



SOCIO- ECONOMIC STATUS OF FISHERMAN AROUND EKRUKH WATER RESERVOIR OF NORTH SOLAPUR TAHSIL DIST. SOLAPUR (M.S.)

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ABSTRACT

Ekrukh water reservoir is one of the largest man made water reservoir located at 17°45'42"N 75°55'39"E, closely to Solapur city in North Solapur Tahsil. It is constructed in 1871. It is operated and maintained by water resourced department and govt. of Maharashtra. Its total storage capacity is 3330 M.Cu.ft. This reservoir commands a gross area of 17.152 acres. The water from Ekrukh water tank is currently used for irrigation and drinking. But apart from these planned uses, this reservoir is serving as a very good reservoir for catching fish.

In this investigation an attempt is made to study the socio- economic status, average catch per day, average income of the fisherman and also the problems faced by them at the Ekrukh water reservoir. Investigation was carried out by oral interviews and the questionnaire. In this study, it was found that this business is totally male dominated, maximum fishermen were illiterate and many of them have a side business of farming, carpentry and part time jobs etc.

KEYWORDS : socio- economic status, fisherman, questionnaire, male dominated

INTRODUCTION:

Fishery is the one of the oldest and most important source of revenue for many people since long ago. Approximate of about 1% of the total population in our country depends upon fishery sector as a primary source of livelihood.

Fishing plays an important role in supporting livelihood worldwide and also forms an important source of diet for over one billion people. It is estimated that 12 million people are directly engaged in fishing and about 60 million are exclusively depending on it for livelihood in India (Sekhar NU, et.al. 2006). Fisheries sector plays an important role in the Indian economy by contributing to the national income, employment and foreign exchange. It has a vast potential for fish resources, both from inland and marine environment. India has about 1.6 million hectares of freshwater lakes, ponds, and swamps; and nearly 64,000 kilometers of rivers and streams (Sekhar NU, et.al. 2006). Fisheries-related activities provide important sources of livelihoods for nearly 7 million people in India (Handbook on fisheries statistics, 1996). It supplements India's food production and offers job opportunities to millions of skilled and unskilled rural people, uplifting their economic levels in general and of the fisherman community in particular. Fish is the rich source of protein supply to the rural community where potentialities for production exist. (Shriparna Saxena, 2012). Amita Saxena et.al. (2014) studied the socio-economic status of fishermen of District Rampur, Uttar Pradesh. Sekhar N. U. et.al. (2006) studied the fisheries in Tungbhadra Basin, India. Shriparna Saxena (2012) studied the socio-Economic status of fisherman community of Upper Lake Bhopal. Jyoti Kalita et.al. (2015) studied the socio-economic status of fishermen and different fishing gear used in Beki River, Barpeta, Assam Gaurab.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The Ekrukh water reservoir is located at Tale Hipparaga village close to Solapur city. It is located 8 km away from Solapur towards north east. The Ekrukh water reservoir is one of the historical and largest man made earthen lake. It is an earth fill dam on Adela river and has a total capacity of 3,330 M.Cu.Ft. This reservoir commands a gross area of 17,152 acres. Maximum height of the dam is 21.45m. The total catchment area of the reservoir is 411.81 sq.km. Earlier the water from Ekrukh water reservoir is utilized for the purpose of irrigation, but the water of Ekrukh water reservoir is now supplied to Solapur city for drinking as well as for industrial purposes. The water body contains a diverse assemblage of resident and migratory birds. Also this lake also provides employment to many people for fishery.

Figure 1: Map of Ekrukh water reservoir

Investigation was carried out by personal interviews and the questionnaire for the period of May, 2015 to April, 2016. To determine the socio-economic status of the fishermen the questionnaire was made and distributed to the fishermen that are engaged in fish culture concerned and the data collected.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

During the survey overall 35 fishermen were used collect the information. It was observed that fishermen community engaged in fishing do not have their own pond therefore they depend on Ekrukh water reservoir. The children and other family members of fishermen are helping them in catching the fish and some time they also help in transporting the fish from reservoir to the market. The average age of fishermen engaged in fishing activity ranged between 35 to 54 years. They were either illiterate or hardly completed the education till primary level. The number of family members of the fishermen was ranges 5-8. None of the fishermen insured themselves by any insurance policy because of the lack of money and unawareness about the benefit of it. All the fishermen lives in the nearby villages like Haglur, Ule, Taratgaon, Hipparga and Ekrukh. Generally they catch fish by dragnet with the help of their family members and relatives when water level is more than 4ft and in low water level they use cost net for catching the fish. The transportation of fish is carried out by the bicycle or motorcycle in a thermacol box with the ice. The consumer mostly prefers Rohu, Catla, and Crabs.

Sr. No.	Criteria	No. of fishermen
1	Sex: • Male: • Female:	34 01
2	Age: • Less than 15years • 15years- 30years • 31 years - 45 years • 45 years - 60 years	02 06 21 06
3	Marital status: • Single • Married	04 31
4	Education: • Illiterate • Completed till primary • Completed secondary • Completed graduation	29 04 02 00

5	Selling point: • In local market • Export	35 00
6	Mode of transportation: • In thermacol boxes • In open trays/ bags	09 26
7	Average catch per day • 0-5kg • 6-10kg • 11-15kg • 16-20kg	01 14 18 02
8	Average income per day	Rs. 250-1000
9	Regular record of catch is kept • Yes • No	00 35
10	Resident to village • Yes • No	35 00
11	Employed in other part time jobs • Yes • No	33 02

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CONCLUSION:

The fishermen community witch engaged in fishing activities are with poor economic status. Even they were not fully engaged in a fishing business. Maximum numbers of fishermen were unable to fulfill their minimum requirements. Most of fishermen were unaware about modern capture fisheries techniques. Here capture fishery business was totally male dominant. They were either illiterate or hardly completed the education till primary level. None of the fishermen insured themselves by any insurance policy also; the fishermen were unable to adopt scientific technology. Another major problem to achieve scientific level fish production is unavailability of desired size and species of fish seed. Thus it is needed to give financial support by banks and government should make legislation on selling of desired size of fish seed. Government organizations and Non government organizations should come forward to take proper steps and necessary actions for the protection of livelihood status of the fishermen

PLATES:

