



Problems of Dry Fish Producers with Reference to Malpe Meenugara Mahileyara Sahakari Sangha, Malpe, Udupi

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ABSTRACT

Fisheries are an important sector contributing to the economy. Fish drying is a major activity in the coastal district of Udupi, carried out mainly by small scale fisherwomen. Malpe Meenugara Mahileyara Sahakari Sangha (MMSS) is a Sangha that is substantially dependent on, or substantially engaged in, the harvest or processing of fishery resources to meet social and economic needs. The main objective of the Sangha is to provide support to the members. Role of the Sangha is to provide basic service and improving the livelihood of women fisheries by providing various services. The main objective of the case study has been to understand the objective of the society and socio economic profile of members, Problems of dry fish producers and offering suggestions.

Largely women, buy fish from boats and sell it at the local market, both fresh and dried. A large diversity of fish is used for drying. The dry fish producers and intermediaries faced various problems like inadequate capital, natural calamities, lack of scientific knowledge and technology, price instability, lack of transport facilities, inadequate storage facilities, lack of physical marketing facilities and marketing information. The MMSS provides financial support in case of emergencies. MMSS Malpe provides credit facility for its members and encourage saving habits among the members.

Keywords: Meenugara Mahileyara Sahakari Sangha, Women Members, Socio – Economic Needs Dry Fish Producer's Problems.

Introduction

Our country, India is blessed with vast and varied resources of water, both freshwater and marine. India has abundant fishery resources with great potential for substantial progress.

Dried fish is of vital nutritional economic, social and cultural importance for many of the poor and marginalised communities. It has been found to be an accessible and low cost food source and can contribute a large percentage of protein and key micronutrients to the diets of the poor. Production and trade of dried fish contribute to livelihoods and employment especially for women. It also forms an important food source, particularly during the fishing ban period when availability of fresh fish is low.

Malpe Meenugara Mahileyara Sahakari Sangha in Karnataka, India was formed in 1987 to seek institutional support for fisher women mainly involved in drying fish. Sangha initially started with a share capital of Rs.2600. Initially the Sangha had a membership of 50. At present the number has increased to 4500. The membership fee is Rs.1000. The Sangha has involved in the salt business, deposit mobilisation and credit schemes and pigme collection. It also leases land to the women for drying fish. The Sangha receives deposits from its members with the aim of encouraging the habit of savings amongst the women. They also have a loan system where by loans are given for fish related activities. The maximum amount is Rs.50,000 and the annual rate of interest is 18%. The loan repayment is by monthly instalment amount varies on the loan amount taken. The Sangha has 3 staff members and some committee members.

Literature Review

According to the study conducted by Dr.Ashalatha and Prof. S. Sararanoan, study puts light on the socio economic status of the fisherwomen in Udupi District. Fisher women generally belonging to Mogaveera community are idealised to the strongest and hardworking person, irrespective of their age and years of experience, they still urge to work harder each day to provide economic stability to her family. It is inspiring how women supports her family and balance both the work and family at the same time.

According to the study conducted by Svein Jentoft, Co-management holds prospectus as a means of creating community integration necessary for fishermen and their communities to become effective agents of collective action and even more so if it is supported by

community resource rights. Community development must go hand in hand with fisheries management as they mutually augment one another in a process that is progressive.

Study conducted by Pijush Payra and Riyanka Maity, the dry fish marketing is a profitable business for small scale dry fish producers of the coastal area of the Bay of Bengal. The quality of the dried product could be improved through making awareness among the fishermen to use high quality water and salt. The introduction of simple dry fish equipment like solar and artificial drier for processing can avoid the contamination. However special emphases are to be needed to prevent the use of different harmful pesticides/ insecticides during the preparation of dry fishes through the state government.

According to the study conducted by, M.S.Madan, Kalidoss Radhakrishnan and others, during lean fishing seasons, dry fishes are brought to the fish landing centres by the fishermen, due to demand from the dry fish enterprise. Dry fishes can be transported to areas where these fishes have good market potential. Dry fish attracts greater demand during fishing ban period, when availability of fish during market is low. Dry fish has higher concentration of protein as compared to the wet weight of fish and therefore is a cheap source of animal protein.

According to the study conducted by Swathi.R, Some of the important challenges afflicting the coastal communities in Kerala, the importance of protecting the marine resources and the environment in order to sustain the economic and social well-being of the marine communities besides protecting the fisheries resources from the point of view of maintaining inter- generational equity in the access to the use of fishery resources. Except for the natural calamities that are happening in sea, all the other threats could be eradicated if correct policies and rules are followed.

According to the study conducted by B. Indrani and Dr.B. Kanagaraj, indicates that the efficient growth of fishery sector and fishermen s based on our government. The state government should take necessary steps towards fishermen community and give necessary compensation directly to them. The right time action and support will help the fishermen to overcome their poverty and security for life. Both central and state government has to provide welfare facilities to fishery people and to encourage the participation of young generation.

According to the study conducted by Arunangshu Giri and Debasish Biswar, study confirmed the positive relationship between the growth of the dry fish industry and the overall development of the rural community. Also suggested various recommendations to ensure the growth of the dry fish industry, which would also lead to the development of the rural community in India, particularly West Bengal.

Need For the Study

- Role of Malpe Meenugara Mahileyara Sahakari Sangha in uplifting the status of women dry fish producers on socio economic life.
- Find out the problems faced by the women dry fish producers and the role of MMMSS in resolving the problems.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the profile of Meenugara Mahileyara Sahakari Sangha, Malpe.
2. To understand the socio-economic status of respondent dry fish producers of the Sangha.
3. To analyse the problems of dry fish producer women members of the Sangha.
4. To offer suggestions to solve the problems of dry fish producers of the Sangha.

Scope of the study

This study selected, Meenugara Mahileyara Sahakari Sangha, Malpe plays a crucial role in the Fisheries sector. Established in the year 1987, it covered four villages and two branches, share capital 86.12 lakhs and total number of members 4565. From the total number of members only 150 members are producing dry fish. 50 samples are collected for the study.

Methodology of the study

Both qualitative and quantitative data were used in the study. The data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. Questionnaire was given to collect the primary data mainly demographic, socio economic and other data related to the study from sample respondent.

Sample Design

An exploratory study explaining the role of Meenugara Mahileyara Sahakari Sangha uplifting women in Socio economic status and problems while producing dry fish. Study taken only dry fish producer out of 150, the data is collected from the sample size of 50 women members of the Sangha. Questionnaire has been prepared and the questionnaires were collected and data were tabulated and analysed.

Results and Discussion

The present investigation was carried out in MMSS Malpe covers 4 coastal areas, there are 4565 women members in the Sangha. Only 150 women members are producing dry fish and others are selling fresh fish. Out of 150 dry fish producers only 50 respondents are recorded.

Table 1: Age of the Respondent's

Age	No.	%
20-30	-	-
31-40	8	16
41-50	19	38
51-60	12	24
61 and above	11	22
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

16% of the members aged 31 to 40 years, 38% of the members aged 41-50 years and 24% of the members aged 51-60 and 22% aged above 61.

Table 2: Education Qualification of the Respondent's

Education	No.	%
Illiterate	16	32
Primary	30	60
High school	04	08
Graduation	-	-
Any other	-	-
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

About educational qualification of the women members Maximum 60% completed primary school education, 32% are illiterate and 08% of the respondents are completed high school.

Table 3: No. of members in the family

Members	No.	%
1 – 3	19	38
4 – 6	29	58
7 – 9	02	04
10 and above	-	-
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Above table shows that 58% of the respondent's no. of members in the family 4 – 6 members and 38% of the family members are 1-3 and 4% of the respondent's family members are between 7-9.

Table 4: Type of family

Family	No.	%
Nuclear	40	80
Joint	10	20
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

From the above table 80% of the respondent's family type Nuclear and 20% are in Joint family.

Table 5: Number of earning members in the family

Members	No.	%
1	04	08
2	34	68
3	11	22
4	01	02
5 and above	-	-
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Above table shows 68% of respondent's number of earning members in the family are 2, 22% earning members are 3, 8% of the respondent's family earning member is 1 and 2% respondent's earning members are 4.

Table 6: Distribution of respondent's on the basis of years of producing dry fish and selling

Years	No.	%
Less than 5	04	8
5 -10	20	40
11 – 15	10	20
16 – 20	03	6
20 and above	13	26
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Above table shows 40% of the respondent's producing dry fish from 5-10 years, 26% are experienced 20 years and above, 20% of the respondent's producing dry fish from 11 -15 years, 8% are less than 5 years' experience and only 6% of the respondents producing dry fish from 16-20 years.

Table 7: Family income of the respondents per year

Income	No.	%
Less than 50000	-	-
50000 – 100000	06	12
100000 – 150000	33	66
150000 – 200000	11	22
Above 200000	-	-
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Above table reveals that 66% of respondents have annual income of below Rs. 150000, 22% respondents have annual income below Rs.200000 and 12% respondents have annual income of Rs. 50000 – 100000.

Table 8: Where were the respondents will get the fresh fish to dry

From	No	%
Boat	35	70
Ship	10	20
Fresh fish sellers	05	10
Any other (Mention)	-	-
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Above table shows that 70% of the respondent's getting fish to dry from boat, 20% are from ship and only 10% are getting fish from fresh fish sellers.

Table 9: The place respondents dry the fish

Place	No.	%
In a separate room	-	-
In boxes	-	-
Plastic bags	05	10
Gunny Bags	45	90
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Above table shows that 90% of the respondent's store dry fish in Gunny bags and 10% of the respondent's store the dry fish in Plastic bags.

Table 10: The transport system respondent using to sell the fish

Transport system	No.	%
Your own vehicle	07	12
Rented vehicle	43	86
Free Service	-	-
Any other (mention)	-	-
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Above table reveals that 86% of the respondent's using rented vehicle for transportation of dry fish and 12% are using their own vehicle.

Table 11: Respondent's attended training programme

Response	No	%	Training Programme	No.	%
Yes	05	10	Drying Method	-	-
No	45	90	Fish Preservation	-	-
-	-	-	Purchase Method	-	-
-	-	-	Pricing	-	-
-	-	-	Protecting Health	-	-
-	-	-	All the above	05	10
Total	50	100	Total	05	10

Source: Survey data

Above table shows that only 10% of the respondent's attended training programme related to fish drying method, preservation, purchase, pricing and protecting health. 90% of respondents are not attended any training programme.

Table 12: Demand for dry fish increased or decreased

Demand	No.	%
Increased	45	90
Decreased	05	10
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Above table reveals that 90% of the respondent's answered now a day's demand for dry fish increased and 10% answered demand for dry fish decreased.

Table 13: Main causes of spoilage in storage of Dry fish.

Causes	No.	%
Molds	-	-
Bacteria	-	-
Insect infestation	-	-
Rancidity	-	-
Discoloration	-	-
All of the above	50	100
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Respondents are asked to describe the causes of spoilage in the storage 100% respondent's responses are Mold, Bacteria, Insect infestation, Rancidity, Discoloration.

Table 14: Respondents aware of various programme schemes of Government.

Programme Scheme	No.	%
Yes	02	04
No	48	96
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Above table reveals that only 4% of the respondent's aware about Mashya Sampada Yojana schemes of Government. 96% not aware of any schemes.

Table 15: From which Institution Respondents arrange Financial Need

Institution	No.	%
SHG	21	42
Money Lenders	-	-
Banks	01	02
MMSS	12	24
Fisheries Co-op Banks	16	32
Any other	-	-
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

From the above table it is clear that 42% of Respondent's getting funds from SHG, 32% from Fisheries Co-op Banks, 24% of the respondent's from Meenugara Mahileyara Sahakari Sangha, And 2% are getting funds from Banks.

Table 16: Type of Competition Respondent's face

Competition	No.	%
From other dry fish sellers	40	80
From Wholesalers	05	10
From Male sellers	05	10
From owner of the dry fish manufacturers	-	-
Any other	-	-
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Type of competition respondents facing above table shows 80% are facing competition from other dry fish producers, 10% from the wholesalers and other 10% from Male sellers.

Table 17: Problems faced by the respondents while marketing of dry fish

Problems	No.	%
Fish Preservation	40	80
Price Competition	05	10
Middlemen	-	-
Transportation	05	10
Any Other	-	-
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Above table reveals that 80% of the respondent's facing problems of fish preservation, 10% facing price competition and other 10% facing transportation problems.

Table 18: How the respondents get support from the MMSS

Support	No.	%
Provide Warehouse	-	-
Provide credit facility	10	20
Provide guidance to preserve the fish	-	-
Credit at low rate of interest	-	-
Supporting Saving	-	-
All the above	40	80
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

Above table reveals that 80% of the respondent's getting Support from MMSS through providing warehouse, credit at low rate of interest, guidance to preserve the fish, most important is they support savings, 20% of the respondent's getting credit facility from MMSS.

Table 19: Distribution of respondent's on the basis of the year of membership

Year	No.	%
1-5 years	05	10
6-10 years	24	48
11-15 years	12	24
16-20 years	05	10
Above 20 years	05	10
Total	50	100

Source: Survey data

From the above table it is observed that 48% of the respondents are members of the society for more than 6 years, 24% respondents are members of the society for more than 11 years, 10% less than 05 years, 10% less than 20 years. Only 10% respondents are members of the society above 20 years.

Summary of the findings, suggestions and Conclusions

1. Majority of the respondent's (38%) are aged between 41-50, 24% is aged 51 – 60, 22% are aged 61 and above and only 16% are aged between 31 – 40. Youth are not ready to produce the dry fish, they are poorly paid and migration to urban areas.
2. Study shows that Literacy rate under reported, 60% of the respondent's educational qualification is primary.
3. 80% of the respondent's family is nuclear family and no. of earning members in the family are 2.
4. Study reveals that 20% of the respondents producing dry fish from 5 – 10 years and 13% from 20 years and above.
5. Majority of the respondents (33%) have a family income of less than Rs.150000.
6. Majority (80%) of the respondents getting fish to dry from boat and other 20% from fresh fish sellers.
7. Study reveals that 48% of the respondent's using rented land for drying fish and 90% of the respondent's using Gunny bags to store the dry fish.
8. Only 10% of the respondents attended training programme related to Drying method, fish preservation, purchase, pricing and protecting health.
9. Study reveals that 100% respondent's responses causes of spoilage of dry fish are Mold, Bacteria, Insect infestation, Rancidity, Discoloration. The people engaged in drying activities didn't have enough knowledge on proper drying process and sanitation.
10. Only 4% of the fishermen aware of the programme scheme of Govt. Mashya Sampada Yojana.
11. Study reveals that 21% of the Respondents getting finance from SHG, 16% From Fisheries cooperative Banks and 12% from Mahila Sangha.
12. Majority (40%) of the respondents facing competition from the other dry fish sellers
13. Study reveals that 40% of the respondents facing problems of fish preservation.
14. Study shows that 40% respondents joined MMSS because it supports savings.

MMSS should take local conditions into consideration and not only BPL even APL card holders should get the opportunity to become the member of MMSS, like agriculture, fisheries sector also have the opportunity to get 0% loan, provision of hygienic work environment to be provided, Construction of proper market places with basic facilities for fish marketing, Fisherwomen should get financial support to their children's education and scholarship to the children's, fisherwomen should get old age pension, providing medical aid to all diseases, providing pure drinking water, financial assistance during fishing ban, Empowering fisherwomen communities for hygienic production of dry fish, its packaging and marketing.

The present study was conducted with the intension of Problems of Dry Fish Producers with Reference to Malpe Meenugara Mahileyara Sahakari Sangha, by taking MMSS members are sample unit. Meenugara Mahileyara Sahakari Sangha developed the member's life and they are getting funds when they need it and it encouraged saving habit among the members. Dried fish marketing plays an important role, it increases employment opportunities especially for women. However they face several problems lack of money and credit facilities. It is therefore necessary to support institutional and organisational support, Government support.

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