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Research Article

STUDY ON PRESENT STATUS OF SOCIO-ECONOMICE CONDITION OF FISHERIES CO-OPERTIVE SOCIETIES MEMBERS OF HARDOI DISTRICT IN UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

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Abstract: Co-operative is an independent association of individuals coming together voluntarily and democratically managed to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations. Co-operatives are generally voluntarily formed, democratically operated and managed business organization for the purpose of mutual benefit of its members. Importance of co-operative is well documented for the cause of socio-economic uplift men of one the most downtrodden community in India, the fishermen. The present study was conducted in the Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh as this district was availed with many Fishermen's Cooperative Societies and good connectivity with road. Block Behandra, Kachhauna, Sandila and Tadiyanwa were selected by simple random sampling without replacement technique.185 members were selected from six fisheries Cooperative Societies for this study. It was found that most of fishermen comes from age group 31-56 years (61.62%), caste of involved family in fisheries activities Kahar 151 Number (81.62%), is highest. Family Size >5 members (51.35%). About 52.43% fishermen's illiterate, secondary passed members 9.73%and higher secondary passed 5.41% members of cooperatives. The average annual income of members was more than 25000.00 (62.71%) followed by 13000-25000 (29.72%).

Keywords: *Cooperative Societies, Fishermen's, Fisheries & Socio-Economic status*

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Introduction

Co-operation has rightly been regarded as one of the least noticed economic miracles of the last century [1]. The fishery co-operative system in India was organized with a view to providing financial assistance to fishermen. Fisheries Co-operative societies are regulated by a separate set of rules to channelling government assistance on the principles of self-help and management. The fisheries co-operative structure in India is broadly three- tiered and it consist of a primary co-operative for a village; a district or regional federation; and a state level co-operative federation [2].

Efforts made in formation of large number of societies in fisheries sector have yielded good results in some areas but the overall performance of fishery co-operatives is not encouraging [3]. A limited numbers of co-operative societies are successful and able to meet expectations of their members. Majority of fisheries co-operatives still have organizational, managerial, and operational inadequacies making them unsuccessful or inactive. In general, fisheries co-operatives have not reached to desired level due to poor management, lack of skill enhancement mechanism, discouraging production and productivity trends, lack of infrastructure facilities, problematic financing and finance management, and 'poor linkages with concerned organizations [4].

Co-operatives are important for farmers, especially for small-scale farmers in rural development. By uniting themselves, more assets, knowledge and skills become available; and it increases the mobilization of resources for farmers, by having more strength and power to negotiate about prices. Adding to that, the farmers become easily accessible to traders and buyers because they are pooled together hence more able to assure availability of the produce [5]. Co-operation is as old as humanity and co-operation is older than the co-operative movement. The co-operative movement is only one example of human co-operation among others.

The meaning of co-operation varied from thinker to thinker and from one sphere of human activity to another. To the sociologists, it is a social economic movement, for the socialists, it is a social order in which man is free from class struggle, economists believe that, it is a form of business organization in which there is no scope of being exploited by middlemen. The lawyers take it to be an organization in whose membership one enjoys the special privileges and concessions conferred by law [6].

In India fishing, cooperatives societies have been studied by very few researcher Singh and Dhar Chaudhary, (1997); Bhatta, (1997) [7]; Moorti and Cahuhan, (1997) [8]; Deepak, (1998); Das, (1992); Singh and bhattacharya, (1991); Chatrjee & Bandhyopadhay, (1090); Jyotishi and Parthasarathy (2007) [9], Tyagi *et al*., (2007) [10]; Tyagi *et al*., (2008) [11] and Tyagi *et al*., (2013) [12].

Co-operatives can play an important part for fishermen, especially for small- scale fishermen. Co-operation is only the solution of problems arises from mechanization and multi-nationalisation in fishery. Contract system of fishing was well-known generalized practices before independence, government encourage fishermen for farming co-operatives. Afterwards fishermen were able to know the benefits of forming co-operatives. Fishermen co-operative were worked for fishing and marketing. There has been a perceptible improvement in the fishery co-operative sector of the country and the structure as it exists today consist of national level federation, 1; state level federations, 21; central (district/ regional) level, 125; and primary societies, 18145 (approx.). In Uttar Pradesh one state federation, 19 central societies, 966 primary co-operative society and total membership is 53,040. The membership at the primary level is around 2.3 million. It may add that in some of the states, the fishery co-operative movement is working very effectively and several studies and evaluation reports have confirmed the efficiency of these organizations.

One evaluation report confirmed that arrangements of marketing made by the fishery co-operatives in Maharashtra saved the members from exploitation. Several fishery co-operatives in the country are helping their member and their family members to the extent of providing complete marketing infrastructure for the sale of the catch at remunerative prices. But the fisheries Co-operative of Uttar Pradesh is not functioning up to desired level. So, the present study will generate information about Fishery Co-operatives in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Material and Methods

The present study was conducted in Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh. Hardoi district has 5 tehsils they are Hardoi, Shahabad, Sawayajpur, Bilgram and Sandila. These tehsils consist of 19 blocks, 191 Nyay panchayats, 1101 gram sabhas and 1983 revenue villages (1883 of them inhabitated). The district has seven nagar palika parisad (municipal boards) and six nagar panchayats.

This district belongs to Lucknow Commissionaire in Uttar Pradesh Province of India, it is situated in between 26-53 to 27-46 north latitude and 79-41 to 80-46 east longitude. Its north border touches Shahjahanpur district and Lakhimpur Kheri district. Hardoi is located at 110 km from Lucknow and 394 km from New Delhi. Unnao is situated at the southern border, the western border touches Kanpur and Farrukhabad district and on the eastern border the Gomati River separated the district from the Sitapur district. 'Nemisharayan, the pilgrim of Dwaper age' is just 45 km away from district headquarter. The Ganges and several of the tributaries are crossing the south of the Hardoi district. The one bird centaury situated in southern side of the district headquarter at the distance of 20 km. British people build-up a railway train line from Madhauganj to Sandi for hunting of birds. The major industry in this district is yeast-based fermentation industry which is situated at Sandila tehsil. The geographical area of this district is 5947 sq. km. the total population of this district is 40, 91,380 out of which 18, 87,116 are females and 22, 04264 are males.

There are 19 blocks in this district, out of nineteen, four blocks were selected by simple random sampling without replacement technique. The four blocks are Behandra, Kachhauna, Sandila and Tadiyanwa. Now there are 7 fishery co-operative societies in these blocks. Out of 7 co-operatives, one co-operative was not functioning so six fishery co-operatives were considered for the study. Each fishery co-operative society contains Head, as the apex body of the society, registrar, as accountant and members-as helpers in the fishery Co-operative society. Under the Behandra block comprises there are two fishery co-operatives they are Matsya Jivi Sahkari Samiti Limited, Ridhaway, it has 41 members and total pond area is 90 hectare and Meghnath Memorial Matsya Jivi Sahkari Samiti Limited, Padari, it has 30 members and total pond area is 50 ha.

Under the Kachhauna block, there are two fishery co-operatives each were selected for the study. These are Emalipur Patseni Matsya Jivi Sahkari Samiti Limited, Kachhauna, having 41 members and total pond area is 70 ha. and Matsya Jivi Sahkari Samiti Limited, Samaspur Mahri, having 24 members and total pond area is 11 ha. There is only one co-operative in the Sandila block, that is Matsya Jivi Sahkari Samiti Limited, Magra. It has 29 members and total pond area is 65 ha. The Matsya Jivi Sahkari Samiti Limited, Bhadayal comes under the block Tadiyanwa with 20 members and total pond area of 125 ha. So, all total 185 members of fishery co-operative societies constituted the sample of the study.

Results and discussions

Culture and captured fishery

Almost all the fishermen's co-operatives cultured similar type fish species. The most common type of cultured fish species are:

IMC: Bhakur (*Catla catla*), Rohu (*Labeo rohita*), Nain (*Cirrhinus mrigala*),

EMC: Silver carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), Grass carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)

Naturally economic fishes: *Wallago attu, Channa marulius, Channa punctatus, Channa gachua, Notopterus chitala, Mystus spp., Alia colia, Silonia silondia, Mastacenbelus armatus*

Weed fishes: *Puntius* spp., *Esomus danaricus, Oxigaster bacaila, Nemacheilus beavani, Colisa faciata*, etc.

Shailendra *et al.,* (2010) [13] also study on fish species.

Gears and crafts

The main gears used by six fishery co-operatives as given bellow: i. Cast net (jali); ii. Drag net (Chaundhi); iii. Kuriyar: Kuriyar net mainly used for catching of bottom dowelling fishes. In district Hardoi fish farmer used only one craft that is small wooden boat, locally called as 'Dongia'.

Socio-personal variables of respondents

Age

The age of respondents reveals that the majority of respondents *i.e.*, 61.62 per cent were middle aged, followed by 20 per cent were old and 18.38 per cent were young age groups. The mean is 44.17 and standard deviation is 14.17. Shailendra *et al*., (2010) found that the majority of respondents were involved (16-45 year) age more.

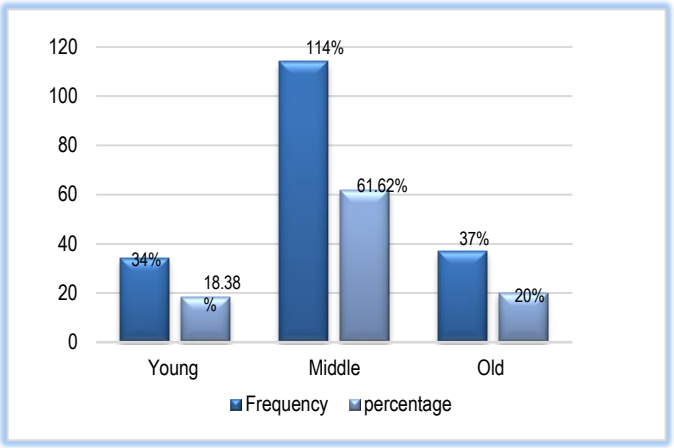

Fig-1 Graphical representation of age

Gender

Gender majority of respondents *i.e.,* 84.33 per cent were male and only 15.67 per cent were female. Shailenra *et.al*. (2010) found in his study that total members are 340 populations were 125 female and 215 male.

Caste

Cast of respondents, *i.e.,* 81.62 per cent were Kahar caste, followed by 5.42 per cent were Pasi caste, followed by 4.84 per cent were Chamar caste, followed by 3.25 percent Muslim caste, followed by 1.63 per cent were Thakur caste, followed by 1.63 per cent were dhobi caste, followed by 1.08 per cent were Bhurji caste and lower only 54 per cent were Brahmin caste. The same result conducted by Shailendra *et.al*. (2010). In the social organization of fishermen were found to belong to Kahar and Pasi caste following Hindu religion.

Graphical representation of caste

Family size

Tabl-2 reveals that the majority of respondents *i.e.,* 51.35 per cent were family size large more than five members and 48.65 per cent family size belonging from less than five members. Das (2004) found in his study that the majority of respondents (81.97%) were having medium size family consisting of 4-7 people.

Table-1 *Family size wise distribution of respondents (N=185)*

SN	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Small (up to 5)	90	48.65
2.	Large(>5)	95	51.35
Total		185	100

Educational status

Present study reveals that the majority of respondents *i.e.,* 52.43 per cent were illiterate education group, followed by 12.97 per cent were middle education group, followed by 9.73 per cent were higher secondary education group, followed by 9.17 per cent were primary education group, followed by 8.11 per cent were graduation group education, followed by 5.41 per cent were secondary group education, followed by 1.62 per cent were post graduate graduation group and only 0.54 percent were education read and write.

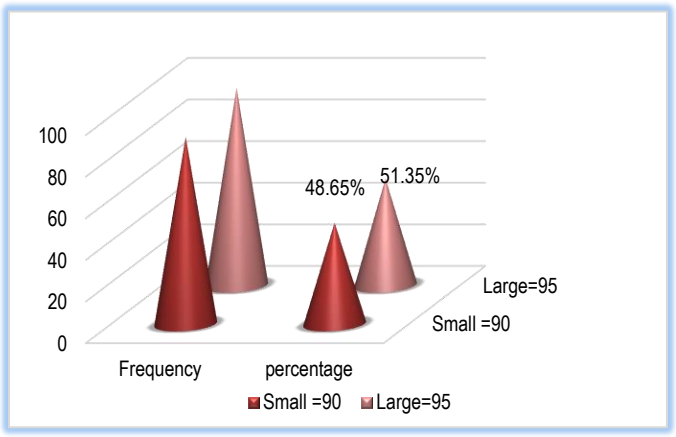

Fig-2 Graphical representation of Family Size

It can be observed from the result of the education status of the fish farmers from six fishery co-operative society's over all academic education is far from satisfactory and more fish farmer are illiterate while more have privileged to acquire education beyond school level. This incidentally goes to show that to farmer try to take education in school level and improve the education quality. Similar results are reported by Pounraj and Sripal (1997), Mahendra kumar (1996) [14], Gowda *et al*., (1991) [15], Mankar *et al*., (2000) [16]. The instant result of present study revealing that farmer belong to a low level of education have practical implications. The curriculum in result of scientist fish culture to be evolved for them need to be prepared according to the level of their understanding and comprehension and in consonance with their level of education.

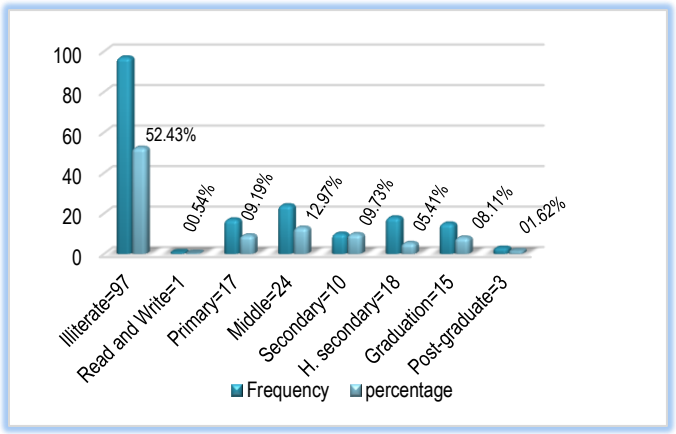

Fig-3 Graphical representation of Education

Socio-economic variables of respondents

Occupational Status

The occupation majority of respondents *i.e.,* 84.86 per cent were primary occupational status, followed by 9.73 per cent were secondary occupational status and only 5.41 per cent tertiary occupational status. Ghosh *et al*., (2004) [17] found same result in his study.

Income Status

The income of respondents, *i.e.,* 62.71 per cent were high income status followed by 29.72 per cent were middle income status and only 7.57 percent low income status. Shailendra *et al*., (2010) also studied on income.

Mass Media participation

Present study reveals that most respondents, *i.e.,* 56.76 per cent had low mass media participation, followed by 22.70 per cent who were middle mass media participation, and 20.54 per cent were having high mass media participation. The mean was found to be 30.47 and standard deviation is 6.87. The result of income found to be similar with those of Ghosh *et al*., (2004).

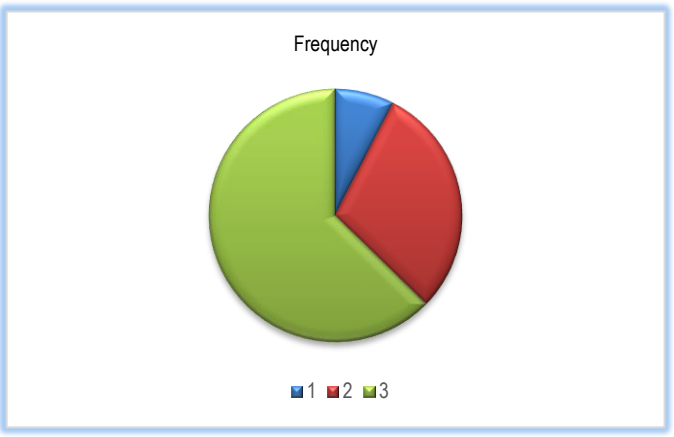

Fig-4 Graphical representation of Income of respondents

Extension Agency Contact

Present study reveals that most respondents, *i.e*., 45.40 per cent fish farmer were high extension agency contract, followed by 0.55 per cent fish farmer were middle extension agency contract and 14.05 per cent fish farmer were having high extension agency contract. The mean of extension agency contact is 8 and Standard Deviation is 1.4.

For the improvement of socio-economic status of fishery co-operatives members as well as dignity of the state Uttar Pradesh, the fishery co-operative is playing a prestigious role since independent era of our country. Fish production from Fishery co-operatives are increasing day by day. In the district Hadoi, the fishermen, who prosecute the fishery or belong to fishing families, must cope with intermediately for striving of their families' day to day need. the study reveals that the fishermen's Co-operative societies working in the Hardoi district are some successfully implementing their planning at local level and some co-operative are poor implementing their planning at local level, with proper guidance from government machinery of the district.

For the extra income generations, fisheries co-operative members are doing some extra activities with fish farming. Further, it can be told the FCS is one of the thrust areas for fisheries development. The concept of community participation in fisheries management can be put into action by involving the co-operative in decision-making process. Again, the Fishermen's Co-operative societies of the district have been discharging their social responsibilities with great interest.

Conclusion

For the improvement of socio-economic status of fishery co-operatives members as well as dignity of the state Uttar Pradesh, the fishery co-operative is playing a prestigious role since independent era of our country. Fish production from Fishery co-operatives are increasing day by day. In the district Hardoi, the fishermen, who prosecute the fishery or belong to fishing families, must cope with intermediately for striving of their families' day to day need. The study reveals that the fishermen's Co-operative societies working in the Hardoi district are some successfully implementing their planning at local level and some co-operative are poor implementing their planning at local level, with proper guidance from government machinery of the district. For the extra income generations, fisheries co-operative members are doing some extra activities with fish farming. Further, it can be told the FCS is one of the thrust areas for fisheries development.

Application of research: The concept of community participation in fisheries management can be put into action by involving the co-operative in decision-making process. Again, the Fishermen's Co-operative societies of the district have been discharging their social responsibilities with great interest.

Research Category: Fishery Extension

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University: ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sitamarhi, 843320, Bihar, India
Research project name or number: Research station study

Author Contributions: All authors equally contributed

Author statement: All authors read, reviewed, agreed and approved the final manuscript. Note-All authors agreed that- Written informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to publish / enrolment

Study area / Sample Collection: Hardoi District In Uttar Pradesh

Cultivar / Variety / Breed name: Bhakur (*Catla catla*), Rohu (*Labeo rohita*), Nain (*Cirrhinus mrigala*)

Conflict of Interest: None declared

Ethical approval: This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.
Ethical Committee Approval Number: Nil

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