



Study the Socio-economic Status of Fishers of Egra-I Block of Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal, India

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to assess the socio-economic condition of fishermen of Egra-I block in Purba Medinipur district during the period from August 2022 to December 2022. The data were collected from 65 fishermen through survey sheet. The study was executed on the basis of personal interview. The study shows that most of the fishermen (95%) were Hindus, where 5% Muslims. The educational level of fishermen was very poor, 2% illiterate, 75% Primary pass, 15% Secondary pass and only 8% Higher Secondary pass. The housing condition of fishermen is maximum kutcha (65%), pucca (25%) and semi-pucca (10%). It was observed that there were 85% nuclear and 15% joint families. The annual income of fishermen varies from Rs.45,000 to Rs.1,00,000. The main occupation of fishermen is the cultivation of paddy and ground nut. Fishing is the secondary occupation.

Keywords: Fishermen; socio-economic status; livelihood.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In terms of income and employment, fishery is an important sector in many developed and developing countries around the world. The fisheries sector has an important role in the economy of West Bengal. The socio-economic appraisal of culture based fishermen in West Bengal explaining the various aspects of their life [1]. Girippa [2] evaluates the impact of fisheries sector on the development process of the country and the contribution of marine and inland fisheries sector in Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal for rural and economic development of the country. For nearly 7 million people of India, fishery related activities are important source of livelihoods [3]. Globally the livelihoods of over half a billion of people are supported by fishery [4].

In the community, a family's socio-economic status is based on family structure, annual income, educational level, housing condition and occupation. The role of socio-economic study is in delineating economic and social problems and identifying the losses encountered due to technical, social and economical constraints. In a marginal community, the socio-economic factors influence educational standards [5].

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Study Area

The study was done of Egra-I block in Purba Medinipur district from August 2022 to December 2022.

2.2 Data Collection

The study was based on field survey. A survey sheet was prepared for collecting data. The Primary data were collected from 65 fishermen.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Marital Status

Most of the fishermen (93%) were married, 5% fishermen were unmarried and there are only 2% widow.

3.2 Religion

In the social and cultural environment the religion plays an important role of people in a given area [6]. The maximum numbers of fishermen were Hindus (95%) and Muslims were only 5% in the present study. There are no fishermen of any other religion involved in fishing.

Table 1. Religion of fishermen

Category	Percentage
Hindus	95%
Muslims	5%

3.3 Age Structure

In the present study there are 20% fishermen were 18-30 years old, 49% were 31-45 and 31% were 46-65 years old. But there are no fishermen below 18 years old and more than 65 years old [7-14].

3.4 Family Structure

There are two types of families in our survey including 15% joint and 85% nuclear family.

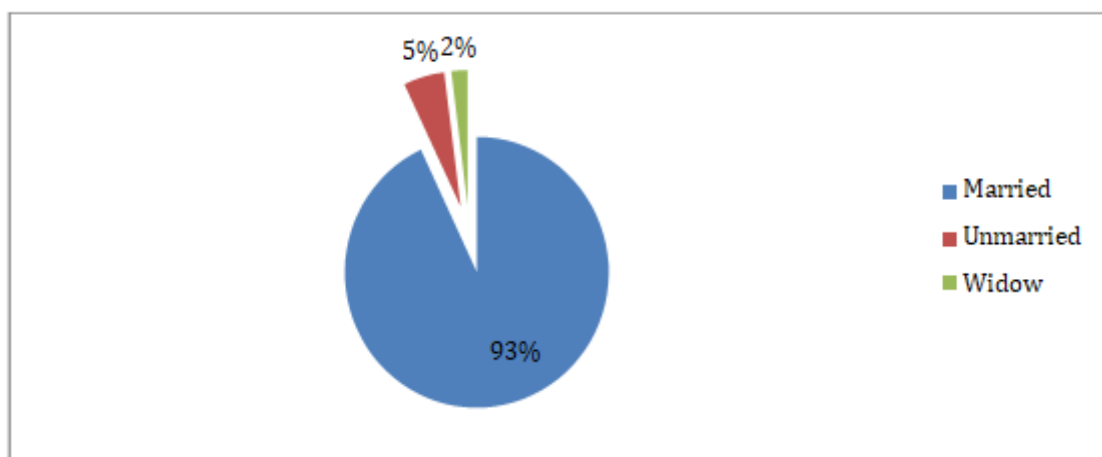


Fig. 1. Marital status of fishermen

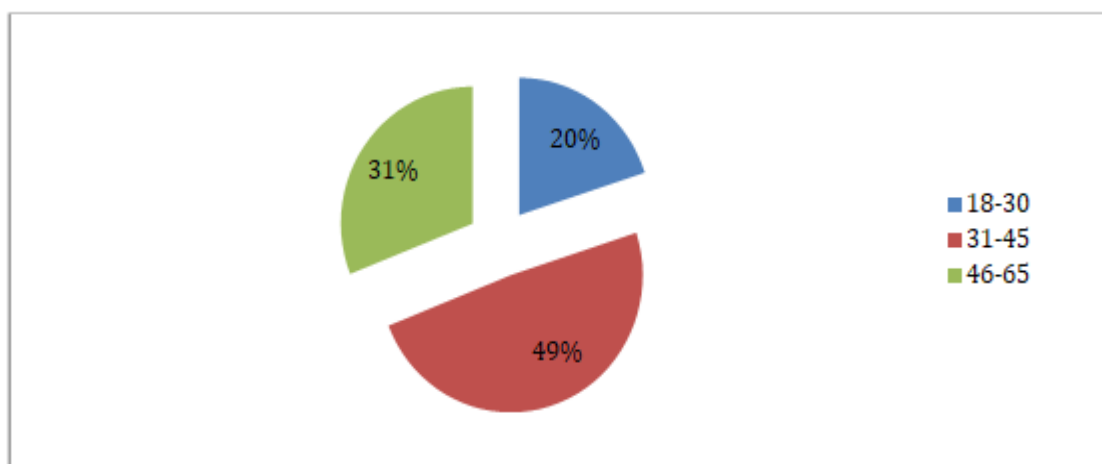


Fig. 2. Age structure of fishermen

Table 2. Family structure of fishermen

Category	Percentage
Joint	15%
Nuclear	85%

3.5 Assets

All the fishermen have mobile phone. 90% fishermen have by-cycle, 5% have motorcycle, 45% have sprayer and 35% have pumpset.

3.6 Annual Income

Fishermen mainly make their livelihood by cultivating paddy and ground nut. In addition to farming, they make their livelihood by fishing. The annual income of 65% fishermen was

Rs.45,000-Rs.65,000 and 30% fishermen was Rs.70,000-Rs.1,00000. only 5% fishermen have earned more than Rs.1,00000 annually.

3.7 Educational Status

The educational qualification of fishermen are not satisfactory. Almost 2% fishermen were illiterate, 75% Primary pass, 15% Secondary pass and 8% Higher Secondary pass.

3.8 Housing Condition

The fishermen have three types of houses- kutchha, pucca and semi-pucca. Almost 65%, 25% and 10% fishermen are living in kutchha, pucca and semi-pucca houses respectively.

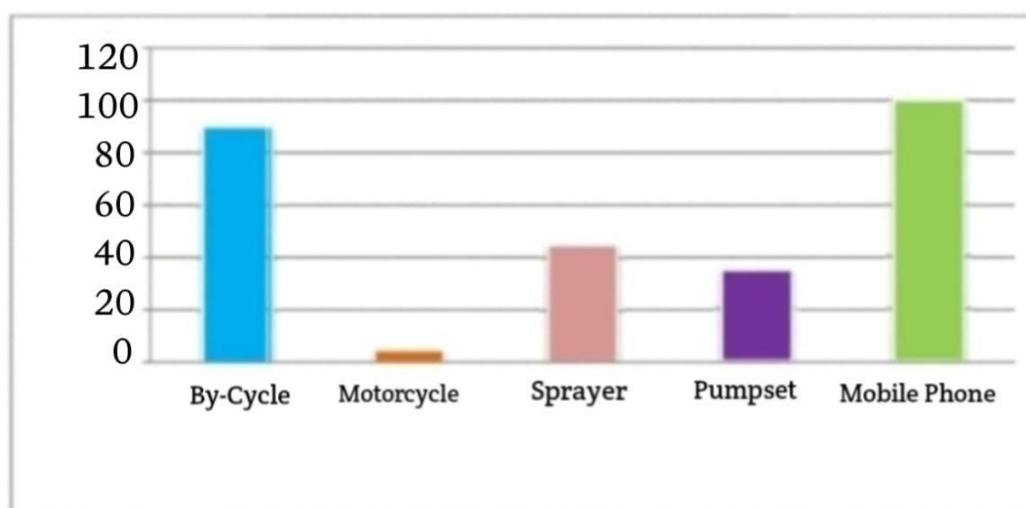


Fig. 3. Assets of fishermen

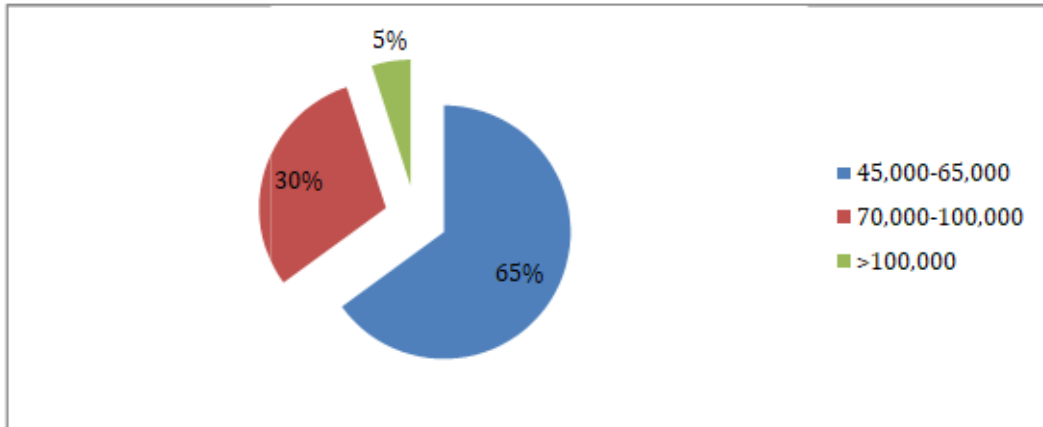


Fig. 4. Annual income of fishermen

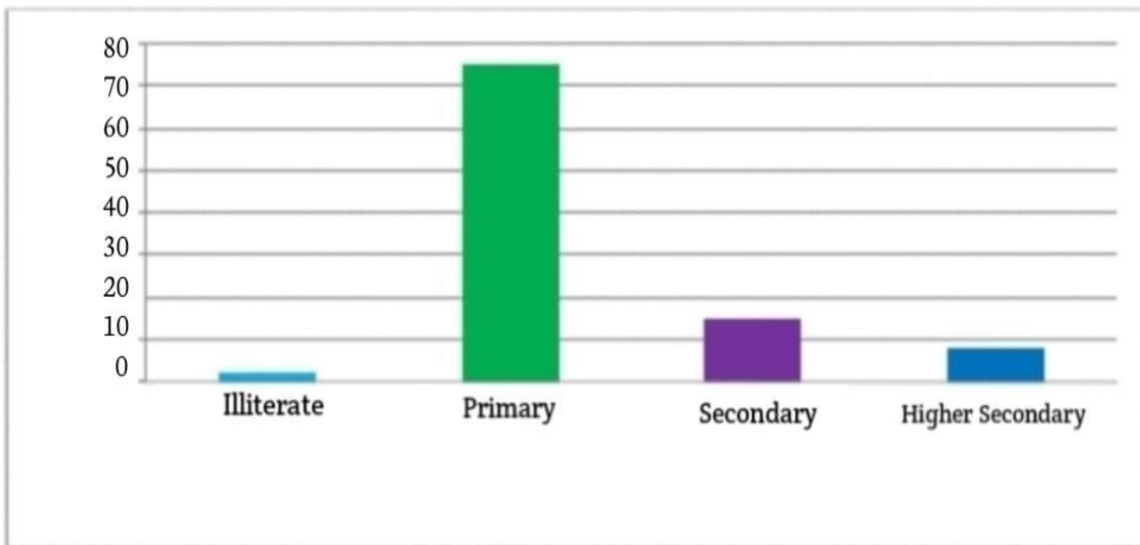


Fig. 5. Educational status of fishermen

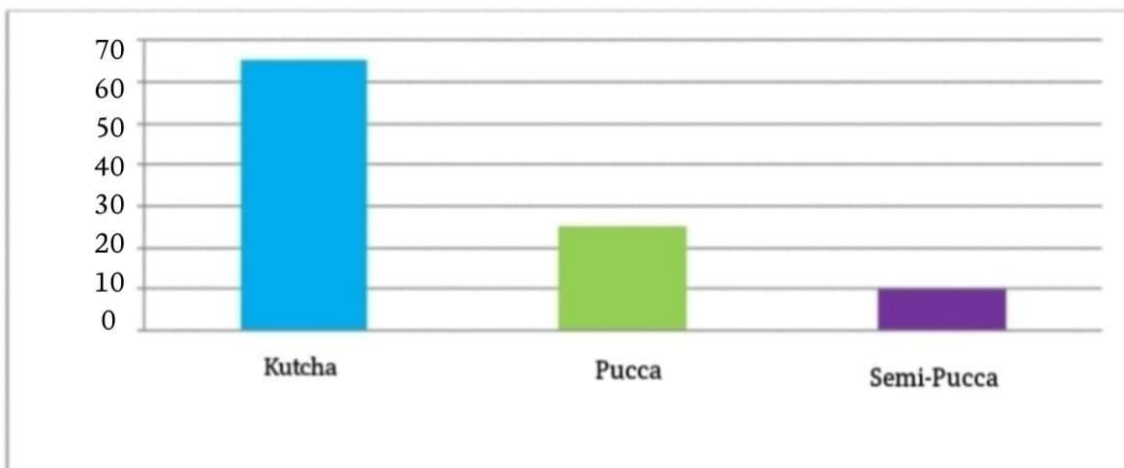


Fig. 6. Housing condition of fishermen

4. CONCLUSION

The socio-economic condition of fishermen was very poor. Most of the fishermen were live in under poverty. Their educational status were not satisfactory. The housing condition of them were not good. Both the State and Central Governments need to take appropriate measures to alleviate the plight of fishermen. However, Government assistance alone is not enough to improve the socio-economic condition of fishermen. Various non-governmental organizations should also come forward for help. The Government has to facilitate their loans from banks at very low interest rates.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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