

"SAVING PATTERN AMONG THE FISHERMEN COMMUNITY IN THOOTHUKUDI CITY"

Ebziba.S, Reg. No. 21112011012003, Ph.D Research Scholar (Part Time), Research Centre: PG & Research Department of Commerce, A.P.C. Mahalaxmi College for Women, Thoothukudi affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. Email: theresebzbibha@gmail.com

Dr.T.Chellammal, Assistant Professor of Commerce, A.P.C. Mahalaxmi College for Women, Thoothukudi affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. Email:chellachella98@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

The present study related to the saving pattern among fishermen community in Thoothukudi city of Tamilnadu, India. The study was conducted to understand the various saving methods and reasons influencing saving behaviour among fishermen community. The research methodology involved a survey of 150 fishermen in the current study. The results of the study revealed that the majority of the fishermen saved their money through informal means such as investing in gold, saving in physical container and investing in real estate (or) property. The study also found that the main reasons for saving among fishermen were for my family's needs and expenses, financial cushion during periods of low fish catch or poor weather conditions, emergencies, unexpected events and health related expenses. Challenges such as unexpected expenses, unpredictable fishing seasons (or) weather, being in debt to have a significant impact on saving behaviour. The study suggests that the government and non-government organizations should provide more opportunities for the fishermen to engage in alternative source of income and provide them with training on entrepreneurship and financial management. The findings of the study can help policymakers and financial institutions to promote additional savings and financial inclusion among the fishermen community in Thoothukudi city.

Keywords: Fishermen, savings, financial institutions and income

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

The fishing community is a significant portion of the people that depends on the ocean for their livelihood. Fishermen make up one of the largest coastal populations in India. Income volatility, which is a major issue for the fishing industry due to a variety of factors such as shifting fish prices, natural disasters, and other issues. As a result, the fishing community has created a number of coping mechanisms, including savings. One of the most crucial coping mechanisms the fishing sector uses to lessen the impact of the difficulties is saving. Savings is essential to the fishermen's way of life, just like it is to any other community, as it enables them to manage their finances during the off-season and in times of emergency. Yet, nothing is known about the saving habits of the Thoothukudi city fishermen. Consequently, the study's goal is to look into the savings habits, motivations, and strategies of the fishing business. With the ultimate goal of offering concrete advice for enhancing the fishermen community's saving behaviour, the study's findings are anticipated to contribute to our understanding of their financial behaviour.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

In India fishermen faces several challenges in terms of their savings patterns. Despite being a major contributor to the local economy, the fishermen community has limited access to formal financial institutions leading to a reliance on informal savings methods such as group savings, money leaders and chit funds. The lack of financial literacy and awareness among the community also leads to sub optimal savings behavior. Many fishermen solely rely on fishing as their primary source of income, which can be unpredictable due to weather conditions, market prices and other factors beyond their control. This reliance on fishing also limits their ability to diversify their income and build long-term financial security. Additionally, the erratic nature of fishing activities coupled with the absence of social security measures, make it difficult for the fishermen community to save and plan for the future. Therefore, this study is how to promote effective savings behavior among fishermen community in Thoothukudi city through tailored interventions that take in to account their unique circumstances and challenges.

1.3 OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ To access the existing savings behavior and methods of the fishermen community in Thoothukudi city.
- ✓ To examine the main reasons for saving among the fishermen community.
- ✓ To understand the challenges and barriers to accessing formal financial institutions in fishermen community.

1.4 REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Firwan Wan Tan et al., (2021)¹ conducted research on methods for enhancing the livelihoods of fishermen in the coastal region of Indonesia. Their financial situation was the main subject of the study. The study's key data sources included field observations, survey methods, and in-depth interviews with a group of fishermen. The findings indicated that there is an abundance of marine resources, but the economic situation of fishermen is not what was anticipated. This is because their income from fishing is insufficient to meet the daily needs of their families due to low catching productivity and the low price of raw fish. According to this study, the government should give people the chance to learn new ways to meet their financial demands. The study came to the final conclusion that the two strategies policies have a reciprocal relationship that has both practical and social implications. Institutional and entrepreneurial innovations are two groundbreaking strategic policies that this study successfully offers to help fishermen's economic conditions.

D.A.K.J.O Arch et al., (2019)² a study conducted on the savings and investment habits of the fishermen's community in Nagapattinam Town, Tamil Nadu, was discussed. The goal of this study is to learn more about the community of fishermen's savings and investment habits. 100 fishermen in Nagapattinam town's coastline area provided for the data. The sample was gathered using a straightforward random sampling technique in order to analyse the savings and investing patterns. According to the report, they spend money on fishing gear and unplanned expenses. The report advised people to take actions to increase their income and cut their spending in order to achieve a socioeconomically balanced society. The researcher came to the final conclusion that the fishermen should be encouraged to pursue proper education in order to manage their finances and lead fulfilling lives.

1.5 METHODOLOGY:

To identify the savings pattern on the fishermen community in Thoothukudi city, a simple random sampling was chosen. Primary data was collected from 150 respondents via the interview method by distributing a structured questionnaire. Secondary data is gathered from articles, journals, magazines, websites, and pamphlets. To improve their savings pattern, the data is analysed using statistical tools such as Garrett ranking and descriptive statistics.

1.6 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

1.6.1 GARETT RANKING TECHNIQUES:

Garrett Ranking technique is used to ranking the methods used for saving money among fishermen community and asked to rank the factors by 150 respondents.

Table 1

Ranking the methods used for savings in fishermen community

Factors	Total	Average	Rank
Saving money through bank account	7,645	50.96	IV
Investing money in Insurance (or) other financial instruments	5,283	35.22	VII
Saving money in physical container	8,977	59.84	II
Saving money in chit funds	5,862	39.08	VI
Investing in gold (or) other metals	9,177	61.18	I
Investing money in relatives (or) neighbourhood	7,223	48.15	V
Investing money in real estate (or) property	8,033	53.55	III

Source: Primary data

Inference:

On the basis of the ranks assigned by the 150 respondents the method for choosing to save money in fishermen community through Garrett ranking techniques. It is evident from the above table reveals that Investing in gold (or) other metals have the mean score (61.18) was the mostly used method to save the money followed by physical container, Real estate (or) property, Through bank, Relatives (or) Neighbourhood, chit funds and Insurance.

1.6.2 DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS:**REASON FOR SAVING MONEY IN FISHERMEN COMMUNITY:**

Descriptive statistics is used to describe the basic reason for saving the money towards fishing industry. Table 2 consists of overall reason marked by the respondents.

Table 2
Descriptive statistics for saving money in fishermen community

S.No	Reason	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
1	Saving money helps me to prepare for unexpected events (or) emergencies related to my fishing business.	150	3.54000	1.277739
2	I save money to purchase new or upgraded fishing equipment that can improve my catch and increase my income.	150	2.9133	1.02935
3	Saving money allows me to have a financial cushion during periods of low fish catch or poor weather conditions.	150	4.0500	0.76125
4	I save money to invest in other income generating activities that can supplement my earnings as a fishermen.	150	2.8933	1.11215
5	Saving money provides me with a sense of security and peace of mind.	150	3.4000	1.15276
6	I save money to provide for my family's needs and expenses.	150	4.9933	0.03947
7	Saving money helps me achieve long term financial goals, such as purchasing a house.	150	3.0933	1.19477
8	I save money to pay for my children's education or future expenses.	150	3.1533	1.07900
9	Saving money allows me to avoid borrowing money at high-interest rates during times of financial need.	150	2.8800	1.15230
10	I save money to build up my reputation and creditworthiness as a responsible and reliable borrower.	150	3.1733	1.11576
11	Saving money helps me reduce financial stress and anxiety related to my fishing business.	150	3.0667	1.18529

12	I have money to support my community and contribute to local development initiatives.	150	2.8933	1.21039
13	Saving money allows me to plan for retirement and secure my financial future.	150	3.1000	1.13368
14	I save money to pay for health care expenses or other unexpected personal expenses	150	4.1800	0.81981
15	Saving money helps me maintain financial independence and control over my business and personal finances.	150	3.8533	1.23368
	Valid N (list wise)	150		

Source: Primary data

Inference:

Table 2 shows the mean score for the reason why we saving money in fishing industry for my family's needs and expenses has the highest mean score (4.9933) followed by the financial cushion during periods of low fish catch or poor weather conditions, Pay for health care expenses or other unexpected personal expenses, maintain financial independence and control over my business and personal finances, for unexpected events (or) emergencies related to my fishing business, provides me with a sense of security and peace of mind, build up my reputation, pay for my children's education or future expenses, plan for retirement and secure my financial future, helps me achieve long term financial goals, such as purchasing a house, helps me reduce financial stress, purchase new or upgraded fishing equipment, my earnings as a fishermen and support my community, avoid borrowing money.

1.6.3 PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS:

CHALLENGES (OR) BARRIERS FOR NOT ABLE TO SAVE MONEY IN FISHERMEN COMMUNITY:

Percentage analysis is appropriate when it is important to know how many of the participants gave a particular answer. Generally percentage is reported when the responses have discrete categories. Table 3 consists of percentage analysis marked by the respondents for not able to save money among fishing industry.

Table 3

Table showing challenges/Barriers among fishermen community

S.No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Inconsistent (or) unstable fishing income	27	18
2	Unexpected expenses (or) emergencies	32	22
3	High cost of fishing equipment	15	10
4	unpredictable weather conditions (or) fishing seasons and natural disaster.	53	35
5	Due to debt (or) borrowing money from others	17	11
6	Lack of financial literacy(or) knowledge	6	4
	Total	150	100

Source: Primary data

Inference:

From the above table reveals that most of the people said that unpredictable weather conditions (or) fishing seasons and natural disaster are the barriers for not able to save their money in fishing industry.

1.7 FINDINGS:

- Through Garrett ranking techniques it is assigned that Investing in gold (or) other metals was the best method to save money for future scenario.
- In fishing industry mostly fishermen prefer to save money for her family's needs and expenses have the highest mean score.
- The challenges related to savings such as unpredictable weather conditions (or) fishing seasons and natural disaster are the main challenges faced by the fishermen for unable to save the money for their future use.

1.8 SUGGESTIONS:

Based on the findings related to the savings pattern in the fishermen community in Thoothukudi city, the following suggestions could be made to improve their savings behavior:

- Conducting financial literacy programs to educate fishermen about different savings options and investment opportunities can be helpful in improving their savings pattern.
- Encouraging fishermen to save their money in formal financial institutions such as banks and credit unions can help them to earn interest on their savings and also protect their savings from theft or other unexpected expenses.
- Promoting group savings can help fishermen to save money collectively and leverage their savings for investment opportunities that may not have been possible individually.
- The challenges related to savings such as unpredictable weather conditions (or) fishing seasons, natural disaster, Unexpected expenses (or) emergencies, Inconsistent (or) unstable fishing income, are need to be addressed through financial education programs and providing insurance coverage to overcome from challenges.

1.9 CONCLUSION:

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the main reason for savings among the fishermen community in Thoothukudi city is to cope with providing my savings for my family's needs and expenses. The fishermen are aware of the risks associated with their profession and the possibility of a decline in their income due to various factors such as unpredictable weather conditions (or) fishing seasons and natural disasters. Therefore they consider savings as a vital mean of sustaining their livelihoods during lean periods. Fishermen rely on informal methods such as investing in gold, lending money to relatives (or) neighbourhood, saving in physical container. Only a small percentage of fishermen use formal methods such as chit funds, insurance, bank deposits which indicates a lack of awareness and access to formal financial services. It is important to promote formal financial services and educate fishermen on their benefits including safety and higher returns to encourage them to adopt formal methods for savings. Therefore, there is a need for interventions that focus on increasing access to formal financial services, promoting financial literacy and education and developing community based savings programs. By addressing these challenges, it is possible to improve the financial well being of the fishermen community and help them achieve their financial goals.

REFERENCE:

1. Firwan Wan Tan, Lisanesti, Efayonnedi and Endrizal Ridwal (2021), Strategy to improve economic conditions of fishermen living in the coastal area in kabupaten pesisisselatan (Indonesia), Journal of business and socio economic development, volume 3, Issue 1. ISSN:2635-1374/27 sep 2021.
2. D.A.K.J.O Arch , Economics (2019), Savings and Investment pattern of fishermen community in NagapattinamTown, Tamilnadu. Corpus ID 203687466.

WEBLIOGRAPHY:

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/JBSED-02-2021-0019/full/html>

[https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/SAVING-AND-INVESTMENT-PATTERNS-OF-FIHERMEN-\(With-Arch/e8a655226cebadd6cfa04609dcb191ab618696](https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/SAVING-AND-INVESTMENT-PATTERNS-OF-FIHERMEN-(With-Arch/e8a655226cebadd6cfa04609dcb191ab618696)

<http://www.academia.edu/resource/work/37452848>

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329029361-Consumption-and-saving-patterns-in-the-households-of-an-urban-settings-A-special-reference-to-fishermen-community.](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329029361-Consumption-and-saving-patterns-in-the-households-of-an-urban-settings-A-special-reference-to-fishermen-community)

[https://www.cppr.in/centre-for-comparative-studies/study-on-consumption-and-saving-patterns.](https://www.cppr.in/centre-for-comparative-studies/study-on-consumption-and-saving-patterns)

<https://www.paragraphbuzz.com/the-life-of-fishermen-paragraph>