

A study of Bhiwapur fish market in Chandrapur, Maharashtra.

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ABSTRACT

India is the third largest producer of fish and second largest producer of inland fish in the world. Bhiwapur fish market is located near Mahakali temple in Chandrapur, District-Chandrapur, Maharashtra. The survey of fish market was done during January to March, 2015 for a period of three months in the morning and evening hours. This is a second biggest fish market in Chandrapur district, after Bengali camp's fish market. In this market 23 species of fishes and prawn were found. Wholesalers sold 1 to 1.5 tonnes fishes daily and retailers sales 25 to 50 kg fishes per day. Fish market of Bhiwapur area generates direct and indirect employment to so many people. It helps in the betterment of urban economy and poverty reduction and contributing to the economic welfare of people in Bhiwapur area, Chandrapur.

Keywords Bhiwapur, fish market, urban economy, fishes and prawns.

INTRODUCTION

India is the third largest producer of fish and second largest producer of inland fish in the world. Fish markets significantly contributes to food security and also in generating employments. It supports livelihood of lakhs of people. It generates direct or indirect employment to them, thus, improving economic status of the people. It helps in social well being of fishermen community and in the betterment of urban economy and poverty reduction. Thus, contributing to the economic welfare of the people. Fish marketing includes all the economic activities from producers to final consumer, even includes planning for the future production based on projected demand.

A large number of commission agents are operated in Bhiwapur fish market. The price of fishes is neither fixed by the government nor by the fisheries co-operative societies. The marketing system of Bhiwapur area fish market is neither efficient nor upgraded and is mainly carried out by private traders with large number of intermediaries in between the producers and the consumers then by reducing the fishermen's share.

In this paper, fish fauna survey in Bhiwapur area fish market is studied.

METHODOLOGY

Chandrapur district is located in the eastern edge of Maharashtra in Nagpur division and forms the eastern part of the Vidarbha region. The district is bounded by Wardha, Nagpur, and Bhandara on the North side, Yawatmal on the Western side, Gadchiroli on the Eastern side and Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh on Southern side. Chandrapur district is situated in the basins of Wardha and Wainganga rivers. This district is naturally endowed with good potential of water resources. There are about 13000 fishermen, of whom only 5000 are principle workers, solely depending on fishing. It harbours commercial and non-commercial fishes. Fishermen of this district are much depends on the fisheries for their livelihood.

Bhiwapur fish market in Chandrapur is located near Mahakali temple, Bhiwapur Ward, Chandrapur. This is a second biggest fish market in this district after Bengali camp's fish market. The study of this fish market was done through survey and interviews with fishermen and fish sellers in the morning and evening hours for a period of three months. i.e., January to March, 2015.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the study period of Bhiwapur fish market, following 23 species of fishes and prawns were found. These are given in Table 1.

Fish distribution channel is a route along which harvested fishes from the ponds or open waters is shipped to consumers. In this survey, fishes passed through four popular channels: **Channel-I:** Fish farmers / fishermen (producer) sales fishes directly to the consumers. **Channel-II:** Fish farmers / fishermen sales fishes to the retailers who sales to the consumers. **Channel-III:** Fish farmers / fishermen sales fishes to the whole sellers who sales to the retailer then to consumers. **Channel-IV:** Fish farmers / fishermen sales fishes to the commission agents who again sales to the wholesaler, he sales to retailer then to consumers. Out of these, Channel II and III are most popular and common in Bhiwapur area fish market.

This is a second biggest fish market in Chandrapur district, after Bengali camp's fish market. In this market 23 species of fishes and prawn were found. Wholesalers sold 1 to 1.5 tonnes fishes daily and retailers sales 25 to 50 kg fishes per day. Fish market of Bhiwapur area generates direct and indirect employment to so many people.

In the Bhiwapur fish market area, it was found that retailers were found selling fishes by the roadside without maintenance of quality of hygiene and without access to the drinking water, shelter and fish dressing platforms. Shops were found crowded and excess number of traders selling fishes even in passages, leading to inconvenience and hygienic problem. The domestic fish marketing system in the Bhiwapur area is neither efficient nor modern and is mainly carried out by private traders with a large number of intermediaries between the producers and consumers, thereby reducing the fishermen's share in consumers rupees. Sheikh [1](2014) found that the marketing cost of handling and transportation of big size fishes are comparatively higher than that of small varieties prawns and fishes. Pawar *et. al.*, (2006)[2] studied the fish fauna of Pethwadas dam, Kandahar taluka in Nanded district in Maharashtra. Paliwal *et al.*, (2013)[3] reported the ichthyo-faunal diversity of Itiadh dam in Gondia district of Maharashtra. Sakhare and Joshi[4] (2003) was studied the reservoir fishery potential of Parbhani district in Maharashtra. Rao (1984)[5] developed the some strategies for domestic fish marketing development in India.

Table 1. Fish fauna found in Bhiwapur fish market area.

Sr. No.	Zoological name	Local name
A. Fishes:		
1	<i>Notopterus chitala</i>	Chital
2	<i>Notopterus notopterus</i>	Patola
3	<i>Labeo rohita</i>	Rohu
4	<i>Labeo fimbriatus</i>	Tamb, Tam rui
5	<i>Labeo bata</i>	Bata
6	<i>Catla catla</i>	Catla
7	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Common carp
8	<i>Cirrhina mrigala</i>	Mrigal
9	<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	Silver carp
10	<i>Oxygaster clupeioides</i>	Chela, Papdi
11	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i>	Singhi
12	<i>Clarius batrachus</i>	Magur
13	<i>Wallago attu</i>	Shivada, Daku
14	<i>Mystus seenghala</i>	Shingta
15	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Eel
16	<i>Glossogobius giuris</i>	Ghasara, Khapra
17	<i>Mystus vittatus</i>	Tengra
18	<i>Tilapia mossambica</i>	Tilapia
19	<i>Xenotodon cancila</i>	Bogla, Gar fish
20	<i>Bagarius bagarius</i>	Bodha masa, Khirad
21	<i>Pangasius pangasius</i>	Pangesh
22	<i>Ophicephalus channa</i>	Mural
B. Prawns:		
23	<i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i>	Jhinga, Giant freshwater prawn

Fish marketing starts with auction system which is highly unorganized and unregulated in the Bhiwapur fish market. There is a need of regulation at this stage by the co-operative federations so as to ensure that fishermen get better price in the auctioning process. The hygienic conditions of fish markets should be improved tremendously so that fish consumption will become an easier process in days to come.

CONCLUSION

From the above study, it may be concluded that –

1. Bhiwapur area fish market significantly contributes to supporting livelihood of several thousand people.

2. The majority of people in Bhiwapur area belongs to fishermen community which solely depends on fishing as their source of income.
3. The fish market of Bhiwapur generates direct and indirect employment to so many people, thus, improving the economic status of the people living in Bhiwapur area.
4. It helps in the betterment of urban economy and poverty reduction, contributing to economic welfare of people in Bhiwapur area.

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Conflicts of interest: The authors stated that no conflicts of interest.

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