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Economic empowerment of tribal's through fish collection co-operative societies

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Abstract

The present investigation was carried out in Jaisamand Lake and Mahi Bajaj Sagar Dam in Udaipur & Banswara Districts of Rajasthan to know the knowledge level of the respondents regarding fish production technology. The findings revealed that of the general aspects the respondents had highest knowledge regarding important Indian fish species (MPS 92.50) and the least about the medicinal value of fishes (MPS 17.75). Among the fish breeding and rearing practices the study found that the highest knowledge was about suitable time of breeding among fishes in natural conditions (MPS 67.50). Regarding transportation and marketing of fishes, the practice with highest Mean Percent Score (94.50) was the knowledge of respondents regarding the agencies for selling of fishes and the practice with least MPS (34.37) was the technique of processing unsold fish.

Keywords: knowledge, breeding and rearing, transportation and marketing

Introduction

The inland fishery capture resources comprise rivers and canals, estuaries, flood plains, wetlands, lagoons and reservoirs. The sector holds enormous production potential to meet the inland fish requirement of the country. The present fish production from reservoirs is estimated to be 0.94 lakh tones, with over 79 percent contribution from small reservoirs, followed by large (14%) and medium (7%). Therefore, to develop and organize fisherman, the government of India and state governments has been promoting cooperatives in the fisheries sector by forming specific promotional schemes to help its members to improve their income and standard of living. Thus, the tribal residing in the periphery of the Jaisamand lake and Mahi Bajaj Sagar dam are grouped and enrolled as members of fish collection cooperative societies. There are in all ten and twelve fish collection cooperative societies in the surroundings of Mahi Bajaj Sagar dam and Jaisamand lake, respectively which are presently affiliated to state fisheries Department. These societies have been functioning for more than 15 year and contributing income and generating employment among its member through fishing and marketing activities considering these facts in view the present study was aimed at "to find out the extent of social empowerment of tribals on account of membership in fish collection cooperative societies".

Research Methodology

The present study was conducted in Udaipur and Banswara districts of Rajasthan. These districts were selected purposively for the present investigation because Jaisamand and Mahi dam are only large water bodies in Udaipur and Banswara district respectively, where fish collection activities are being performed through well organized cooperative societies. There are total 10 and 12 fish collection cooperative societies functioning in the periphery of Mahi dam and Jaisamand lake, respectively. Out of which four societies from each water reservoir were selected on the basis of maximum number of registered members in the society. For selection of respondent and, a comprehensive list of registered members in each identified fish collection cooperative societies was prepared with the help of personnel of state fisheries department and RTDCAF. On the basis of list, 25 fishermen were included for present investigation. Data were collected from the selected respondents by face to face interview technique with the help of structured schedule. Thereafter, collected data were classified, tabulated and statistically analyzed and interpretations were made in the light of the objective of study.

Results and Discussion

The table 1 depicts the data related to economic benefits derived by the fisherman through fishery cooperative societies.

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The data incorporated in the table apparently show that 94 respondents “fulfilled their demand of fish for family” to a great extent, whereas, 106 respondents reported some extent and none of respondents reported no change in demand of fish for family after becoming member of fish collection cooperative society. This aspect received first rank with maximum mean score 1.47. The improvement in the “overall family income” of 41.50 percent fishermen was to great extent, while majority of respondents (58.50%) reported an improvement to some extent in their overall family income. This aspect was ranked second in total ranking with mean score 1.41 table.

Table further shows that out of 200 respondents, 52 respondents that “purchasing power has increased” to a great

extent, while rest of respondents (148) reported increased purchasing power to some extent after becoming a member of society. The mean score of this aspect was 1.26 with third rank in ascending order of ranking. The other important economics aspect which received fourth rank was regarding “family saving”. A majority of fisherman (80.00) expressed that their family saving has improved to some extent after association with the fish collection activities through fishery cooperative societies. Whereas, 20 percent fisherman reported this improvement to remarkable extent and not a single fisherman reported no change at all in family saving after becoming member of fishery cooperative society.

Table 1: Extent of economic benefits derived by the respondents on account of membership in the society.

S. No.	Economics benefits	Total			M.S	Rank
		G	S	N		
01	Overall family income has increased	83 (41.50)	117 (58.50)	-	1.41	2
02	Demand of fish for family was fulfilled	94 (47.00)	106 (53.00)	-	1.47	1
03	Material possession increased	53 (26.50)	75 (37.50)	72 (36.00)	0.90	7
04	Loan repaying capacity enhanced	49 (24.50)	69 (34.50)	82 (41.00)	0.84	10
05	Get off from worries of everyday's employment	79 (39.50)	79 (39.50)	42 (21.00)	1.18	5
06	Purchasing power increased	52 (26.00)	148 (74.00)	-	1.26	3
07	Food grain purchase from open market reduced	53 (26.50)	67 (33.50)	80 (40.00)	0.87	8
08	Standard of feeding and clothing	40 (20.00)	83 (41.50)	77 (38.50)	0.82	11
09	Family savings	40 (20.00)	160 (80.00)	-	1.20	4
10	Residential facility	46 (23.00)	79 (39.50)	75 (37.50)	0.86	9
11	Transportation and communication facility	49 (24.50)	89 (44.50)	62 (31.00)	0.94	6

Further analysis of table shows that equal number of fishermen i.e 79 were observed in the category of great extent and some extent regarding “get off from worries of every day's employment”, whereas 42 members reported no change at all in getting off from worries of every day's employment after affiliation with fishery cooperative societies. This aspect was ranked fifth in ranking hierarchy with mean score 1.18. regarding “transportation and communication facilities” it was found that the maximum number of fishermen (44.50) apparently showed improvement to some extent and only 24.50 percent fishermen showed great extent of change in positive direction towards transportation and communication facilities. Whereas, 31.00 percent respondents showed no change in this aspect.

Likewise, improvement in the “material possession” to great extent was viewed by 26.50 percent respondents. While, an improvement to a some extent about this aspect was reported by 37.50 percent respondents and nearly equal number of

respondents (36%) reported no increase in material possession. The aspects, which received less improvement, were “loan repaying capacity” and “standard of feeding and clothing”.

These findings are supported by the findings of Ameta (2000)^[1] who observed that change to a remarkable extent was reported by most of the respondents in the economic aspects like, overall family income, residential facilities, get off worries of every day's employment and purchasing power increased. Whereas, the economic aspects namely family savings, standard of feeding and clothing, loan repaying capacity and material possession including households were changed to some extent as reported by majority of respondents. Similar findings are also reported by Ramakrishnan (2004)^[2].

To find out the variation and similarity in the economic of the fishermen of both water reservoirs ‘Z’ test was applied. The result are presented in table.

Table 2: Comparison between fishermen of Jaisamand lake and Mahi dam regarding economic benefits

S. No.	Economic benefits	Fishermen of Jaisamand lake		Fishermen of Mahi dam		Mean difference	Z-value
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
01	Overall family income has increased	1.29	0.64	1.54	0.77	0.25	2.50*
02	Demand of fish for family was fulfilled	1.33	0.59	1.61	0.79	0.28	3.20**
03	Material possession increased	1.07	0.76	0.74	0.78	0.33	3.30**
04	Loan repaying capacity enhanced	0.92	0.79	0.75	0.78	0.17	1.54 ^{NS}
05	Get off from worries of every day's employment	1.04	0.75	1.33	0.78	0.29	2.64**
06	Purchasing power increased	1.28	0.72	1.24	0.76	0.04	0.40 ^{NS}
07	Food grain purchase from open market reduced	0.96	0.80	0.77	0.80	0.19	1.72 ^{NS}
08	Standard of feeding and clothing	0.90	0.73	0.73	0.75	0.17	1.70 ^{NS}
09	Family saving	1.30	0.76	1.10	0.74	0.20	2.04 ^{NS}
10	Residential facility	0.87	0.78	0.84	0.74	0.03	0.27 ^{NS}
11	Transportation and communication facility	0.98	0.72	0.89	0.75	0.09	0.87 ^{NS}

**= Significant at 1% level of significance

NS= Non- significant

Table 2 reveals that calculated 'Z' value was found to be 2.50, 3.20, 3.30 and 2.64 for economic aspects namely overall family income increased, demand of fish for family, material possession and get off from worries of every day's employment respectively. These calculated 'Z' values were greater than its tabulated values as 1 percent level of significance. This calls for rejection of null hypothesis and it reveals that there was significant difference between the fishermen of Jaisamand lake and Mahi dam with regards to above mentioned economic aspects.

An inference could therefore be drawn that fishermen of Jaisamand lake derived more economic benefits about almost all the aspects except one as compared to fishermen of Mahi dam area. This difference in the level of economic benefit of the fishermen might be due to the reason that fishermen of Jaisamand lake had more contact with personnel of fisheries college and state department and better marketing opportunities than fishermen of Mahi dam water reservoir. The finding of the study are in contradiction with the results of Ramakrishana (2004) ^[2] who reported that more or less similar respondents of selected trades of PMRY.

Conclusion

From the above result it can be concluded that fishery cooperative societies have made highly positive impact on the members regarding their interest and attitude towards economic development activities.

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