

Social Impact of Social Security in the Lives of Marine Fisher Folk: A Comparative Study in Tamil Nadu & Kerala State by S. MARIA DASON

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RECOMMENDATION / SUGGESTIONS

1. The literacy level among the small-scale fishing community is very low. The government should devise a suitable mechanism to establish adult education / non-formal education programme in the area. The government can seek the support of voluntary organizations and concerned personnel for the effective implementation of the scheme. The proposed programmes can instill in them a sense of confidence to stand up to the future challenges of life.
2. Since income of the small-scale fishing community is very low, they find lot of difficulties to meet the day-to-day expenses. Seeing the existing condition, it is necessary to assist them and explore the possibility of increasing the family income in Kerala as well as in Tamil Nadu by promoting appropriate schemes.
3. The small-scale fisher people should be assisted to have decent shelter through state and central government scheme. As the people are living in sea shore area, their kutcha houses could be destroyed any time by tidal waves. Destruction of houses in the sea shore area is a common phenomenon. The people should be provided sufficient fund with subsidy and less rate of interest for the construction of houses.
4. The small-scale fishing community generally faces lot of difficulties to go far in the sea. Supply of out-board engine will help to go faster to fish catchment area as a result they will be able to gain good catching. Both the state governments should devise a strategy in providing out-board engine to these people with subsidy and limited procedure so that it becomes one of the elements to realize the economic empowerment.
5. Fishing is a seasonal employment. During the lean season, small-scale fishing people borrow money from the money lenders / middlemen of the area. These people charge exorbitant rate of interest. Due to this both the beneficiary and non-beneficiaries reel under the perpetuated poverty and the families are indebted. To help the small-scale fisher people from the debt and the interest burden, government should set up the special microcredit bank for assisting the people so that they do not suffer under debt burden.
6. For various economic and other reasons significant percentage of children from small-scale fishing community are not attending the school. So, the government should provide books, materials or scholarship in time to facilitate their education. Only then these schemes can be helpful to the children. This will result to increase the standard of children (in terms of maturity and intelligence) and gradually they will be able to compete with children from other fishing community. This will also avoid absenteeism and drop-out on a larger scale. Further, new education policy of the government can be executed in the field.
7. For the better functioning of health centre in the area, a representation from community should be made in the administration of respective health centre so that if there is any problem, it can be sorted out.
8. As many fisher people are not aware of National Fish Workers Forum, the organisation need to revisit its strategies in contacting, mobilizing the people and addressing their issues and problems. Besides National Fish Workers Forum, NGOs in the area should also re-look into its intervention strategies for the better performance in the field of development.
9. The study reveals that fisher people work for long hours either in the sea or in the shore. There is no regulation made in terms of written and oral agreement so far. The fishing vessel owners are not following ILO labor standards. The state government should come out with certain regulation so that the fisher people who are employed from small-scale fishing community will not be exploited and harassed and they will be able to do the job in a more dignified way. Moreover, the regulation will help the fishermen to spend more time with the family.
10. In the absence of adequate fish landing centers, small-scale fisher people face lot of difficulties both venturing into sea and returning to the shore especially during rough sea. When fisher people go to other area of fish landing centre, they have to pay heavy tax and such places are distant from native villages. Hence, the government should set up adequate fish landing centers

which can stimulate and promote competition among the merchants. As a result fishermen will gain more from their fish products.

11. There should be regular monitoring of foreign fishing vessel as they destroy the fish-lings and deprive the small-scale fisher community economically. Taking into consideration small-scale fishing community and other fishers, the government should not go for any contract with the foreign vessels and allow them for deep sea fishing.
12. Many of the small-scale fisher people mentioned that they are satisfied with ban period of 41 to 50 days, however a strict monitoring is required by the government and representatives from the community for a continued assessment of the same.
13. Both state governments should arrange more transport facilities for women fish vendors so that they are able to sell the fish to distant place and enhance their profit to certain extent. A stringent effort must be made through the people's representatives for realizing this demand.
14. Most of the women fish vendors do not get the job all the days due to various reasons and during this time, they may not be in a position to help their family. Hence alternative job is a must for women fish vendors. NGOs which are working in the area should propose suitable and viable skill training to the government and government in turn promotes trainings.
15. The traditional net making (done manually by women) has now been replaced by mechanized companies. This has rendered several fisher women jobless. NGOs should make strong advocacy on this matter with representatives from small scale fishing community.
16. In both states, NGOs should understand the ground reality of the people's need and make strong advocacy with government and co-operative managements and recommend for the inclusiveness of all the small-scale fisher people in line with the co-operative principles.
17. Some of the respondents expressed that officials demand bribe for the sanctioning of schemes and insurance cover. Besides, no non-beneficiary was found to be covered under the insurance scheme in both the states. It shows that there is lack of leadership among the small scale fishing community and this should be developed by the NGO in the respective area. The government should also help the voluntary sector for promoting such a leadership.
18. The people generally do not like maternity benefits as the amount provided through the scheme is very low. Both the state governments should increase the amount so that the people like to take the benefit from the scheme. From the study it is observed that the small-scale fisher people need assistance for maternity purpose. This scheme should be an integral part of the community organization in the area and therefore NGOs should come forward to help the people to get this assistance. If the community based organization takes up the responsibility, the involvement and exploitation of middlemen in the area will be reduced.
19. The government of Kerala and Tamil Nadu should broadcast the different type of skills training through television, radio, news papers and through local bodies of the respective area. Further, the government should come out with stipend plan and other allowances so that especially youngsters from small-scale fishing community take interest and get benefit out of this programme. As the Small-Scale fishing community people are poor, this kind of facilities should be arranged.
20. Public distribution system (PDS) is present in both the states. However, the functionality of PDS needs to be reworked out as the considerable number of small-scale fisher people are not benefiting out of this programme. The PDS should be help people to buy required items at reasonable prices. Seeing the economic situation of the small-scale fisher people, the government should come out with special concession on the essential commodities so that the people could buy them without bearing the excessive financial burden.
21. Since the small-scale fisher people do not have the job for almost 4-5 months period in a year, the government contribution on Relief scheme should be increased. Presently the amount received by people is too meager. The government should come out with a future course of action on this scheme.
22. NGOs working in the area should help the small-scale fishing community for the emergence of leaders through awareness and motivation programme. This way, there is a possibility of reducing discrimination and disparities that the small-scale fishermen community experiencing since a long time.