

Chapter - VI

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

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6.1 INTRODUCTION

The present chapter presents the findings of the study. It also includes the suggestions and conclusions of the study. The concepts and methodology were formulated according to the objectives of the study with the help of comprehensive reviews of previous studies. The secondary data about the fisher women were collected from the journals, books, websites and the district profile.

For primary data, 600 fisher women in coastal area of Thoothukudi district were identified. The data were collected from the fisher women with the help of a structured questionnaire. The collected data were analyzed with the help of appropriate tools to examine the significant differences among different demographic profile variables of fisher women with respect to the perception towards various issues namely social, economic and personal issues and the significant differences among demographic profile variables of fisher women with respect to the constraints. The various findings of the present study are summarized below:

6.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

6.2.1 Findings of Socio-Economic Status of Sample Fisher Women

- It is found that 67 per cent of the sample fisher women belong to Christians have been involved in fishing/fishing related activities. It is understood that majority of the sample fisher women belong to Christians have been involved in fishing/fishing related activities in Coastal area of Thoothukudi district.

- It is observed that the higher percentage (61.7%) of BC community are followed by 15.8 per cent sample fisher women belong to ST have been involved in fishing/fishing related activities.
- Most of 53.8% sample fisher women are among the age group of 41-50 years have been involved in fishing/fishing related activities.
- Majority of the sample fisher women (84.5 per cent) who are married have been involved in fishing/fishing related activities

6.2.2 Findings of Family Details of Sample Fisher Women

- It was observed that most of 49.6% sample fisher women who have two children involved in fishing/fishing related activities.
- 42.5 per cent of the sample fisher women belong to four members in the family have been involved in fishing/fishing related activities
- 42.1 per cent of the sample fisher women' children are attending the school

6.2.3 Findings of Education of Sample Fisher Women

- 27.5 per cent of the sample fisher women who are primary level education have been involved in fishing/fishing related activities
- 35.5 per cent of the sample fisher women were not studied due to poverty
- 62.5 per cent of the sample fisher women are able to read and write
- 26.5 per cent of the sample fisher women preferred their children to study graduation
- 55.8 per cent of the sample fisher women spent between Rs.2000-3000 to their children's education

6.2.4 Findings of Housing and Infrastructure of Sample Fisher Women

- 74.1 per cent of the sample fisher women are living in their owned house
- 74.2 per cent of the sample fisher women used bottle gas (LPG or propane) for cooking
- 63.3 per cent of the sample fisher women prefer energy for convenience
- 32.5 per cent of the sample fisher women have water pump in their house, 20.8 per cent of the sample fisher women have water tank in their house
- 71.5 per cent of the sample fisher women face problems with water supply
- 22.6 per cent of the sample fisher women face the problem of low quality (hardness) of water
- 32.5 per cent of the sample fisher women face the problem of low quality (hardness) of water
- 32.2 per cent of the sample fisher women have been availed Exterior toilet without flush tank
- 46.5 per cent of the sample fisher women followed common sewerage system

6.2.5 Findings of Occupational Status of Sample Fisher Women

- 79.2 per cent of the sample fisher women are involved in fish selling
- Among different reasons to choose this occupation by sample fisher women, lack of employment opportunities ranks first with a mean score of (61.82) which is followed by family profession (60.27 and ‘Death of parents’ with a mean score of (21.13) has been ranked as the last reasons to choose this occupation.
- 36.4 per cent of the sample fisher women were entered into fishing and fishing related activities at the age group of above 30 years

- 85.8 per cent of the sample fisher women preferred morning time for fishing and fishing related activities
- 52.5 per cent of the sample fisher women are involved in fishing and fishing related activities as part time
- 68 per cent of the sample fisher women spent 5 to 8 hours for fishing and fishing related activities every day
- 30.2 per cent of the sample fisher women have covered the distance of 15-20 km for fishing and fishing related activities
- 48 per cent of the sample fisher women have been involved in fishing and fishing related activities for above 10 years

6.2.6 Findings of Multiple Roles of Sample Fisher Women

- 41.8 per cent of the sample fisher women have indirect role in family welfare, 23 per cent of the sample fisher women have indirect role in decision making
- 79.2 per cent of the sample fisher women have direct role in fish trading
- 30 per cent of the sample fisher women buy the fish from wholesalers, 29.2 per cent of the sample fisher women buy the fish in fish market
- 60.8 per cent of the sample fisher women buy fish through their own fund, 30.5 per cent of the sample fisher women buy fish through loan taken
- 53.7 per cent of the sample fisher women do not know the health awareness of fish cleanliness and 46.3 per cent of the sample fisher women know the health awareness of fish cleanliness.
- 44.8 per cent of the sample fisher women are using hot water for safety, 27.8 per cent of the sample fisher women are using lemon for safety

- 31.2 per cent of the sample fisher women mentioned that the price of fish are determined by negotiation, 28.2 per cent of the sample fisher women mentioned that the price of fish are determined by fixed pricing
- 38.3 per cent of the sample fisher women sell the fish in village, 24.7 per cent of the sample fisher women sell the fish in street
- 47.8 per cent of the sample fisher women are fish street vendors, 19.8 per cent of the sample fisher women are involved in fish marketing
- 40.8 per cent of the sample fisher women are working 4 hours, 31.5 per cent of the sample fisher women are working 3 hours
- 44.9 per cent of the sample fisher women are getting wages between Rs.300-400 per day, 34.2 per cent of the sample fisher women are getting wages between Rs.400-500 per day
- Among different main purpose of saving among fisher women, Emergencies ranks first with a mean score of (61.28) which is followed by marriage (58.93), education ranks third with a mean score of (54.28), hospital ranks fourth with a mean score of (51.39), asset building ranks fifth with a mean score of (47.56) and festival ranks last with a mean score of (27.58).

6.2.7 Findings of Women's Role in Fishing Industry

- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are in the age group of 31 to 40 years as their mean scores are 3.8894 and 3.8077 respectively.
- Women feel welcome in the fishing industry and women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources are the important

women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are in the age group of 41 to 50 years as their mean scores are 3.8447 and 3.8082 respectively.

- Women feel welcome in the fishing industry and women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are in the age group of 51 to 60 years as their mean scores are 3.8692 and 3.8224 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and many women need more confidence to try for a better job in the industry are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are in the age group of above 60 years as their mean scores are 4.0000 and 3.8030 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are unmarried as their mean scores are 3.9028 and 3.8125 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women feel welcome in the fishing industry are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are married as their mean scores are 3.8465 and 3.7767 respectively.
- Women need better access to training and education to advance in the fishing industry and women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are widow as their mean scores are 4.0833 and 4.0000 respectively.

- Women feel welcome in the fishing industry and women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are divorced as their mean scores are 4.2308 and 4.0769 respectively.
- Women feel welcome in the fishing industry and women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who belong to Hindu as their mean scores are 3.9138 and 3.7845 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women feel welcome in the fishing industry are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who belong to Christian as their mean scores are 3.8548 and 3.8280 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who belong to Muslim as their mean scores are 3.8960 and 3.7517 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who belong to General category as their mean scores are 3.8951 and 3.7978 respectively.
- Women feel welcome in the fishing industry and women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources are the important

women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who belong to SC as their mean scores are 3.8648 and 3.8484 respectively.

- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who belong to ST as their mean scores are 3.8433 and 3.7836 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women need better access to training and education to advance in the fishing industry are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who belong to OBC as their mean scores are 3.8500 and 3.8333 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women need better access to training and education to advance in the fishing industry are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are uneducated as their mean scores are 3.7368 and 3.6000 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women feel welcome in the fishing industry are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are primary school education as their mean scores are 3.8513 and 3.7532 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women feel welcome in the fishing industry are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are middle school education as their mean scores are 3.8894 and 3.7632 respectively.

- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women feel welcome in the fishing industry are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who are HSC qualification as their mean scores are 3.9000 and 3.8717 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.2000-4000 as their mean scores are 3.8584 and 3.7940 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women feel welcome in the fishing industry are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.4000-6000 as their mean scores are 3.8566 and 3.7848 respectively.
- Women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women feel welcome in the fishing industry are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.6000-8000 as their mean scores are 3.9290 and 3.8565 respectively.
- Women feel welcome in the fishing industry and women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training are the important women's role in fishing industry among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.8000-10000 as their mean scores are 4.0000 and 3.8710 respectively.

6.2.8 Findings of Hypothesis Testing Analysis for Women's Role in Fishing Industry

- Age wise there is a significant difference in the women's role in fishing industry with respect to women are often discouraged by their bosses from taking on more responsible jobs in the industry.
- Marital status wise there is no significant difference in the women's role in fishing industry with respect to many women need more confidence to try for a better job in the industry, women need better access to training and education to advance in the fishing industry, women are often discouraged by their bosses from taking on more responsible jobs in the industry, family commitments do not prevent women from making a greater contribution to the fishing industry, women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training, women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women feel welcome in the fishing industry.
- Religion wise there is no significant difference in the women's role in fishing industry with respect to many women need more confidence to try for a better job in the industry, women need better access to training and education to advance in the fishing industry, women are often discouraged by their bosses from taking on more responsible jobs in the industry, family commitments do not prevent women from making a greater contribution to the fishing industry, women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training, women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women feel welcome in the fishing industry.
- Caste wise there is no significant difference in the women's role in fishing industry with respect to many women need more confidence to try for a better

job in the industry, women need better access to training and education to advance in the fishing industry, women are often discouraged by their bosses from taking on more responsible jobs in the industry, family commitments do not prevent women from making a greater contribution to the fishing industry, women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training, women's skills and abilities are one of the fishing industry's greatest untapped resources and women feel welcome in the fishing industry.

- Educational status wise there is a significant difference in the women's role in fishing industry with respect to many women need more confidence to try for a better job in the industry and women could achieve more status and recognition for their work if they had leadership training are statistically significant at 5 per cent level.
- Monthly earnings wise there is a significant difference in the women's role in fishing industry with respect to women are often discouraged by their bosses from taking on more responsible jobs in the industry.

6.2.9. Findings of Mode of Sale by Sample Fisher Women

- 59 per cent of the sample fisher women sell the fish on credit basis, 29.3 per cent of the sample fisher women sell the fish on cash basis
- 38.1 per cent of the sample fisher women collect the credit money on weekly, 23.2 per cent of the sample fisher women collect the credit money on fortnightly
- 42.7 per cent of the sample fisher women fix the price for fish by demand and supply of fish, 23.3 per cent of the sample fisher women fix the price for fish by competitor price
- 44 per cent of the sample fisher women used unsold fish by reduce the cost and sell, 31 per cent of the sample fisher women used unsold fish by keep it in ice

6.2.10 Findings of Income Status of Sample Fisher Women

- 48 per cent of the sample fisher women belong to only one earning member, 29.8 per cent of the sample fisher women belong to two earning members in the family
- 29.2 per cent of the sample fisher women have monthly family income between Rs.7,000 to Rs.9,000, 23.2 per cent of the sample fisher women have monthly family income between Rs.9,000-11,000
- 33 per cent of the sample fisher women have monthly earnings between Rs.6,000 to Rs.8,000, 28.8 per cent of the sample fisher women have monthly earnings between Rs.4,000-6,000

6.2.11 Findings of Expenditure Pattern of Fisher Women

- Maximum of 37 per cent of the fisher women spent between Rs.6,000-8,000 followed by fisher women accounting for 31 per cent spent between Rs.4,000-6,000
- Maximum of 35.8 per cent of the fisher women spent major portion of the family income for repay debts followed by 25.8 per cent of the fisher women spent major portion of the family income for daily expense
- Fisher women require maximum amount on fishing expenses i.e. 39.1 per cent. Next comes Fuel Charges (Gas, Kerosene etc) with 12.9 per cent
- Fisher women require maximum amount on transport charge i.e. 42.8 per cent. Next comes commission with 17.9 per cent

6.2.12 Findings of Perception towards Various Social Issues among Different Demographic Profile Variables of Fisher Women

- Division of labour and wage discrimination and poor social acceptance are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of 31 to 40 years as their mean scores are 4.0769 and 3.9848 respectively.
- Poor social acceptance and heavy dowry system are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of 41 to 50 years as their mean scores are 3.9087 and 3.8173 respectively.
- Poor social acceptance and heavy dowry system are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of 51 to 60 years as their mean scores are 3.7864 and 3.7763 respectively.
- Heavy dowry system and less interaction with development agencies are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of above 60 years as their mean scores are 3.6212 and 3.5981 respectively.
- Division of labour and wage discrimination and men do not take supportive role are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are unmarried as their mean scores are 3.6873 and 3.5833 respectively.
- Poor social acceptance and lack of representation fishery cooperatives and other local bodies are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are married as their mean scores are 3.8264 and 3.7986 respectively.

- Men do not take supportive role and heavy dowry system are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are widow as their mean scores are 3.9583 and 3.8889 respectively.
- Heavy dowry system and poor social acceptance are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are divorced as their mean scores are 4.0833 and 4.0000 respectively.
- Heavy dowry system and lack of representation fishery cooperatives and other local bodies are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who belong to Hindu as their mean scores are 3.9655 and 3.9060 respectively.
- Division of labour and wage discrimination and poor social acceptance are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who belong to Christian as their mean scores are 3.8925 and 3.6935 respectively.
- Lack of platform to express and heavy dowry system are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who belong to Muslim as their mean scores are 3.8221 and 3.7852 respectively.
- Poor social acceptance and lack of representation fishery cooperatives and other local bodies are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who belong to General category as their mean scores are 3.9198 and 3.8353 respectively.
- Heavy dowry system and division of labour and wage discrimination are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who belong to SC as their mean scores are 3.8443 and 3.8402 respectively.

- Less interaction with development agencies and poor social acceptance are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who belong to ST as their mean scores are 3.9179 and 3.7537 respectively.
- Restriction to go for work and poor social acceptance are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who belong to OBC as their mean scores are 3.9939 and 3.9833 respectively.
- Lack of representation fishery cooperatives and other local bodies and lack of platform to express are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are uneducated as their mean scores are 3.8196 and 3.7848 respectively.
- Poor social acceptance and heavy dowry system are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are primary school education as their mean scores are 3.8982 and 3.8761 respectively.
- Division of labour and wage discrimination and restriction to go for work are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are middle school education as their mean scores are 4.0263 and 3.8421 respectively. Less interaction with development agencies and division of labour and wage discrimination are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who are HSC qualification as their mean scores are 4.3500 and 4.1000 respectively.
- Less interaction with development agencies and lack of representation fishery cooperatives and other local bodies are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.2000-4000 as their mean scores are 4.1935 and 4.1290 respectively.

- Division of labour and wage discrimination and men do not take supportive role are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.4000-6000 as their mean scores are 4.0258 and 3.9285 respectively.
- Division of labour and wage discrimination and lack of representation fishery cooperatives and other local bodies are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.6000-8000 as their mean scores are 3.9558 and 3.7897 respectively.
- Division of labour and wage discrimination and heavy dowry system are the important perception towards various social issues among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.8000-10000 as their mean scores are 3.8903 and 3.6464 respectively.

6.2.13 Findings of Hypothesis Testing Analysis for Perception towards Various Social Issues among Different Demographic Profile Variables of Fisher Women

- Age wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various social issues with regard to poor social acceptance and division of labour and wage discrimination.
- Marital status wise there is no significant difference in the perception towards various social issues with regard to poor social status, poor social acceptance, lack of representation fishery cooperatives and other local bodies, heavy dowry system, lack of platform to express, restriction to go for work, men do not take supportive role, less interaction with development agencies and division of labour and wage discrimination.

- Religion wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various social issues with respect to lack of representation fishery cooperatives and other local bodies, lack of platform to express and men do not take supportive role.
- Caste wise there is no significant difference in the perception towards various social issues with respect to poor social status, poor social acceptance, lack of representation fishery cooperatives and other local bodies, heavy dowry system, lack of platform to express, restriction to go for work, men do not take supportive role, less interaction with development agencies and division of labour and wage discrimination.
- Educational status wise there is no significant difference in the perception towards various social issues with regard to poor social status, poor social acceptance, lack of representation fishery cooperatives and other local bodies, heavy dowry system, lack of platform to express, restriction to go for work, men do not take supportive role, less interaction with development agencies and division of labour and wage discrimination.
- Monthly earnings wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various social issues with respect to poor social status, lack of representation fishery cooperatives and other local bodies and less interaction with development agencies.

6.2.14 Findings of Perception towards Various Economic Issues among Different Demographic Profile Variables of Fisher Women

- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of 31 to 40 years as their mean scores are 4.0529 and

3.8654 respectively. Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of 41 to 50 years as their mean scores are 4.0228 and 3.7879 respectively. Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of 51 to 60 years as their mean scores are 3.7851 and 3.7717 respectively.

- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of above 60 years as their mean scores are 3.8636 and 3.6822 respectively.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are unmarried as their mean scores are 4.1042 and 3.8889 respectively.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are married as their mean scores are 3.9349 and 3.7512 respectively.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are widow as their mean scores are 4.0833 and 4.0258 respectively.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and lack of marketing information are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are divorced as their mean scores are 3.9766 and 3.8462 respectively.

- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and poor income are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who belong to Hindu as their mean scores are 3.9310 and 3.8362 respectively.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and poor income are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who belong to Christian as their mean scores are 3.9217 and 3.6828 respectively.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who belong to Muslim as their mean scores are 4.0201 and 3.8758 respectively.
- Religion wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various economic issues with respect to poor working capital.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who belong to General category as their mean scores are 4.1173 and 3.9383 respectively.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who belong to SC as their mean scores are 3.8484 and 3.7131 respectively.
- Lack of marketing information and lack of fool proven marketing channel are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who belong to ST as their mean scores are 3.9104 and 3.9030 respectively.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who belong to OBC as their mean scores are 4.2500 and 4.0000 respectively.

- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are uneducated as their mean scores are 4.0316 and 3.8570 respectively.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are primary school education as their mean scores are 3.8805 and 3.8230 respectively.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and improper saving scheme are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are SSLC qualification as their mean scores are 4.1053 and 3.7105 respectively.
- Poor income and lack of fool proven marketing channel are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who are HSC qualification as their mean scores are 3.8583 and 3.8500 respectively.
- Poor working capital and poor income are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.2000-4000 as their mean scores are 4.0386 and 3.9442 respectively.
- Improper saving scheme and poor income are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.4000-6000 as their mean scores are 3.6630 and 3.6409 respectively.
- Lack of fool proven marketing channel and poor income are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who

belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.6000-8000 as their mean scores are 3.8452 and 3.7742 respectively.

- Lack of marketing information and poor working capital are the important perception towards various economic issues among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.8000-10000 as their mean scores are 3.9355 and 3.6452 respectively.

6.2.15 Findings of Hypothesis Testing Analysis for Perception towards Various Economic Issues among Different Demographic Profile Variables of Fisher Women

- Age wise there is no significant difference in the perception towards various economic issues with respect to lack of fool proven marketing channel, poor income, improper saving scheme, lack of marketing information and poor working capital.
- Marital status wise there is no significant difference in the perception towards various economic issues with respect to lack of fool proven marketing channel, poor income, improper saving scheme, lack of marketing information and poor working capital.
- Caste wise there is no significant difference in the perception towards various economic issues with respect to lack of fool proven marketing channel, poor income, improper saving scheme, lack of marketing information and poor working capital.
- Education wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various economic issues with regard to poor working capital.
- Monthly earnings wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various economic issues with regard to lack of marketing information.

6.2.16 Findings of Perception towards Various Personal Issues among Different Demographic Profile Variables of Fisher Women

- It is understood that irresponsible nature of counterparts and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of 31 to 40 years as their mean scores are 4.2243 and 4.1212 respectively.
- The study reveals that irresponsible nature of counterparts and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of 41 to 50 years as their mean scores are 4.1416 and 4.0561 respectively.
- It is observed that irresponsible nature of counterparts and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of 51 to 60 years as their mean scores are 3.9897 and 3.8513 respectively.
- The study indicates that irresponsible nature of counterparts and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are in the age group of above 60 years as their mean scores are 3.8790 and 3.7900 respectively.
- Irresponsible nature of counterparts and low literacy rate are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are unmarried as their mean scores are 4.0556 and 3.9514 respectively.
- The study reveals that irresponsible nature of counterparts and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are married as their mean scores are 4.1047 and 3.9395 respectively.

- No time / mind set to keep social contacts and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are widow as their mean scores are 4.2500 and 4.1667 respectively.
- The study indicates that no time / mind set to keep social contacts and irresponsible nature of counterparts are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are divorced as their mean scores are 4.0000 and 3.8462 respectively.
- It is understood that irresponsible nature of counterparts and ergonomic problems are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who belong to Hindu as their mean scores are 4.1466 and 4.0172 respectively.
- The study reveals that irresponsible nature of counterparts and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who belong to Christian as their mean scores are 3.8978 and 3.7742 respectively.
- Irresponsible nature of counterparts and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who belong to Muslim as their mean scores are 4.1678 and 4.0067 respectively.
- It is understood that irresponsible nature of counterparts and no time / mind set to keep social contacts are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who belong to General category as their mean scores are 4.0988 and 4.0309 respectively.
- It is noted that irresponsible nature of counterparts and low literacy rate are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who belong to SC as their mean scores are 4.0328 and 3.8443 respectively.

- It is observed that irresponsible nature of counterparts and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who belong to ST as their mean scores are 4.1045 and 3.9627 respectively.
- The study indicates that irresponsible nature of counterparts and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who belong to OBC as their mean scores are 4.1667 and 4.1500 respectively.
- It is understood that irresponsible nature of counterparts and no time / mind set to keep social contacts are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are uneducated as their mean scores are 4.1266 and 3.9209 respectively.
- The study reveals that irresponsible nature of counterparts and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are primary school education as their mean scores are 4.0221 and 3.9292 respectively.
- The study indicates that irresponsible nature of counterparts and no time / mind set to keep social contacts are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are SSLC qualification as their mean scores are 4.1579 and 3.9219 respectively.
- No time to look after household activities and no time / mind set to keep social contacts are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who are HSC qualification as their mean scores are 4.3000 and 4.1000 respectively.

- It is understood that lack of ownership of assets and no time to look after household activities are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.2000-4000 as their mean scores are 4.1459 and 4.0944 respectively.
- The study reveals that low literacy rate and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.4000-6000 as their mean scores are 3.9779 and 3.9503 respectively.
- It is identified that lack of ownership of assets and low literacy rate are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.6000-8000 as their mean scores are 4.1032 and 3.9548 respectively.
- The study indicates that lack of ownership of assets and lack of political commitments are the important perception towards various personal issues among the fisher women who belong to the monthly earnings between Rs.8000-10000 as their mean scores are 4.2903 and 4.1613 respectively.

6.2.17 Findings of Hypothesis Testing Analysis for Perception towards Various Personal Issues among Different Demographic Profile Variables of Fisher Women

- Age wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various personal issues with regard to lack of ownership of assets.
- Marital status wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various personal issues with respect to ergonomic problems and lack of ownership of assets and lack of political commitments.

- Religion wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various personal issues with regard to ergonomic problems, irresponsible nature of counterparts and no time to look after household activities.
- Caste wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various personal issues with regard to no time to look after household activities.
- Educational status wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various personal issues with respect to lack of ownership of assets.
- Monthly earnings wise there is a significant difference in the perception towards various personal issues with respect to no time to look after household activities.

6.2.18 Findings of Perception towards Various Issues

- It is identified that age is not a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely social, economic, personal and overall issues.
- Marital status is not a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely social, economic, personal and overall issues.
- Religion is a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely social, personal and overall issues.
- Religion is not a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely economic issue.
- Caste is a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely economic issue.
- Caste is not a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely social, personal and overall issues.
- Educational status is a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely economic issue.

- Educational status is not a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely social, personal and overall issues.
- Monthly earnings is a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely social and overall issues.
- Monthly earnings is not a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely economic and personal issues.
- Type of family is a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely personal issue.
- Type of family is not a significant variable influencing the perception towards various issues namely social, economic and overall issues.

6.2.19 Findings of Constraints of Fish Marketing among Different Demographic Profile Variables of Fisher Women

- Age wise there is a significant difference in constraints of fish marketing benefits with regard to ‘Problems of smoking the fishes’ and ‘Inadequate smoking space in fish marketers stall or shop’.
- Religion wise there is a significant difference in constraints of fish marketing benefits with respect to ‘Problems of smoking the fishes’, ‘Fresh fish are more demanded’ and ‘Dried fish are more demanded’.
- Caste wise there is a significant difference in constraints of fish marketing benefits with respect to ‘Dried fish are more demanded’ and ‘Union activities’.
- Marital status wise there is a significant difference in constraints of fish marketing benefits with regard to ‘Problems of smoking the fishes’, ‘Smoked fish are more demanded’ and ‘Inadequate smoking space in fish marketers stall or shop’.

- Educational status wise there is no significant difference in constraints of fish marketing benefits.
- Type of family wise there is a significant difference in constraints of fish marketing benefits with respect to ‘Smoked fish are more demanded’, ‘Fresh fish are more demanded’, ‘Dried fish are more demanded’ and ‘Union activities’.
- Monthly earnings wise there is a significant difference in constraints of fish marketing benefits with respect to ‘Consumers choices on fish’.

6.2.20 Findings of Opinion of Fisher Women Regarding the Problems

- It is identified that six important factors of opinion of fisher women regarding the problems namely lack of financial support and export facilities factor, environmental factor, lack of infrastructural factor, lack of support factor, lack of knowledge factor and natural problems factor. Among the various factors of opinion of fisher women regarding the problems “Lack of financial support and export facilities factor” consisting of the variables such as inadequate subsidy during off season, exploited by middlemen, lack of nearest market, lack of cleaning facilities in market premises, fish breeding season, lack of export facilities and lack of financial support.
- The next important factor of opinion of fisher women regarding the problems is “Environmental Factor” consisting of the variables such as unavailability of fish, no alternate job, climate changes, unfavourable business environment, high cost of fuel and higher procurement prices.

6.3 SUGGESTIONS

- In the study area, Fisher women are suffered from lack of institutional finance. They mainly depend on money lenders and fish traders for their fishery activities and family expenses. The middlemen and fish traders charge exorbitant rate of interest. So it is recommended that institutional credit facilities should be made available to the fisherwomen.
- Fisher women are suffered from high procurement prices. Government can take measures to regulate the procurement price of fishes.
- In certain remote fishing areas, the infrastructural facilities are very poor. So the government should take necessary steps to improve the infrastructural facilities in the fishing villages.
- Heavy expenses involved in storing of fishing and brining the fishes to local market is an important problem faced by fisher women. Hence Government can provide ice and storage facilities at subsidised rate.
- Fisher women face stiff competition from whole sale traders and fishermen. It is recommended that training shall be given to the fisher women on trading and marketing of fishes
- Socio – economic empowerment of any society mainly depends upon education. Fisher women empowerment is related with education. In the study area 25.8 percent of the fisher women are uneducated. So the fisher women should be encouraged to have education.
- Sanitation facilities should be improved in the fishing villages. In order to improve the health of the fisher women, Primary Health Centre should be opened in all fishing villages.

- Awareness programme can be organized by the Government in order to make the fisher women to aware of their political and legal rights.
- During the off season Government shall provide financial assistance without any rate of interest to the poor fisher women.
- Awareness campaign should be organized by the Government in order to make the fisher women to aware of the small family norms. If they are aware of the small family norms, the size of the family will be an optimum one. This will lead to improvement in the standard of living of the fisher women families.
- The fisher women lack participation in the active politics. Politics gives power and authority to get their rights from the government. Since, the fisher women is the marine tribe, the government should take initiative to constitute reserved constituency in the assembly and the parliament for fisher women like forest tribe.
- The church should play vital role to make sure that all the children of fisher women should go to the school and pursue their higher education with the coordination from government and NGOs.
- Education is spinal cord of the human beings development, therefore to make sure that all the fisher women children should complete schooling and pursue for higher education with available support from the government, church and NGOs.
- Creation of opportunities in alternate income generating activities for the fisherwomen especially in the field of post-harvest fishery and mariculture activities with a suitable market link.

- Provision of technical and institutional financial support to the fisherwomen who take up such alternate income generating activities mainly through Self Help Groups (SHG's) after ascertaining their involvement and commitment.
- Creation of appropriate fishery infrastructure like common cold storage, freezing plants, drying yards to facilitate the fisher women to take up post-harvest fishery activities on a group basis.
- Encouragement of maintaining some livestock wherever feasible to serve as domestic support as well as to supplement the income of the family
- The Government must provide sufficient financial facilities at low rate of interest to the fisher women.
- The Government must provide various health care facilities at cheaper cost at coastal area of Thoothukudi district.
- The government should conduct the awareness camp for the awareness of Health care services and health insurance.
- Fisher women should be provided with good market facilities. The government must take initiative to establish more ice plants, refrigeration plants to store fish.
- Fish markets of coastal area, lack basic infrastructure to maintain hygiene. To solve this problem there is a necessity to set up a local body to implement at a local market. To implement marketing yard, auction yard, temporary storage facilities, drinking water, toilet facilities, drainage facilities and electric supply.
- Distribution of insulated boxes. Insulated fish boxes are very useful for increasing the shelf life of fish packed in ice. Ice will not melt easily in these boxes and avoids temperature fluctuations. Such containers are useful in transporting fish to the market. It may be useful to the retail fish sellers too. It should be encouraged by giving incentives in the form of subsidy.

- Women retail fish distributors are more in the coastal region. These are exploited by the middle men. Money is needed to buy fish, so the government should take the initiative to set up local bodies and provide a loan for fisher women at a very low interest rate, which may help these women to flourish in their business.
- Parallel to fishery activities the government should initiate a scheme to train them in other non-fishing occupations such as tailoring, coir weaving, lace fabrications, paper bag making units, should also be established and encouragement should be given in the form of subsidy and loans.
- To avoid middlemen exploitations, there should be a provision for establishing direct contact with fish catchers and fish sellers.

6.4 CONCLUSION

Fisher women in the study area are playing double roles in the development of fishermen society. In a fishermen family, the responsibility of house hold management and the responsibility of getting and repaying debts will be mainly on the women shoulders. Most of them are earning members and engaged in fishery activities. But their life standard is very poor when compared with other women in India. So prior recognition should be given for the development of fisher women.

Women are involved in fish handling, processing and marketing of fish is predominantly in the hands of women. They also work as fish hawkers or run fish stalls in permanent market places or weekly bazaars. Drying and curing of fish is to a large extent done by women. Net making which is the main income-generating occupation is another important activity. In recent times, women engaged, in the marketing of fresh fish, face various problems, such as lack of cold storage facilities and appropriate fish preservation technologies, escalating cost of fish transportation and frequent strikes. They are also engaged in fish net making, raring, processing, washing, cleaning, salting, drying, and also packaging. They also work in some processing plants. The author gives suggestions to improve their condition. The present involvement of women in predominantly shore-based activities is frequently not a result of deliberate attempts to exclude them from fish capture, though there is some bias against recruiting women for commercial fishing. This bias is partly due to social taboos against having women on board fishing vessels, but more important, it is really a reflection of the choice that women in fisheries have to make when deciding the lines of activity they would assume. Women combine earning activity with their responsibilities at home. Looking after the family, cooking the meals and raising children are activities not easily relinquished unless the economic returns from taking

on other activities are sufficiently high to enable the employment of domestic help, and unless there is no resistance from within the family which are not easy conditions to meet. In view of these difficulties, it is more realistic to concentrate on improving the technical skill in shore-based activities in which women are already engaged, instead of attempting to increase their involvement in fish capture or even to increase the number of women engaged in shore-based activities. This is a more realistic approach and contribution to the development of women's participation in fisheries because the technical and economic problems faced by women already within the industry are many, and needs to be resolved. Fisheries has reached a point of maximum absorption of manpower and it is difficult to increase the participation of women in fisheries. This may be a result of problems of over-fishing, so that the numbers employed in fishing have to be reduced. It could also be due to mechanization and industrialization, which generally make the production process less labour intensive.

6.5 SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- 1) Inter-district and inter-state study on socio-economic characteristics of fisher women will be an useful area for research.
- 2) A study on income, savings and borrowing pattern of fisher women in Thoothukudi district.
- 3) A study on marketing constraints of fisher women in Thoothukudi district.
- 4) A study on socio economic problems of fisher women in Thoothukudi district.
- 5) The role of marine fisheries co-operative societies among the fisher women in Thoothukudi district can be studied.