

**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND HOUSEHOLD
RESILIENCE DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC: INSIGHTS FROM
SMALL SCALE FISHER HOUSEHOLDS IN KERALA STATE**

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Objective: To analyse the economic empowerment of women and resilience of small scale fisher households during the COVID 19 crisis

Respondents: Women workers in small scale fisher households in Ernakulam and Alappuzha districts in Kerala

The impacts of the pandemic on household income, expenditure, and indebtedness were analysed.

Socio-demographic particulars of respondents

Particulars	Alappuzha N=60	Ernakulam N=60
Age	51	52
Education	%	%
Primary	16.7	8.3
Upper primary	55.0	41.7
High school	21.7	46.7
Higher secondary	5.0	3.3
Graduate	1.7	0.0

Particulars	Alappuzha	Ernakulam
	%	
Peeling shed workers	100	13.3
Fishery related		8.3
MGNREG scheme		43.3
Housemaids		35

Impact of Covid pandemic on employment , income indebtedness

Particulars		
	Alappuzha	Ernakulam
Employment days pre –covid period	155	171
Employment days during Covid	135	87
Monthly income of respondents during Covid(Rs.)	4957	4729
Household income during covid	12423	11853
Indebtedness(%)	85	62
Monthly Household expenditure		
Pre-covid (Rs.)	16493	10393
Post covid(Rs.)	12765	7304
% Reduction in household expenditure	21	30

Difficulties during Covid	Alappuzha	Ernakulam
% Respondents affected by covid	33.3	35
Mental difficulties	70	66.67
Physical difficulties	72	66.67
% households availed loans during Covid	85	75
Household violence during Covid	37	3.3
Support from family for household work	85	91.67
Reduced food availability	50	57
Increase in household work	63	23.3
Freedom to spend money	85	96.67

Conclusion

- Women contributed 40% of the total household income
- **Indebtedness was more in Alappuzha district. More than 75% of small scale fisher households availed loans during covid(83% in Alappuzha and 63% in Ernakulam from informal sources)**
- Although the average monthly income earned by the women workers was more in Alappuzha district during Covid, freedom to spend money was less.
- **Increase in gender based violence (37%) and household work (63%) were reported by the respondents in Alappuzha district during the pandemic.**