



SPOUSAL OPINION ON DEEP FISHING LABOUR

KEYWORDS

Occupation, Perception, Wives Opinion, Fishing labourers

Vidya Vinutha D'Souza

Research Scholar, DOS in Social Work, University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, Mysore

Dr Mohan A K

Asst. Professor, DOS in Social Work, University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, Mysore

ABSTRACT Occupation usually denotes a person's engagement in an activity delivering economic gain. Though it is performed by one individual the effects of it is on multiple people in the family and neighbourhood. The perception of family members on the breadwinners occupation is determined by various factors. Specially, the socio-culture, past experience and sense of security one feels. The paper investigates the perception of wives on the occupation of their husband. Snowball Sampling method consisting of 26 respondents were used for the study. All the women respondents are the wives of deep sea fishermen who are employed for more than 15 to 20 days a month. Most of the respondents are not happy with the job of their husbands as there is no life security and absence of security measures at work and this in turn makes them decide not to send their children to the same profession. Providing education to the children and making them employable and skilled to various non-hazardous occupations remains the aim of the respondents.

Introduction

Most people who are not living in coastal regions or not aware about coastal regions will be familiar with the term fishing but unfamiliar with the scope of fishing, how it affects people on every day basis and the impact of this occupation in the members of the family. Within the fishing profession there are countless jobs that exist. One critical position is that of deep sea fishermen. These are a category of people who spend more time at water especially in deep sea than on land. The sailing of these people ranges from 4-12 days at a stretch and goes below 400 meters depth. The study examines the satisfaction of spouses towards their husband's occupation. It discusses the various issues faced by the family members of deep sea fishermen. A spouse's perception has enormous significance on the job satisfaction faced by employee and his loyalty towards his employment. In turn the perception of the spouse is not framed overnight but it is framed as a continuous process resulting from the job satisfaction experienced by the partner, the experiences that are discussed at home, the job and life security that is available at work and most importantly, the flexibility that the employee experiences which allows him to spend quality time with his family. Any person who is in round the clock employment as well as in a hazardous occupation would resist himself in speaking about his job experiences with the family members but his wife being the one with him always will find the necessary explanation with the smallest clues provided. Perception of wives on the occupation of husbands will not be a static one. It changes with the change in situation and with the change in the reaction of husband impacted by his work experiences and work conditions.

Methodology

Objectives of the study

1. To evaluate the economic conditions of the respondents family
2. To assess the health issues faced by the fishermen
3. To analyse the attitude of respondents towards their spouses occupation

The study is descriptive in nature as it studies to explain the various characteristics and perceptions of the spouse's on the occupation of fishing labour practiced by their male partners with special reference to Kasaba Bengre community at Mangalore City. It comprises of 200 households with fishing labourers. Out

of which 26 samples selected using snowball non-probability sampling to understand the deep sea fishing community. An open ended questionnaire was used to collect responses from the spouses of fishing labour employed in deep sea fishing.

Results & Discussion

Table No. 1: Demographic Profile

Demographic profile	Classifications	Frequency N=26	Percentage
Age	21-25	2	8
	26-30	3	12
	31-35	9	35
	36-40	10	38
	46-50	2	8
Education	Illiterate	1	4
	Primary	17	65
	High School	6	23
	PUC	2	8
Religion	Hindu	8	31
	Muslim	18	69
Employment	Housewife	20	77
	Employed	6	23
Family Structure	Joint Family	4	15
	Nuclear Family	22	85

Table No 02: Spouse's employment details

Variables	Classification	Frequency N=26	Percentage
Number of years in fishing	15-20 years	15	58
	21-25 years	09	36
	26-30 years	-	-
	31-35 years	02	8
Number of days fishing labour employed in a month	15 to 20 days	06	23
	21 to 25 days	-	-
	26 to 30 days	20	77

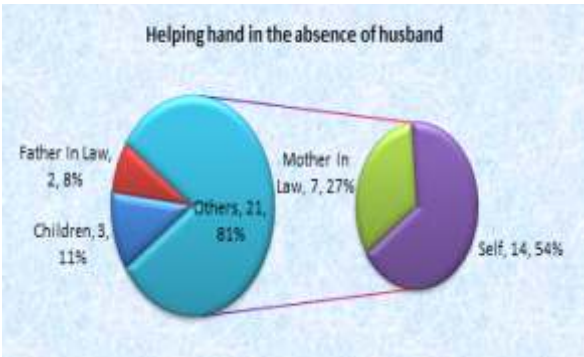
Number of month employed in a year	6 months	01	4
	9 months	23	88
	10 months	01	4
	11 months	01	4

Being in the profession for a longer time makes the fishing labour expert in their work and ignorant about any other employment. Most of the deep sea fishermen are employed in this activity since 15-20 years which makes them completely depend on the said profession for their livelihood.

Absence of husband for continuously 15-20 days at a stretch from the family gives a lot of responsibilities to the wife in looking after the daily routine as well as the emergency requirements of the family. Spending more time in isolation itself works as a stressor for the husband on board and also wife and children at home.

Most of the deep sea fishermen are employed for 6 months in a year which makes them unemployed for half of the year. Being idle at home without any alternative jobs is not appreciated by most of the wives as the expenditure of the house has to be borne by other means by them.

Chart No: 2.1: Helping hand in the absence of husband



Assistance from others during the absence of husband can give a lot of relief to the spouses of such labourers. Family members come to help at certain times but most of the time the overall burden is only left on the shoulder of the wives. This multi-tasking makes the tasks difficult especially if the wives' are the working mothers. It makes them either engage a full time person at home or find for a job where time flexibility is available.

Chart No 02: Sailing – An interest of the husband



Sailing is of interest to majority of the deep sea fishermen, but there are few of them who take this occupation as it is the only option for them. Finding job satisfaction in such a system is very difficult when the occupation one has selected is not of choice but just of chance. In turn when one has selected the occupation of sailing as his interest, as shown in the graph by majority of the respondents, it can boost the morale of the individual and motivate him to give his 100% at work.

Chart No. 03: Engagement during free time at home



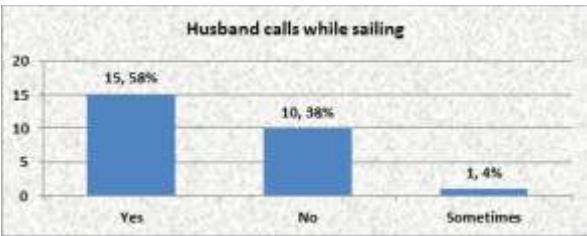
As per the wives of the fishing labourers due to fishermen's majority of time spent away from home in utmost weather conditions and isolation they would prefer to be unengaged with-out any responsibilities when they are at home. Visiting mosques and temples, watching TV and other sorts of entertainment and resting remains the main past time activities. Spending quality time with family remains the primary importance to them. Few of the respondents also said that their husbands prefer helping them with household chores while being at home. Only few of them prefer being engaged as coolie or painters especially when they have returned from the sea with-out any fish catch.

Table No. 03: Materials carried while sailing

Variables	Classification	Frequency N=26	Percentage
Things carried while sailing	Cloths	10	38
	Medicines	12	46
	Rain coat	2	8
	Ganja	2	8
Very important item while sailing	Warm cloths	5	19
	Mobile	8	31
	Torch	4	15
	Tobacco /products	9	58

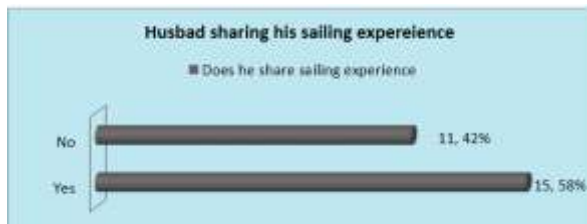
Deep sea fishing is one of the hazardous occupations which does not provide for safety of life and health of individuals. During the sailing which usually takes up to 14 days at stretch the fishing labourer has to carry certain necessary items to take care of his necessities. Extreme weather conditions, changing temperature at sea, rough weather, and stressful job are the dynamics that need to be handled at work for which the necessary items such as medicines, clothes are to be carried by the fishermen while sailing. Deep sea fishermen are most of the time away from any help which would be required for their emergency requirements. Thus as self-requirement the fishing labourer usually carries few necessary items such as tobacco, mobile phone, warm clothes and torch which keeps them engaged and alert as well as safe at work. Tobacco is used by the fishing labourer to get rid of boredom which usually occurs due to monotony at work, isolation etc. There are also few of the deep sea fishermen who prefer to carry Ganja to keep them engaged and tension free during the work time at sea. Easy availability of these items at the community along with the absence of checking before leaving the port supplements the workers.

Chart No. 04: Calls from husband while away



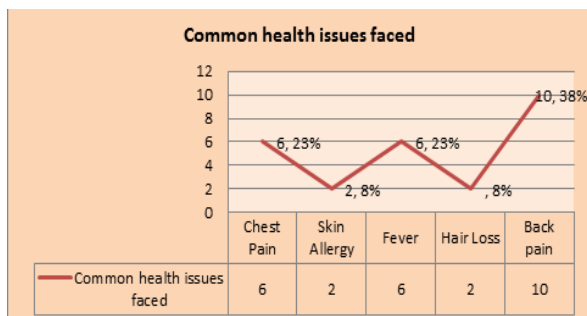
Majority of the fishermen at deep sea fishing call their wives while they are away at sea to make it easy for their wives to know their whereabouts. Absence of these calls would compel the wives to get the whereabouts of their husband's from the boat owners and also from the boats that have already reached the shore. Non availability of mobile networks also makes it difficult for the fishermen to contact their wives but this situation creates a lot of fear amongst the wives especially during bad weather conditions.

Chart No: 05: Husband sharing his sailing experience



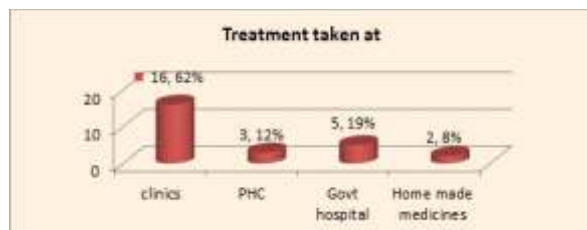
Most of the husbands do share their sailing experience with their spouses. It can be related to their sailing, the relationship they share at work, the conflicts they faced, the resolutions they came across, the variety of fish they caught, the risks they faced, weather conditions that they experienced and so on. Hearing the experience in turn gets a fear in the minds of the wives regarding the safety of their husbands.

Chart No. 06: Health Issues of the Deep Sea Fishermen



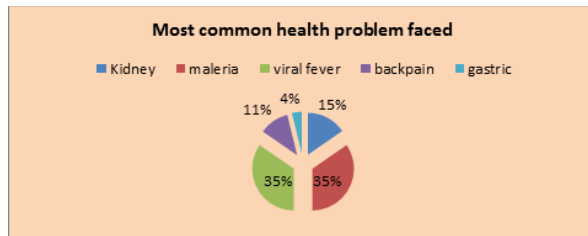
Health of fishermen is always at stake though it is deep sea fishing or purseine fishing. The weather condition, the working conditions usually shows a negative impact on the life of fishermen. This condition is found slightly high in fishermen engaged at deep sea fishing due to their hard working conditions and unhealthy diet. In a trawler consisting of 5 people it gets difficult for individuals to get adequate rest and it results in increased fatigue which gives rise to various health complications.

Chart No. 07: Treatment taken by the spouses of respondents



Deep sea fishermen who are prone to various kinds of health problems prefer to visit private clinics for their treatment. Some of them also depend on Public Health Centres, government hospitals and homemade medicines for getting treatment to various kinds of health problems they face due to their occupation and other day to day reasons. Health related expenditure are borne by the fishermen themselves and are not assisted by their boat owners or government.

Chart No. 08: Most common health problems faced by the fishermen



Malaria is a common problem faced by most of the fishermen. This is not just because of the work they are employed in but also because of the environment they live in during their non-employed time. The universe selected for the study has a lot of malaria cases reported due to the unhygienic surroundings and carelessness of people. The health problems faced by the respondent's spouses are the common one's experienced by most of the fishermen in deep sea fishing.

Suggestions

Timely enrolment of every employee willing to work at sea must be done for the efficient registration procedure. Awareness on being organised must be made to the fishermen engaged in deep sea fishing to avail the benefits of governmental programmes. There must be a proper communication channel that takes care of informing the whereabouts of the sailor to the family member. There must be single point of contact that must be made available to the family members in the form of a written document. There can be sessions organised for the family members of the fishermen where importance of getting life insurance must be made clear. Saving habit can be developed among the family members of the deep sea fishermen so that they save whenever there is good catch which can help them during problem months. Safe work culture must be practised by the deep sea fishermen where their fitness to work along with safe and healthy work procedure must be made mandatory.

Conclusion

Wives perceive things that are influenced by the factors which are internal and external in nature to them. Internal factors can be their observation, their experiences and the external factors are the feedback they receive from their spouse, incidents that occur with the person they know etc. Perception of wives in the occupations of their husbands decide to a major extent the amount of job satisfaction experienced by the latter at job. Higher the job satisfaction, higher will be the morale which in turn effects the perceptions of the ones surrounding the occupier of an occupation. Feedback from the wives on the job requirements of the spouses can be a contributing element in modifying the working conditions of hazardous occupations which are unorganised in nature.

REFERENCE

1. Bischoff, R. J. (2006). Current research on the relationship between work and marriage. *Journal of Couple & Relationship Therapy*, 91-96[2]. Hafeez Gondal, A., & Shahnaz, L. (2006). Impact of Husbands' Occupation on Wives Work Activity in Pakistan. *IASSI Quarterly*, 24(4), 109-124. Retrieved November 23, 2015, [3. Kumar, A., Katiha, P., & Joshi, P. (Eds.). (2003). A Profile of People, Technologies and Policies in Fisheries Sector in India. Shakarpur, Delhi: Dr Mruthyunjaya Director, NCAP[4. Kulkarni, D. M. (2008). Studies on the satisfaction and attitude of working women towards job. *Asian Journal of Home Science*, 143-145[5. Kessler, R., & McLeod, J. (1984). Sex Differences In Vulnerability To Undesirable Life Events. *American Sociological Review*, 49, 620-631. Retrieved November 26, 2015, from [https://campus.fsu.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/academic/social_sciences/sociology/Reading Lists/Mental Health Readings/Kessler-AJS-1984.pdf](https://campus.fsu.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/academic/social_sciences/sociology/Reading%20Lists/Mental%20Health%20Readings/Kessler-AJS-1984.pdf)[6. Natarajan, N., & Nagar, D. (2011). Effects of Service Tenure and Nature of Occupation on Organizational Commitment and Job Satisfaction. *Journal of Management Research*, 11(1), 59-64. Retrieved November 24, 2015.