

## PROBLEMS FACED BY SMALL SCALE FISHING COMMUNITY IN ODISHA

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### Abstract

*The present study is an attempt to understand the problems and issues faced by the fishing community in Kendrapara district of Odisha. The study mainly focused on the reasons behind their deprivation and poor condition. The data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The fishermen are mainly dependent on fishing as their only source of livelihood. The fishermen have various problems faced in their daily life cycle. So, they are mostly from merchants where the interest rate is high and they become poor. The food, poor healthcare, poor sanitation, and increased intake of alcohol were found to be the major issues. The most important thing changing the climate is seasonal unemployment. We all know fishermen are in the domain of economic and social backward sector of society. The majority of the fishermen do not have their boats. The majority of them work as daily wage labor. Consequently, the absolute benefits of fishing are enjoyed by rich boat owners instead of the daily waged fishermen.*

**Keywords:** Fishermen, Seasonal Unemployment, Indebtedness, Health Problem, Food Insecurity.



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## Introduction

Fishing is the activity of trying to catch fish. Fishing can be done in the sea or a lake or river, and by boat from the shore. Fishermen, who normally catch fish include hand gathering, spearing, netting, angling, and trapping processes. India is the oldest civilization in the world with a rich cultural heritage. India achieved socio-economic progress after its independence. In the world, India is in the top position in the industrial sector and agricultural production. India has surrounded by the Bay of Bengal in the east, The Arabian sea in the west, and the Indian Ocean in the south. India has a traditional practice of fish culture in small ponds. 1% of gross domestic product contributed to fishing in India. 14.6 million people in India are employed due to fishing. The Marine zone of India has about 1400km of brackish water available for

aquaculture, about 16000 km<sup>2</sup> freshwater lakes, ponds, and 65000 kilometers of rivers and streams ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishing\\_in\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishing_in_India)). Odisha is one of the most important maritime states of India. It is famous for its fishing development. Odisha has 6.8 lakh of freshwater resources and brackish water is 4.18 lakh. The total provision fish production of Odisha during 2018-2019 is 7.59 mts. Vertical expansion to each average production Odisha during 2018-2019 is 7.59 mts. Kendrapara is one of the coastal districts of Odisha. It is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal. Many rivers pass through this district. The people of Bhitarkanika, Gahirmath, Rajnagar, Rajkanika are dependent on fishing for their livelihood (Baliar Singh et al, 2020). Keradagarh is surrounded by Rajnagar block in the north. They are socially neglected and economically back word. The fishermen community faces various challenges in their everyday life I.e - financial problems, poor health care, poor sanitation, drinking water, no marketing facilities, increased alcoholism, gambling, and fighting among the men.

### Literature Review

**Sunny et al. (2019)** in their article present the “Livelihood status of the Hilsa (Tenualosa Ilisha ) fishers: The case study of the coastal fishing community of the Padma river, Bangladesh .” They pointed out that the Padma is the second longest River in Bangladesh and contributes significantly to fisheries production and dependence on fisher livelihood. The main livelihood activities were fishing, fish trading, fish drying, net mending boat making, and repairing activity. In the study the Hilsa fisher was found to be poor, landless, neglected in the society, and solely depended on fishing for their livelihood, but the sum of main reasons like - increasing fishers’ number, Low income, lack of alternative income generating activities, loan problem, price high, etc. the government should provide adequate support during the ban period. More initiative should be taken to improve the livelihood of the fishers.

**Martin et al. (2013)** in their article on “fishing farmers: fishing, Livelihood Diversification, and poverty in Rural Laos.” examine the relationship between fishing and livelihood diversification in Laos. They told about the importance of fishing farmers. But it is known as a secondary part of rural livelihood. Fishing is linked with higher occupational diversity, because of the low opportunity associated with many forms of fishing such as traditional, enjoyment of fishing, etc. Fishing is not an activity only for the very poorest household it is taken by all wealth groups. critically emphasized that fishing is chosen due to a lack of alternative options. However, there is little empirical evidence as to whether additional livelihood options result in a reduction in fishing.

**Kulkarni et. al (2018)** in their article on “studies on socio-economic conditions of fishermen in Udgir in Maharashtra state” emphasize on the socio-economic status of fishermen mainly their family size, education status, literacy, income, etc. Their condition has been observed to be poor in earnings and can not afford the basic needs of life. Even they do not have their land. Some even lack facilities like- electricity, drinking water, and other financial assistance at a subsidized rate would be given for the construction of fish ponds. Moreover need based training policies of saving and health insurance are some of the means that can improve the conditions of fishermen. Most of the fishermen suffer from economical crises mainly during the scarcity of rainfall. In addition to this, they do not have alternate income sources. Most of them have kutchha houses with poor sanitation facilities. They also face problems of the unavailability of fish seeds for their socio-economic improvement. It is required to increase their earnings by providing technical knowledge. It is required to create and allocate the water bodies on marginal pay and use based on the fisher flock community.

**Kumar (2014)** In his article on “ Fish diversity in a selected stretch of the River

Mahanadi in Odisha and the Livelihood of inhabiting fisher community’’. This article Examines the fish diversity of the Mahanadi River in four selected areas of the Mahanadi in Stretch from Hirakud reservoir to Banki of Odisha downstream. In this observation, we examined the fishermen's community which are belonging to this area and their involvement in fishing activities for their livelihood. In this area, the fishermen were seasonal employment because they are unable to catch a fish for the rest 15 days of the month so the family of this community undergoes in BPL category. They survive various types of problems like lack of proper education of children, lack of health facilities, lack of good livelihood, and various types of things. They are unable to satisfy their primary needs. As the fishermen are the primary stakeholder group they are unable to grow and improve their socio-economic condition. Although they are unable to give the proper education to their children they tried to give well education to their children. The fishermen's community needs some help from govt but they do not get any facilities from govt.

### **Objectives of the study**

- To study the problems and issues of the fishermen in the study area.

### **Research Methodology Study Area**

Odisha is one of the coastal states situated in the eastern part of India, extending from 17.49°N and 22.34°N latitude and 81.27° E and 87.29°E longitude. Kendrapara district is situated in the central coastal plain zone of Odisha, and extends from 20.42°N latitude and 84.13°E longitude. This district lies in the river delta of the Brahmani, Baitarani, and branch

river of Mahanadi. The major rivers that pass through this district -are- Palkalt, Hansua, Kani, Lana, Karadia, etc. Keradagarh village Balisahi panchayat Rajnagar is situated in Kendrapara district. The Hansua river passes through this village (Baliar Singh et al, 2020).

### Source of Data Collection

Data have been collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data I.e. data have been collected by making personal visits to Keradagarh village and personally meeting the fisherman.

Secondary Data: data have been collected from various journals, district statistical handbooks, Articles, and various websites of the govt. of India.

### Data Interpretation

The data collected through the primary sources were analyzed by using “SPSS”(statistical package of social science).

### Rationale of the Study

The present study reveals that the fishermen are in the domain of the economically and socially backward sector of the society. Financial development and education improvement are essential for this fishing community. The study can take into consideration the development challenges that have evolved, there is a serious need to assess the study the challenges faced by Odisha. Particularly Kendrapara district in Keradagarh village in the context of livelihood issues and enhancement strategies for the fisheries sub-sector.

### Results and Discussion

For analysis altogether 50 households were inquired and results were compiled for discussion.

**Table No-1:  
Boat Ownership of the Respondents**

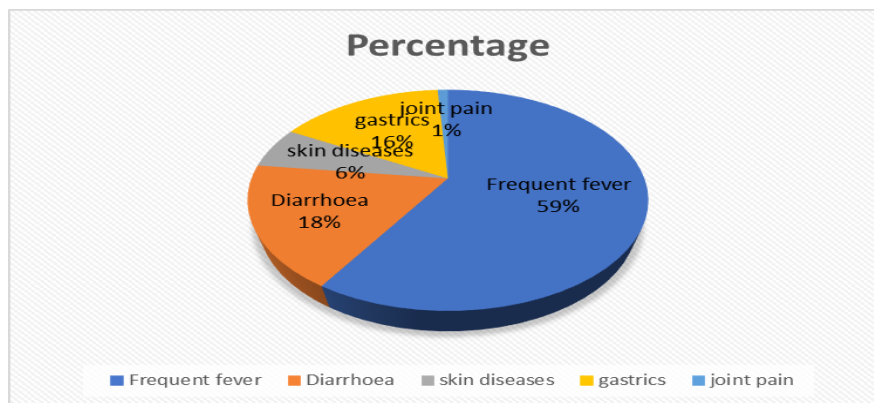
Suitable time for fishing	Type of boat			Total
	Traditional	Mechanized	NO boat	
-During the night time	4(28.6%)	8(57.1%)	2(14.3%)	14(100%)
During night times	24(27.9%)	23(26.7%)	39(45.3%)	86(100%)
<b>Total</b>	28(28.0%)	31(31.0%)	41(41.0%)	100(100%)

Table No - 1 shows the boat owner of the respondents. From the above table, 4(28.6 %) of the respondents use traditional types of boats mostly during the dawn time,8(57.1%) of the

respondents use the mechanized boat during dawn time, 2 (14.3%) of the respondents do not use any boats during the dawn time. 24 (27.9%) of the respondents use traditional boats during the night time, 23 (26.7%) of respondents use the mechanized boat during the night time 39 (45.3%) of the respondents do not use any boats during in night time. Overall 86% of respondents fish catching during the night time than in the majority and 41% of respondents do not use any type of boats, 31% of respondents use mechanized boats and 28% use traditional boats.

**Chart No - 2:**

**Health Problems during the fishing time**



From this pie chart, reveals that 59% of the respondents suffer from fever during fishing, 18% of respondents suffer from diarrhea, 6% suffer from skin diseases, 16% suffer from gastric, and 1% suffer from joint pain due to long-standing fishing. They drink dirty water and also have improper hygiene which leads to diarrhea and improper dieting leads to gastric.

**Chart No - 3 What are the Problems do you have at the time of fishing**

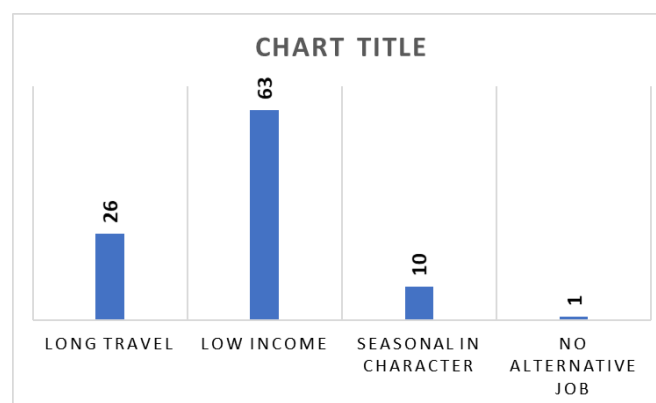


Chart No. 3 shows the problems faced at the time of fishing. 26% of the respondents have to travel a long distance in fishing, 63% of the respondents have very low income due to fishing, 10% of the respondents have fishing as their seasonal employment, and 1% of the respondents have no alternative job other than fishing. It is found that the majority of fishermen suffer financially due to fishing as their income is very low.

**Table No -4****Problems Faced By Respondents During the Time of the Fishing Ban**

**Difficulty in present Problems faced by fishermen at the time of Total occupation? the fishing ban**

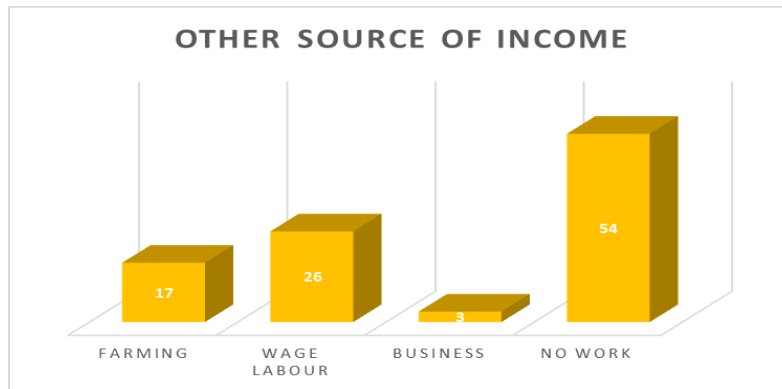
	Loss of income	Lack of employment	
<b>Yes</b>	81%	19%	100%
<b>No</b>	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	81%	19%	100%

Table no - 4 shows the problems faced by respondents time of the fishing ban. From this table we can learn that 81% of respondents find difficulty in the present occupation and they face loss of income sources when fishing is banned by the govt, 19% of the respondents find difficulty in their present occupation and they face lack of employment at the time when fishing is banned. 100% of fishermen find difficulty in present occupation. 81% of fishermen lose income sources because during natural calamities most of the time govt announce the banning of the fishing which ultimately affects the livelihood of fishermen. during this time the fund is very difficult to meet the basic needs of day to day life. they are bound for taking loans from other people. most of the fishermen make their livelihood by shareholding the other persons boat but when fishing is banned they also banned shareholding is ultimately affected their employment.

**Table No -5 Worst events of the respondents**

<b>Did disaster cause any damage</b>	<b>Worst events</b>						<b>Total</b>	
	<b>Damage of boat</b>	<b>Loss of boat</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>Damage of dwelling</b>	<b>Loss of net</b>		<b>No any damage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	18(34.0%)	7(13.2%)			15(28.3%)	13(24.5%)	0%	52(100%)
<b>No</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%			47%	47(100%)
<b>Total</b>	18%	7%	15%			13%	47%	100%

Table no - 5 shows the worst event of the respondents. From this table we can see that 18(34.0%) of the respondents did face damage during disaster and damage to boat, 7(13.2%) of the respondents faced disaster loss of the boat, 15(28.3%) of the respondents who faced disaster when through damage of dwelling, 13% of the respondents who faced disaster, net where loss. 47% of the respondents did not face any disaster. Majority of respondents i.e. (53) damage any disaster. 18% when through the damage of boat, 7% when through loss no boat, 15% when through the damage of dwelling, 13% when through loss of net this losses mainly due to natural disasters like -cyclone, flood, tsunami.

**Chart No - 6 Other Sources of Income at the time of the Fishing Ban**

The figure no - 6 reveals other sources of income at the time of the fishing ban for the respondents. From this table we can learn that 17% of respondents use to do farming when fishing is banned, 26% of respondents work as wage labourers when fishing is banned, 3% of respondents do business when fishing is banned, 54% of respondents do not have any work when fishing is banned. It is found that the Majority of respondents do not depend on any other work aspect of fishing when fishing is banned as they solely depend on fishing for their day-to-day expenses. They do not depend on farming, business, wage labor, etc for any expenses.

### **Conclusion and Suggestions**

The above study analyses the problem and issues of the fishermen in the Kaibarta cast people of Rajanagar block in Kendrapara district in Odisha. Mainly the fishermen are depended on fishing as the only source. The fishermen work hard, and invest money in fish gear, and they produce less and get fewer benefits. They are non-literate so their family size large and they are poorer. Majority of the respondent's monthly income was very low amount they could not full fill their basic needs. In the study area, all respondents were under the bellow poverty line (BPL). Majority of the respondents have taken loans because their income source is very low and expenditures are very high. The majorities of the respondents give priority to male children rater than female children because of the dowry system people prefer to have male children and are more capable of income than female children. All respondents make their livelihood by catching fish only. They catch fish and give them to other men for selling. The study reveals that out of 100%, 28 % of the respondents use a traditional boats for fishing and 31% of the respondents use a mechanized boats and the majority 41% of the respondents do not use a boat, because their financial condition is not well, so they could not purchase a boat .So they go fishing by sharing with others boats. The majority of them work as daily wage laborers under the fishermen. The study reveals that the fishermen in the study area, all are going fishing only 10 to 15 days per month. All fishermen suffer from diseases I.e. fever, skin disease, diarrhoea, and gastric because they drink dirty water and also have improper hygiene, which leads to

diarrhea and improper diet leads to gastric. They are socially neglected and economically backward. The fishermen's community faces various challenges in their everyday life I.e. - financial problems, poor health care, poor sanitation, drinking water, and no marketing facilities.

### Suggestions of the study

- ❖ The literacy programs can help the fishermen to develop their self-esteem by integrating the skills of literacy, numeracy, oral expression, and problem-solving.
- ❖ For families' households who have low incomes resulting in low financial investments, the government should provide schemes to provide financial protection.
- ❖ Government should focus on minimizing the gaps and ensure a balance between the so-called rich exporters and the traditional poor fishermen through welfare schemes.

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