

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## A Study towards Positive Approach of ITK and Changing Socio-Economic of Fisherwomen for Fisheries Development

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### ABSTRACT

Rural women role is important in freshwater aquaculture for development of fisheries because India vast and varied inland fisheries resources potentially one of the richest in the world. In the process of rural development especially fish farming has acquired special significance in the context if economic growth in rapidly changing socio-economic and socio-cultural climates both in developed and developing countries. Women are equally endowed with motivation and managerial capabilities in starting and running. The participation of fisherwomen in fisheries is well established and highlighted by several workers. The fisherman plays an important role in culture fisheries and they contribute about 43.54 % work in fish farming i.e. pond management practices, net making & care, post harvest techniques for smoked fish, trapa cultivation, and marketing of fishes. Results of study gave emphasis to train the fisherwomen as per their training needs, to increase knowledge, adoption and attitude about fish farming. The need of the hour is to utilize various development schemes for evolving profitable fish culture techniques, which can generate self-employment for rural women.

**Key words:** Fisheries, Fisherwomen, Fish culture practices, Socio-economic status.

### INTRODUCTION

The participation of fisherwomen in fisheries is well established and highlighted by several workers. In Madhya Pradesh also, women play an important role alongwith men in fish farming, several reports revealed that the reasonability of fisheries is almost completely shouldered by women in this state. On Survey it was found that the women have more practical knowledge and active participation in fish culture practices alongwith their spouses. Therefore, keeping in view certain unique factors of the state like associate to her work for economic increasing, small land holding, less mechanization. And also if women were given proper education and training in the field they can be of much help to improve their socio-economic status.

The present study has been carried by taking following Objective in account-

1. To understand the socio- economic profile of the fisherwomen.
2. To study the level of knowledge, adoption of indigenous traditional technical knowledge in post harvest of fish and attitude towards composite fish culture of fisherwomen.
3. To understand the reasons for the Trapa - cum - fish farming by fisherwomen.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh. Out of 9 development blocks of the district, 3 blocks were randomly selected. The list of

fisherwomen was prepared, from the list, 25 fisherwomen were selected as respondents with the help of equal interval method of random sampling. An exploratory research design was used in the investigation and the data were collected by personal interviewed method with the help of structured interview schedule. The collected data were analysed and interpreted in view of objectives of the study.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 1. Socio - economic profile of fisherwomen-

The study revealed that about 44 per cent of the fisherwomen were from middle age group categories followed by young & old age groups, seventy six percent of the women came from backward class followed by scheduled caste and scheduled tribe.

**Table 1: Personal & socio - economic status of fisherwomen.**

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
<b>(A) PERSONNEL</b>				
(1)	Age	(a) Young (upto 35 yrs)	08	32.00
		(b) Middle (35 to 50 yrs)	11	44.00
		(c) Old (above 50yrs)	06	24.00
(2)	Education	(a) illiterate	14	56.00
		(b) can read & write	05	20.00
		(c) upto primary	05	20.00
		(d) Middle	01	04.00
		(e) Upto higher secondary	Nil	Nil
		(f) Graduate & above	Nil	Nil
(3)	Caste	(a) General	Nil	Nil
		(b) Other Backward Class (OBC)	19	76.00
		(c) SC	05	20.00
		(d) ST	01	04.00
(4)	Family Type	(a) Nuclear	21	84.00
		(b) Joint	04	14.00
(5)	Family Size	(a) Small family (upto 4)	11	44.00
		(b) Big family (5 & above)	14	56.00
<b>(B) SOCIO-ECONOMIC</b>				
(6)	Occupation	(a) Trapa-cum-fishfarming	16	64.00
		(b) Agriculture	02	08.00
		(c) Dairy	03	12.00
		(d) Fishermen (only netting)	14	56.00
(7)	Size of land holding	(a) Landless	23	92.00
		(b) Marginal (upto 1Ha.)	02	08.00
		(c) Small (upto 2 Ha.)	Nil	Nil
		(d) Gig (More than 2 Ha.)	Nil	Nil
(8)	Farm power & Implementations	(a) Boats	08	32.00
		(b) All nets	25	100.0
		(c) Tube well	Nil	Nil
(9)	Farm experience	(a) Low (Upto 5 yrs)	Nil	Nil
		(b) Medium (upto 10 yrs)	04	16.00
		(c) High (15 yrs & above)	21	84.00
(10)	Annual income	(a) Low (upto 25,000/-)	16	64.00
		(b) Medium (Rs. 25,000 to 50,000/-)	16	64.00
		(c) High (Above 50,000/-)	02	12.00

Majority of the fisherwomen belonged to nuclear family (84.00 %), and had big size families (56.00 %). The average family size was five members and having Trapa-cum-fish farming as major occupation (64.00 %). Regarding the size of land holding, 92 percent of the respondents were landless and 56 percent were illiterate.

In the case of farm power and implements majority were having all types of net and boats (88.00 %), followed by cool box and tube well and high level of farm experience (84.00 %). The annual income of respondents were medium income group Rs. 25,000 to 50,000/- (64.00 %). The findings indicate that the respondents had fairly satisfactory economic status as majority of them were engaged in other occupations also, besides fisheries.

## 2. Knowledge of fisherwomen

Knowledge level of the fisherwomen showed that a good majority (52.00 %) of the fisherwomen had medium knowledge level followed by low and high knowledge level about the composite fish culture practices. Almost all the respondents were having knowledge about the composite fish culture practices but to the varying degree. This may be attributed to their needs, interest and other environmental factors.

**Table 2: Distribution of fisherwomen according to the level of knowledge of Composite Fish Culture practices.**

S. N	Level of knowledge of fisherwomen	Number of Respondents (n-25)	%
1	Low (Score upto 5)	05	20.00
2	Medium (Score from 6 to 15)	13	52.00
3	High (Score 16 & above)	07	28.00

## 3. Adoption of traditional practices of post harvest related technologies of fish farming

The study further revealed that 64.00 percent fisherwomen had adopted indigenous traditional technical knowledge in post harvest of fishes at medium level category, while 24.00 and 12.00 percent high and low adoption categories, respectively. The possible reason for medium and fell in low level of adoption might be lack of skill in operating the available practices and financial constraints.

**Table 3: Distribution of fisherwomen according to the level of adoption of indigenous traditional technical knowledge in post harvest of fish**

S. N	Level of Adoption of fisherwomen	Number of Respondents (n-25)	%
1	Low (Score upto 5)	03	12.00
2	Medium (Score from 6 to 11)	16	64.00
3	High (Score 12 & above)	06	24.00

## 4. Extend of adoption

The categorization of smoked fisherwomen according to extent of adoption of smoked fish production in Table- 1 shows that 72.00 percent of the smoked fisherwomen found to have adopted practices of smoking to high extent,

**Table 4: Distribution of fisherwomen according to their level of adoption of indigenous or traditional practices of smoking of fishes**

S N	Level of Adoption	Number of Respondents (n-25)	%
1	Low (Score upto 3)	03	12.00
2	Medium (Score from 4 to 7)	04	16.00
3	High (Score 8 & above)	18	72.00

Only 12.00 percent of them were found to be low adopters. It may further be noted that 16.00 percent of smoked growers were found to be medium adopters.

## [II] Reasons perceived by fisherwomen towards post harvest works of fish processing

It is Taste and medicine uses of smoked fishes (100.00 %) was the most important reason that completed the fisherwomen to continue adoption of indigenous of traditional practices of smoking of fishes. The other reasons for were parental occupation (84.00 %), poor economic condition (76.00 %), market is suitable for smoked (92.00 %), long distance of harvesting between trapa and fish (72.00 %) a good occupation, do not fee education as important (60.00 %), high return, as a cash crop and provide employment to farm families. As much as 84.00 % of fisherwomen were aware about physical, chemical and biological control measures. Over half of the respondents had knowledge of chemical control measures against sucking pests, insect and worms. High percentage of respondents



**Adoption of Fisherwomen towards smoked fish practices**



Traditional method through their ITK for smoked fish

**Fig.1: Adoption methods**

**Table 5: Distribution of fisherwomen according the reasons behind not leaving the Trapa cultivation**

Sr. No.	Reasons	Number of Respondents (n-25)	%
1.	Poor economic condition	19	76.00
2.	Market is suitable for smoked fish	23	92.00
3.	Parental occupation	21	84.00
4.	Long distance of harvesting between Trapa & fish	18	72.00
5.	Do not feel education as important	15	60.00
6.	Taste and medicine uses of smoked fishes	25	100.00
7.	High return (Cash crops) & maximum employment to farm families	15	60.00
8.	Physical. Chemical & Biological control measures	21	84.00
9.	Best quantity & quality of local fishes easy available	23	92.00
10.	Lack of knowledge about, management of fish pond, disease & training regarding - fisheries	22	88.00

possessed knowledge about biological control measure like use of Trapa and local fish. Lack of knowledge about management of fish pond, disease identification and control were the areas wherein fisherwomen needed training.

## CONCLUSION

The study concludes that the maximum fisherwomen were of middle age group, had medium level of education, backward class and belonged to nuclear family. Trapa -cum- fish was their main occupation. They had big family size and possessed had all types of net and boat as the main source of farm power and implements. Respondents had medium knowledge, medium adoption and favourable attitude toward composite fish culture of fisherwomen

The findings of the present study indicated that majority of the fisherwomen were high adopters of recommended traditional smoked technology. Efforts on the part of extension agency are required by way of organization guideline, training and demonstration for motivating and considering fisherwomen in adoption of recent traditional technology to maximize the production and increase the profit. Lack of knowledge and technical guidance about use of growth regulator for fish culture and lack of knowledge about treatment of fish disease, expensive nature of chemical, preservatives and ice were the major reasons for adopting traditional practices by smoked fisherwomen. So as to increase the use of growth regulators and fish protection/disease measures, the extension agency should impart technical knowledge by organizing training and visited, advisory service with provide timely guidance to the fisherwomen.

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