



Research Article

BASELINE STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF FISH VENDORS AND CONSTRAINTS OF FISH MARKET IN LATUR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract: The present study revealed that majority of fish vendors (72.5%) sell fish quantity in the range of 15-20 kg of per day, followed by fish vendors (27.5%) 5-10 kg of fish per day. Maximum respondents were found with having annual income in between 50,000 to 1,00,000/- i.e., 22 (55%) followed by income level less than Rs.50,000/- i.e., 15 (37.5 %) and less respondents i.e., 03 (7.5 %) having above Rupees One Lakh annual income. Constraints faced by fish vendors were identified as high transportation cost, Unaffordable cost of ice and Lack of basic facilities like drinking water, power supply. In order to improve income level of fish vendors, it is necessary to provide financial assistance from Government in the form of subsidy on some inputs like ice, vehicles, storage facility. There is a need to provide technical knowledge about quality and safety of fish for human consumption to the fish vendors through training programme.

Keywords: Fish vendors, Socio-economics, Constraints

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Introduction

Fishery sector is an important sector and provides livelihoods to the millions of people in the country. Fish marketing is heterogeneous system with respects to its variety of species, size, weight, nutritional quality storage capacity and price. Fish selling has been a traditional occupation of under privileged people in the region which supports their livelihood. This activity mainly runs by men fish vendors. Very small women fish vendors are engaged with active participation. Fish is highly perishable product sold either in fresh condition or stored in ice and then sold in domestic market. The major problems associated with fish marketing are high perishability of product, bulkiness, high cost of storage it requires to preserve to maintain its shelf life [1]. Fish vendors procure the fish directly from landing center as well as from traders and whole sale market. These problems effects on livelihood of fish vendors. Fishery sector play a very important role in the economic activity of our country by its contribution to income, food and employment. The present study attempted to investigate socio-economic conditions and constraints of fish vendors in the Latur district of Maharashtra state. A pre-tested interview schedule was used for collection of the information from fish vendors. The demographic variables viz. age, education, family size, educational status, marital status, occupation, annual income. whereas market performance viz. transportation facility, availability of ice, basic facilities like drinking water, power supply, storage facilities and market information on price were studied from 40 fish vendors from randomly selected fish markets of Latur district. A market survey was conducted during December, 2022 to June of 2023 the data was collected. The data were analyzed statistically using descriptive statistics. The present study was conducted in District Latur which is located in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. It is one of the largest cities of the Marathwada region and Situated on the balaghat near the Maharashtra Karnataka state boundary. Manjara river is one of the major rivers of the District Latur.

Fisheries were mainly capture based till last decade. However, farmers of this region have adopted fish culture practices in farm ponds in recent years. Fish is sold in the nearby market as per the demand. There is no separate market for fish sale. A perusal of literature revealed that information available on socio-economic status of fish vendors and market performance is meager. Therefore present investigation was taken up to study the market performance social economic status and constraints faced by the fish vendors and its solution.

Material and Methods

The study was conducted during December, 2022 to May, 2023 in some randomly selected fish markets of Latur District. A list of fish vendors was prepared in the randomly selected market and proportionate random sampling technique was employed for 40 respondents during the study period. The demographic variables such age group, gender, education, family size, occupation, market performance, constraints of vendors were included in the questionnaire.

The data was analyzed statistically using descriptive statistics in terms of frequency & percentage to summarize the socio-economical condition. The constraints of vendors were identified and ranked by using Garret ranking Technique. The main objective was to study socio - economical characteristics of fish vendors of Latur district and the constraints faced by fish vendors in the fish market.

Review of Literature

The socio-economic status of fish vendors depends on number of factors such as family size, family income, health problems, no property, no security for job, lack of knowledge, lack of education and lack of income generation [2]. The low educational status, poor health, long hour of work & low income and saving made them more exhausted & under privileged.

Fish marketing is categorized by heterogeneous nature of the product with respect to the product with respect species, size weight, nutritional quality storage quality and price and Fish being highly perishable commodity requires proper preservation and storage to increase shelf life [3]. Other Socio-economic problem such as transportation & distance to point of Sale to final consumer have affected the quality & cost of fish product [4]. Vending is a profitable business contributing significantly to the economy and a kind of self-employment that reduces the country's unemployment rate. Vendor education and appropriate sanitary measures would improve the quality of their goods [5].

The domestic fish marketing plays an important role, it is still highly unorganized and unregulated [6]. Like other States of India, the markets of most of the places of Maharashtra have been found lacking in infrastructure and inadequate storage facilities in the fish marketing, which will not only reduce supply demand, but will also reduce in revenue. Therefore, the whole sale fish markets are profitable can be attained by the vendors, if attentions are given to the problems identified by the respondents.

The involvement of several marketing intermediaries, which reduces producer's share in consumer's rupee and reduces marketing efficiency could be minimized by evolving a cooperative fish marketing system with proper price monitoring system in the market yard as suggested by Das *et al.* (2013) [7].

According to Kumar and Pandey (2014) [8] for the improvement of the socio-economic condition of fisherman community and to achieve sustainable utilization of resources for fisheries development, optimum production of fish from water bodies, employment generation, availability of protein rich food, appropriate planning and strategies are of utmost importance.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic characteristics of fish vendors

The socio-economic status of vendors is presented in [Table-1]. The result of the study revealed that fish trading was carried out by both men as well as women, whereas women is contributing minimum role in the fish vending. Age group plays an important role for participation in various activities. The results of study revealed that minimum respondents were in the age range of 21-30 followed whereas remaining age groups are having similar percentage *i.e.*, 30%. Pandey *et al.* (2014) reported that majority of respondents belonged to 31-40 years of age group in their study. Distribution of respondents according to family type revealed that 50 per cent respondent belonged to >7 members in family followed by 25 % belong to 5-7 members, and remaining 25 % belong to >5member. It means that joint families were more in number than nuclear families. Similar findings were observed by Verma *et al.* (2015) [9]. The majority of the respondents would have access to people, who can assist in carrying out their marketing activities, thereby increasing their opportunity of having improved revenue.

Table-1 Socio-economic characteristics of fish vendors of Latur district

Variable	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	36	90
	Female	4	10
Age group	21- 30	4	10
	31-40	12	30
	41-50	12	30
	51-60	12	30
Family size	<5	10	25
	05-Jul	10	25
	>7	20	50
Education status	Illiterate	5	12.5
	Primary school	11	27.5
	High school	12	30
	Higher education	12	30
Marital status	Married	40	100
Occupation	Sole Fish vendors	28	70
	Fish vendors + labor	4	10
	Fish vendors + driver	2	5
	Fish vendors + farmer	6	15
Annual Income	Less than Rs. 50,000	15	37.5
	Rs. 50,000 to 1,00,000	22	55
	More than Rs. 1,00,000	3	7.5

The distribution of respondents according to educational level revealed that all the respondents were (87.5%) literate and illiterate 12.5 %. Their levels of education were same in higher secondary (30%), junior high school (30%), primary level education (29%) and senior secondary and above level education (1.5%). The results of marital status of vendors showed 100 per cent of respondents were married. Occupational pattern, most of the respondents had fish vending major occupation. Majority of respondents *i.e.*, 28 (70%) are engaged in sole fish vending occupation as source of income, followed by 6 (15 %) respondents are engaged in fish vending with agriculture farming, 4 respondents (10 %) are engaged in fish vending with labor occupation, 2 respondents (5 %) are engaged in fish vending with driving occupation to meet their family expenses.

Table-2 Common fish species available in the market and their prices

SN	Fish species (common name)	Rate of fish/kg
1	Catla	80-150
2	Rohu	90-140
3	Mrigala	100
4	Common carp	130
5	Tilapia	110
6	Murrel	270-450
7	Pangus	70-120

Table-3 Constraints faced by fish vendors in fish market

Constraints faced by fish vendors	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
High transportation cost	40	100	1
Unaffordable cost of ice	39	97.5	2
Lack of basic facilities like drinking water, power supply	38	95	3
Poor sanitation in market	35	87.5	4
Inadequate storage facilities	34	85	5
Irregular supply of good quality and variety of fish	32	80	6
Lack of market information on price	28	70	7

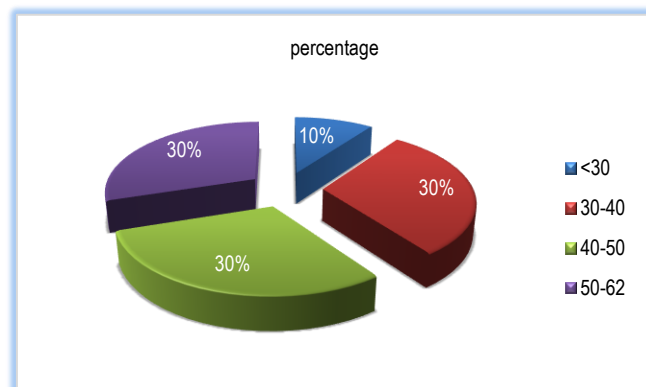


Fig-1 Status of Age group

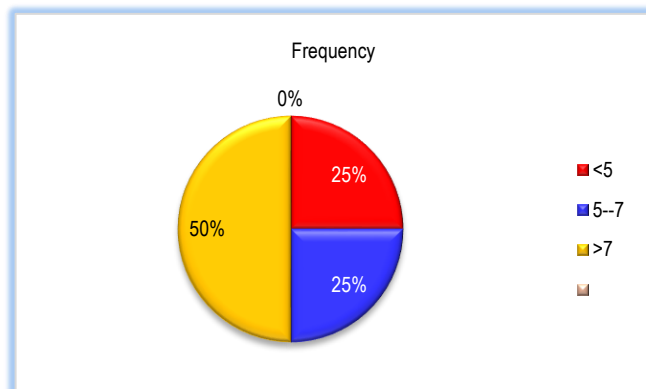


Fig-2 Status of Family size

The fish vendors have faced many marketing related constraints, which are presented in Table 3. In the present study, total 7 constraints were identified and ranked by using Garret ranking Technique. The major constraints faced by vendors during study were high transportation cost, unaffordable cost of ice, Lack of basic facilities like drinking water, power supply, lack of market information on price, poor sanitation in fish market, inadequate storage facilities,

irregular supply of good quality and variety of fish species. Similar findings such as lack of infrastructure and inadequate storage facilities were observed in studies conducted by Verma *et. al.* (2015).

Conclusion

Fish vending activities provides employment and livelihood to millions of people including women. Fish vending also play an important role in improving standard for rural people and their family. Fish vendors are main components in the system and helps in enhancing national economy and contributes in supplying nutritional food to the society. In spite of their crucial role, the living standards of these fish vendors are not satisfactory due to low-income level as well as less attention given by the Government.

Fish markets of Latur district have been found lacking in infrastructure and inadequate storage facilities, which does not only affect supply and demand, but also adversely affects on revenue. In view of the significance to improve the socio-economic condition of fisherman community and to overcome the problem of fish vendors appropriate planning and strategies are of most importance. More attentions are to be given towards the problems of fish vendors by providing financial assistance in the form of vehicle, subsidized rate on ice, storage facility. However more awareness and motivation are required on the importance of maintenance of hygiene and sanitation in fish markets which aims at increase in demand of quality fish by the consumers ultimately more income to the fish vendors.

Application of research: Study of socio-economical conditions of fish vendors and fish market in Latur District of Maharashtra

Research Category: Fisheries Extension

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Study area / Sample Collection: Latur district, Maharashtra, India

Breed name: Fish

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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