

## Information urgency of Fishermen of Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore Coastal Districts of Andhra Pradesh

**Kondala Rao B.**

Research Scholar

Department of Library & Information Science

Sri Venkateswara University

Tirupati - 517502 Andhra Pradesh

**Dr. Surendra Babu K.**

Librarian i/c

University Library

Sri Venkateswara University

Tirupati - 517502 Andhra Pradesh

***Abstract** - The purpose of this research is to identify the information urgency of fisherman in Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore Coastal Districts of Andhra Pradesh. The paper use quantitative approach by distributing the questionnaire to collect the data. Since some of the fishermen were illiterate, researchers then assisted the fishermen to fill the questionnaire by reading out the without influencing the responses. The questionnaires were distributed to 350 males members of the small scale traditional fishermen community. The result show that fishermen in villages on fellow fishermen as their main source of information. It is found that among 222 respondents, majority 31.08% of them are young adultery age between 31-40 years. The highest 54.95% of the respondents are illiterate, they do not education. Majority 16.67% of them getting information through mobile phone, 14.41% of them getting information through Radio, 13.96% Relative, family elders, friends, 13.06% of them getting through television channel. Further research in this area on a larger scale needed to be conducted, to have a comprehensive description of information needs of coastal fishermen of Andhra Pradesh.*

**Keywords:** Information, Information Needs, Fishing industry, Fishermen, Coastal Communities, Technology, Andhra Pradesh

### Introduction

Man has right to acquire information. If such information is not provided, the consequences can be dangerous. Information has great value in the present day's complex economic and social environment. Information is required in every field of human activity. A housewife requires information on the availability and the price of household items, a farmer needs information on climatic conditions, seeds and marketing and so on. Fisherman needs information on different kinds of fishing, storage of fishes, their marketing, climatic conditions etc. If such information is provided to them at the right time, they will take right decisions. Fisher (fisherman) plays an important role in Indian economy.

Among the other maritime states of India, Andhra Pradesh state is endowed with a long coast line of 974 Kms with a continental shelf area of 33,227 Sq. kms. There are about 1,63,427

families comprising 6.5 lakhs fisher folk population in 555 fishermen villages and 349 fish landing centres scattered in 9 coastal districts according to fisheries profile of Andhra Pradesh. There are 9 districts that has coastline and all of them fall under Coastal Andhra region of Andhra Pradesh. They are Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, and Nellore. Several factors such as low social status, poor economic conditions, illiteracy, leaning on middlemen, traditional fishing equipments and methods of fishing, low production rate and income influence the socio-economic conditions of fishermen

Fishery information is a very important constituent for the development of fishermen especially marketing of fishes and location of fishes etc. Large number of fishermen are not getting adequate information regarding to their fishing sector, Government schemes, weather, marketing of fish etc., due to their illiteracy, poverty and other factors. Generally, fishermen have low caste status. They are classified as "backward class" and belongs to the socially and economically weaker section of the population. The fishing villages are to a large extent geographically isolated; adequate fishery infrastructure facilities, road transportation communication and sufficient fresh water supplies are lacking. The standards of housing is usually very low a fact aggravated by frequent fires and cyclones. These condition should be improved by providing right information on the above aspects to fishermen for leading good healthy life.

It is estimated that over 6.5 lakhs full-time fishers at present depend on marine fisheries for their livelihoods. It is very important to understand and improve the socioeconomic conditions of these fisher communities and create awareness among them of the need for conservation and management of resources by providing adequate information. Hence surveys on fishermen are to be undertaken to assess their economic conditions and social problems, and to come up with measures for improving their living standards..

### **Review of literature**

Ifeanyichukwu Faith Njoku, (2004). The study examined information needs, sources and information seeking behaviour as well as problems encountered by the fishermen in a bid to obtain information. Results show that the information needs of fishermen in Lagos state are mostly occupation directed. Their major sources of information include colleagues, friends, neighbours and relatives. Results also show that the fishermen in Lagos State are mostly illiterate, married and male adults in their middle ages; where and how to obtain credit facilities remain the most important information need of the fishermen; lack of awareness about where to obtain information on modern fishing technology is the most common problem of the fishermen in their attempt to seek information. Okwu, O. J. et al. A (2011) The study analyzed the information needs and accessibility of artisanal fisher folk in Benue State, Nigeria. The chi-square test revealed that there was a significant relationship between access to needed information and the output of the artisanal fisher folk at 1% level of significance. Legit regression test revealed that age, education and household size had significant effect on fisher folk access to needed fisheries information. Important areas of information need of the fisher folk were, sources of micro credit, modern fish capture methods and aqua-culture. It was recommended that adequate fisheries extension services should be provided in the fishing communities. Ramadas G. and Saravanan P. (2016) The present study made an attempt to analyse the information need and information seeking process of fishermen in Tamilnadu. The respondents for the study consists of artisanal fishermen from three southern districts of Tamilnadu namely Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and

Thoothukudi district. The primary data are collected from the respondents using survey and secondary data are collected from Fisheries Department. The study reveals that majority of fishermen needs information related to their day-to-day activities and modern technology and gadgets are used for seeking information.

**Methodology:**

Survey and interview methods is used for collecting data required for the study form the fishermen. The sample respondents of the study consists 222 fishermen from three district using stratified random sampling technique by due weightage to various categories of variables under study. Tool used for the study is a well-structured questionnaire prepared the investigator in consultation with experts in the field. It includes various aspects on information strategies of fisher community. Both descriptive and inferential statistics are used for analysis and interpretation of data. The study is limited to fishing community living in Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh.

**Objectives of the study**

- To know the educational, social conditions of fishermen in Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore districts
- To know the awareness of different welfare schemes;
- To know the information needs of fishermen;
- To know the libraries involvement with fishermen society;



*Author discussion with the fishermen of Guntur and Prakasam districts*

**Data analysis & interpretation**

**Table-1: District-wise respondents status**

District	Village	Questionnaire Distributed	Received
Guntur	Ramanagar	50	40
	Suryalanka	50	19
	Adarsanagar	50	30
Prakasam	Chakicherlapeda	50	27
	Chinnapattapupalem	50	34
Nellore	Chennaipale	50	29
	Tummalapenta	50	43
Total		350	222

Researcher distributed each village 50 questionnaire and responses are recorded in the table-1. Among 222 respondents, majority 89 are from Guntur district, 61 of them Prakasam, and 72 of the respondents are from Nellore district and response rate was 63.43% quite good result for the study.

**Table-2: Gender-wise respondents**

Gender	Guntur	Prakasam	Nellore	Total	Percentage
Male	81	55	66	202	90.99
Female	8	6	6	20	9.01
Total	89	61	72	222	100

Table-2: shows the gender-wise respondents, majority 90.99% of them are male, and only 9.01% are female respondents, male respondents dominating from Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore districts.

**Table-3: Age-wise respondents**

Age	Guntur	Prakasam	Nellore	Total	Percentage
Below 20 yrs	12	6	13	31	13.96
21-30 yrs	27	17	19	63	28.38
31-40 yrs	29	19	21	69	31.08
41-50 yrs	16	13	14	43	19.37
Above 50 yrs	5	6	5	16	7.21
	89	61	72	222	100

Table-3 reveals the age-wise respondents, among 222 respondents majority 31.08% of them are age between 31-40 years, following 28.38% are age between 21-30 years, 19.37% of them age between 41-50 years, 13.96% of them below 20 years, and 7.21% of the respondents are age above 50 years.

**Table-4: Education of the respondents**

Education	Guntur	Prakasam	Nellore	Total	Percentage
Illiterate	47	34	41	122	54.95
Primary school	24	17	17	58	26.13
High school	11	6	8	25	11.26
Intermediate	5	3	5	13	5.86
UG	2	1	1	4	1.80
PG	0	0	0	0	0
	89	61	72	222	100

Education of the respondents recorded and presented in the table-4. The highest 54.95% of the respondents are illiterates, 26.13% of them primary school education, 11.26% of them high school education, 5.86% are intermediate and only 1.80% of them Under Graduate (UG) education and no body did Post-graduate education.

**Table-5: Type of information needs (Multiple respondents)**

S.No.	Type of information	Total	Percentage
1	Fish capture methods	156	6.46
2	Weather conditions (Warnings)	197	8.15
3	Fish Species	89	3.68
4	Marketing, Marketing Facilities	160	6.62
5	Source of credit	185	7.66
6	Modern capture methods	207	8.57
7	Fish processing and storage	200	8.28
8	Co-operative Societies	182	7.53
9	Welfare schemes provided by GOI / GOAP	210	8.69
10	Health, Sanitation	200	8.28
11	Sea safety (Warnings)	192	7.95
12	Ocean state forecast (Status, Warnings)	220	9.11
13	Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) Advisory	218	9.02
	Total	2416	100

Table-5 illustrate the type of information needs, researcher posed a question what type of information required by the respondents. Majority 9.11% of the expressed Ocean state forecast (Status, Warnings), 9.02% Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) Advisory, 8.69% of them Welfare schemes provided by GOI / GOAP, 8.57% Modern capture methods, 8.28% of them require Health, Sanitation, 8.15% Weather conditions (Warnings) and lest 3.68% of them require Weather conditions (Warnings)

**Table-6: Channels of information**

S.No.	Information channels	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Library –Public Library	27	12.16
2	Books	12	5.41
3	Journals and Magazines	9	4.05
4	Community centers	8	3.60
5	Fisheries Dept.(DFO, FDO, AIF)	15	6.76
6	Govt. Organization	12	5.41
7	Radio ((HFR –Audio Messages)	32	14.41
8	Mobile phone	37	16.67
9	Television	29	13.06
10	Relatives, Family elders, Friends	31	13.96
11	Announcement of Govt. Staff	10	4.50
	Total	222	100

Table-6 shows the channels of required information from the village, among 222 respondents, majority 16.67% of them said mobile phone, 14.41% of them getting information through Radio, 13.96% Relative, family elders, friends, 13.06% of them getting through television, 12.16% of them public library, 6.76% from fisheries department (DFO, FO, AIF), 5.41 are getting information through books and Government organization, 4.50% and 4.05 are getting announcement of Govt. Staff and journals and magazines and very few 3.60% are from community centers.

**Tale-7: Aware of Library & newspapers**

Opinion	Total	Percentage
Yes	99	99
No	1	1
Total	100	100

Table-7 shows the aware of library and newspapers, according to table-4 there are 122 are illiterates, remaining 100 respondents 99% expressed yes they are aware about library and newspapers and only 1% said no.

**Table-8: Fishery information through newspapers**

S.No.	Newspapers	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Eenadu	89	15.51
2	Annadaata	78	13.59
3	Andhra Jyothi	81	14.11
4	Acqua culture Times	23	4.01
5	Vartha	56	9.76
6	Rytunestam	90	15.68
7	Sakshi	86	14.98
8	Others	71	12.37
	Total	574	100

Table-8 reveals the fishery information through newspapers, majority 15.68% of them know by reading Rytunestam, 15.51% Eenadu, 14.98% Sakshi, 14.11% Andhra Jyothi, 13.59% Annadata, 12.37% by others newspapers, 9.76% by Vartha and 4.01% of them expressed they know through Acqua culture times newspaper.

**Table-9: Awareness on welfare schemes**

S.No.	Welfare schemes	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Savings cum Relief (Ban period 3 months)	91	4.47
2	Housing –construction of model fisherman village	149	7.31
3	Group Accident Insurance Scheme	188	9.22
4	Insulated ICE Boxes to Fisher woman	162	7.95
5	Revolving fund to Matya Mitra Group	119	5.84
6	Motorization of traditional crafts	201	9.86
7	Rebate on HSD oil	212	10.40
8	Online registration of marine fishing vessels and issue of	183	8.98
9	Biometric ID Cards	166	8.15
10	Construction of fish landing centre	210	10.30
11	Supply of Boats / Nets on Subsidy	200	9.81
12	Construction of Community Hal	157	7.70
	Total	2038	100

Table-9 illustrates the awareness on welfare schemes provided by Government, the highest 10.40% of them aware rebate on HSD Oil the most essential oil for mechanised boats, 10.30% of them aware construction of fish landing centre, 9.81% said motorization of tradition crafts, 9.22% Group accident insurance scheme, 8.98% online registration of marine fishing vessels, 8.15% Biometric ID cards, 7.95% of them insulated ICE boxes of fisher women, 7.70% construction of community hall, 7.31% Housing – construction of model fisherman village and few of them 4.47% aware about Savings cum relief.

### Major finds of the study

- The majority 90.99% are male respondents from Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore districts.
- It is found that among 222 respondents, majority 31.08% of them are young adulterly age between 31-40 years.
- The highest 54.95% of the respondents are illiterate, they do not education.
- Majority 9.11% of the respondents require Ocean state forecast (Status, Warnings) information.
- Majority 16.67% of them getting information through mobile phone, 14.41% of them getting information through Radio, 13.96% Relative, family elders, friends, 13.06% of them getting through television channel.
- The highest 10.40% of them aware about welfare schemes of rebate on HSD Oil the most essential oil for mechanised boats, 10.30% of them aware construction of fish landing centre.

### Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that fishermen in Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore district fishing needs in their villages rely on fellow fishermen as their main source of information. They really trust people who are close to them. Their personal experience also plays important parts of forecast information needs. The most important information urgency include information about Government schemes and information channels. Information urgency for those things are considered could increase the fish catch result, which eventually can increase their income. Government need to construct an easy information access to fulfil the fishermen's information needs. Moreover, face to face consultation with the fishermen also needs to be conducted by the government, in order to understand fishermen's information needs and provide appropriate information.

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