20 to 60 years. About 57% of total respondent were found to belong under the age group between 41-50 years. Illiteracy was found one of the major problems of the study area about 49% respondents was found to be illiterate. Economic conditions of the fishermen revealed that the 42% of fishermen income of Rs. 5001 – Rs. 10000 per month. If fishery facilities of these areas are improved upon, it could support the strides towards employment generation and poverty alleviation.

Key words: Fishermen, literacy, socio-economic.

INTRODUCTION

Fish and fishing business is an important sector of many nations of the world from the standpoint of income and employment generation. Fishing plays an important role in supporting livelihood worldwide and also forms an important source of diet for over one billion people. In India fisheries sector occupies a very important place in the socio-economic development. It serves as a form of income, provides employment to about 14 million people and impulse growth of a number of subsidiary industries and is a source of cheap and nutritious food. Fishing is generally considered a low profession in India and practiced mainly by the members of backward communities who are largely illiterate, superstitious and extremely poor. The main factor that has influenced this profession is the socio-economic condition of the fishermen community. For the proper development of the fishing industry and fishermen, there socio-economic advancement is necessary.

The total fishermen population in the Jammu and Kashmir State as per livestock census 2003 was around 31,000. It is presently estimated at 81728. The 27781 Km. length of rivers/streams facilitates farming of more than 40 million tonnes of fish. As against this, the State has only 0.07 lakh hectares under reservoir area. There is a big gap between the demand and supply of fish. Fish is a valuable element of diet of the local people throughout the year. There are 1248 lakes including water bodies and water is spread into 39921.8 hectares of area which gives an indication of the potential for fisheries in the State. The main aspect was taken into consideration for the present study with the aims to study the socio-economic status of fishermen in the study area.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

For the present study, Srinagar District of Jammu and Kashmir was selected purposively, as this was considered to be representative of the socio-economic conditions of the region and moreover, district has considerable number of fishermen population. From Srinagar district, the socioeconomic investigation was carried out of fishermen living on the banks of River Jhelum, Dal Lake and Anchar Lake. A total number of 150 fishermen were selected randomly for the study. The socio-economic information was collected through personal interview method on a well structured pre- tested schedule developed for the purpose. The secondary data was collected from newspapers, fisheries bulletins of Jammu and Kashmir, journals and published books. Moreover, personal knowledge was used to make meaningful interpretation of the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analyses on the studies conducted on the socio - economic status of fishermen are given below.

Age distribution of the respondents

The age distribution of respondent is presented in Table 1. The table reveals that the age group of the fishermen varied between 20 to 60 years. Table further reveals that the most of the fishermen belonged to the age group of 41-50 years (56.67%) followed by age group 31-40 years (24.67%), age group 51-60 years (13.33%) and it was lowest 5.33 per cent for the age group 21-30 years.

Table 1: Age Distribution of respondents

Age Group (Year)	No. of respondents	Percentage
21 – 30	8	5.33
31 – 40	37	24.67
41 – 50	85	56.67
51 – 60	20	13.33
Total	150	100

Educational level of the respondents

The Educational level of respondent is presented in Table 2. The table reveals that the fishermen of the study area are still educationally backward. Table further reveals that the maximum numbers of respondents were illiterate about 49 per cent followed by the ones who are having qualification up to primary level 20.67 per cent, middle level 15.33 per cent, high school 10.67 per cent and it was lowest secondary level 4.00 per cent. The reason for the less literacy rate was found to be the poverty.

Family size of the respondents

The Family size of the respondents is presented in Table 3. The table reveals that that most of the fishermen having a family size of 3-4 members in their family (43%) followed by family size 5-6 members (36%), 7-8 members (15.33%) and 9-10 members (5.33%).

Table 2: Educational level of the respondents

Dimension	Number of respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	74	49.33
Primary level	31	20.67
Middle level	23	15.33
High school level	16	10.67
Secondary level	6	4.00
Total	150	100

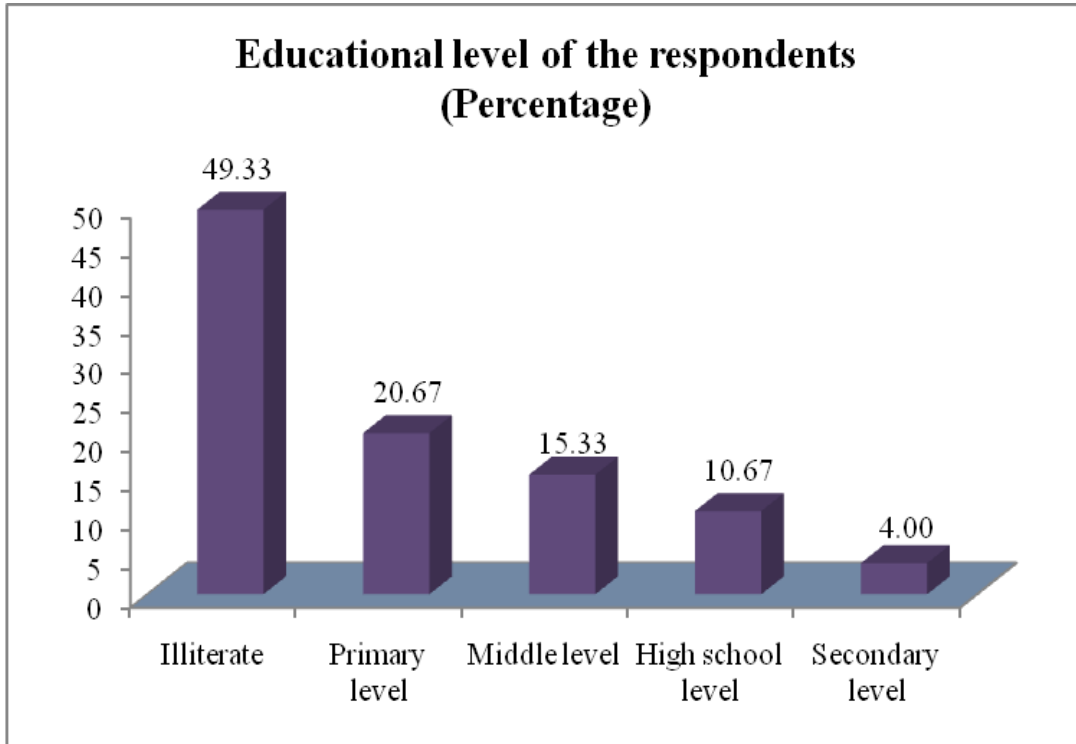


Table 3: Family size of the respondents

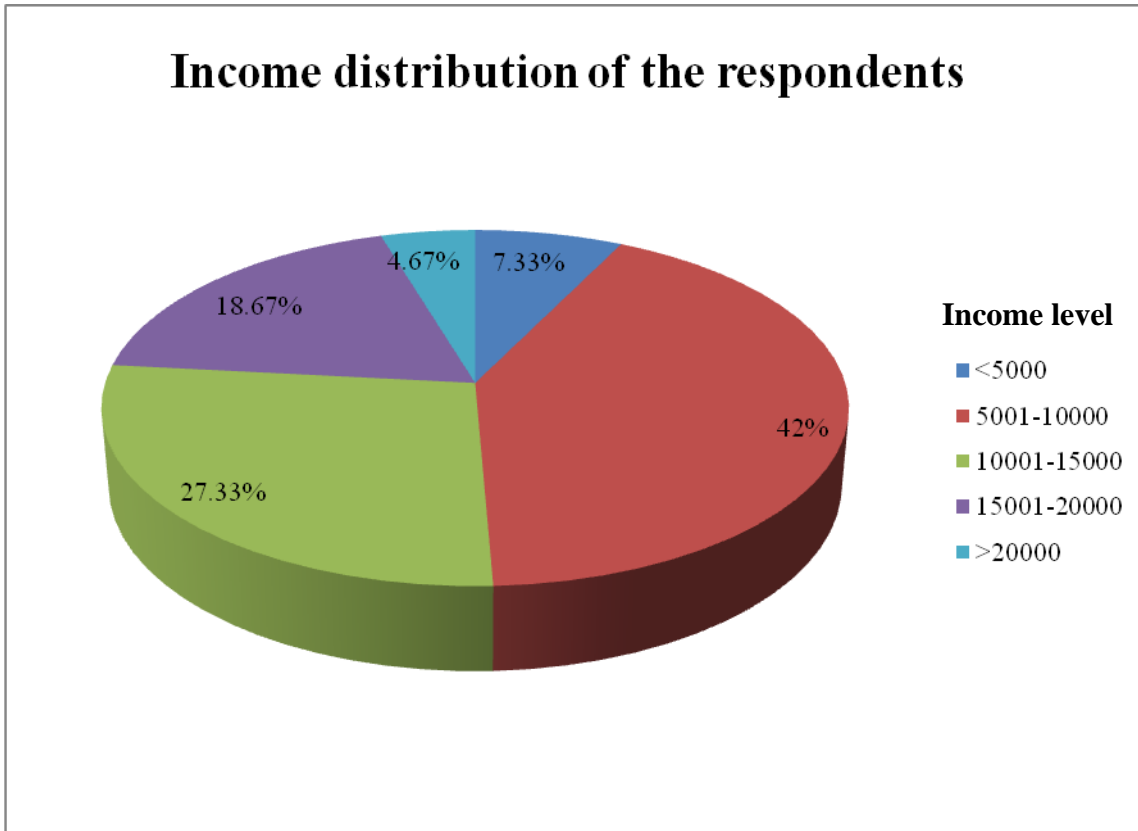
Dimension (Nos.)	Number of respondents	Percentage
3-4	65	43.33
5-6	54	36.00
7-8	23	15.33
9-10	8	5.33
Total	150	100

Income distribution of the respondents

The income distribution of the respondents is presented in Table 4. Income is the decisive factor mostly used for determining the living standard of the any community or region. Equitable distribution of the income further enhances the social harmony among different section of our population.

Table 4: Income distribution of the respondents

Income level (Rs/Month)	No. of respondents	Percentage
<5000	11	7.33
5001-10000	63	42.00
10001-15000	41	27.33
15001-20000	28	18.67
>20000	7	4.67



The table reveals that the income level of fishermen of the study area was varied from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 20000 per month. It was observed that the 42 per cent of the fishermen income level was Rs. 5001- Rs. 10000 followed by income level of Rs. 10001 - Rs. 15000 (27.33 %), Rs.15001 – Rs.20000 (18.67 %), less than Rs.5000 (7.33%) and only 4.67 per cent monthly income of the fishermen was more than Rs.20000.

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