

**PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR
MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT ON**

A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF FISHERMEN OF COASTAL KARNATAKA WITH REFERENCE TO DAKSHINA KANNADA AND UDUPI DISTRICTS



Submitted to

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
SOUTH WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
BANGALORE, KARNATAKA – 560009**

by

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INTRODUCTION :

Fishery is an important sector in most of the developed and developing countries from the standpoint of income and employment generation. The experience in these countries indicates that the growth of the fishing sector stimulates the development and employment in related industries which contribute significantly to the economic growth of the country. Besides providing direct employment, the industry is also an income generator as it supports processing establishments, gear and equipment manufacturers, boat yards, refrigeration and ice making plants. Fisheries play an important role in augmenting food supply and raising nutritional levels of the population. Besides being an article of protein rich food, fish also yields several by- products such as fish oil, fish meal, fish manure, fish leather and fish glue etc.

Indian fisheries are an important component of the global fisheries and the sector have been identified as a powerful income and employment generator. Presently, fisheries and aquaculture contribute 1.07 per cent to the national GDP, and 5.30 per cent to agriculture and allied activities. Fishing in India is a major industry in its coastal states, employing over 14 million people. Fish production in India has increased more than tenfold since its independence in 1947. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, fish output in India doubled between 1990 and 2010. The country with a

long coastal line of 8129 Kms, has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending to 2.02 million sq. Kms, 3,827 fishing villages, and 1,914 traditional fish landing centers. India is a major marine fish producer ranking seventh in the world. However, inland fishery resources are equally rich and varied. India's freshwater resources consists of rivers and canals (197,024 km), reservoirs (3.15 million ha), ponds and tanks (235 million ha), oxbow lakes and derelict waters (1.3 million ha), brackishwaters (1.24 million ha) and estuaries (0.29 million ha). For centuries all the river systems of the country have provided a means of livelihood to millions of fishers.

The study has been proposed to be conducted in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts of Coastal Karnataka. As the districts are on the shore of Arabian sea, fishing is one of the major occupation of many people. The 150 km long coastline of undivided Dakshina Kannada district is home to hundreds of fishing villages. These villages have commonly come to be known as 'Mogaveera Pattana'. The Mogaveera community traditionally lives in coastal habitations called 'Mogaveera Pattana'(=town). These Pattanas numbering about two hundred are located in the coastal talukas of Dakshina kannada viz. Kundapur, Udupi and Mangalore. The major fishing places are Bunder (Old harbour), Panambur, Surathkal, Kotekar, Sasihitlu, Malpe and Gangoli. The study has been conducted with a view to understand the socio-economic conditions of fishermen in these two districts.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The study has been conducted to achieve following noted objectives:

1. To identify the problems faced by traditional fishermen.
2. To study the economics of capture fisheries and the dwindling fish production in the economic condition of the fishermen.
3. To evaluate the economic aspects of marketing, role of middlemen, moneylenders, financial arrangements of fishermen etc.
4. To study the standard of living of fishermen and their social status.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The basic approach in this study is to adopt a combination between primary and secondary data collections and information pertaining the numerous spatially dispersed participants and institutions in fish industry, of South Canara and Udupi districts. The method used for this is to design:

- Questionnaires.
- Systematic observations based on regular visits and long discussions with the participants.

The simple random sampling method is used for the study and a sample size above 100 will be considered as it is expected to yield reliable results.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

- No significant studies have been conducted on the socio-economic conditions of the fishermen; so there is a wide data gap or blank past in this regard. This study must be essentially seen as a starting point in attempting to reveal the facts of a marginalized community.
- Non-availability of sufficient and reliable secondary data is one of the major limitations of the study. In the absence of proper records the study exclusively depends on data provided by the participants regarding their conditions.
- A one-time household survey may be found insufficient to capture all the complex factors of socio- economic conditions.