

## AN ECONOMIC AND HEALTH STATUS OF FISHERMEN IN TIRUCHENDUR

Dr. S. Jayaselvi

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Research Centre,  
Aditanar College of Arts and Science, Tiruchendur

### Abstract

*Good health is an essential not only for the personal development of an individual but also for the development of a nation as a whole. Health is very essential to lead a happy life for an individual, and also necessary for all productive activities in the society. Disease results from a complex interaction between the man, the agent and the environment. Disease arises when there is maladjustment of the individual with his environment. The health of workers on a large measure will also be influenced by conditions prevailing at their work place. The example of one such occupation in which the environment plays a major role is fishing. Fishing is one such hazardous occupation, which involves irregular diet, stress, alcoholism, tobacco and pernicious habits. Fishermen have lower socio-economic status and their illiteracy adds to their poor oral hygiene, which may influence general and oral health. Fishermen have prolonged hours of continuous work, which are found to be correlated with high cigarette and alcohol consumption. Diet lacks fruits and vegetables and meals are eaten at very erratic intervals. Fishermen are prone to excess ultraviolet radiation due to constant exposure to sun. They are economically backward. They have no permanent and regular income. In Thoothukudi district, Amali Nagar is one of the prominent fishing centres. In Amali Nagar, the fishermen are confronted with a lot of economic problems and faced a great challenge to maintain their good health status. Hence the study is undertaken by the researcher. The present study analysing various problems encountered by the fishermen in Amali Nagar. Despite dangerous nature of fishing occupation very little research have been conducted reported on Health status of fishermen's health and safety even in India. The research on this group of population is limited. Therefore the present study was executed to assess and compare the status and Health care treatment needs of fishermen population at Tiruchendur in Tamil Nadu.*

**Keywords:** Good health, environment, irregular diet, stress, alcoholism, tobacco

### Introduction

Good health is an essential not only for the personal development of an individual but also for the development of a nation as a whole. Health is very essential to lead a happy life for an individual, and also necessary for all productive activities in the society. A person depends upon his intellectual calibres, curiosity and constructive thinking, but all these qualities depend upon his good health. Health is a function of the overall integrated development of the society and the health status is one of the indicators of the quality of life. Health is considered as the most important thing for a human being. Good Health confers on a person or group's freedom from illness and the ability to realize one's potential. Good health, as people know their own experience, is a crucial part of well-being but spending on health can also be justified on purely economic grounds.

Disease consequences from a complex interaction between the man, the agent and the environment. Disease arises when there is mal adjustment of the individual with his environment. The health of workers on a large measure will also be influenced by conditions prevailing at their work place. The example of one such occupation in which the

environment plays a major role is fishing. Fishing is one such hazardous occupation, which involves irregular diet, stress, alcoholism, tobacco and pernicious habits. Fishermen have lower socio-economic status and their illiteracy adds to their poor oral hygiene, which may influence general and oral health. Right from the beginning of the first Five Year Plan, this sector has been receiving considerable attention from the Government. Various schemes for providing housing facilities, dispensaries and community amenities, approach roads etc. are given priority. Organised attempts are made to promote fishery co-operatives in our country.

Fisheries plays a vital role in the economic development, employing over 14.5 million people. Fish production in India has increased more than tenfold since its independence in India. Marine and freshwater catch fishing combined with aquaculture fish farming is a rapidly growing industry in India. In 2008 India was the sixth largest producer of marine and freshwater capture fisheries, and the second largest aquaculture farmed fish producer in the world. Fish as food both from fish farms and catch fisheries offers India one of the easiest and fastest way to address malnutrition and food security. Despite rapid growth in total fish production, a fish farmers' average annual production in India is only 2 tonnes per person, compared to 172 tonnes in Norway, 72 tonnes in Chile, and 6 tonnes per fisherman in China. Higher productivity, knowledge transfer for sustainable fishing, continued growth in fish production with increase in fish exports have the potential for increasing the living standards of Indian fishermen.

Fish harvest distribution was difficult within India because of poor rural road infrastructure, lack of cold storage and absence of organized retail in most parts of the country. Fishing still remains a hazardous and stressful occupations it presents difficult physical conditions, dislocation, isolation and less than ideal personal habits. Fishermen have prolonged hours of continuous work, which are found to be correlated with high cigarette and alcohol consumption. Diet lacks fruits and vegetables and meals are eaten at very erratic intervals. Fishermen are prone to excess ultraviolet radiation due to constant exposure to sun. Statistical studies in the past have shown that fishermen are prone to develop skin and lip cancer.

#### **Statement of Problem and Need for the Study**

Even though fishing sector occupies a vital position in Indian economy, most of the fishermen are living in poverty. They are economically backward. They have no permanent and regular income. In Thoothukudi district, Amali Nagar is one of the prominent fishing centres. In Amali Nagar, the fishermen are confronted with a lot of economic problems and faced a great challenge to maintain their good health status. Hence the study namely is undertaken by the researcher. The present study analysing various problems encountered by the fishermen in Amali Nagar. Despite dangerous nature of fishing occupation very little research have been conducted reported on Health status of fishermen's health and safety

even in India. The research on this group of population is limited. Therefore the present study was executed to assess and compare the status and Health care treatment needs of fishermen population at Tiruchendur in Tamil Nadu.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

- To find out the Socio-Economic Status of the Sample Fishermen.
- To examine the Health Status of the Sample Fishermen.
- To examine the Awareness of the Health Care Facilities which are available in Tiruchendur

#### **Methodology**

This study is based on primary data, the primary data is used to collect the data through personal interviews specially prepared interview schedules. The data collected from the various fishermen from the sample village Amali Nagar, the socio-Economic and health status, awareness of health care service and health insurance of fishermen were analysed. There are 600 fishermen in Amali Nagar out of this, 50 fishermen were selected by the convenience sampling method.

#### **Scope of the Study**

This study is mainly confined with the socio-Economic conditions and health status in Amali Nagar. As such, we have collected information pertaining to the demographic profile of the respondents and economic conditions of them.

#### **Profile of the Study Area**

The village is located about 1 km away from Tiruchendur town. It comes under Tiruchendur Panchayat. It belongs to Thoothukudi District. Total area of this village is eight acres. The total population of this village is 2557 out of this male population is 1500 and female population is 1057. The prime occupation of the people of this village is fishing. In Amali Nagar, there is only one private Hospital and the primary health centre are rendering health services to the people. The surrounding of the village many health care centres are available. The village has two types of water sources. They are tube well water and river water. In Amali Nagar a primary school and High School run by a management which are imparting knowledge to the children. Society of Fishermen was established in 1994. At present there are 150 members engaged in the society. Membership fee Rs.50 as life time subscription at the time of joining. The main function of this society is to purchase the catches of fishes by these members by auction and sell them in nearby village and even in the neighbouring Kerala state. No social security schemes i.e. Welfare schemes provided for the members the storage facility is available in the society. Fishes can be stored for maximum of 15 days from the day of catching.

### Review of Literature

Fernando (1981) suggested the improving the socio economic conditions of fishermen at all fishing centres, sufficient cold storage and ice plants facilities must be provided to prevent fish from going waste. Modern fish processing units must be established in all the important fishing centres along with State fisheries units. Fishermen in the coastal area should be provided with proper sanitation and medical facilities, drinking water, wells and electricity. The scanty income and the numerous demands upon it, keep the fishermen in a permanent state of bondage to the moneylenders. The interest rate varies from 36per cent to 120 per cent. In short, the rebuilding of the life of the fishermen group. Shukla (1990) had outlined the basic characteristics of the Indian fishery sector and stated that the contribution of the Indian fisheries to world fisheries was just three percent even though investment to employment ratio was very high. According to him necessary provisions were to be made in regard to infrastructural, technological, financial, managerial, policy strategy and other such inputs.

A correct national fishery policy was to be evolved. Sathiadas et al., (1991) have collected information relating to housing pattern, ownership of means of production, employment status, occupation, annual income, indebtedness, marketing problems etc. The main source of borrowing is the moneylenders. Easy availability of credit through institutional agencies, opportunities for supplementary occupations and better infrastructural facilities for marketing are some of the suggestions given for the economic improvement of traditional fishermen. Sehara et al., (1992) described the monsoon period (June- August) fishing operation is only at subsistence level. The household income during monsoon is very low and consequently fishermen become permanent debtors. To overcome these difficulties, it is suggested to constitute a public agency to purchase fish at a minimum price whenever there is a glut at the landing centre, and to provide adequate finance at reasonable terms and conditions through co-operatives. Previous studies have shown that subjective symptoms from the musculo-skeletal system are common among fishermen. Crepitations in the shoulder tend to be more common among the fishermen. This indicates heavy dynamic work and prolonged static work.

Osteoarthritis of knee among them may result from working and living in the vertical environment of a moving ship. Various studies have shown that high incidence of hypertension may be related to ischemic heart disease and cerebrovascular illness. This may be influenced by poor eating habits, which include higher sodium intake, accompanying high consumption of salted fish or higher prevalence of tobaccos making, poor health awareness and other social and environmental factors which are common fishermen. Fluoride levels are also high in some coastal areas and the excessive exposure to them can give increasing number of adverse effects. These may range from mild dental fluorosis to crippling skeletal fluorosis as the level and period of exposure increase.

Apart from that, there are reports that excess fluoride consumption promotes cancer, hip fracture, leads to stillbirth or birth defects and has detrimental neurological effects. Fishing is one such hazardous occupation, which involves irregular diet, stress, alcoholism, tobacco and pernicious habits. Fishermen have lower socio-economic status and their illiteracy adds to their poor oral hygiene, which may influence general and oral health. The access of fishermen to dental services is very limited, making regular check-ups and treatment of caries difficult. Fishermen have poor oral health when compared to that of general population.

### Analysis and Interpretation

It consists of the socio- Economic condition of the fishermen. The Health status and Health care, Health Insurance awareness details are explained elaborately.

### Socio Economic Status

This concept throws light on the information about socio- economic profile of the respondents namely Age, Sex status, Education qualification, Marital status, Religion, Social status, Type of family, Housing condition, Income level, Pattern of expenditure (Household), Saving and value of assets possessed by them, etc.

### Age-Wise Distribution

Age is one of the determining factors of ability to work of an individual. A society which has more number of children and old age people will suffer since their productive capacity is low. On the contrary a society will be better if it has more number of people in the young age group. The following table gives the information about the age of the respondents.

**Table 1 Age-Wise Distribution**

| S.No | Age          | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Below 25     | 7                 | 14         |
| 2.   | 25 - 50      | 28                | 56         |
| 3.   | 50 - 75      | 13                | 26         |
| 4.   | 75 and above | 2                 | 4          |
|      | <b>Total</b> | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

The findings of the current study revealed that 56 per cent of the respondents belonged to age group between 25 - 50 years, 26 per cent of them were coming under age group of 50 - 75 years, 14 per cent of the fishermen were in the age group of below

25 year, very few aged persons 4 per cent were comes under the age group of 75 years and above.

### Sex status

The following table shows the sex status classification of sample fishermen in Amalinagar.

**Table 2 Sex Status of Fishermen**

| S.No | Sex          | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Male         | 39                | 78         |
| 2.   | Female       | 11                | 22         |
|      | <b>Total</b> | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

It is clear from the above table that out of the total sample respondents 78 per cent of them were male and 22 per cent of them were female.

### Educational Qualification

Education is the basic necessity for creating social awareness among the people. Education means both the acquisition of knowledge and experience as well as the development of skills, hobbies and attitudes which help a person to lead a worthwhile life is this world.

**Table 3 Educational Qualification**

| S.No | Educational Qualification | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Illiterate                | 6                 | 12         |
| 2.   | Elementary                | 17                | 34         |
| 3.   | SSLC                      | 16                | 32         |
| 4.   | HSC                       | 11                | 22         |
|      | <b>Total</b>              | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

The above table reveals that out of 50 respondents, 34 per cent of the respondents were illiterate, 32 per cent of the respondents have studied up to elementary level of Education, 22 per cent of the respondents have studies SSLC. The remaining 12 per cent of the respondents have studied Higher Secondary Education.

### Marital Status

The distribution of the sample respondents on the basis of their marital status given below.

**Table 4 Marital Status**

| S.No | Marital Status | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Married        | 43                | 86         |
| 2.   | Unmarried      | 7                 | 14         |
|      | <b>Total</b>   | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

It is clear from the above table 4.4 that out of the table sample respondents, 86per cent of them got married and 14per cent of them were unmarried.

### Religion

The following table shows the religion wise classified of fisherman in Amalinagar .

**Table 5 Religion-Wise Distribution**

| S.No | Religion     | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Hindu        | -                 | -          |
| 2.   | Christian    | 50                | 100        |
| 3.   | Muslim       | -                 | -          |
|      | <b>Total</b> | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

There is a strong relationship between the religion and socio- economic status of the people. In our study, Religion wise classification showed that there was no respondent belongs to the Hindu and Muslim. Our country is secular country, Here, many religious are practicing by people viz Hindus, Christian, Muslims etc., in this study, the chosen area, Amalinagar the Christians were doing the business of catching fishes and marketing it. So the researcher has collected the information from the Christians only.

### Social Status

The following table shows the social status wise classification of fisherman in Amalinagar.

**Table 6 Social Status**

| S.No | Social Status | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|---------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | SC            | 14                | 28         |
| 2.   | BC            | -                 | -          |
| 3.   | MBC           | 36                | 72         |
| 4.   | Other         | -                 | -          |
|      | <b>Total</b>  | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

The social status have been explained from the table 6 out of the total sample respondents 28 per cent of them were belonging to SC category and 72 per cent of them were belonging to MBC category.

### Type of Family

Type of family is an important because it plays an important role in the decision making of a man to work and save. The information deals with the family structure of the sample respondents is presented.

**Table 7 Type of Family**

| S.No | Type of Family | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Joint Family   | 4                 | 9          |
| 2.   | Nuclear Family | 46                | 92         |
|      | <b>Total</b>   | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

The table 7 shows that the majority 92 per cent of the respondents lead nuclear family and 8 per cent of the respondents were living in joint family system.

### Housing Condition

Housing condition is one the indicators of the economic conditions of the people. Hence an attempt was made to know the housing condition of the respondents. The results are presented in the following table.

**Table 8 Housing Condition**

| S.No | Type of House | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|---------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Thatched      | 5                 | 10         |
| 2.   | Tiled         | 34                | 68         |
| 3.   | Terraced      | 11                | 22         |
|      | <b>Total</b>  | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

From the table we can understand that 68 per cent of the respondents were living in Tiled houses, 22 per cent of the respondents were living in Terraced houses and the remaining 10 per cent of the respondents had thatched houses to live.

### Income Level

Income is an important factor which determines the standard of living of the people. The following table shows the details of income status of the sample fishermen.



**Table 9 Income Status of Fishermen**

| S.No | Income (in Rs)     | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Below Rs.2000      | 2                 | 4          |
| 2.   | Rs.2,000- Rs.4,000 | 8                 | 16         |
| 3.   | Rs.4,000 -Rs.6,000 | 10                | 20         |
| 4.   | Above Rs.6,000     | 30                | 60         |
|      | <b>Total</b>       | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

Table 9 shows that out of respondents the majority of the sample respondents income more than Rs.6,000. 20 per cent of the respondents monthly income between Rs, 4,000 - Rs.6,000, 16 per cent of the respondents comes under the group of Rs.2,000 - Rs.4,000. From the data for the above table, it can be concluded that the average monthly income level of the sample respondents hardly sufficient to maintain their family at the minimum subsistence level.

#### Pattern of Expenditure of the Household

The standard of living is revealed mainly by the pattern of expenditure of a person. Expenditure is the function of income the expenditure pattern of the respondents is presented in the following table.

**Table 10 Pattern of Expenditure of the Households**

| S.No | Households expenditure | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Below Rs.2000          | 2                 | 4          |
| 2.   | Rs.2,000- Rs.4,000     | 13                | 26         |
| 3.   | Rs.4,000 -Rs.6,000     | 10                | 20         |
| 4.   | Above Rs.6,000         | 25                | 50         |
|      | <b>Total</b>           | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

From the table, it is evident that out of total expenditure pattern of the household observes the major share that is 50 per cent of the respondents spent above Rs.6,000. 26 per cent of the respondents spent of Rs.2,000 - Rs.4,000. 20 per cent of the respondent's expenditure between group of Rs.4,000 - Rs.6,000 and 4 per cent of the respondents spent a very few amount as their expenditure.

#### Savings

Savings plays a vital role in the individual's life and the economy. The sample respondents were tried to save in some mode these are explained below.

Table 11 Monthly Savings

| S.No | Monthly savings      | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Cash in hand         | 7                 | 14         |
| 2.   | Chit fund            | 10                | 20         |
| 3.   | Bank                 | 14                | 28         |
| 4.   | Post office          | 13                | 26         |
| 5.   | Co-operative Society | 6                 | 12         |
|      | <b>Total</b>         | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

The table shows that 28 per cent of the respondents preferred to save in banks, 26 per cent of the respondents preferred to save post office, 20 per cent of the respondents preferred to save in chit funds, 14 per cent of the respondents preferred to keep the cash in their hands and 12 per cent of the respondents preferred to save in co-operative societies.

#### Value of Assets

The term total value of assets includes the value of the all movable and immovable properties like land, house, domestic animals, jewels consumer durable, vessels, and two wheelers.

Table 12 Value of Assets

| S.No | Value of Assets (in lakh) | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Below 1                   | 20                | 40         |
| 2.   | 1- 2                      | 10                | 20         |
| 3.   | 2 - 4                     | 15                | 30         |
| 4.   | Above 4                   | 5                 | 10         |
|      | <b>Total</b>              | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

The table shows that 40 per cent of the respondents had their assets value below Rs.1 lakh, 30 per cent of the respondent's, assets value between Rs. 2-4 lakhs, 20 per cent of the respondent's assets value was about Rs.1 - 2 lakhs, 10 per cent of the respondent's assets value was above Rs.4 lakhs.

#### Source of the Capital

The following table gives the information about the source of capital used by the fishermen in their occupation.

**Table 13 Source of the Capital**

| S.No | Sources      | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Own          | 33                | 34         |
| 2.   | Borrowed     | 17                | 66         |
|      | <b>Total</b> | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

From the table 13 it is inferred that 34 per cent of the respondents, have been used their own capital for buying vessels, nets and fishing equipment whereas 66 per cent of the respondents have borrowed and obtain their capital by borrowing from banks, society, money lenders, friends and relations.

#### Nature of Ownership of Boat

Among the fishermen, holding ownership of boat enjoys a higher status in the community. Hence the researcher made an attempt to know whether the sample respondents are having their own boat or not and the result are given in the following table.

**Table 14 Nature of Ownership of Boat**

| S.No | Nature of Ownership | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Own boat            | 12                | 24         |
| 2.   | Hired boat          | 38                | 76         |
|      | <b>Total</b>        | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that the majority 76 per cent of the respondents were having hired boat and 24 per cent of the respondents have their own boats. The poor fishermen do borrow the boats from the rich fishermen. They depend highly on the rich fishermen for their livelihood.

#### Types of Boat

The fishermen those who hold the boats, are enquired about their kinds of boat. The truth has come out from the following table.

**Table 15 Types of boat**

| S.No | Type of boat    | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Mechanized      | 2                  | 16.7       |
| 2.   | Non- Mechanized | 10                 | 83.3       |
|      | <b>Total</b>    | <b>12</b>          | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

The table shows that 83.3 per cent of the respondents had non-mechanized boat whereas 16.7 per cent of the respondents had mechanized boat. A very few fishermen had mechanized type of boat.

#### Effect of Seasonal Changes

The respondents were inquired whether the change of season affect the quantity of fishes caught by them and the results are presented in the following table.

**Table 16 Effect of Seasonal Changes**

| S.No | Status of response | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Yes                | 40                | 80         |
| 2.   | No                 | 10                | 20         |
|      | <b>Total</b>       | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

From the above table it is confined that seasonal fluctuation negatively affect the quantity of fishes caught by the fishermen. The vast majority of them admitted that the seasonal changes affect their occupation whereas the remaining persons do not accept this due to some reasons.

#### Experience of the Fishermen

The information shows the experience engaging in fishermen in Amalinagar by the fishermen. Experience make a man perfect. An attempt has been made to find out the experience status of the fishermen.

**Table 17 Experience of the Fishermen**

| S.No | Year         | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Below 15     | 18                | 36         |
| 2.   | 15 - 30      | 21                | 42         |
| 3.   | 30 - 45      | 5                 | 10         |
| 4.   | Above 45     | 6                 | 12         |
|      | <b>Total</b> | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

Form the Table 17 it is explained about the experience of the fishermen it is under stood that 42 per cent of them had the year of experience bet 15 - 30 years in this field, 36 per cent of the respondents have less than 15 years of experience, 10 per cent of the respondents have 30 to 45 years of experience and 12 per cent have more than 45 years of experience.

### Benefits from Government Schemes

The Government of India has the scheme called “National scheme of welfare of Fishermen”, for improving the welfare of fishermen and their socio- economic status. The following table gives the information about the beneficiaries of the government schemes.

**Table 18 Benefit from Government Schemes**

| S.No | Status if response | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Yes                | 17                | 34         |
| 2.   | No                 | 33                | 66         |
|      | <b>Total</b>       | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

From the above table it is clear that 34 per cent of the respondents have benefited by the government’s welfare schemes. The present study enquired the sample respondents for being in this occupation. And it is found that cent percent of the respondents are doing fishing because of it is their hereditary occupation.

### Health Status

This chapter throws light on the information about the health status of the respondents. It includes the details of cost of medicine, present health condition, under gone any treatment, type of illness etc.

### Medicine

The health is very important as it provides to the life. So spending the money for health is very important. The following table illustrates the medicinal expenditure of the respondents.

**Table 19 Medicine**

| S.No | Medicine          | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Below 500         | 3                 | 6          |
| 2.   | Rs.500 - Rs.1500  | 28                | 56         |
| 3.   | Rs.1500 - Rs.3000 | 18                | 36         |
| 4.   | Above Rs.3000     | 1                 | 2          |
|      | <b>Total</b>      | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that 56 per cent of the respondent’s health expenditure was about Rs.500 - Rs.1500, 36 per cent of the respondent’s expenditure of medicine value between Rs.1500 - Rs.3000, 6 per cent of the respondent’s value of below Rs.500, and only

2 per cent of the respondents expenditure of medicine value was above Rs.3000. This shows that the half of the fishermen used to spend the money for buying medicines.

#### Health Status of Sample Fishermen

The following table gives the information about the present health status of fishermen. The five point scale has been used to measure the health status of fishermen.

**Table 20 Health Status of Sample Fishermen**

| S.No | Health Status | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|---------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Very good     | 19                | 38         |
| 2.   | Good          | 9                 | 18         |
| 3.   | Average       | 15                | 30         |
| 4.   | Poor          | 6                 | 12         |
| 5.   | Very poor     | 1                 | 2          |
|      | <b>Total</b>  | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

The table shows that 38 per cent of the respondents were satisfied with their health condition, 30 per cent of the respondents said that their health condition was average. 18 percentage of the respondents felt that they were living in good health condition. 12 per cent of the respondents felt that their health condition was poor and 2 percent of the respondents explained that their health condition was very poor. But they were in position of getting money to run their families. They could not afford to pay to undergone any treatment. They can get benefit from the Government health care service.

#### Undergone Any Treatment

The following table shows the types of illness of the respondents

**Table 21 Undergone Any Treatment**

| S.No | Types of illness | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Acute            | 5                 | 21.4       |
| 2.   | Chronic          | 45                | 78.6       |
|      | <b>Total</b>     | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

Among the sample fishermen, most of them had the illness about chronic in nature and very few persons had the acute kind of illness which make them to spend more than the chronic type of illness.

### Awareness about Health Care Services

In developing countries like India, most of the people are not aware of the available health care service. Therefore an attempt has been made to find out the awareness status about the health care services. The following information provides the details of awareness of health care services among the fishermen.

**Table 22 Awareness of Health Care Services**

| S.No | Health care service | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.   | Yes                 | 44                | 88         |
| 2.   | No                  | 6                 | 12         |
|      | <b>Total</b>        | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

From the above table, we can understand that in the majority of the respondents i.e. 88 per cent are the awareness about the health care services whereas 12 per cent of them were not aware of Health care services.

### Health Care Service

The standard of living is revealed mainly by the health care service of a person health care service is the following table.

**Table 23 Health Care Services**

| S.No | Health care service | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1    | Allopathy           | 17                | 34         |
| 2    | Homeopathy          | 10                | 20         |
| 3    | Ayurveda            | 3                 | 6          |
| 4    | Unani               | 1                 | 2          |
| 5    | Siddha              | 6                 | 13         |
| 6    | Herbal Medicinal    | 11                | 22         |
| 7    | Acupuncture         | 2                 | 4          |
|      | <b>Total</b>        | <b>50</b>         | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

From the above table, we can understand that in the 34 per cent of the respondents have health care service from Allopathy, 22 percent of the respondents have health care service from herbal medicinal, 20 per cent of the respondents have health care service from Homeopathy, 12 per cent of the respondents have health care service from siddha, 6 percent of the respondents have health care service from Ayurveda, 4 per cent of

the respondent have health care service from Acupuncture, and only 2 per cent of the respondents have health care service from Unani.

### **Summary of Findings and Conclusions, Suggestions**

In this present study analysed the economic situation and problem of Amalinagar fishermen and the following conclusions are arrived.

### **Findings of Our Study**

- Majority of the fishermen belong to the age group of 25-30 years.
- All the respondents were Christians in the study area.
- Most of the respondents are educated at elementary school level and few of them studied at SSLC level and remaining respondents completed their Higher Secondary. 6 respondents were illiterate.
- Majority of the fishermen were living in Terraced houses. Few of them were living in Thatched and tiled houses.
- Most of the respondent's income ranges from Rs.2000 to Rs.4000 and they spend more amount of income to their daily needs.
- Even though they were not earning much fisheries they were doing that business because of hereditarily.
- Majority of the respondents borrowed money for their investment.
- Large number of respondents were repaying the loan on instalment basis.
- 42 per cent of the respondents have 15 to 30 years of experience in this business.
- Fishing still remains a hazardous and stressful occupations it presents difficult physical conditions, dislocation isolation and less than ideal personal habits. Fishermen have prolonged hours of continuous work, which are found to be correlated with high cigarette and alcohol consumption diet lacks fruits.
- 56 per cent of the respondents have spent the expenditure Rs.1500 per month for medicine.

### **Conclusion**

Fishermen are the integral part of our society. Even though they provide excessive fish production and India is a major supplier of fish in the world, the full capacity in fish production is not utilised. Fishermen have lower socio-economic status and their illiteracy adds to their poor oral hygiene, which may influence general and oral health. Majority of Fishermen in India are struggling for their welfare in the economic and social security spheres. The poor economic and health status among fishermen in India leads to low productivity and low fish production. The pathetic condition of fishermen affects the health status and health seeking behaviour. There is the urgent need of government's attention in this regard to make them aware of importance of their health.



### Suggestions

- The Government must provide sufficient financial facilities at low rate of interest to the fishermen.
- The Government should come forward to establish cold storage and freezing plant to cater to needs of the fishermen living and around Amalinagar.
- The Government must provide fishing equipment to the fishermen at the subsidized cost.
- The Government must be provide various health care facilities at cheaper cost at Amalinagar in Tiruchendur.
- The government should conduct the awareness camp for the awareness of Health care services and health insurance.

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