

Abstract

In most of the developed and developing countries, fishing is an important sector from the viewpoint of income and employment. Fishing industry also supports some income generator professions such as processing of fishing boats, refrigeration and ice making, gear and equipment manufacturers and transport services. It also provides protein-rich food, several items for sell like fish meal, fish oil, fish scales, fish manure etc. There are two types of fisheries such as marine fisheries and inland fisheries which can be categorized as capture and culture fisheries. In spite of the development of the fisheries sectors, the fishermen community lives in a low status in society. Various elements like low economic status, poor social conditions, illiteracy, use of traditional fishing equipment and methods of fishing low production rate and income affect the socio-economic conditions of fishermen. Therefore, socio-economic progress of fishermen is important for proper development of the fishing industry in India

Purposes

This thesis attempts to evaluate the information practices of fisherwomen community in coastal area of South 24 pgs District. The main purpose of this study is to identify the basic information needs of the fisherwomen and find out the appropriate sources of information.

Methodology

In this study, the survey method is adopted. The survey is done in the coastal area of South 24 Parganas district. It involves asking questions to the respondents face to face in depth interview with the help of questionnaire, conducted by the researcher. As, the survey of whole population under any study is often impossible, then sampling is a technique used. Among 29 blocks in this district, only 14 blocks (Basanti, Canning 1, Canning 2, Mathurapur 2, Diamond Harbour 1, Diamond Harbour 2, Falta, Gosaba, Kakdwip, Kulpi, Kultali, Namkhana, PatharPratima and Sagar) have coastal area. Only these 14 blocks are selected for this study. The respondents from each are proportionally selected according to their total population. With the help of Microsoft Office Excel 2007 software, the data collected through the questionnaire is arranged. This data is also analyzed by various conventional statistical tools like figures, tables, percentages and chi-square test.

Findings

The findings of this study reveal about the sex, age group, religion, marital status, type of family, level of education and monthly income of the fishermen community in this region. It also focuses on that the educational status of fisherwomen is very low. The respondents' age group and their marital status also indicate that child marriage is a more common incident among the fisherwomen community. It also shows that monthly income of the fisherwomen community is very low. For that, they often borrow money from various sources. This study also investigates the various types of information needs such as technical, climatic, environmental, economic and so on. Also the different type of information sources used by the fishermen also describe here.

Keywords

Information needs, Information practices, Fishermen, Fisherwomen, Fishing, South 24 Pgs, Coastal area.