



STUDY OF THE DETERIORATING SOCIAL STATUS OF FISHERWOMEN IN PATNA'S FISH MARKET, PATNA, BIHAR, INDIA

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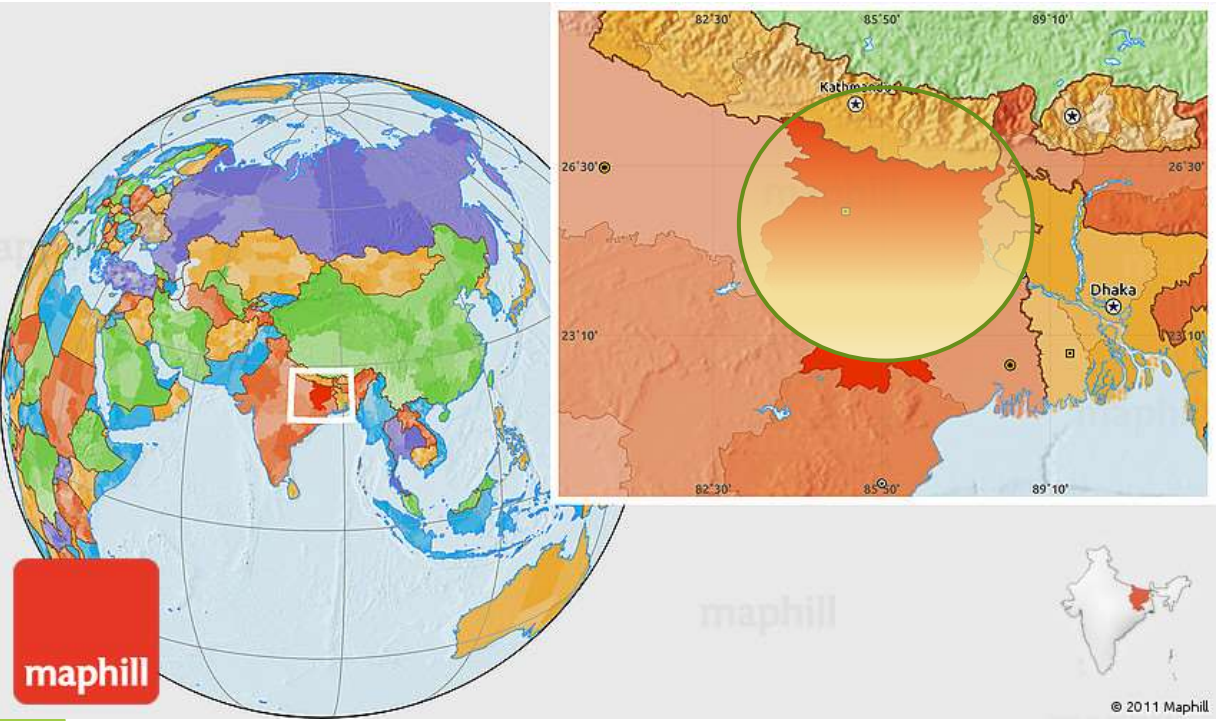
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INTRODUCTION

- India , the second largest global fish producer has approx. 5.4 million people involved in fishery industry(70% male and 30% women)
- Our study was carried out in Patna , capital city of Bihar(one among the most populous states in India.
- Patna comprises four large rivers in its vicinity thereby known to be the largest riverine city in the world.
- Per capita consumption of fish in Patna is 7.7kg per person.
- Fisher folks in Patna generally belong to ‘Mallah/ Machhuara’ community.
- Fisherwomen have role in post harvest activities(basically retailing) apart from household responsibilities presenting a dynamic example of multitaskers.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF BIHAR



OBJECTIVE

To study the overall social status of fisherwomen on the basis of following parameters :

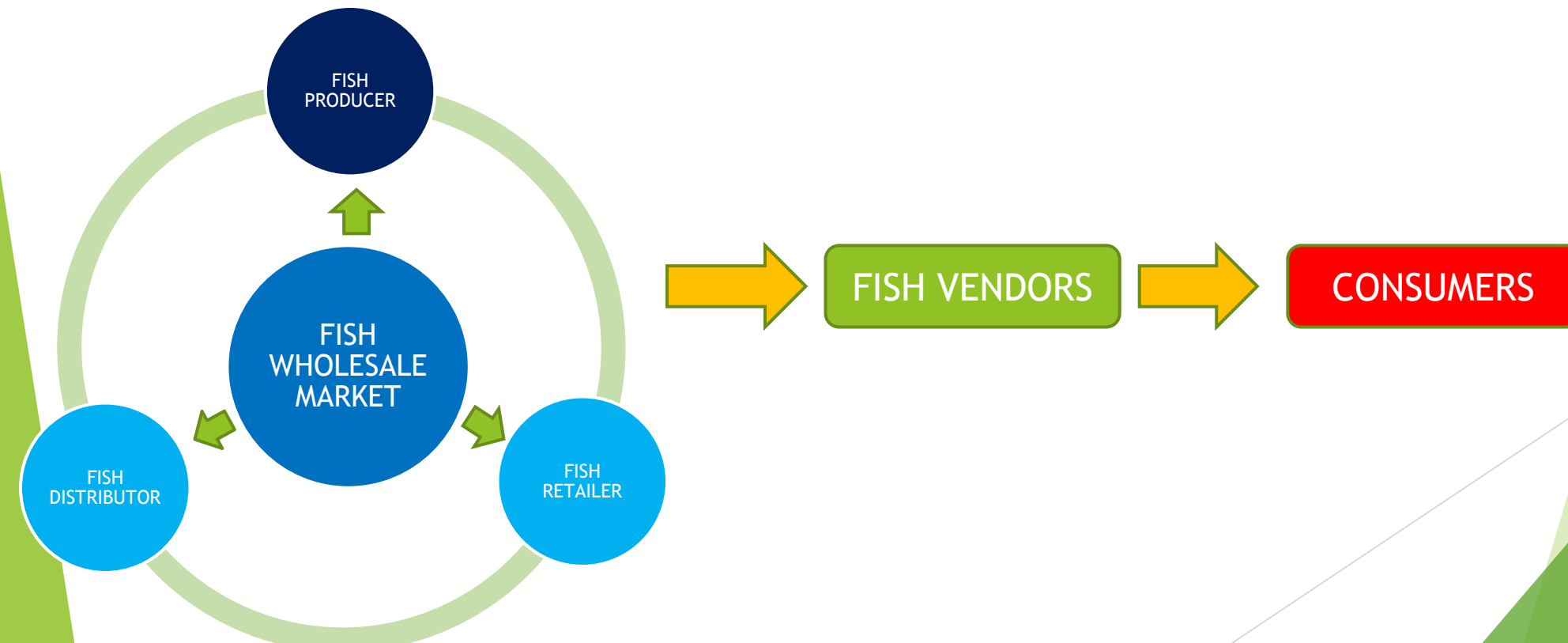
- Sex ratio
- Age group of fisherwomen
- Experience of fisherwomen
- Education of fisherwomen
- Family pattern of the fishers
- Gender based participation in day to day activities and fishing activities
- Common issues faced by the fisherwomen



STUDY METHODOLOGY

- Our basic approach to analyse the social status of fishing communities was based upon personal interviews of few fisherfolks (around 100) of each sites visited supported by well structured questionnaire survey.

FISH SUPPLY SYSTEM IN PATNA



LOCATION OF ANALYSIS

Major fish marketing site of Patna :

- Site 1 : Boring road crossing govt. authorised fish market
- Site 2 : Macchua toli authorised fish market
- Site 3 : Raza Bazaar street fish market
- Site 4 : Bazaar Samiti (fish wholesale market)
- Site 5 : Razapur bridge pavement
- Site 6 : Macchua toli street fish market
- Site 7 : Bailey road private owned fish market
- Site 8 : Hanuman nagar street fish market



Fig : Site 1



Fig : Site 2



Fig : Site 3



Fig : Site 4



Fig : Site 5



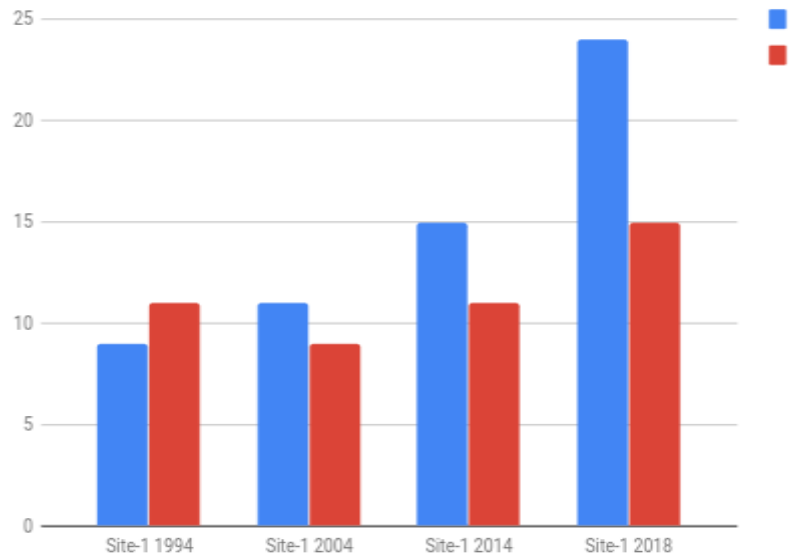
Fig : Site 6

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

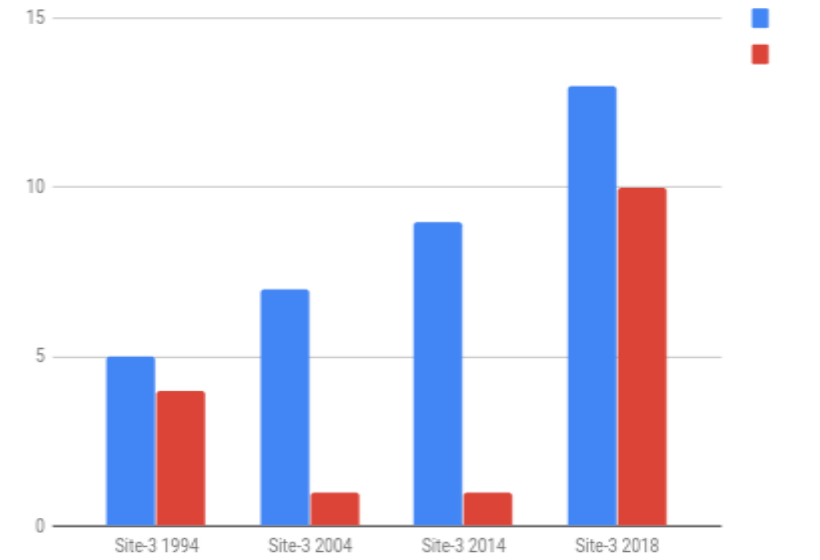
SITES	1994		2004		2014		2018	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
S1	09	11	11	09	15	11	24	15
S2	03	08	04	08	04	11	NA	NA
S3	05	04	07	01	09	01	13	10
S4	00	04	05	06	10	08	NA	NA
S5	03	07	04	07	09	09	51	10
S6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9	13
S7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	0
S8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	6

Table. 1 : Number of men and women fish vendors on different sites in Patna in the year 1994,2004 and 2014. (S1 to S5 are the different markets selected - S1: Boring Road crossing, S2:Hartali More fish market, S3: Raza bazaar fish market, S4: Ashiana more road side, S5:Razapur bridge pavement).

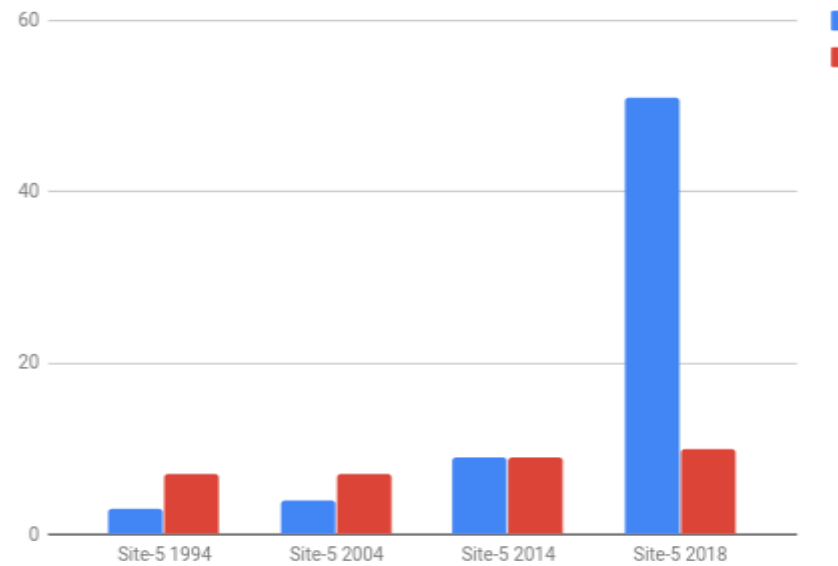
(Ref :KUMARI, BIBHA. "Decreasing Trend in Participation of Women in Fish Marketing in Patna, Bihar (India)." *Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries: The Long Journey to Equality*(2014)



SITE 1



SITE 3



SITE 5

male
female

Fig 1 : Comparative graph of male and female at Sites 1,3 and 5

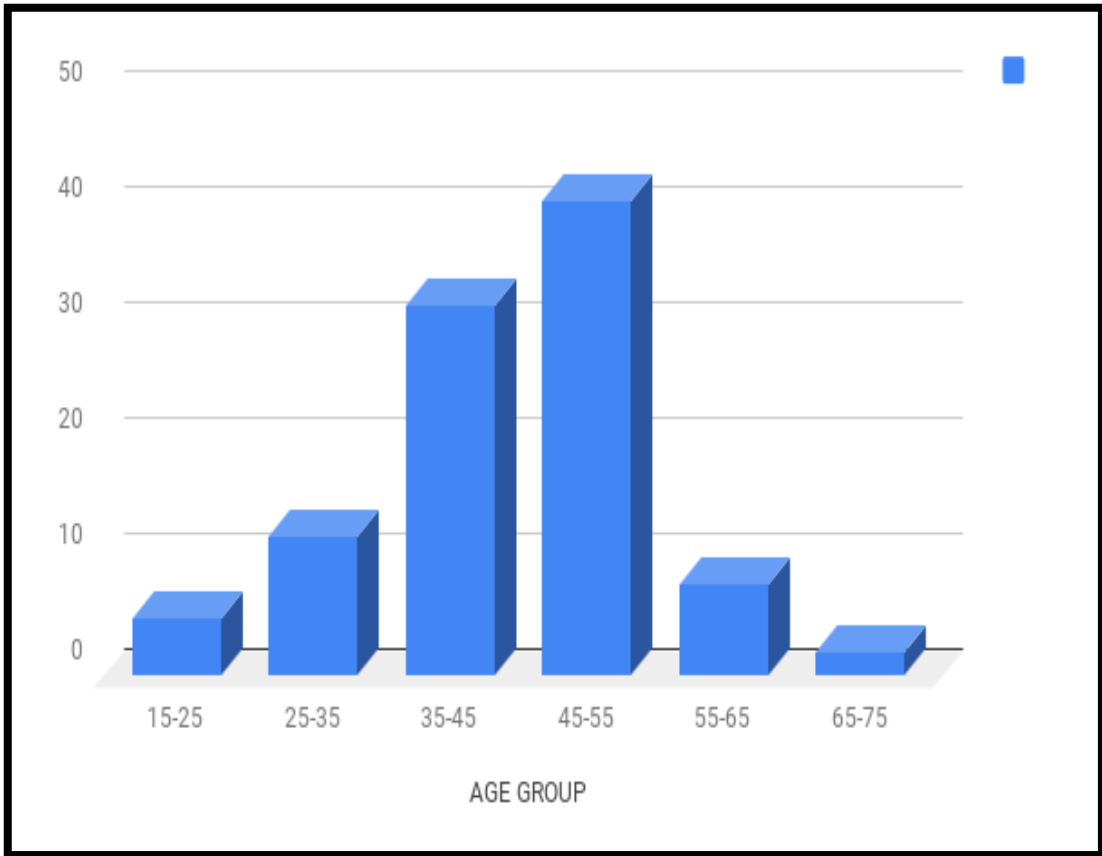


CHART 1 : AGE GROUP OF FISHERWOMEN IN VARIOUS FISH MARKETS

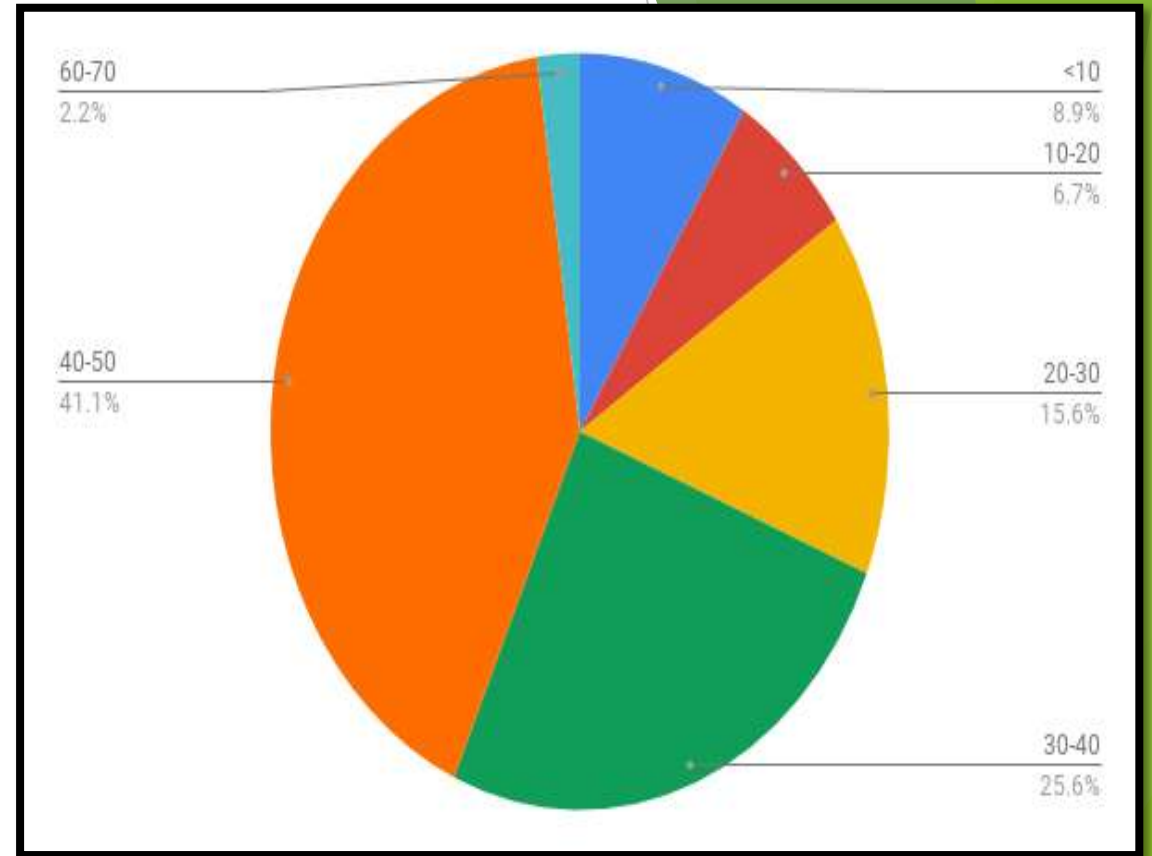


CHART 2 : YEAR OF EXPERIENCE IN FISH MARKETING OF FISHERWOMEN

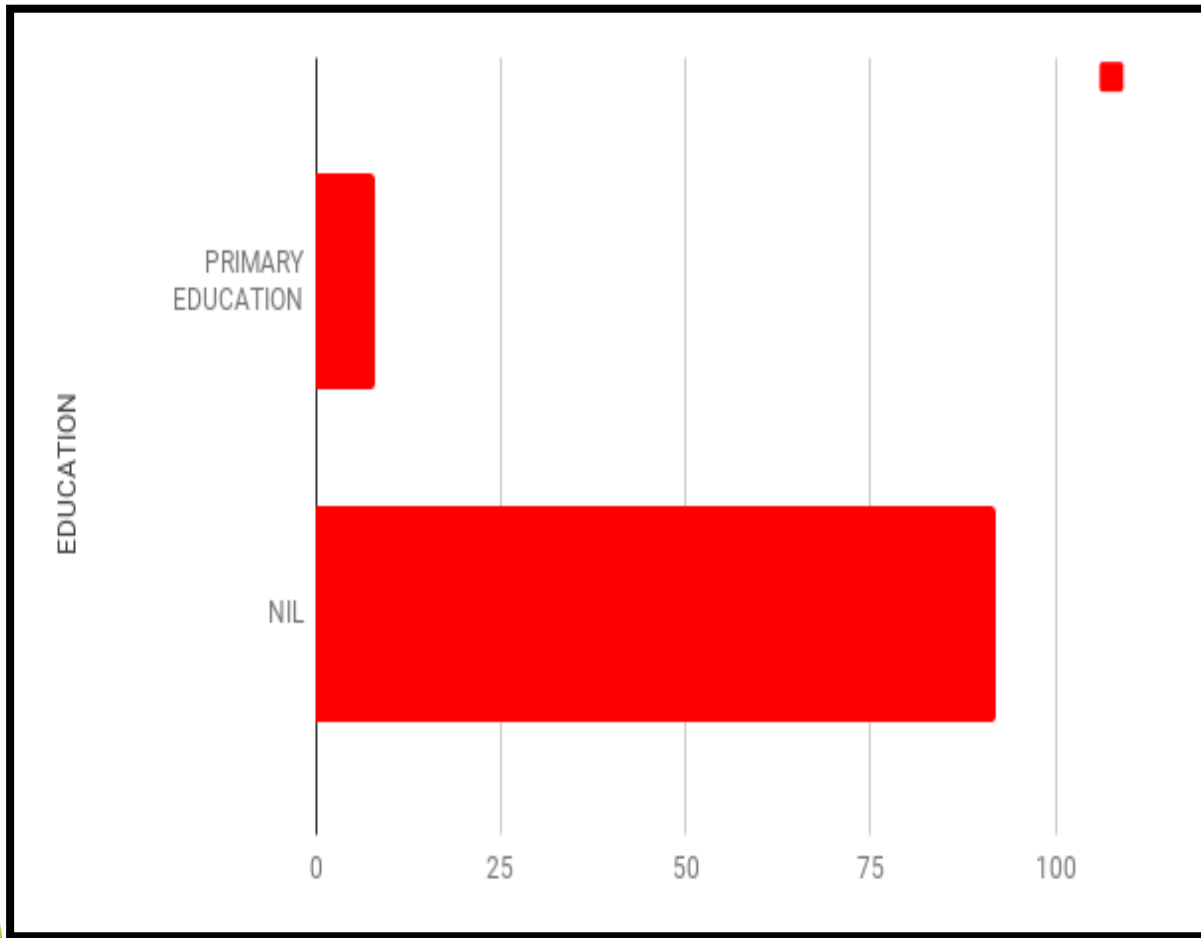


CHART 3 : EDUCATION STATUS OF FISHERWOMEN

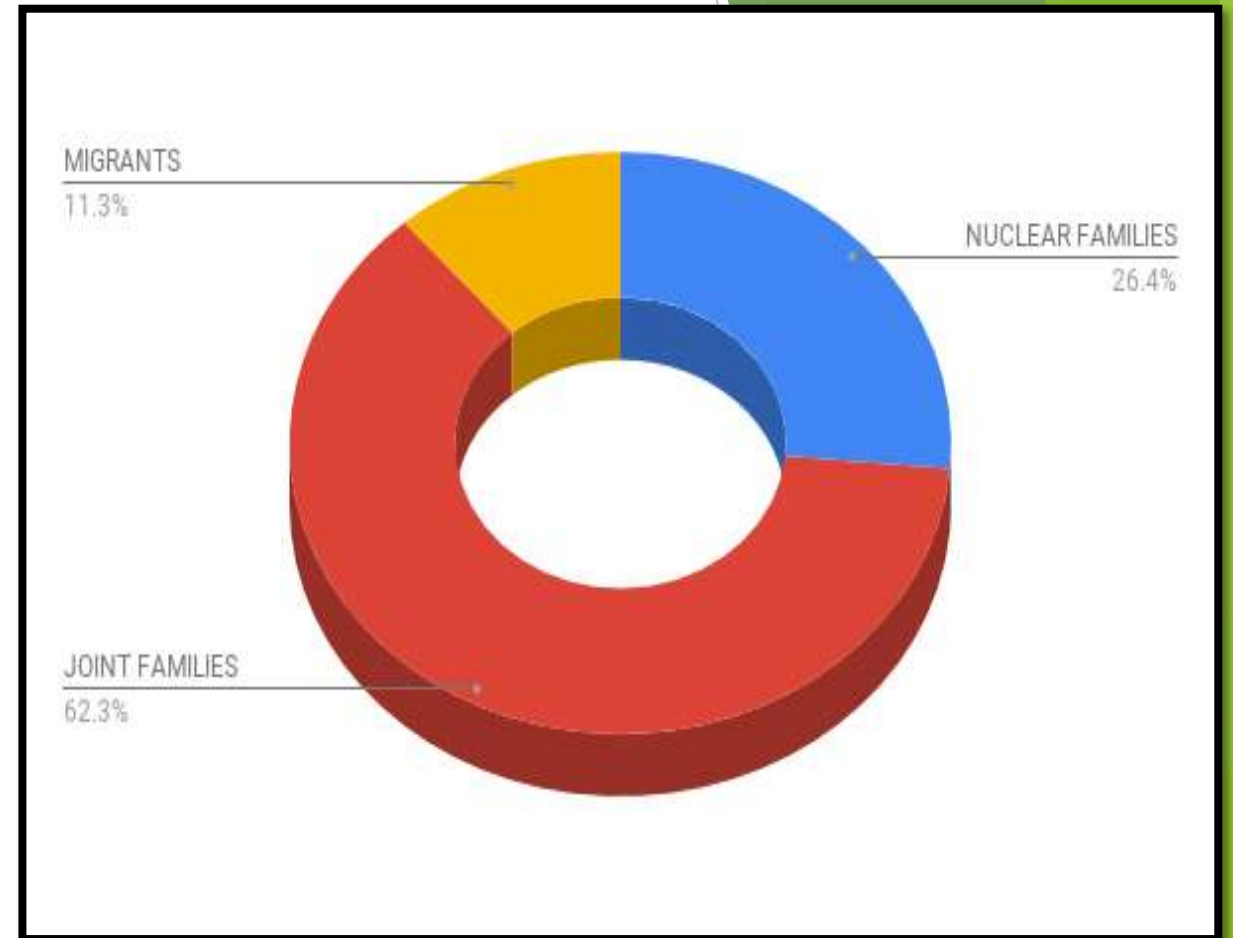


CHART 4 : FAMILY PATTERNS OF FISHERS



FISHERMEN

- FISH CATCHING
- NET MAKING & MENDING
- TRANSPORTATION
- WHOLESALING

FISHERWOMEN

- DECISION MAKING
- FISH RETAILING
- HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITY



FIG 1 : GENDER BASED PARTICIPATION



- Fish marketing timings in government authorised fish markets are more flexible than the local street markets since fisherfolks spend around 5-6 hours in fish selling at authorised fish market but fishers at unauthorised places spend around 9-10 hours per day.
- Under aged children were pointed during our study , basically in the street fish market.
- At an age of gaining formal education these children participate in the fish markets in order to fetch early expertise in the fish marketing skills.



CONCLUSION

We observed certain issues which are negatively affecting the social status of fisherwomen in the market areas such as :

- The poor literacy level of females in majority of markets. In spite of poor literacy level these fisherwomen are proficient at handling fish such as sorting cutting and marketing skills (weighing and price negotiation), which is the result of ancestral rituals passed on generation to generation.
- Fisherwomen are basically confined to the market areas as fish retailers rather than in wholesale markets due to lack of certain major factors which include poor literacy, gender based discrimination, harassment, poor sanitation, poor water supply and proper drainage system.
- Due to limited number of government authorised fish markets majority of fisherwomen are deprived of a secured areas, the reason why most of the fisherwomen opt for door to door fish vending in order to avoid any unpredictable mishap.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Construction of fish markets with the basic facilities of proper water supply, better drainage facility and sanitation prerequisites
- Women safeguard
- Flexible fish selling timings must be assured
- Informal education and awareness among the fisherwomen must be promoted by public outreach
- Self help groups formation should be enhanced
- Assurance of hygienic surrounding

THANK YOU

