

# A Study on Socioeconomic Circumstances of the Fishermen's Community in Sasihithu, Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka

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**Abstract:** For the present study, 100 families of the Sasihithlu village were taken into consideration. The survey was conducted by a structured questionnaire which includes the name and address of the fishermen, age, sex, communities/caste, combined/nuclear family, number of members in the family, education, members in the family, education, mass media, occupation, type of craft, type of nets, houses, fish marketing, drinking habits, employment, medical facilities, food consumption pattern per month. The average of the respondents of the fishermen community was 38 years and the population spread was 21 - 75. It was observed that there are 4 or more members in a family. The main occupation of the people is fishing. Over 5.6% are in business, 12.5% come under the salaried category, 8.3% are involved in agricultural activity, 55.6% of people are engaged in fishing and allied activities and 18% are engaged in other works. The monthly income distribution of 1.4% of fishers belongs to Rs.50000 to 1, 00, 000, 19.4% goes to less than 50, 000, and the majority of 79.2% fall under the income having less than 10, 000.

**Keywords:** Fishermen Fishing, Income, Fishnets, Habit, Occupation

## 1. Introduction

The role of fishing in the national economy has grown in prominence as a source of employment and a foreign exchange earner. Additionally, this industry has started to resemble an industrial enterprise. The least expensive source of protein for human consumption is fish.

Early in the 1980s, Karnataka produced about 2.0 lakh tonnes of fish, and towards the middle of the 1990s, it peaked at about 3.0 lakh tonnes. The average annual fish production over the past five years has been 5.95 lakh tonnes, with the marine sector contributing 66% and the inland sector 34% respectively. The state's fish output accounted for around 4.46% of all fish produced in India in 2019–20, placing it ninth overall, sixth among marine fish producers, and ninth among inland fish producers. Currently, the state has about 8.08 kg of fish per person available. Even after there is a growing importance for the fisheries sector the fisher community's socio - economic conditions are still negligible. In this view, the present study tried to analyze the socio - economic condition of fishermen in selected area.

## 2. Literature Review

The state of the marine fishing community has been the subject of an organized review of the literature. The literature review is written in a descriptive style. The socioeconomic position, livelihood situation, and sustainable livelihood of marine fishing communities and economies of fishing communities in coastal locations throughout India

were used as the search terms that led to the selected title of the study.

Shyam. Salim, M, & K, (2017) discovered that despite the village's century - old tradition of fishing and its residents' deep emotional ties to the industry, they are not willing to encourage the next generation to work in this field, which highlights the increase level of vulnerability in the industry.

Mishra, (2008) revealed in their study that, open defecation is an issue for the fishing community, and those using their open yards for latrines are likelier to get sick.

Ibrahim P. (1992) identified there have been more detrimental effects as a result of the sudden introduction of mechanized boats. The government sought to incorporate mechanized fishing in the cooperative sector to minimize potential negative consequences. According to the survey, employment among fishermen fell off after mechanization.

## 3. Methodology

### Study area

The village of Sasihithlu is located in the Indian states of Karnataka and Teshil Mangalore in the district of Dakshina Kannada. According to census data from 2011, the village has a population of 2228 people, with 1066 men and 1162 women. Sasihithlu village has a total area of 174.11 Hectares. Sasihithlu has a population density of 13 people per hectare. There are 478 households in the village overall.

## Dakshina Kannada



## Sasihithlu



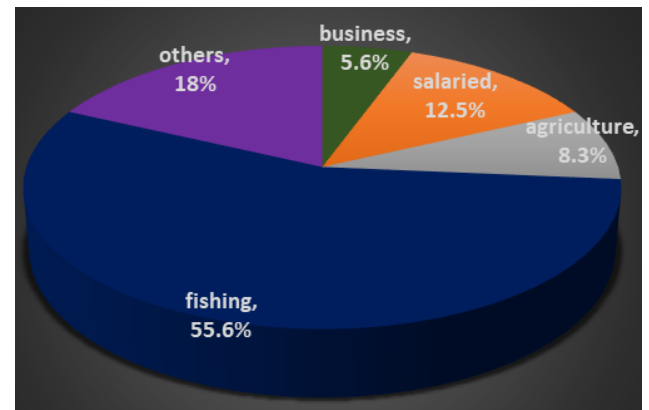
## Data Collection

For the study, 100 families of the Sasihithlu village were taken into consideration. The survey was conducted by a structured questionnaire which includes the name and address of the fishermen, age, sex, communities/caste, combined/nuclear family, number of members in the family, education, mass media of members in the family, education, occupation, type of craft, type of nets, houses, fish marketing, drinking habits, employment, medical facilities, food consumption pattern per month.

## 4. Result and Discussion

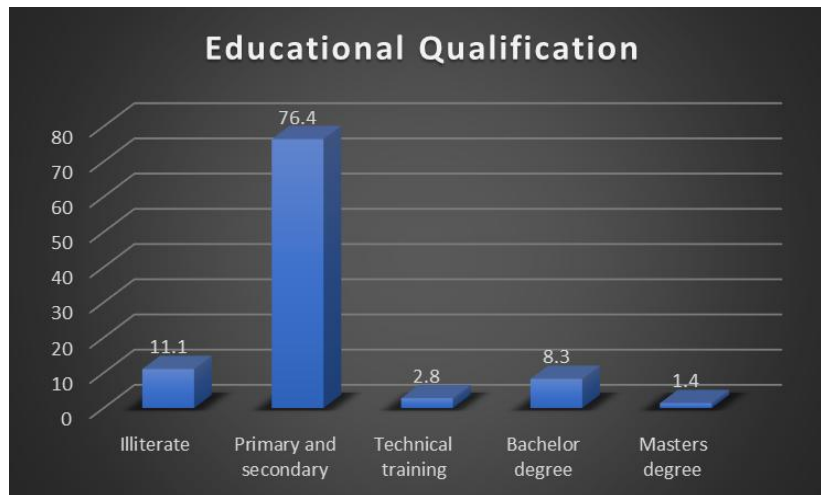
In the study, several qualitative and quantitative variables have been analyzed. The average of the respondents of the fishermen community was 38 years and the population spread was 21 - 75. It was observed that there are 4 or more members in a family. The main occupation of the people is fishing. Over 5.6% are in business, 12.5% come under the salaried category, 8.3% are involved in agricultural activity, 55.6% of people are engaged in fishing and allied activities and 18% are engaged in other works (**Fig: 1**) The monthly income distribution of 1.4% of fishers belongs to Rs.50000 to 1, 00, 000, 19.4% goes to less than 50, 000, and the

majority of 79.2% fall under the income having less than 10, 000.



**Figure 1:** Occupational Profile of Sasihithlu Village

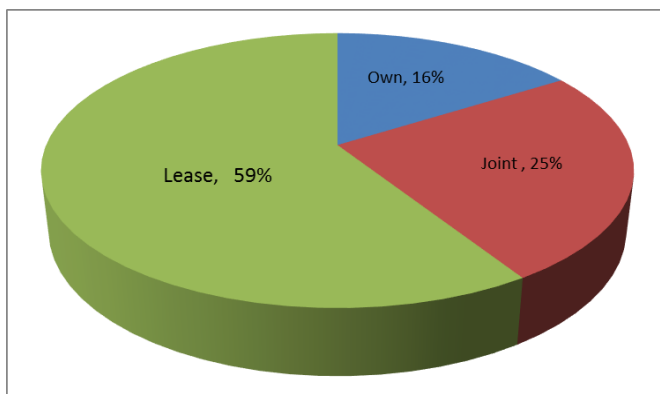
**Educational Profile:** The study discovered 76.4% of people have completed their primary and secondary education and 8.3% of people have bachelor's degrees, 1.4% have Master degrees, 2.8% have technical training, and 11.1% fall under the category of illiterates.



**Figure 3:** Educational Profile of Sasihitlu

**The Problem of Sanitation and Drinking Water:** During the study, 68% of respondents revealed that the area is suffering from a drinking water problem, and 59% faced garbage issues. Overall, 87% of people in the area are suffering from sanitation issues.

**Craft Distribution:** From the study, it was found that 59% of fishermen use craft under lease and 16% are owned the crafts, and the remaining possess the crafts on a joint basis (**Figure: 2**)



**Figure 2:** Crafts distribution of the Fisherman in the Sasihithlu area

## 5. Conclusion

Even though the Indian fishing industry contributes almost two trillion to the country's GDP, the situation for fishermen is still deplorable. The problem of drinking water, sanitation, and pollution is something that should receive more focus, according to studies done in the field of socioeconomics. Therefore, based on the results of our study, we recommend the government take the appropriate efforts to increase literacy rates, proper measures taken for solid waste management, provide financial assistance to improve their livelihood, and also conduct the skill - based training in order to create alternative livelihood opportunities.

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