



## Women Work and "Occupational Hazards" Among Gabit Community of Karwar Taluka of Uttar Kannada District

Dr. Dhruva B. Jyothi

Asst. Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Karnatak University, Dharwad.

**KEYWORDS:** gabit community of karwar

### Introduction:

In modern era, women are playing efficient and efficient role in the society as well as in the family. They are the most important part of the family. Since from ancient day's lots of restrictions made on women but as the period pass lots of reforms made and their status has been changed and improved.

In present society, women are participating in every field and providing themselves best compare to men. But in some society women they are hidden in the four walls of the house and shall look after the home. For women it is their basic task to look after the children as a mother, for her husband as a supportive partner and for the family member as a guide. Women at a time playing lots of role and she is doing many work to satisfy every ones need.

Indian people engaged in different occupation. It is a basic need and main source for the people. Through this they can earn income and achieve good status in the society. People of our country depended on lots of occupations like agriculture, carpentry, weavers, fishing etc. people are using different techniques to make progress in their occupation. For any kind of occupation men is playing very tough job and with the support of the family he can achieve success in the occupation. With the men, women are also playing crucial role, it is the women who supports the men to carry the occupation. Without a women its difficult for men to carry their occupation.

### Objectives:

The main objectives of the paper are:

1. To study the women activities among Gabit fishing community
2. To analyse the occupational hazards.
3. To identify the various effects of occupational hazards.

### Uttar Kannada District

The Uttar Kannada district is one of the 30th districts in Karnataka. It is one of two coastal districts of the state and stretches itself along the coastline of the Arabian Sea. People of this district depend on different kind of occupation and they settled their life. In this district there are talukas namely Karwar, Ankola, Kumta, Honnavar and Bhatkal and in these talukas there are many fishing community known by different names. They situated near Arabian Sea and settled their life.

### Gabit Fishing Community

The Gabit, is a unique type of fishing community. It is known by different names Gabit, Gavatt and Dasalji. Thurston (1975) writes that the Gabit are fishing caste from Bombay. They are concentrated in coastal regions such as Karwar, Ankola, Kumta, Honnavar and Bhatkal talukas of Uttar Kannada district. They are also distributed in Ratnagiri and Surat districts of Maharashtra and Gujarat states respectively. They speak and known their own dialect which is mixture of Konkani and Marathi with others.

Enthowen (1922) writes they call themselves Konkani Maratha and met for the navy of Shivaji. They took to fishing when the Peshwas were conquered by the British and the marathe navy was disvanded. They use titles such as Kelakar, Arvindekar and Gabit. They are known as Kharvi in Goa which is their original home.

Many community are scattered I Karwar taluka, among them Gabit is a fishing community which are settled indifferent area, they are Ariyal, Majali, Baval, Devbag, Sunkheri, Kodibag etc. the coastal tract begins from the village Majali and it is large fishing village of Karwar taluka. In

this area they reside and they settled their life. The main occupation of the community is fishing and their population in Karwar taluka is more than 10,000.

### Modernisation Concept in Gabit Community

Gabit community in general are the process of the modernisation due to influence of education, urbanisation, and industrialization, community development programmes, development of transport and communication, national democratic processes, rapid population growth etc, these factors are of recent origin. Moreover, these changes are not the result of the traditional contact-that existed between the Gabit and other community.

Modernisation in India began due to the contact of westerners after the British rule. The contact with the west, especially the British have brought about the tremendous changes in the social structure of Indian society. Yogendra Singh opines, 'the basic direction of this contact was towards modernisation, but in the process a variety of traditional institutions also get reinforcement' (1986:202)

M.N. Srinivas stated says that " a popular term for the changes brought in a non-western country by contact, direct or indirect, with a western country is modernisation" (1982:50). Modernisation may be understood as adoption of new rules and use of modern technological skill in a particular society. For eg: Gabit community use the modern machines in boats in fishing it will benefits them in their occupation.

### Occupational Hazards

Gabit community facing lots of problems in day today activities and their fishing occupation mainly depend on the climatically condition. It is not an all time occupation, it's a seasonal occupation. When the climate is good then only fisherman can go to the sea for catching fish. If there is lightening, heavy rain, cyclone then it's difficult for them and their life is in danger condition. During the rainy season fisherman are not promoted to enter the sea for fishing therefore in rainy season two months they are losing daily income. These are the adverse effects on the economy.

The climatically condition of Karwar community sometimes disturbed due to Tsunami, Tornado, Tufans etc. Even during the high tides boat looses its balance. These all are the natural calamities and people do not have any control on this. Although it be natural calamities affected for them. The fisherman also has dangers from big ship, if the big ship is coming in their way there is danger of cutting the nets. Nets are the main equipment for the fishing, it destroyed then it is burden for them.

### Objectives

#### 1. To study the women activities among Gabit fishing community.

The head of the family is the man, but women are also playing important role. Women of this community they are the hard workers. Every day in the early morning women use to wait for their husband to come back from the fishing. After arriving women helps to take out boat from the sea and collect the fish from the nets. Around 8 or 9 am women are going to the market to sell the fish. Catching the fish is the main work of the men and selling fishes its women's work women helps men in every field to make progress.

Women they are not only involving in occupational work along that they are participating equally in social, economic, religious field. Women at home doing all work and performing duties perfectly. In some

poor family of this community women are going to the forest to collect the woods for household activities. The women of such houses they struggle hard to earn the money. As the case of the women in the rich family they are not going to sell the fish. They are living very happy and peaceful life.

	Nature of women work	
a.	Selling Fish	64%
b.	Household activity	28%
c.	Job	
d.	Having shop	8%

From above table it shows that the majority percent of women selling fish. From this study it comes to know that 64% of women are selling fish, 28% of women are carrying household activity. In this community women are not going for any job and very few that is 8% of women they are having shops. Women those who are selling fish they are working more than six hours and sometimes they go out of the area to sell the fish.

Member of the organisation	
Yes	76%
No	24%

From above table is shows that 76% of the women are the member of the organisation and they are enjoying benefits of the government. 24% of the women they are not the member of any organisation.

## 2. To analyse the occupational hazards.

The second objective of this study is to analyse the occupational hazards. As it is already mention in fishing occupation there are lots of dangers from the natural calamities. This hazard gives the troubles to the fishermen. Tsunami is the biggest threat from the fishing community because sea is their life and they are earning income. Due to Tsunami people lost their life, houses, occupation. Such cases happen in India and other countries. Tsunami brings lots of fear in the mind of the coastal people because nobody knows what nature speaks. Tornado is small but violent squall or whirl wind, it's like a cyclone which disturbs the fishing community. There are occupational hazards among the Gabit community.

## 3. To identify the various effects of occupational hazards.

People those who depended on occupation they are having some problems. Like people they are facing skin irritation due to prolonged exposure to sun. They are going to sea for fishing during the night time and because of this there is sleep disorder etc.

Serious effects	
Yes	86%
No	3%
Cannot say	8%

From above study 86% of the women they told that there is serious effects caused from occupational hazards that is they lost their nets, effects to their boats, even during high tides it affects them and also brings effects on their occupation. During the high tides fisherman cannot go to the sea for the fishing, if there is no fishing then there is no income for them and its difficult for them to earn income without fishing.

## Methodology:

The Gabit people dispersed in different places in Karwar talukas of Karnataka. A Gabit community is a backward community largely concentrated in Majali village of Karnataka. The Gabit fishing community engaged in fishing occupation. It is their main occupation because they do not have any other option to choose other field. The methods to collect the data are Sampling, Interview Schedule and Observation.

## Findings:

From this study Women Work and Occupational hazards among Gabit fishing community, it shows women are the hard workers. They are supporting their husband and family to make progress in their occupation. Their children are also concentrating on education and help their parents in occupation because fishing is a occupation which requires happy by working in this occupation and they do not want to change their occupation. For Gabit community women must work, if women are not working then the fish will not be sold in the market. She is doing selling work and all other work at home, she helps more to increase income and make progress. Women they are the member of the organisation, through this they are saving money. This Gabit community now it becomes changed, because the members of the family they are modernised, using vehicles, mobiles and certainly changes can be finding. They are going out of the state which can be seen as progress. The researcher is observed that out of 100 percent population among Gabit community 30 percent of them starving.

The Gabit community they are non-vegetarian, they consume food which contains proteins, so their health condition is good and they are not suffering from big diseases.

They are having lots of hazards in their occupation because it's based on the nature. If the nature cooperates with the fishermen then they can go for fishing otherwise there is risk and their life is in danger while they were in sea

## Conclusion:

From above study it shows women are working very hardly and they must work. They are selling the fish in the market half of the day and then they have to go home and do the all other work. It's difficult for them but still they are happy and they do not want to change their occupation. There are occupational hazards which create threat for the fishing community. Due to modern technology they are using new machines which help them in their occupation.

## REFERENCES

1. Chaturbhuj Sahu (1998) " Tribal Culture and their Identity" | 2. Singh S.K. "People of Karnataka" | 3. Thurston (1975) "Castes and Tribes of Southern India" | 4. Y. Ravindranath Rao (2003) "Tribal Tradition and Change" | 5. Karnataka State Gazetteer. |