

PARTICIPATORY TRAINING ON COASTAL RESEARCH STUDY

Phase II

at
**All India Catholic Union Federation Hall
Madras**

October 11 - 13 '1992

Organised By

Coastal Poor Development Action Network India (COPDANET)
59, East Mada Church Road, Royapuram
Madras - 600 013

Collaboration

Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)
42, Tughlakabad Institutional Area
New Delhi - 110 062

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In July at Dyana Ashram, we decided to meet during October 11-14, 1992 after our field level data collection. Most of the participants arrived on 10th evening and 11th morning. We decided to start the session after lunch.

Welcoming the participants, Mrs. Freda Chandrasekheran of COPDANET, Madras said this will be the crucial meeting because after analysis we will plan our future activities. Captain Jacob Rao, National Coordinator, COPDANET said fisherman always remain isolated from the villagers. 'State' is there to help other sectors e.g, Animal Husbandary (Milk). State created milk Federation and Government funded Dairy Development Corporation and asked people to contribute milk. But fishermen are poor, so the government did not bother about them. Government intervention in the fishing industry is very meagre and that is the reason for suffering of the fishermen communities and they are exploited by the middlemen. Fisheries Development Corporation at the state level is supposed to purchase fish from the fishermen and pay the appropriate price but where is the machinery ? He also raised few more issues related to fishermen's problems and general apathy towards them.

2.00 P.M

After this brief innagural session, participants collectively decided the following objectives of this workshop:

- 1) To analyse the data, information collected during the Coastal Research Study.
- 2) To prepare a future plan on the basis of the above.

Participants decided to continue this workshop till 13th evening and on 14th some of the participants would visit field areas around Madras. Following time schedule was decided.

11th October - Presentation of Area-specific study report.

12th October :-

8.30 A.M - Presentation continues

11.00 A.M - Existing government policies, programmes, schemes, Acts, etc.

- Analysis

(Till late evening) - Consolidation

13th October :

8.30 A.M. - Discussion on future plan of action

- Detail planning - what to do, how we will do it , who will do, etc..?

Evening - Closing

Presentation of Area Specific Study Report

25-31 August and early October. six area specific Research Districts during 25-31 August 1992 by ARP.

2. Research study in Kanyakumari, Nellai-Kattabomman and V.O.C districts during 15-23 August by ARP.
3. Research study by SNIRD, in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh during September to October.
4. Research study by REED's in Visakhapatnam district during September.
5. Research study by CONCORD in three villages of Guntur district.
6. Research study by MASSES in 10 villages of Andhra Pradesh.

TAMIL NADU

Mr. Kesavalu of COPDANET, Madras described the Tamil Nadu study and its broad findings. The main focus of these Research studies are to understand the socio-economic conditions of the coastal poor, problems and issues of the coastal poor to understand the role of women in the communities to study the impact of the development, etc. The broad findings are as follows :

- Clashes between mechanised and non-mechanised boat fisherman.
- Middle men's exploitation.
- Fishermen are harassed by Sri Lankan Navy and threat from LTTE.
- Lack of infrastructural facilities.
- Lack of transportation - fishermen and fisherwomen are finding very difficult to carry the fish landing centres to marketing centres because of lack of proper transport facilities.
- Fishermen are not able to utilise the coastal areas for their use, since coastal lands adjoining the villages are being purchased by wealthy people for Prawn culture.
- Dowry system.
- Problems of sea erosion.
- Migration of fishermen to Gulf countries (details given in the Annexure 1 and 2)

ANDHRA PRADESHS

1 Mr. Jawahar of Society for National Integration through Rural Development (SNIRD), described the study conducted in Prakasam district and its findings are as follows :

- Intrusions of Trawler from Tamil Nadu in large number and they carry arms.
- As the area is Cyclone prone, government is supposed to provide connected roads but existing communication linkage is very poor.
- About transporting of fish for marketing, government has not provided any facility.
- Cold storage is not available.
- Middlemen's exploitation in marketing. They pay advance money and fishermen remain permanently under bondage.
- Pollution in the coastal water.
- Housing problem in particular and lack of infrastructural facilities.

Mr. Jawahar prepared a detailed report in Telegu. It was decided that Mr. Kesavalu will translate this into English and circulate among the participants.

2. Mr. Vidyadhar of Rural Energy and Environment Development Society (REEDS) conducted a study in Visakhapatnam district. The study focusses on impact of industrialisation and trawler fishing (details are given in the Annexure 3).

3. MASSES study report was presented by Mr. Subha Rao, and main findings are as follows :

- lack of infrastructure in the coastal villages.
- Housing problem, no cyclone shelter.
- Problem of poverty stricken and landless fishermen is enormous.
- Poor and road communication; accessibility to market is a problem.
- Problem of salinity in the ground water.
- Deforestation due to indiscriminate felling.
- In some villages women are taken up anti-arrack agitation as a result people made a custom not to drink arrack.
- People displaced by Srihorikota atomic plant are not yet properly resettled. Thousands of hectors of land remained uncultivated.

- In Kothapatnam village nearly 1500 acres of the village land is occupied by outsiders and Forest Department is cultivating nearly 2000 acres for cashewnuts and Eucalyptus trees in a commercial way. This village was one of the oldest harbour in the Andhra Pradesh coast from the time of Cholas. Thirtyfive years back there was well grown forest along the coastlines.
 - In Gunnam Padign village Forest Department is paying very meagre wage - Rs. 6.50 per day. Even this wage they are not getting in time. In this village 21 fishermen and one household have only four small catamarrum.
 - Thousands of acres of land has been purchased by outsiders for brackish water prawn cultivation.
4. Mr. Sridhar of CONCORD, Guntur presented their study report. Broad findings follow, more or less the same pattern as in other studies. The findings are as following:
- Fishermen community is poverty stricken. Selling of prawn seedlings is the main source of income. They are being exploited by the traders who are involved in the process of buying their catch.
 - The increasing frequency of disasters has blocked their survival and livelihood and pushed them to social bondage and economic indebtedness.
 - For survival money borrowing from middlemen is one of the common practices. As a consequence, fishermen loose most of their earnings on interest.
 - Lack of infrastructural facilities in the studied villages- health care facilities, (Hospital, Dispensary), sanitation, drinking water, communication etc. In an emergency, one has to walk a distance of 20-25 K.Ms. to the nearest hospital and medical services available only at the Mandal Head quarters.
 - No assistance, financial or otherwise is available to those villages from the local governmental agencies. Poor people are not aware about much talked government schemes.
 - Women played a major role in the family ; looking after household work, drying,grading and carrying fish to the market. At times they face lot of problems (manhandling of fisherwomen is a common phenomenon). Forcible capture of fish and fish basket from them while they are selling fish on the roadside is also very common.
 - People expressed dissatisfaction about the voluntary agencies. Only during cyclone and resultant flood organisations visit the area and give them food, cloth and cash. People say, when they came to their villages they are not doing any justice to all. They often create misunderstanding among ourselves regarding the distribution of relief materials.

After this presentation, discussion started on specific issues, like the most common problems faced by fishermen is "exploitation by the middlemen". So to analyse this we have to know -

- 1) From catch to marketing what are the steps and processes ?
- 2) Middlemen's role ?
- 3) Why are they forced to sell to middlemen ? At what price ?
- 4) Operation strategy of the middlemen - This will lead to understand the government schemes for marketing ; "to help the poor fisherfolk...." Why it fails? Who prepared it ? Is there any local people's involvement in the preparation of these schemes ?
- 5) Actual situation at the village level - suffering of the fisherfolk.

Why they are Marginalised/Isolated

- lack of education and facilities
- lack of medical facilities
- lack of communications
- lack of marketing facilities
- lack of drinking water
- lack of sanitary facilities.

There is a need to analyse every statement we made; every problem, issue.

Participants were decided to do this in the following pattern -

- Issues/problems.
- Why this problem ?
- How they (coastal poor) are being affected ? Impact of this problem (case study).
- People resources - How people tackle this (case study)? Their needs.
- Government response existing government programme - Impact of this (case study).
- Desired response.

Each individual participants were asked to prepare atleast 5 important issues related to coastal poor. The listing are as follows : Figure in the bracket indicates number of participants identified that issue.

- Depletion of fish in the coastal sea water because of various reasons. (6)
- Dowry problem (6)
- Alcoholism (8)
- Middlemen's problem (10)
- Lack of marketing facility (11)
- Trawler fishing/mechanised fishing causing problem to small fishermen-clashes among the two groups. (9)
- Lack of infrastructure- Drinking water problem medical facilities, cold storage, education, transport facilities. (12)
- Cyclone flood problem (6)
- Pollution in the coast lives by industrial units (5)
- Displacement/land alienation due to the setting up of tourism centres, industrial units, etc. (7)
- Sea erosion (5)
- Harassment by Indian Navy (5)

Analysis

1. Cyclone and Flood Problems

It is true that these are natural problems but why its frequency is increasing year after year ? What kind of government effort are there to tackle this problem ? Are these efforts short-term relief oriented or long term mitigation ? Is it not that present development policies are responsible for this problem ? Why do the poor only suffer ? We have to think about this.

2. SOCIAL PROBLEM- ALCOHOLISM, DOWRY PROBLEM

Blame fishermen for 'drinking and wasting their hard-earned money. But at the same time we have to think why arrack vendors are allowed to operate in the fishermen's villages ? Who are the operators ? How they operate ? How government react to this ? Why this kind of policies ? Role of concerned government staff ? Chain of exploiters - who are these people ?

3. PROBLEMS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT

Pollution, displacement, etc. are found in this category. For our country's, industrial development, the government set up industries along the coastlines- Why ? May be due to easy export, as well as easy disposal of waste products in

the coastal water. This becomes threat to fishermen's livelihood. Similarly industries have taken over huge land for setting up their plants. They purchase/take over land from the coastal poor. In the process they become landless. What alternatives are available with them? Similarly to increase our export of marine products, the government introduced mechanised deep sea fishing and what is the result? We know, government is promoting 'agriculture' because of high export potential of prawn. Industrial houses, multinational companies (MNCs) are coming to the coastal zone and purchasing agricultural lands from the farmers and converting these farmlands into tanks for prawn culture. This will lead to We have to think over it.

4. Lack of infrastructural facilities

Because of their lack of political influence.

Marine Fishing Regulation Act

Mr. Theodore Selvaraj gave a detailed account of the situation leading to framing of Marine Fishing Regulation Act, salient features of this act, its impact and resultant protests etc. (details are given in Annexure-4). So far, quite a few states framed their Acts and Andhra Pradesh is yet to frame this Act. Participants from Andhra Pradesh were interested to know the details of this. A sub-committee was formed with following participants to provide support to Andhra Pradesh groups on this issue. Participants are Mr. Silviraj, Mr. Jawahar, Mr. Vidyasagar and Capt. Jacob Rao.

Government Policies and Programmes

Mr. Kesavalu gave a detailed sketch of length of coastal area clarification of coastal area, water area in Tamil Nadu, fish production and government schemes (details are given in Annexure-5.)

METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

Each participating group sits separately and prepare a note on the following-

- Process of village selection.
- How you are welcome/accepted by the villagers?
- How you interact with the villagers?
- How you establish rapport?
- How you have collected information from them?
- Who are the people participate in the discussion? Did women also participate with the menfolk?
- Role of villagers/fisherfolk/fisherwomen in the study?

After discussion individual group prepared a note and presented in the large group.

Need for more indepth-issue specific information

After one and a half days discussion on the issues and its analysis, it was felt that we have to collect some more information. Participants identified the following issues.

- Mechanised fishing in A.P and Tamil Nadu.
- Fishermens' housing condition in A.P and Tamil Nadu
- Impact of cyclones.
- Status of marine/fishermens' cooperatives in Tamil Nadu, Southern part of A.P, and Northern part of A.P.
- Analysis of government efforts/schemes in A.P and Tamil Nadu.
- Impact of Tourism Development.
- Study on status of fisherwomen, their problems in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Case study on Katchativu.
- Middlemen's exploitation.
- Shrimp farming.
- Sriharikota displacement.
- Displacement due to government installations in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Coastal pollution.
- Harassment by Indian Navy.
- Arrack struggle in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Role and status of fisherwomen in the society.
- Issues of coastal poor other than fisherfolk.
- Salt water in Tamil Nadu - their status.
- Fisherfolks' traditional culture in Andhra Pradesh.
- Fishermen unionisation in Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh.
- Directory of voluntary agencies working among the coastal poor in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Ground water exploitation.

- Alienation of coastal land.
- Role of coastal poor in coastal zone management.
- Depletion of traditional tree species.
- Scarcity of drinking water and related health problems.
- Traditional skills- to build and fishing crafts, etc.
- Case study on infrastructural facilities in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

New Case Studies

After identifying the above issues in the large group, discussion was held about the detailed format/focus of these studies and the responsibilities.

CASE STUDIES

1. **Mechanised Fishing in Tamil Nadu - Mr. Selvaraj**
2. **Mechanised fishing in Andhra Pradesh - Mr. Sridhar and Mr. Jawahar.**
 - When it was introduced?
 - Why it was introduced?
 - Who runs it - government, private, cooperative?
 - Specified norms for it's use (if any).
 - Impact - fish catch increase etc.
 - How it affects poor/traditional fisherfolk (give specific details)?
 - Why did they burn some mechanised boats (special case study on this)?
3. **Fishermens' housing in Tamil Nadu - Mr. Selvaraj**
4. **Fishermens' housing in Andhra Pradesh - Mr. Vidyasagar**
 - Housing condition among the coastal poor.
 - Government schemes-description, it's special characteristics, when introduced, why introduced, allocation during the past years, villagers, household expenditure, etc.
 - Impact of this scheme to the coastal poor (should be based upon case study not a general statement).

5. Impact of Cyclones - Captain Jacob Rao

- Cyclone is a part of coastal poor's life.
- Natural barriers of cyclone.
- Condition of these natural barriers and causes of its destruction- resultant impact.
- Impact on their occupation-they cannot go out in the sea before and after cyclone - resultant impact.
- House damage, crop damage, animals lost- impact ?
- Government efforts - How far appropriate and adequate ?

6. Marine/fishermen's Cooperatives in A.P (Vizag) -Capt. Jacob Rao

7. Marine/fishermen's Cooperatives in A.P.(Southern Part) - Mr. Subha Rao.

8. Marine/fishermen's Cooperatives in Tamil Nadu - Mr. Kesavalu.

- Do a case study on the cooperatives.
- Its purpose ? When formed ? Who took the initiative ? Local fisherfolk/government staff ?
- Its function vis-a-vis objectives.
- Who are the people control it ?
- Controlling authorities in real sense ?
- Positive factors - Why ?
- Negative factors - Why ?
- Local people's, especially coastal poor's view point on the functioning of cooperatives.

9. Impact of Tourism Development in the Pulikot lake and bird Sanctuary- Mr. Subha Rao

- Brief description of the lake and the local poor's dependence upon it- how many fisherfolk communities are there around the lake?
- Why this "development" ? Who decided this ? Local people's viewpoints ?
- How they will affect ?
- Government's arguments.

- Counter the government arguments from local people's view points.
 - Cite examples from other similar developments elsewhere.
- 10) Case study on status of Fisherwomen in Tamil Nadu - Ms. Joyce.
- 11) Case study on fisherwomen's problems in A.P - Mr. Jawahar.
- Describe their work schedule.
 - Doing both household work as well as take the responsibilities of drying, grading and selling of fish.
 - They are harassed - Why ? exploited- Why ?
 - Even in the family, their husbands beat them, quarrel with them, divorce them.
 - What they are lacking ? What they need ?
 - Role of voluntary agencies for their development - (if any) describe their effort and its impact.
- 12) Case study on Katchativu - an island in the Tamil Nadu Coast
- Mrs. Freda Chandrasekheran will prepare a case study on this.
- 13) Middlemen's exploitation - in Tamil Nadu - Mr. Shekher will follow the earlier discussed format.
- 14) Shrimp farming in Andhra Pradesh- Mr. Jawahar
- 15) Shrimp farming in Tamil Nadu - Mr. Kesavalu
- Why this sudden development ?
 - Government policy on Marine product export ? Target.
 - Its resultant process (describe the process) - rich businessmen and industrial houses, MNC's are entering in this area - purchasing huge land & start prawn culture.
 - How the local poor are being affected ? Farmers forced to sell their agricultural land, food crop area converted into cash crop areas, fishermen forced to change their occupation, etc.
- 16) Sriharikota Displacement - Subha Rao:
- Area acquired ? Use of that land.
 - How many people displaced ? Their present condition.
 - Compensation ?

- Restrictions imposed upon local people (details), resultant sufferings ?
 - Local people's participation in the plant ? Types of job/contact job if any.
 - This will be an unique example how national development gets priority at the expenses of local people.
17. Displacement due to Government Installation - A.P. - Capt. Jacob Rao
18. Displacement due to Government Installation - T.N. - Mr. Kesavalu.
- Type of unit, size.
 - Area acquired, number of people and villages displaced, types of compensation (if any).
 - Impact on the people due to this displacement.
 - People's view-point on this development - in what way they are benefited (if any).
 - Negative impact of this 'development'.
19. Pollution around the coastal belt - T.N. - Shekhar
- Condition around the coastal area due to pollution - area and people affected.
 - Causes of pollution - industrial (types), domestic sewerage, others (specify).
 - In what way coastal poor are being affected due to this pollution.
 - Government/authorities responses (if any).
20. Harrassment by Navy around T.N. Coast - Shekhar
- Nature of harrassment and its resultant impact on the fishefolk.
 - This is an unique example how tension among the two neighbouring countries affected the fishermen.
21. Arrack struggle in Tamil Nadu - Ravi and Ms. Joyce
22. Arrack struggle in Andhra Pradesh - Subba Rao
- Why, how and when this struggle started ?
 - Who is/are the motivators/organiser ? Why ?
 - Who are the people involve in it ?

- Describe the process of the struggle.
 - Identify and describe the strength of this struggle.
 - Out-come of this struggle.
23. Role of fisherwomen in the family - Mrs. Merry
- Type of work/job they do in the family from early morning to late evening. Describe in detail and show they are equally sharing the family responsibilities.
24. Status of fisherwomen in the society - Mrs. Merry
- Fisherwomen status in the society.
 - They are neglected despite sharing major work, family work, drying of fish, marketing of fish, e.g. very often they are being accused by their family members/society because they go out for marketing of fish.
 - Why this situation ? Men and women's view points on this.
25. Issues of coastal poor other than fisherfolk - Subba Rao
- Define them in the area, who are they, their socio-economic condition.
 - Problems faced by them.
 - Why this problem ?
 - Their perception about this problem.
26. Salt workers in Tamil Nadu - Their present status and problems - Dr. Felix.
- Who are they, their traditional occupation.
 - Impact of salt processing units, and large MNC's involvement in salt processing on them.
27. Fisherfolks traditional culture - T.N. - Mr. Samson, Mr. Prabhu, Mr. Shekhar and coordinated by Dr. Felix.
28. Fisherfolks traditional culture - A.P. - Srinivasa Rao, Vidyasagar.
- Describe the traditional system of collective planning decision making, sharing.
 - Popular method of forecasting about weather condition.
 - Popular method of analysing area specific availability of fish.
 - Other cultural, social norms, practice.

29. Fishermens union in T.N. - Mr. Ravi and Dr. Felix

- Describe the unionisation processes of fishermen in Tamil Nadu.
- Why this unionisation ? Who took the initiative ?
- Present status, activities, strengthes.
- People's (fishermen/union members) view-point about this process.

30. Fishermen's union - (case studyof East Godavari District)
- Mr. Rajendra Kumar. Same as above.

31. Directory of voluntary agencies, unions, tradional organisation and people's organisation working among the coastal poor - T.N. - Mrs. Freda.

32. Directory of voluntary agencies, unions, traditional organisations, people's organisations working among the coastal poor - A.P. - Mr. Jawahar, Mr. Vidyasagar and coordinated by Capt. Jacob Rao.

- Name, contact person and address.
- Year of starting, area of operation.
- Objectives and focus, type of activities.
- Staff, members, workers.
- Specific work in the area (among the coastal poor, fisherfolk).

33. Ground water exploitation - (a case study of Prakasam Distt.) - Mr Jawahar.

- Status of ground water in this regions.
- Why this expoitation ? Changes in the cropping, pattern....?
- How much withdrawal - periodic data ?
- Impact of this heavy withdrawal of ground water: on local poor, fisherfolk.
- Who are the people involved in this ?
- Role of government ?
- Local poor reaction on this ? Are they involve in the planning ? Got the benefits ?

34. Alienation of coastal land - role of coastal poor in coastal zone management - Mr. Shekhar.
- Causes and extent of alienation.
 - Impact of this.
 - Local people are being involve in the planning and implementation of 'coastal zone management' programme ?
35. Depletion of traditional tree species (a case study) - Subba Rao.
- What are the traditional tree species in the area ?
 - Causes of their depletion and critical analysis of the same.
36. Scarcity of drinking water and related health problem - Mr. Subba Rao.
- Why this problem in the area ?
 - Government efforts to tackle this problem - Government indifference?
37. Traditional skills - to built fishing crafts - Capt. Jacob Rao.
38. Case study on infrastructural facilities - A.P. - Mr. Subba Rao, Mr. jawahar, Mr. Vidyasagar (area specific).
39. Case study on infrastructural facilities - T.N. - Mr Shekhar.
- This should be on area specific.
 - Try to list out the various facilities/infrastructure and show that these fishermen's villages are left out for systematic government development efforts.

The above listing are an indicative one and not 'the guidelines'. The case study should be based upon field based data, information and reflect the reality.

FORMAT OF THE REPORT

I. Introduction

- Fishing industry in India (brief description)
 - in land
 - marine
 - coast line (area), number of people dependent upon sea as a source of livelihood. Traditionally these people are socially and economically isolated and marginalised.
- Growth and development of marine fishing in the country in the last few years-
 - Why this sudden growth ? Export oriented government policy.
- Review of Literature
 - Research findings, its critical review.

(Possible sources-university library, fisheries survey institute, CMERI, Archives, National Institute of oceanography, Goa, Vizag, C.I.F, N.E.T at Vizag, Madras, Cochin, State fisheries departments, Bay of Bengal programme (BOBP), Madras, Fisheries colleges at Tuticorin, Mangalore, Bombay etc.)
 - Focus on activities of these institutes and its critical analysis.

Government Efforts so far

- Description of its policies, programmes, rules, acts, etc.
- Critical analysis (Core studies)

II. NEED FOR THIS STUDY

- Why Alternative Research - People's Research ?
- Identify short comings of government, University Research.
- Objectives, focus of this study.

III. FINDINGS (To be based upon Case Study)

- e.g- Co-operatives
 - What govt policies/scheme says?
 - Grass root situation.

- Mechanised fishery - Why govt introduced this ?
- Impact on the poor fishfolk
- Housing - What government scheme says ?
- Grass-root situation.
- Success & Failure Story - Analyse, find out its reasons, describe it.
- Impact of Development Efforts - Economic Development of the country (Case study)

- Tourism
- Industry
- Port
- Atomic Plants
- Fishing Harbour
- Shrimp Farming

Aquaculture -what it is ?
Development efforts - impact.

IV. PEOPLES INITIATIVE

Successful efforts by the people, its analysis and identify the strength.

- Protests, movements.
- Arrak struggle.
- Organised protests on certain issues.
- Development initiative by the people.
- Managing the society - solve social problems, disputes, etc.

PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH STUDY AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Problems faced by fishermen, coastal poor should be highlighted.
- More indepth issue specific study.
- Report should not remain as a report - action needed.
- Organise meetings on related issues e.g., Seminar on cyclone in the second week of November in Andhra Pradesh.
- Regularly organise some seminar at the regional level on specific issues.
- Publication of simplified version of government schemes, Acts, etc.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Review of Literature - Mrs. Freda Chandrasekheran (CAPDANET)

Govt. Policies, Schemes, Programmes, Rules, Acts, etc.

i) Description of Govt policy-

- its crucial analysis - Mrs. Freda Chandrasekharan
- How it benefits the poor or otherwise ?
 - use case study - Mr. Vidyasagar
 - Mr. Jawahar and
 - Capt. Jacob Rao for A.P

ii) Government Schemes:

- description, target group etc. - Mr. Kesavalu from Tamil Ndu
- Ground level reality (use case study here) - Mr. Vidyasagar, Mr. Jawahar and Capt. Jacob Rao

iii) Description of Marine Fishing

- Regulation Act - Mr. Selvaraj from T.N.
- Critical analysis; how it affect the poor fisherfolk (use case study if needed) - Mr. Vidyasagar, Mr. Jawahar and Capt Jacob Rao from A.P.

Tamil Nadu draft will be prepared by 31st, October, Andhra Pradesh participants viz, Mr. Jawahar and Mr. Vidyasagar will send their write up to Capt Jacob Rao by 15th November. Then Captain will send the same,. A.P. reports to Mrs. Freda and Mr. Selvaraj by 30th November 1992.

FOLLOW-UP

Submission of Case Study

- To whom - Mrs. Freda Chandrasekheran
Mr. Silvaraj (COPDANET, Madras)
- By when - 30th November
(send information in phases-15-30th November 1992)

Case study report should be written in English.

Dateline for Draft report

Report must be prepared by 31st December 1992.

Team for Draft report preparation

- Mrs. Freda Chandrasekharan, COPDANET
- Mr. Silvaraj, COPDANET
- Mr. Kesvalu "
- Dr. Felix "
- Mr. Subha Rao(A.P) "

(send a copy to Chadan Dutta, PRIA for comments)

Meeting on Draft Report- Middle of January 1993.

Preparation of Final Report in English by Mid February 1993.

- Short booklet in English, Tamil and Telegu will also be prepared by mid February.

Tamil short report	- Mr. Silvaraj
Telegu short report	- Capt Jacob Rao
English short report	- COPDANE

WORKSHOP ON COASTAL RESEARCH STUDY

11 - 14 OCTOBER 1992

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Capt. Jacob Rao
National Coordinator
COPDANET
11, H.I.G. Lawsonsbay
'Suryaydhaya'
Visakhapatnam - 530 017
ANDHRA PRADESH
2. Mr. Theodore Selvaraj
Regional Coordinator
COPDANET
59, East Mada Church Road
Royapuram
Madras - 600 013
TAMIL NADU
3. Mr. K.V. Kesavalu
Hony. Consultant
COPDANET
59, East Mada Church Road
Royapuram
Madras - 600 013
TAMIL NADU
4. Mrs. Freda Chandrasekaran
Regional Coordinator
COPDANET
59, East Mada Church Road
Royapuram
Madras - 600 013
TAMIL NADU
5. Mr. A. Sekar
Asst. Coordinator
COPDANET
59, East Mada Church Road
Royapuram
Madras - 600 013
TAMIL NADU
6. Mr. Kannadasan
Animator
Association for Rural Poor (ARP)
1/171 Pillaiyar Kovil Street
Arambakkam Post, Gummidipoondi Taluk
Chengai MGR District
TAMIL NADU - 601 207
7. Ms. D. Joyce
Women Organiser
Association for Rural Poor (ARP)
1/171 Pillaiyar Kovil Street
Arambakkam Post, Gummidipoondi Taluk
Chengai MGR District
TAMIL NADU - 601 207
8. Ms. P. Nirmala
Association for Rural Poor (ARP)
Sadras, Kalpakkam
TAMIL NADU - 603 102
9. Mrs. P. Mary
Association for Rural Poor (ARP)
Sadras, Kalpakkam
TAMIL NADU - 603 102
10. Mr. P. Ravi
Secretary
Sinkaravelar Kattamaran Fishermen
Workers Union
Sadras, Kalpakkam Post
TAMIL NADU - 603 102
11. Mr. A. Rama Rao
Member - Vasa
V A S A
Tirupati Palem (Via)
Santham P.O.
Ranastalam (Mandal)
Srikakulam Distt.
ANDHRA PRADESH - 532 409
12. Mr. P.R. Kumar
Programme Coordinator
Grama Pragati
V.R. Nagar
Kavali - 524 201
Nellore District
ANDHRA PRADESH

13. Mr. B. Rama Rao
Community Organiser
YORID
1-11-6 Sivalayam (State)
Old Town, Kavali
Nellore District
ANDHRA PRADESH - 524 201

14. Mr. Sridhar T.
Director
CONCORD
Penumudi
Rapallee Mandal
Guntur District
ANDHRA PRADESH - 522 265

15. Mr. Godfrey G.P. Jawahar
Secretary
S N I R D
Ongole P.O.
Railpet
Prakasam District
ANDHRA PRADESH - 523 001

16. Mr. V. Srinivasa Rao
STRIDE
Mangammatipatta
C.H. Uppada, Bheemite
Visakhapatnam District
ANDHRA PRADESH

17. Mr. Subba Rao
Director
MASSES
Valayanandapuram
Gudur - 524 101
Nellore District
ANDHRA PRADESH

18. Mr. K. Rajendra Kumar
Community Organiser
Dharmavaram P.O.
Prathipadu (M.L.)
East Godavari - 533 430
ANDHRA PRADESH

19. Mr. J. Samson
Coordinator
Association for Rural Poor (ARP)
1/171 Pillaiyar Kovil Street
Arambakkam Post, Gummidipoondi Taluk
Chengai MGR District
TAMIL NADU - 601 207

20. Mrs. P. Mavamani
Coordinator
C.D.C.P. Office
M.A.P.P. Road
Sadras, Kalpakkam Post
TAMIL NADU - 603 102

Resource Person

1. Mr. Chandan Datta
PRIA
42, Tughlakabad Institutional Area
NEW DELHI - 110 062

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH STUDY OF COASTAL POOR IN TAMILNADUGROUP - I

The Group conducted the Research Study of coastal poor in Kanyakumari, Nellore-Kattabomman and V.O.C. Districts from 15.8.92 to 23.8.92.

I. Broad objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the present socio-economic conditions of the coastal poor.
2. To identify the problems and issues of the coastal poor.
3. To understand the role of women in the social and cultural and economic spheres in the community.
4. To study the effects of environmental degradation in the coastal village.
5. To study the impact of the development.
6. To identify potential leaders in the community.
7. To identify organisations of the coastal poor.
8. To identify Voluntary Agencies working for the uplift of the coastal poor.

II. Village Visited

<u>Kanyakumari District</u>	<u>Nellore Kattabomman District</u>	<u>V.O.C. Chidambaram District</u>
1. Chinnathurai	1. Nadar Ovari	1. Manapadu
2. Thoothoor	2. Paravar Ovari	2. Amalinagar
3. Melamanakudi	3. Idinthakarai	3. Punnakayal
4. Keelamanakudi		4. Threspuram
5. Kovalam		5. Pudhiyakadarkarai
6. Kanyakumari		
7. Chinnamuttom		
8. Arokiapuram		

III. The following organisations were contacted during the Research Study.

Kanyakumari District

1. Kadalora Meenava Urimai Pathukappu Sangam (Arokiapuram)
2. Grama Pengal Munnetra Sangam (Thoothoor)
3. Vidavaigal Munnetra Sangam (Thoothoor)

(ii)

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 4. Santidan Pengal Munnetra Sangam | (Keelamanakudi) |
| 5. Fishermen Cooperative Society | " |
| 6. Mathu Ozhippu Pengal Sangam | " |
| 7. Grama Magalir Munnetra Sangam | " |
| 8. Sahaya Madha Fishermen Munnetra Sangam | (Kanyakumari) |
| 9. Iratchagar Fishermen Munnetra Sangam | " |
| 10. Antoniar Fishermen Munnetra Sangam | " |
| 11. Upakara Madha Ilaignar Mandram | " |
| 12. Munnal Manavar Sangam | " |
| 13. Thomas Grama Pengal Munnetra Sangam | (Chinna Muttom) |
| 14. Magalir Mandram | " |

V.O. Chidambaranar District

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Centre for Rural Development | (Manapad) |
| 2. Youth Association | (Amalinagar) |
| 3. T.M.S.S.S. | (Tuticorin) |
| 4. Chidambaranar District Kattumaram Nattupadagu
Meenavar Sangam | (Amalinagar) |
| 5. Pengal Olaimudiyum Co-op. Society | (Manapad) |

IV. During Research Study in Kanyakumari District the following problems were narrated by the fisherfolk.

1. Naval authorities are harassing Thoothoor fishermen in the sea while fishing, though they have identify cards issued by the Department of fisheries.
2. Church authorities are purchasing lands near the shore.
3. Sea erosion and soil erosion:
a) Thoothoor b) Kanyakumari c) Kovalam
4. When the fishermen of Kanyakumari fish in the sea near the boundary of Kerala Waters, fishermen of Kerala harass Kanyakumari fishermen.
5. Clashes between mechanised and non-mechanised craft fishermen.
6. Berthing facilities required.
7. During rainy seasons, the fisherfolk are not able to cross Keelamanakudi river.
8. Depletion of fishes,
9. Extinction of certain species of fishes.
10. Drinking water facilities required.
11. Clashes between different groups of fishermen while fishing in the sea.

12. Dowry system.
13. Tourism Department is establishing hotels and tourist centres at Arokaipuram and Kanyakumari.

Nellai-Kattaborman District

1. Middlemen problem in Paravar Ovari.
2. No patta land available for house construction by Govt. Agencies in Paravar Ovari since most of the land have been acquired by Suyambulingasamy Devasthanam in Nadar Ovari.
3. Sea erosion in Paravar Ovari.
4. Dowry system prevalent in Paravar Ovari.
5. Clash between mechanised boat fishermen and country craft fishermen.
6. Frequent clashes with the fishermen of the neighbouring fishing village Koothankozhi. It is reported that country made bombs are used in such clashes.
7. Most of the women of Nadar Ovari are engaged in Beedi making. They get very low wages.
8. About 43 Brahmin families who form 10% of the population in Nadar Ovari control the other communities of the village.
9. People engaged in agriculture do not get continuous electric power supply for irrigation in Nadar Ovari.
10. Middlemen are Keralites.
11. Clashes between Hindus and Christians in Idinthakarai.
12. Police cannot enter Idinthakarai fishing village.
13. Fresh water is not available.

Demands of the fisherfolk

1. Proper implementation of Marine Fisheries Regulation Act Kanyakumari, Nellai Kattabomman and V.O.C. District.
2. Construction of a bridge to cross Keelamanakudi river.
3. Berthing facility at Kovalam and Kanyakumari.
4. Encroachment of barren land of about 200 acres in Punnakayal village by certain people. Villagers represented to evict the encrochers and put the land to proper use.

5. Enough credit facility for the purchase of OBM to be arranged.
6. Mechanised Boats should return to base before sunset.
7. To increase the frequency of bus service in Amalinagar.
8. Amali Nagar Fisherwomen have been trained in different traders connected to their region. They are not able to utilise their training for want of finance.
9. Elimination of middlemen all along the coast.
10. Fisherfolk are not for Family Planning.
11. Assistance for handicapped fishermen are wanting.
12. Pair trawling should be prohibited.

V. Our Observations

Kanyakumari District:

1. Literacy rate is high in Kanyakumari District. All women are educated.
2. Most of the women are involved in self-employment, i.e. fabrication of palm leaves baskets, boxes etc., making beedi, shells decoration dry fish making and processing of fish and prawns, cuttle fish etc. Employed in salt pans, felling of trees. (especially in Punnakayal).
3. They spend lot of money for festivals etc. connected to their religion (they spend more than a lakh for every festival).
4. Big catholic churches are found everywhere. Head of the church is respected by the villagers.
6. Village committees have been formed in which participation of women is more.
6. Deadly weapons and ammunitions are manufactured in Idinthakarai and a few villages.
7. Women enjoying equal status in society and participate in agitations.
8. Living conditions of fisherfolk are better.
9. K.S.S. is trying its best in the elimination of middlemen from fishing villages.
10. Churches are imparting various types of training to fisherwomen i.e. tailoring, palm leaves products, fish pickling, fish drying in Hygenic methods etc.

11. Many fishermen are now working in Gulf countries.
12. Fisherwomen are employed in sea weed collection and lime shells etc.
13. Long line fishing is a major fishery in Thoothoor for catching sharks.
14. Fishing with mechanised country crafts is encouraging in the district.
15. Kanyakumari people are addict to liquor brought from neighbouring Kerala state.
16. Unhygienic conditions in Arokiapuram.

V.O. Chidambaranar District

1. Sea erosion.
2. Rocky sea bottom - (because of rocky bottom nets are getting entangled and damaged during fishing).
3. Construction of Tourism building at Manappad.
4. Group clashes are common (Idinthakarai and Kanyakumari).
5. Clashes between mechanised and non mechanised crafts.
6. Drinking water problem.
7. Middlemen exploitation of fishermen in Amalinagar.
8. Clashes between Amalinagar fishermen and Alanthalai fishermen.

VII. Identification of Leaders

1. Mrs. Mary, President, Grama Pengal Munnetra Sangam, Kanyakumari.
2. Mrs. Celin, Secretary, - do -
3. Mrs. Alboramma, Treasurer, - do -
4. Mr. Michael, Fishermeen Co-op. Society, Chinnathurai, Thoothoor.
5. Mr. D. Mariadoss, T.F.V., Melamanakudy and P.O. - 629202

6. J. Constantine, T.F.V., Keelamanakudy, Melamanakudy,
7. Mrs. Rasalin Melkis, Village Leader, Thomas Grama Pengal Munnetra Sangam, R/122 Kanyakumari Post, Chinnamuttom
8. Mr. L. Thiyagarajan, Punnai Ilainyar Mandra, King Street, Punnakayal Post, Athur (Via), V.O.C. District.
9. Ramesh, Coordinator, T.M.S.S.I., Manapadu.
10. James, Ex. Society President, Idinthakarai, Nellai-Kattabomman District.
11. P. Puthiran, Manapad, V.O.C. District - 628 209

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH STUDY OF COASTAL POOR IN TAMILNADU

GROUP - II

The group conducted the Research Study in Ramanad, Pudukottai and Quaid-e-Millet Districts from 25.8.92 to 31.8.92.

I. Broad Objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the present socio-economic conditions of the coastal poor.
2. To identify the problems and issues of the coastal poor.
3. To understand the role of women in the social and cultural and economic spheres in the community.
4. To study the effects of environmental degradation in the coastal village.
5. To study the impact of the development.
6. To identify potential leaders in the community.
7. To identify organisations of the coastal poor.
8. To identify Voluntary Agencies working for the uplift of the coastal poor.

II. Village VisitedRamanad District

1. Rameshwaram
2. Thangachi Madam
3. Akka Madam
4. Pamban
5. Kilakarai
6. Thondi

Pudukottai District

1. Mimisal -
Pudupattinam
2. Jagadapattinam
3. Kottaipattinam

Quaid-e-Millet District

1. Velankanni
2. Nagapattinam
3. Nagoor
4. Poompuhar
5. Vanagiri
6. Konayampattinam
7. Koozhaiyar
8. Thirululaivasal
9. Pazhayar

III. The following organisations and depts were contacted during the Research March.

Ramanad District

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1. | Rameswaram Meenavar Sangam | (Rameswaram) |
| 2. | Rameswaram District Fishermen Federation | " |
| 3. | India Desiya Meenavar Sangam | " |
| 4. | Nattu Padagu Meenavar Sangam | " |
| 5. | Nadar Meenavar Sangam | " |
| 6. | A.D.F. Ramanad | " |
| 7. | Arivoli Iyakkam, Ramanathapuram | |
| 8. | Fisherwomen Co-op. Society, Kelakarai | |
| 9. | T.R.R.M. Pamban | |

Pudukottai District

1. Jayalalitha Magalir Mandram, Jagadapattinam
2. Kadal Urimaiyalar Sangam, Jagadapattinam
3. Sinthanai Sirpi Singalavelar Narpani Mandram
4. Arivoli Iyakkam
5. Grama Uzhaiyum Magalir Co-op. Sangam - Mimisal
6. Department of Fisheries - Thondi
7. Naval Officer Stationd at - Thondi

Quaid-E-Millet District

1. Meenavar Nala Membattu Sangam - Velankanni
2. Hindu Munnani Iyakkam - Velankanni
3. Singaravelar Arakattalai - Poompuhar
4. SNEHA - Voluntary Organisation - Nagapattinam
5. Sinthnai Sirpi Singaravelar Mandram - Mangaimadam
6. Nagai Meenavar Magalir Peravai - Nagoor
7. Department of Fisheries - Pazayar

IV. The Problems and Issues of the Coastal Poor are Identified as follows:

Ramanad District:

1. Clashes with L.T.T.E.
2. Clashes between mechanised and non mechanised boat fishermen.
3. Property taxes very high.
4. There is no patta land available for house construction in Rameswaram.
5. Middlemen exploitation.
6. Other communities have also taken up fishing and compete with fishermen and enjoy the benefits given to fishermen communities by Government agencies.
7. Financial benefits given by Government do not reach the actual beneficiaries. Mistakes and atrocities committed by non-fishermen communities are passed on to the fisherfolk by Government staff.
8. Fishermen are harassed by Srilankan Navy.

9. Lack of infrastructure, improper road facilities in the fishing villages. No proper electricity facilities, lack of sanitation, toilets etc.
10. Fisherwomen engaged in cleaning prawn get low wages.
11. Fish landing centres are not kept clean.
12. Frequent clashes between Hindus and Christians.
13. Government schemes do not reach the fishermen of Keelakarai.
14. No proper house facilities in Keelakarai.
15. Fisherwomen are not able to market the fish in Keelakarai village since the fish marketing is dominated by middlemen.
16. Fisherfolk of Keelakarai are being called as smugglers which is not true.
17. Dynamiting the fish and corals in the sea of Thondi, which is against rules framed by the Government of Tamilnadu.
18. Removing the corals by dynamite causes - ecological imbalance.
19. The paper identity cards issued by the Department of Fisheries, gets wet and lost during fishing. Hence identity cards may be framed in polythene sheets and supplied.
20. Fishermen harassment by the Naval authorities during fishing has to be taken to the notice of Government.
21. Fishermen and fisherwomen are finding very difficult to carry the fish from fish landing centres to marketing centres for want of proper transport facilities.

Pudukottai District

1. Naval harassment of fishermen by Indian Navy.
2. There is no proper Jetty for berthing in Kottapattinam. (the landing facility could not be provided here due to local fishermen's problems).
3. Harassment by the L.T.T.E. to local fisherman during fishing.
4. Since Velankanni town is a tourist centre this affects the local fisherfolk.
5. Clash between mechanised and non-mechanised crafts.
6. Middlemen exploitation in marketing of fish.
7. There is no link-road for many fishing villages.
8. In Poompuhar, boats not having identity cards issued by the fisheries department are not allowed to unload the fish catches and if these boats unload their fish catches, the boat owners are fined heavily by the villagers.
9. Fishermen are not able to utilise the coastal area for their use, since coastal lands adjoining the villages are being purchased by wealthy people for prawn culture.
10. In Pazhayar there is no proper transport facility for taking fish to Sirkali and Chidambaram fish markets.
11. In Pazhayar boats are not able to pass through the channel to the fishing harbour since the channel is silted up.

V. Leaders Identified

1. Mr. Arulanandam, Mavatta Meenavar Sangam, Rameswaram, Ramanad District.
2. Mr. Ramasamy, Meenavar Co-op. Society, Keelakarai Meenava Kuppam, Vethiri Street - 623 517.
3. Mrs. Anjammal W/o Rajaram, Uzhaikum Magalir Co-op. Sangam, Meemisal Pudupattinam, Pudukottai District.
4. Mrs. Siranganathan, Kadal Urimaiyalar Sangam, Jegatha Pattinam, Pudukottai District.
5. Mrs. Alamelu, Jayalalitha Magalir Mandram, Jagathapattinam, Pudukottai District.
6. Mr. Karruppaiah, Sindanai Sirpi Singaravelar, Meenavar Iyakkam, Thondi, Thiruvadana T.K., Ramanad District - 623 409
7. Mr. S. Pitchai Varam, Meenava Co-op. Society, Aria Nattu Vadakku Street, Vellankanni, Quaid-e-Millet District.
8. Mr. N. Thomas, Meenava Co-op. Society, Poompuhar Meenava Colony, Sirkali T.K., Quaid-e-Millet District.
9. Mrs. Pakkiriamma, Jayalalitha Magalir Mandram, Pazhayar, Sirkali T.K., Quaid-e-Millet District.
10. Mrs. Christy, No.10, Kaliyamman Koil Street, Velipalayam, Nagapattinam.
11. Mr. M. Loganathan, Co-op. Society, Numbiyar Nagar, Nagapattinam, Quaid-e-Millet District.

REED'S STUDY

The study began on Friday, the 18th September from Bhavanapadu in Srikakulam District after three K.M.'s of brisk walk the campaigner boarded the R.T.C. Bus and landed in the village at 7.30 p.m. after one and half hours travel on the Bouncy Road.

Bhavanapadu Village Study

The village Bhavanapadu located about 30 k.m.'s from Tekkali^{is} an Agricultural village. Vamsadhara is its main source of irrigation. In Bhavanapadu, the majority of the community is fisherfolk locally identified as "Agnikulashatriyas" and also "Pallilu", another community is also earning their livelihood on the same lines^{for the} past several centuries. "Reddika's" an agricultural community with a limited land holdings^{is} existing in the same village. The total population of the fishing community stands between 6,500 to 7,000, out of which 1,500 to 2,000 have been identified as the active fishermen. The total fishing population is divided into three small clusters.

Status of Co-operative in the Village

One Co-operative society with 1,000 to 1,200 strength became a target to the political influence and existingly defunct. Both the Panchayat and Co-operative society presidents were little restless and arrogant as the campaigners, tried their best to share their interaction, as they were in a drunken stage. The campaigners^{did} not loose their patience and convinced the leadersto share their ideas.

"Do you give us any loans" the first question, the campaigners were asked by the leaders.

"Five fishermen met their fate in the deep sea two years ago. We have not been tearing the deaf year of th leaders and the Government with hundred of appeals".

"Who"

"Who are you"

"You give us any compensation or recommend" a gallore of questions.

Un-answered.

"When we raise our voice for justice, we are branded as Radicals and Naxalites".

"Please leave us to our fate" a pe^ssimistic expression from an elderly leader .

Infrastructural Facilities in the Village

One Upper Primary School upto 5th standard and the attendance of the students was very meagre. There is a deep fishing harbour under construction, and now the present status of continuation in dilemma, five crores of rupees have already been spent on construction of sheds, water tanks, houses for staff, way in to travellers and Sona's and now due to increasingly sandcast in the Bar Mouth, the travellers and fishing boats could not be anchored in the stipulated area, hence the completion of the remaining project is temporarily held up and the value of the remaining structure is estimated around 1.5 crores.

People's Opinion

There are mixed feelings about the Harbour commonly shared by the people, that some middlemen and bureaucrats seem to be misguiding the people with false promises, like more jobs and more employment, at the same time a number of youth and elderly leaders ^{are} foreseeing the danger of further depletion of the resources, disintegration through various ways like migration from traditional dependency, slavery and bonded labour. There are several other vital factors came into the notice of the campaigners, like Non-Insurance Coverage, Compensation to the deceased in the deep sea, close fishing of "SONA" 32 feet, within a very close range (we have noticed the lights of Sona's very close to the shore, within 4 to 5 k.m.s) and damaging their nets and cattamarans, lack of other needed basic facilities like Health and Medical care.

People's Reaction

If the Government or Agencies or any other power ^{does} not take any initiative in the near future, for the implementation of the Marine Fishing Regulation Act, we are afraid that;

"Our sea, our property will become a water desert if the domination of the Sona's and trawlers continue, its operation without any regulations".

It is assumed that every fishermen has been spending about Rs.600 to 800/- on an average every month on liquor. This leads the entire family and community into indebtedness.

Land Holdings

We have noticed that many of the fishermen families having land holdings ranging between 1 acre to 5 acres.

Net Centre

Fishermen comes from Srikakulam and other villages to buy their nets to Nakkapalli in Visakhapatnam.

Role of Women

Women involved in fishing activities are very small in number, they carry the fish to (dry fish and salted fish) to the nearby villages on headloads. Majority of the women are involved in Agricultural

activities, that includes, digging pits, wells, speds work, trans-plantation, shell collection etc., like many places, the women playing very vital role as "Breadwinners" of the family.

Meghavaram Village

On 20th morning the campaigners took leave from Mr. Potayya, a young shell merchant and Mr. Ramarao, the Panchayat President and proceeded to Meghavaram a coastal village via Tekkali and reached Meghavaram at 7.00 p.m. and met Sri Satyanarayana, an active political youth working with the Agricultural Labour and fisherfolk. We had interacted with the agricultural labourers and noticed the seasonal migration to the places like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Assam, Orissa, as agriculture, construction, as well as contract labour, with different ranges of income.

In the next morning the campaign passed through many Buses and Orchards to the village namely "SURADAVANI PETA", a thinly populated village consists 200 to 250 families with majority of them are active fishermen. This almost reflected the similar status of the tribals without even common facilities like drinking water, health, medical and education.

We found one old women aged about 55 to 60 years. Decoiring the coconut coir and the same thing is collected by same middlemen from the nearby village "Baru Bhadra". During our interaction we have noticed that the land around the village under the occupation of land lords mixed with many classes like Reddika's Kalingas etc., hence, the land for constructing the housing for fishermen was not available.

Cooperative

There is men's cooperative with 200 members now defunct. No Mahila Mandals.

Boru Bhadra Village

At 10.30 p.m. reach the village Boru Bhadra about 10 k.ms. away from Meghavaram, through the Paddy fields and canals. No plantation either sides of the canals are roads. We felt, that the introduction of Social Forestry and other income generation plants are very much needed in this area. We found that the school going children about 8 to 10 years old also facing the daily strain of walking these distances to attend their studies.

We reached Polaki in the afternoon, around 3 o'clock and stayed in the YARD office, after a short relaxation, around 5.30, we have proceeded towards "Koviripeta" 6 to 7 k.ms. from Polaki.

Koviripeta Village

During our interaction, the people burst their feelings, "In the process of Democratic suppression, perhaps the Brand of identification has been playing an instrumental role".

The Koviripeta village consists of traditional fisher workers and few families of agricultural labour. "YARD" has recently adopted the above village and forming Mahila Mandals formed a 3 kms. clay road and taking up a housing programme cost of a house Rs. 15,000/-.

Exploitation by Outside Merchants

Exploitation by outside merchant is one of the issues, came into light during our interaction with some of the fisherfolk.

During prawn fishing season, the merchants from Orissa reach these places with bags of money and offer some quantity as a loan to the fishermen, to work in their boats as contract labourers. In that agreement, the fishermen labour accept an amount ranging from Rs.5,000 to 10,000/- per group consists of (5 to 10 people) at a lower interest.

In such exercises, a fisherman lost his life in the deep sea, as a result the dependents have become orphans. They made several appeals to the boat owners as well as Puri District Authorities. But the appeals did not create any impact so far. But the hopeful dependent still makes her trials to get some compensation.

After discussions, we left the village around 8.30 p.m. and came back to Polaki. Here we had some dialogue with the local daily correspondents (Enadu) and shared our experiences, and explained the objectives of COPDANET and REE'S.

We found a very interesting traditional design of the houses, to minimise the area, and also resist from the cyclone and other Nature's havocs.

On 22nd morning, we visited a nearby village, Pallipeta, a small village consists of 30 to 50 families, met the President of the Mahila Mandal, Smt. Laxmi, a labourer, savings programme is already launched, and a housing programme under process, and then Marchers taken a risk of crossing the river "Vamsadhara" by a small boat in order to reduce the distance and the time to reach "KALINGA-PATNAM".

This is a Navigator's village, in this village an elderly person Sri Kamaraju Mastaru, a retired Army Personnel burst his feelings about the communities' socio-economical and political marginalisation and very furious about the travellers high handedness on the traditional grounds and expressed his fears, relating Marine resources and the impact of the coastal industrialisation and other pollutants.

One of the two thousand population of this village more than half of the youth and elderly people are engaged in merchant Navy. So the economic status of this particular village stands beyond the assuming standards. There is a very powerful light house focussing the light from 12 to 15 kms. range.

From Kalingapatnam we marched towards Bandaruvanipalem. In this 6,000 densely populated village, we found a residential school, with a capacity of 250 students from 1st to 10th standards. The continuous sea-erosion, alarmingly increase the threat to this fishing village, Sri Pukkalla Malleswara Rao, President, Panchayat deeply expressed his anguish about the functioning of the Government as well as fisheries department. Not designing what we really needed, we are in the hands of the contractors and middlemen, squeezing our blood and designing the structures which we do not want. We found a non-functioning fishing complex built was back in early eighties, worth nearly a crore or two, and the connecting road in the collapsed stage, due to constant influence of the sea-erosion.

Due to constant depletion of Marine resources, most of the fishermen around 2,000 from our village migrated to other states like Gujarat, Maharashtra etc. and working in agriculture, travelling, industrial and construction labourers. We do not own any landed property. The Government is consistently threatening us to vacate this village without showing any suitable place to continue our traditional dependency. At the same time regular impact of the cyclones creating havoc and panic in the lives of the fisherfolk.

How to Survive

The Government or Fisheries Department, so far, ^{has} not given any kind of attention or welfare programme to our co-operative. No B.L.C., no compensation to the natural accidental or cyclone deaths. "This is our life".

If we raise any questions against the contractors or Government officials, we are branded as radicals and maximalites what sort of justice you can present us. We are searching from all directions.

Craft

We found the cattamarans are very few in number, we felt that this kind of craft is slowly disappearing and the plank built boats are very large in number.

Cyclone Shelters

In almost all the villages, the condition of the cyclone shelters is very un-satisfactory. Many of the shelters are in bad shape, the tops are hanging and almost in verge of collapse at any moment. Due to lack of proper accommodation for the students to conduct their classes, the teachers were holding their classes in the same. But past three years, the people are afraid to enter into these even at the time of severe cyclones. Prawn merchants and other categories of business people using the same for their operational bases by locking the doors to safe guard their goods and other materials. Such kind of operation preventing the community to use the shelter for the purpose it has been built.

Pledging Nets to Money Lenders

We observed a kind of practice, existing past ⁿmay decades. Usually, the fishermen, whenever they require investment for buying nets, domestic needs, agriculture etc., they pledge their nets with the money lenders, with their community some times other, at a high rate of interest.

Visakhapatnam

A declared industrial ^{zone} from where, entire operations of the Hindusthan Shipyard, Eastern Naval Command are carried also the existence of a few heavy industries. The zone poses a real threat to the ecology of the Marine as well as inland resources. This politically targeted district, now becoming a paradise to the industrialists resulting victimising rural agricultural and marine dependents.

MARINE FISHING REGULATION ACTBackground

'Fisheries' is a state subject under item 21 of the state list of the 7th schedule of article 246 of the constitution of India. However, 'fishing and fisheries beyond the territorial waters' are in the union list (item 57). Article 257 of the constitution also gives proprietary rights for anything of value underlying the ocean within the territorial waters, the continental shelf or the EEZ of India.

The important event that took place in the history of India in the 19th century was the enactment of Indian Fisheries Act in 1897. This act delegated powers to the State Governments the responsibility of development and conservation of Fisheries in the inland and territorial waters of the respective states. It also empowered the states to formulate their own rules/laws for the safeguard of the fishery.

Problems

The disputes between the mechanised boat operators and catamaran fishermen started since the inception of the mechanisation programme during the second Five Year Plan. With a view to ensure that both the mechanised fishing boat operators and catamaran fishermen go about their fishing without infringing their rights on each other, the Government of Tamil Nadu introduced the clause in the rules and a condition in the hire purchase agreement whereby the mechanised boats should operate only beyond 3 miles from the shore. However in practice this condition was not adhered to, by many operators.

Process

Tamil Nadu Government constituted district committees in 1973 to settle disputes among catamaran fishermen and owners of mechanised boats. The disputes became intolerable after 1977 and the catamaran operators started seizing the mechanised boats and either made these boats run

aground or burnt these boats by taking them to remote places. In Madras, the Government tried to demarcate the 3 mile limit by laying spar buoys at Government cost. the departmental boats were placed at the disposal of the police department for patrolling the area intensively to prevent such clashes on the high seas.

During 1976, disputes between the country canoes fishermen and mechanised fishing boats took place in Kottaipattinam in Pudukottai District. The R.D.O. Aranthangi in an administrative proceedings, ordered fishing by mechanised boats shall be carried out between 6.a.m. and 6.p.m. on the same day.

However consequent on the injunction issued by High Court, Madras, a system of alternate night fishing (viz) 4 days for country canoes and 3 days for mechanised fishing boats has been imposed.

Again in 1979, the Government of Tamil Nadu issued instructions for registration of mechanised fishing boats, prohibition of concentration of boats in a particular place, taking of fishing operations by mechanised boats and type of nets to be used by mechanised boats.

Several writ petitions and writ miscellaneous petitions were filed in the High Court of Madras for the stay of the operation of the above Government order of 1979. Accordingly, Hon'ble Justice Mohan in his judgement dated 14.8.1980 quashed the orders of Government and pronounced the following interim arrangements:

- a. The fishermen owning mechanised boats shall carry on their fishing operations beyond three nautical miles.
- b. They will commence their fishing operations starting from the harbours in the order on or after 5 a.m. and shall report back at the respective horbours by 10 p.m. at the latest. However, the fishing operations shall be only from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The scope and possibility to safeguard the interest of traditional fishermen was recognised at the tenth meeting of the Central Board of Fisheries held on 22/23-3-1976 at New Delhi. Accordingly, the Central Government constituted a committee in May, 1976 with Shri A.K. Majumdar, the then Secretary (Fisheries) Government of Maharashtra as chairman for the purpose of examining the question of de-limitting areas of fishing for different types of boats. The Committee submitted its report in December, 1978 enclosing a model marine fishing regulation bill. The Government of India issued the following guide lines to the states in December, 1982:

- a. areas upto three nautical miles are reserved for traditional non-mechanised boats.
- b. mechanies boats are permitted to use areas beyond three nautical miles.
- c. fishing within 100 metres below a river mouth is prohibited.
- d. no fishing gear of less than 10 mm mesh from knot to knot in respect of nets other than trawl nets shall be used and
- e. the number of mechanised fishing vessels which may be used for fishing in any specified area shall be decided by the authorised officer.

State Level Accts

Maharashtra:

In order to safeguard the interests of traditional fishermen, Maharashtra enacted the Marine Fishing Regulation Act in 1981 which came into force from August 1982. By this operation of trawl gear by mechanised fishing boats is prohibited from the sea shore to five fathoms and 10 fathoms depth zone.

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Goa:

In Goa, the Marine Fishing Regulation Act of 1980 came into force from 1982 and according to this act, the area upto 5 km. from the coastline is the domain of traditional fishermen. Mesh restriction for nets is 20 mm for prawns and 24 mm for fish to ensure conservation of younger fish.

Karnataka:

In Karnataka, the act was enacted in 1986 and by this act:

- area upto 6 km. from the shore or upto 4 fathoms (whichever is further) is reserved for traditional craft.
- Mechanised boats upto 50 ft. in length are allowed to operated beyond 6 km.
- Deep sea fishing boats of 50 ft. and above are required to operated beyond 20 km.

Kerala:

The Kerala Marine Fishing Regulation Act came in to force in 1980 by which:

- an area of 10 km. from the shore is reserved for traditional fishermen operating traditional craft.
- Mechanised boats below 25 GRT to operate beyond 10 km.
- Vessels above 25 GRT is prohibited in the territorial waters.
- Mesh regulation is 35 mm. stretched mesh.

TAMIL NADU:

The Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act came into force from 1983 and according to this:

- areas upto three nautical miles are reserved for traditional non mechanised boats. These boats can also fish beyond this limit.
- Mechanised boats are permitted to use areas beyond three nautical miles.
- Fishing within 100 metres below a river mouth is prohibited.
- No fishing gear of less than 10 mm mesh from knot to knot in respect of nets other than trawl nets shall be used.
- The number of mechanised fishing boats in a specified area shall be decided by the authorised officer.

Andhra Pradesh:

The state of Andhra Pradesh has not yet enacted the Marine Fishing Regulation Act. However, the Government has issued executive orders in June 1983 demarcating operational areas of fishing vessels:

- Non mechanised traditional fishing vessels to operated exclusively upto 10 km. from the shore.
- Mechanised fishing vessels to operate beyond 10 k.m. from the coast.

Orissa:

According to Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act of 1982, a 5 k.m. zone from the shore has been demarcated for the operation of traditional crafts and mechanised fishing boats should operate beyond the 5 km. limit.

Although there are specific areas demarcated for traditional fishermen, in the absence of its physical boundaries in the sea, mechanised fishing vessels of the states as well as from other states, trespass into the traditional fishermen's areas. Many states are finding it difficult to effectively police the area and identify the trespassing vessels. Apart from policing, creating an awareness among fishermen that in shore fishery resources are national property and that the conservation and management of resources in the area are the responsibility of all those who use them is vital. They have to be appraised of the dangers of indiscriminate fishing by proper extension methods which will help to protect the stocks thereby promote the survival of the fishery and fishermen.

Table- Information on Fisheries Section

1. Length

- Length of east coast (Tamil Nadu)- 940kms
- Length of west coast (Tamil Nadu)- 60 kms

2. Continental Shelf

India - 414868 sq. k.m.

Tamil Nadu - 41412 sq. k.m.

3. Exclusive Economic Zone

India - 2.01 million sq. k.m.

Tamil Nadu - 0.19 million sq. k.m.

4. Population Dependent upon fishing in Tamil Nadu

Total - 4,63,800

5. Fish Farmers' Development Agency (FFDA) - 12

6. Fish Production

Year	Inland	Marine
1955-56	36,000 tonnes	57,000
1978-79	15,000 tonnes	2,10,316
1984-85	16,000 tonnes	2,48,533
1987-88	1,00,000 tonnes	2,56,825

7. Fishermen's Cooperative Society in Tamil Nadu

Marine - 300

Inland - 227

F.W.C.S- 62

Prawn farmers -

Cooperative Society - 5

District level federation - 10

Assistance to Fisheries by Tamil Nadu State Fisheries Department

1. Distribution of outboard/inboard engines
2. Landing & berthing facilities
3. Guide lights in Marine Fishing village
4. Anti-sea erosion
5. Ice plants & Cold storage
6. 20% subsidy for crafts.

Fishermen Welfare Scheme :

1. Fishermen Housing Scheme
2. Saving cum Relief Scheme
3. Fishermen Group Accident Insurance Scheme.
4. Community Halls.
5. Cyclone Shelters
6. Link Roads
7. Fishermen Training Centres

TNFDC:

1. Fish marketing
2. Processing Plants
3. Diesel bunks
4. Purse Seine & other vessels
5. Prawn Hatchery
6. Fish net plant
7. Fish seed production
8. Reserved Fisheries
9. Deep sea fishing