

**AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIO- ECONOMIC SITUATION OF FISHERMEN IN
VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT OF ANDRA PRADESH (INDIA)**

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ABSTRACT

Fishing is one of the major activities in the fishing harbour area in Visakhapatnam District. The export value of the fishing products in India is in crores of rupees, 70 per cent of which is from state and major portion of this is from Visakhapatnam district. It is estimated that nearly 14 lakh people of the Andhra Pradesh depend on fishing activity of which 25 percent are in Visakhapatnam. According to an estimate, more than 50 families directly or indirectly maintained their livelihood on each boat that goes for fishing. There are 118 primary fishermen cooperative societies for fisherman in the district and 2800 mechanized boats in the city. The Visakhapatnam coast is always well known as a hub of fishing activity.

Introduction

Fishing is one of the most important primary economic activities which having great roles in supporting livelihoods worldwide and also is an important source of diet for over one billion people in the world. Fishing are the much marginalized and low paid occupation now a days and inland fisheries are of particular importance to the rural people providing more than 15 per cent of total global employment (FAO, 2000). About 80-90 percent of households involved in fishing contribute 30 per cent of rural household income in the Southern lowlands of Laos (Lorenzen et al., 2000). In north-eastern Nigeria, 42-70 per cent of households of rural areas who are engaged on fishing and contributing about 24-28 per cent of their family income (Neiland & Sarch, 1994). Similarly in the Brazilian Amazon, floodplain households earn about 30 per cent of their income from fishing (Almeida, Lorenzen & McGrath, 2002). During the last three decades, the number of fisheries and aqua culturists has grown very faster as compared to the growth rate of world's population, and even faster than employment in traditional agriculture. Fisheries play an important role in the Indian economy by way of contributing to the employment, national income, and foreign exchange. India has about 1.6 million hectares of ponds, lakes and swamps

and nearly 64,000 kilometers of rivers and streams. Andhra Pradesh is the second largest in inland fisheries with engaged 8.93lakh fishermen population directly and contributing 2.30 per cent to Gross State Domestic Product and the total amount of fish produced 8.91 lakh tones during the year 2005-06. Fishery sector in Andra Pradesh provides more than 14 lakh employment opportunities.

Objectives

- i. To find out the socio-economic characteristics of fishermen.
- ii. To identified to problems of fisherman face by every day.
- iii. Try to find out the possible measures for reducing the problems.

Data base & Methodology

The present study is based on primary survey as well as secondary data and stratified random sampling has been taken from the fishing harbor area in Visakhapatnam District. The fishing harbor area has been divided into four units and number of 10 households taken from each unit. All the data were converted into relative number such as percentage and ratio methods used for observed the overall situation of the villages.

Study Area

Port of Visakhapatnam is one of the leading major ports of India. The Port is located on the east coast of India at a latitude of 17°42'1" North and longitude of 83°18'23"E and covered 11,161 Sq. Kms areas . The Port has three harbours viz., outer harbour, inner harbour and the fishing harbour. The outer harbour with a water spread of 200 hectares has 6 berths and the inner harbour with a water spread of 100 hectares has 18 berths. The Fishing Harbor at Visakhapatnam Port Trust is one of the biggest in the Coast of Andhra Pradesh. The harbor was set up in 1976 spreading across 24 hectors of land. In 2011, Visakhapatnam had population of 4,288,113 of which male and female were 2,140,872 and 2,147,241 respectively. Average literacy rate of Visakhapatnam in 2011 were 67.70 compared to 59.96 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 75.47 and 60.00 respectively.

Primary report:

Age group and sex ratio

Age structure is also important factors for socio- economic development. According to field survey, 53.17 per cent populations are male member and 46.83 per cent is female member in fishing harbour areas. Among them, most of the population age group varies from 15- 60 years, it is nearly 73.8 per cent followed by children (20.63 per cent), and only 5.53 per cent population is old age (Field Survey, 2013).

Religion composition

Religion composition is the important factors for measures the status of socio- economic level because religion determines the occupational structure. Number of occupational activities prohibited by different religion, for example Islam cannot permit to perform alcohol business, smoking business etc. The religion composition of the sampling areas plays very unique features. Hindu is obviously dominated religion among the sample, nearly 85 per cent population believed in Hindu, 2.5 percent are Muslim, 7.5 percent are Christian and 5 per cent are Jain.

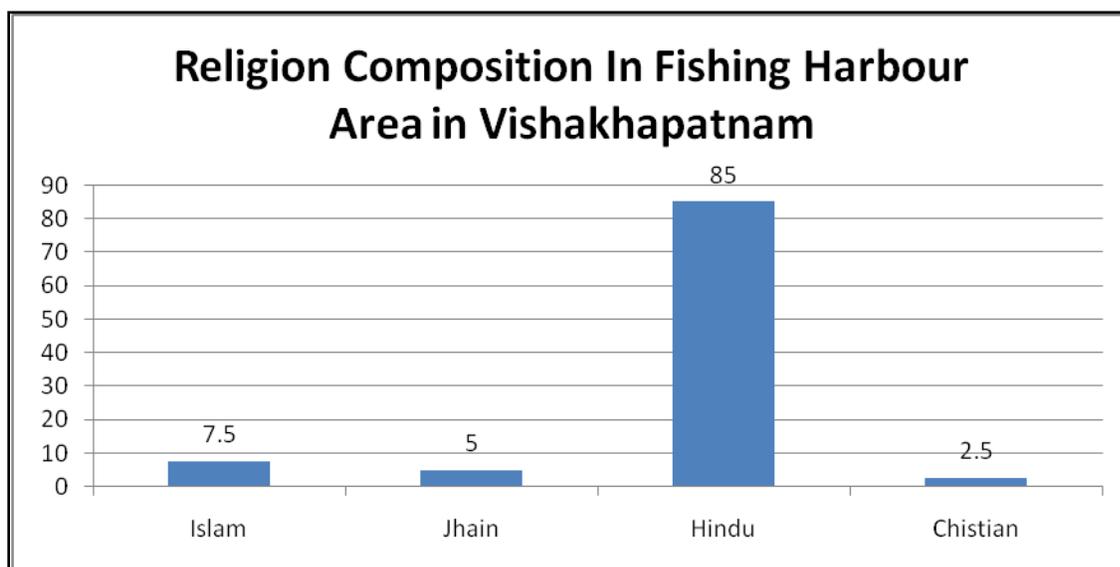


Figure 1(Field Survey, 2013)

Occupational Structure

Occupational structure of the fisher men households shows mixed picture. More than 45 per cent working member engaged as catching fish and doing job under fishermen as daily labourer, and 17.5 per cent population engaged as selling fish and remaining 27.5 per cent doing jobs in different parts in fishing port of fishing harbor areas of Visakhapatnam.

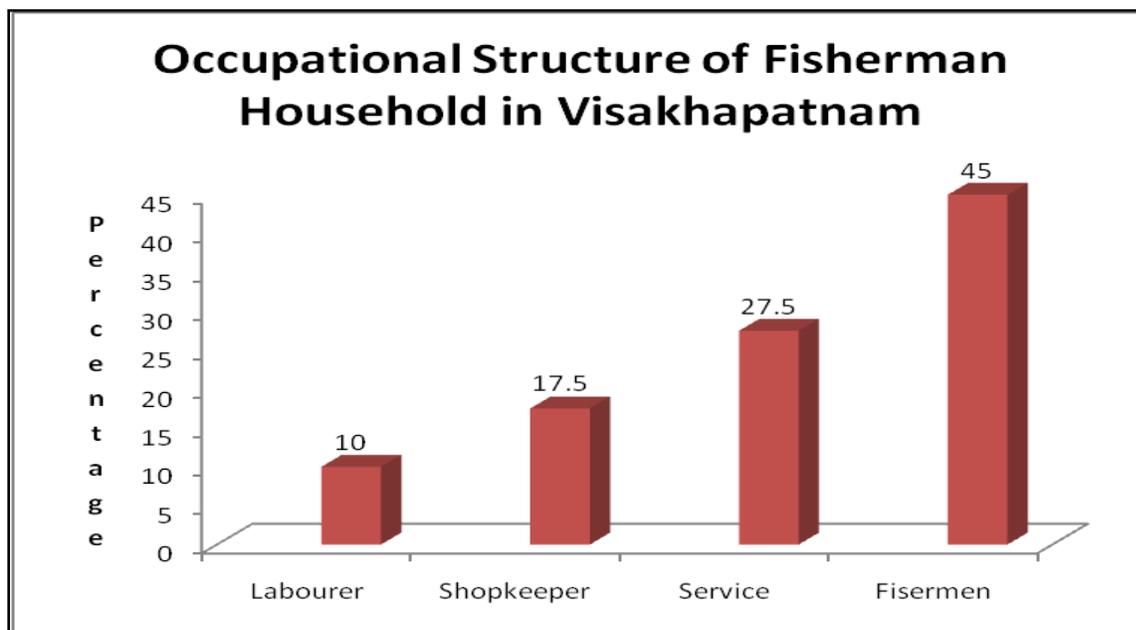


Figure 2(Field Survey, 2013)

Literacy and Educational Level

Literacy and level of education is the most preferable factors which are determine the developmental level of population. In the fishing harbor areas, we found more than 76.98 per cent population are educated, among them only 10.31 per cent people are educated below primary level and 21.43 per cent population are middle pass followed by high school and intermediate pass nearly (27.78 per cent), graduate 11.11 per cent and 6.35 per cent population passed post graduate, techniques or any other.

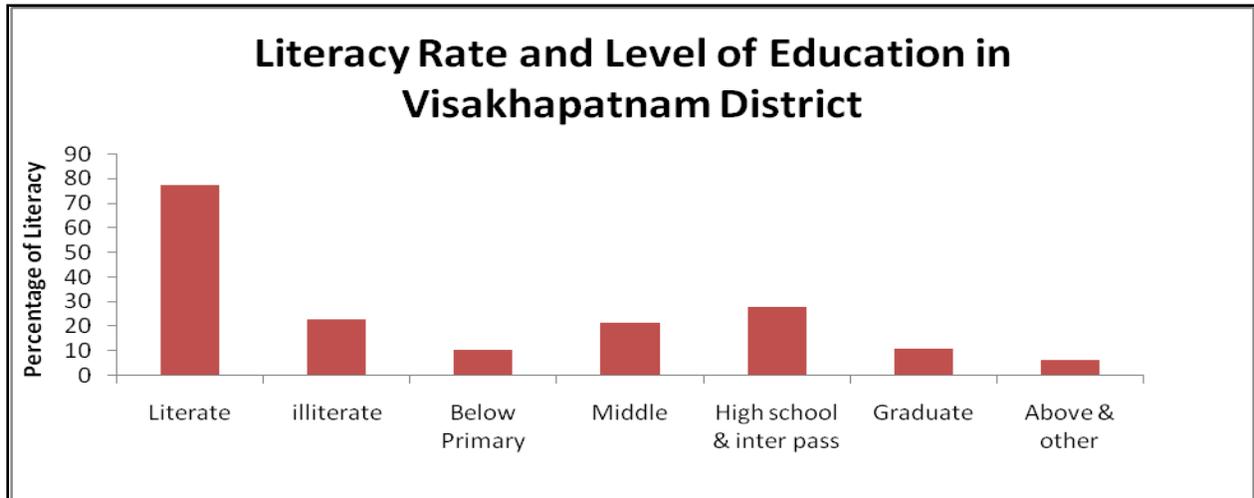


Figure 3(Field Survey, 2013)

Level of Income

According to primary survey, level of income per household is very low due to various reasons. About 20 per cent households having less than Rs 4000 income per month, followed by Rs 4000-5000(35 per cent), Rs 5000-6000(2.5 per cent), Rs 6000-7000(15 per cent) and only 27.5 per cent household having income above Rs 7000 per month.

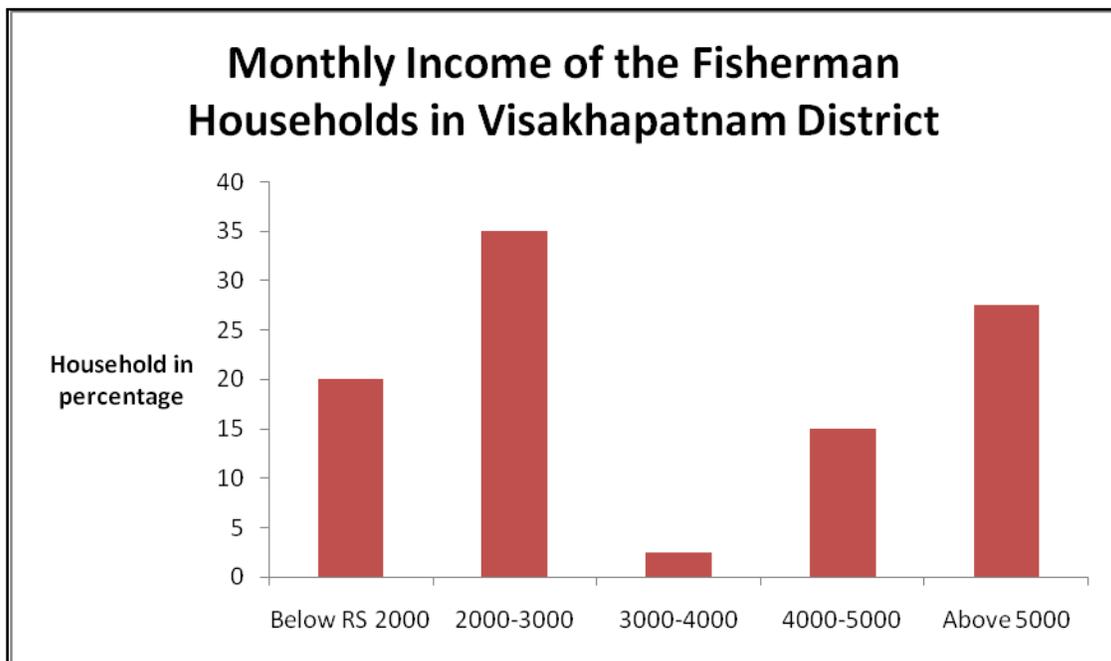


Figure 4(Field Survey, 2013)

Expenditure

Pattern of expenditure are the socio- economic factors which measures the scale of development. According to primary report, more than 60.21 per cent income expenditure for maintain food, followed by health (9.04 per cent), education (3.85 per cent), communication (7.16 per cent) social festivals (6.52 per cent) and other purpose (13.21 per cent)

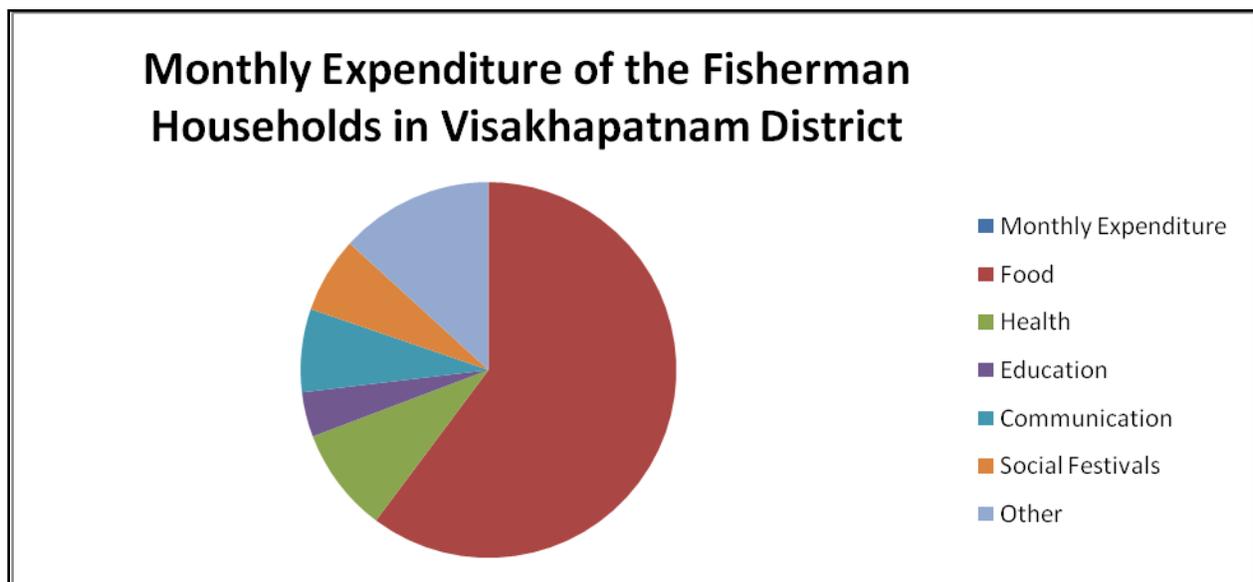


Figure 5(Field Survey, 2013)

Housing:

Types of housing and conditions of housing are the very important determiner which reflected the socio- economic status of the population. Most of houses are in fishing harbor areas, nearly 65 per cent population having their own houses, followed by rented houses, (27.5 percent) and other (7.5 per cent). But 45 per cent houses are semi- pucca followed by pucca (20 per cent), Kutcha 15 per cent and tent 20 percent.

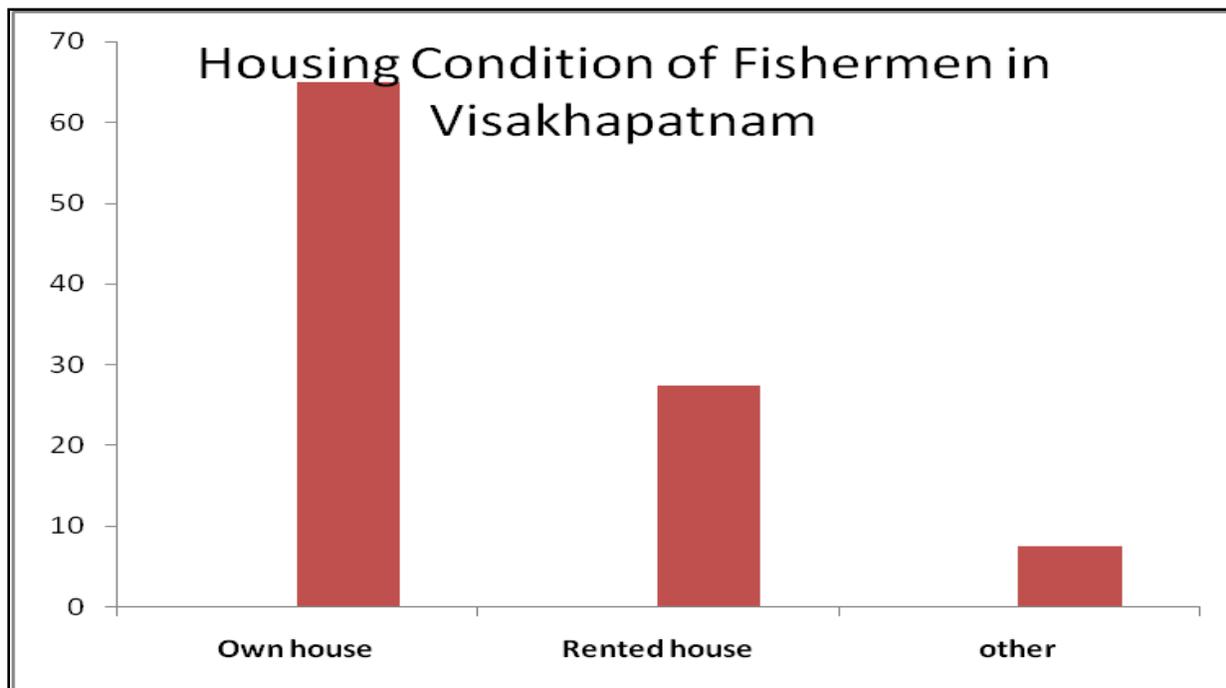


Figure 6(Field Survey, 2013)

Sources of fuel

Sources of fuel and uses of fuel is also important factor for identification the socio- economic status of population. Highly economic or industries population depends on gas, electric heater etc. but on a grain economy population uses wood, cake, dung's etc for fuels. On the basis of primary survey, 27.5 per cent household's uses wood as a fuel in kitchen, followed by 17.5 per cent population used by kerosene, 50 per cent LPG gas and 5 per cent uses other(Field Survey, 2013).

Sources of Drinking Water

Fishing harbor areas is located in Arabian Sea coast and it is the urban area. More than 75.5 households depends on govt supply water followed by Tube well (22.5 per cent) and only 2.5 per cent households depends on well. According to primary, more than 57 per cent households get drinking water within distances of 100 metre from their households because every households not connected by the govt. water supply pipe line. Nearly 20 per cent households take their drinking water from 100-200 metre distances followed by 7.5 per cent households carried their

drinking water from 200-300 metres distances and remaining 15 per cent households carried their drinking water from above 300 metres distances from their households.

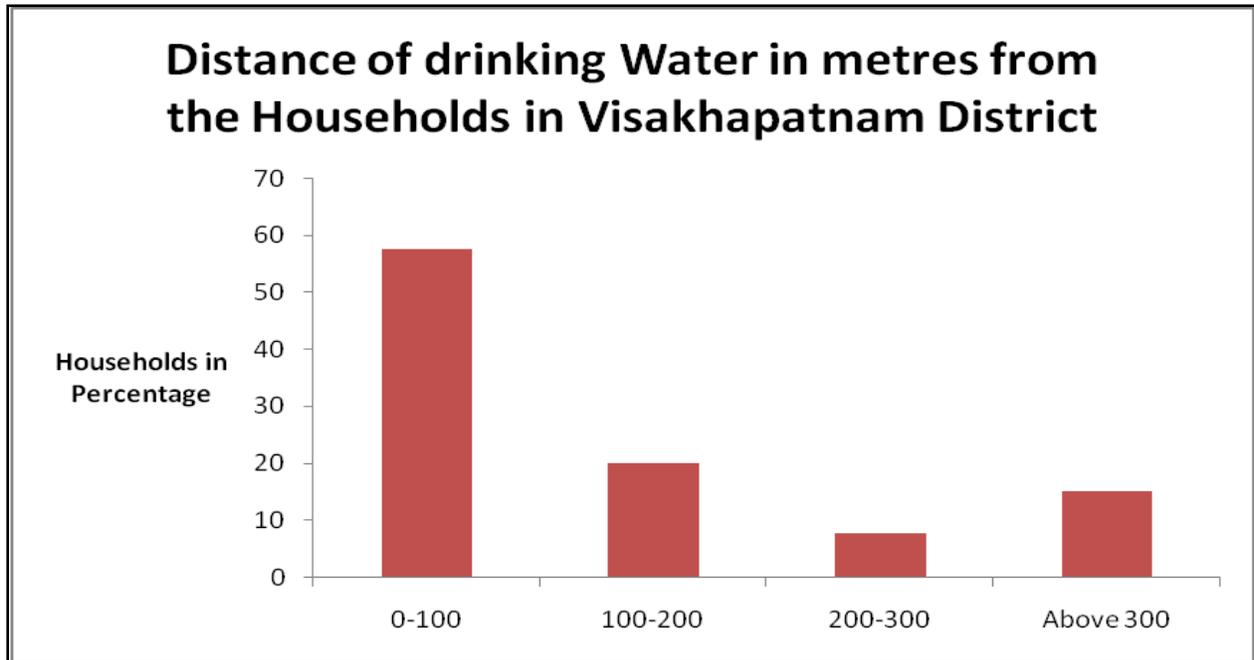


Figure 7(Field Survey, 2013)

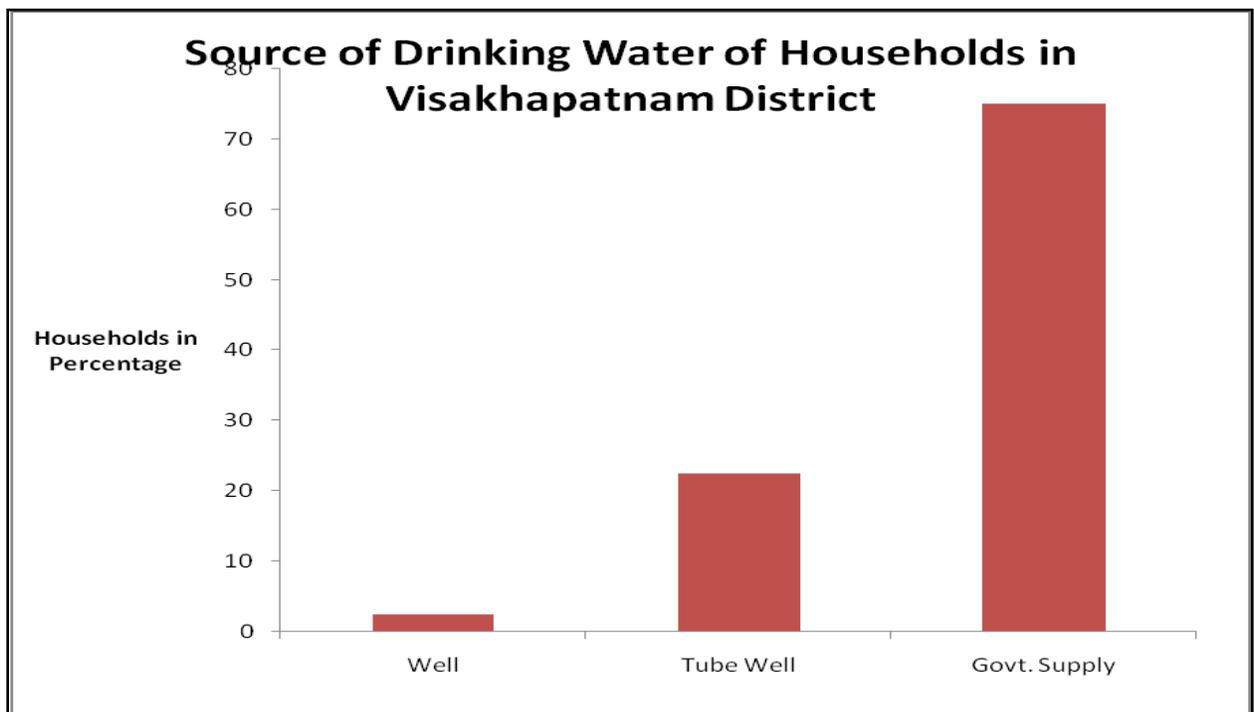


Figure 8

Monthly deposit

Statuses of Bank deposit or monthly saving are also the important factor for development of socio- economic status. According to primary survey, more than 27 per cent household does not having any bank deposit/ monthly saving and 12.5 per cent households are having very little amount of saving in between Rs 1- 300 per month, when 20 per cent households have saving Rs 300-600 per month, followed by 5 per cent households having save Rs 600-900, 7.5 per cent households saving Rs 900-1200 and more than 27. 5 per cent households having above Rs 1200 per month

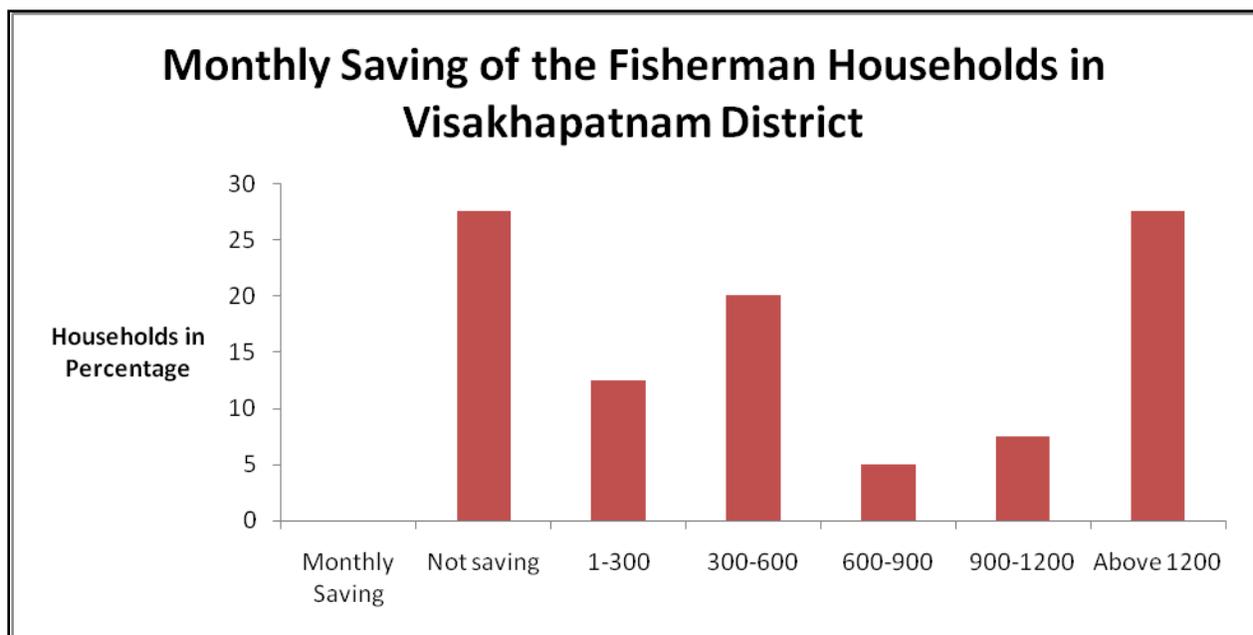


Figure 9(Field Survey, 2013)

Bath room and Toilet Facilities

Existing of bath room and toilet are important and essential for societies which mark the socio-economic status of population. According to primary survey, more than 80 per cent household have not bath room and only 20 per cent having bath room facilities in their houses. Another

report on the basis of primary survey, only 25 per cent households have toilet facilities in their houses and 75 per cent households depends on open sky in the sea beaches(Field Survey, 2013).

Health Facilities

The estimated number of doctors in Visakhapatnam is 3,000. In the Government hospitals a total of 2127 beds and 466 doctors are available. The KGH and VGH are the only hospitals, which are considered to have adequate health care facilities. There are only twelve municipal dispensaries, which provide general outpatient facility, antenatal care and immunization services Health facilities are foremost factors for modern civilizations. According to primary survey, health services are very good in fishing harbor areas. More than 42 per cent households having health service facilities within 0-1 km and remaining 58 per cent households having health facilities between 1- 3 km distances in their houses(Field Survey, 2013).

Conclusion

The above study shows that fisheries in fishing harbour area support the livelihoods of a large number of the Population. This definitely shows the importance of IWRM to support fisheries on which a significant percentage of the population are dependent for their livelihoods. According to study , level of income and housing condition shows very poor pictures in the area and basic amenities and facilities is well be caused the area is located in the heart of city. More than 60 percentage incomes spend on food and 27 per cent households have not bank deposits.

Suggestion

- Need to allocate funds in the national budgets for training of the poor and women in Fisheries.
- To emphasize on co-ordination of relevant sectors to make it easy for the entry of poor into fisheries.
- Improved cooperation in Fisheries management, which should be oriented to strategic and cross-sectoral matters, such as capacity-building, co-ordination of relevant sectors, etc.

- To provide authority and improve capacity of community organizations to monitor the farms to make sure those regulations are enforced. To ensure the participation of fishermen in planning and implementation.
- To strengthen the capacity of organizations in planning, monitoring, and data bases etc. at the local level which help in maintaining databases for the benefit of the agencies dealing with poverty reduction programs.
- Support the children with residential schools with adequate health care. This is very relevant and important to support the fishermen in the light of the inevitability of frequent and long-term migration. Suitable Options.
- Provide scientific information and technical support regularly.
- Involving younger generation in infrastructure development to promote marketing
- The fishermen are generally at the mercy of middlemen. Providing the fishermen with adequate access to finances would liberate them from middlemen.
- Establishing markets with supportive storage facilities would ensure the quality of fish and better price. It has been observed that more than 70per cent of the fishermen do not have any access to cold storage facilities, forcing them to sell the fish at lower prices. It is also important to build markets keeping in view the location of the fishing communities and proximity, making it convenient for direct selling and storage. Improvement in hygienic way of handling fish for better pricing is another important dimension that needs attention.

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