



A Study on the Assertiveness of Fisherman in Fisheries Sector of Kanyakumari District

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KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT:

Fishing in Tamilnadu is a very important profession which gives job opportunity to the coastal area people in Tamil Nadu. At the same time fish is also a important nutritious food which always ensures nutritional security for the state of Tamil Nadu. Fisheries sector is having a great potential for generating employment and to give more revenue for the fisherman and government. Thus number of fisherman working in Fisheries sector is increasing to a great extent in Tamilnadu. These fisherman are in need of Assertive behavior in their work. This study aims in knowing the various Assertiveness levels of the fisherman working in Fisheries sector. In today's modern world, people undergo pressure to balance their work and lifecycle. So assertiveness always remain as a important skill in order to come out of their tension and be successful in their work. This paper focusses on the assertiveness level among fisherman in Fisheries sector in Kanyakumari district. The study is a empirical study where the researcher, does the research using a questionnaire, with a sample size of 60fisherman. The sampling used in the study is random sampling. The study is done across various fishing areas in and around Kanyakumari district. The present study derives the assertiveness level of each fisherman possess.

1. Introduction

The State of Tamil Nadu has a big stretch of 1,076 km long coastal area and 41,412 km inland shelf area which paves way for special economic Zones in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu alone 5.209 lakh tons of marine fish production is yielded which generates a good income for the state. In Tamil Nadu 10.48 lakh marine fishers are getting their livelihood through fishing. Around 5,803 mechanized boats and 41,337 traditional fishing boats are actively indulged in fishing.

The Tamil Nadu state is enriched in fisheries sector. Both Economic and Social welfare of the fisherman in Tamil Nadu are looked after by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Fish always remains a product of huge demand, thus there is a need for high fishing throughout the state of Tamil Nadu.

1.2 The Major Fishing Districts of Tamil Nadu

The total coastal region in Tamil Nadu is 1076 kms among that 75% is in the hands of the five districts Only. The districts of Nagapattinam,

Ramanathapuram, Kanyakumari, Kanchipuram and Thoothukudi are the major contributors in fishing and they are only having a long stretch of coastal region in Tamil Nadu. Ramanathapuram district is the highest coastal region which has 237 kms for fishing. Both Coramandal and Palk Bay are in this Ramanathapuram region. The Nagapattinam district is the second largest coastal belt with 187.9 kms stretch which also contributes for lot of fishing. Thoothukudi is the third largest coastal region with 164 kms where thoothukudi harbour plays a vital role in fishing for the fisherman of this district. The Kanchipuram district is the fourth largest coastal region which has 87 kms stretch. The Kanyakumari district has 72 kms coastal region where more number of fishing harbours available remains a great boon for the the local fishing community. The major fishing harbours are taken for study in this paper of research. In this paper Kanyakumari district is taken for study.

Mostly Fisherman work for long hours and work continuously for a longtime than their prescribed time. When they work for long hours they get into tension



and they are always out of mental peace in life, which leads into stress which also spoils their work and personal life. Mostly all the fisherman never express their difficulties to their family members, they keep inside everything which also may affect their health. Out of this passive behaviour they may lose their mental health. But through assertiveness Fisherman will become confident and influence everyone, when they are able to gain assertiveness.

This study explores the real situation and the problems among Fisherman in Kanyakumari District.

A) Assertiveness

In human behaviour, Assertive behaviour is the prime focus for mental peace and satisfied life. Through Assertiveness always assertive behaviour can be attained. Assertiveness is being bold and confident. In our daily life we are not able to exercise this assertiveness in our behaviour due to various reasons. Lack of assertiveness creates several problems in our daily routine life. Assertiveness in a simple way can be said as saying yes when it is possible and saying no when it is not possible. But this behaviour is not so easy to follow in real life. If it is implemented in each one's life then the mental health can be improved to a great extent. So assertiveness training is given to all people.

B) Fisheries in Tamilnadu

In Tamil Nadu alone 13% of the country's coast line gives the great motivation for fishing community to do fishing in this region. Tamil Nadu also remains as one of the leading states in fish production. The Tamil Nadu state has a marine fishermen population of ten lakhs. Around 608 marine fishing villages are scattered along the 13 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu. At the same time in the landward waters too the fishery capacity is driven by more than 30 thousand ordinary fibre boats without machines and around 6000 mechanized boats. The infrastructure facilities are improved to a great extent in the state of Tamil Nadu. Around 6 major fishing harbours are available in the state of Tamil Nadu, 3 medium fishing harbours, 36 fish landing centres and 254 fish landing points. The per capita consumption of fish in Tamil Nadu is 9.83 Kg as against the recommended requirement of 11.60 kg. Thus fishing is a great boost for fisherman.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Fishing is one of the most high yielding income giving occupation in Kanyakumari district. Fish is the highest yield food products which remains has the main occupation for many people in and around Kanyakumari district. Fish is essential for the health

of the people of Kanyakumari but this industry faces many challenges. Always fisherman are working under mental pressure and sense of worry. Hence fisherman's stress level increases which creates mental disorders. The main reason for this problem is lack of assertiveness among fisherman in Kanyakumari district.

Mental pressure leads to all sorts of problems to the fisherman. Fisherman mental health is the key to success of any family, this paper finds out the behaviour of the fisherman and testing the assertiveness level of the fisherman. The researcher gives some suggestions to the fisherman. The study reveals the exact position of the fisherman community and at the same time gives few recommendations for their mental peace to reduce their stress.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

- ❖ To Know the Assertiveness among Fisherman in Kanyakumari District
- ❖ To determine the Assertive behavior of Fisherman in Kanyakumari District

2. Research Methodology

a) Universe:

The research study was done among fisherman in fishing areas across Kanyakumari district.

b) Sample Size:

Sixty fisherman from different fishing areas were given the questionnaire to collect the data between the age group of 28 to 65.

c) Sample Technique

The sampling method used for study is convenient sampling method. Around 60 respondents were randomly taken across Kanyakumari district.

d) Research Design

The type of research used for study is descriptive research. Mostly Descriptive research is used for research design that describes and documents different dimensions of a situation. But the researcher has no control over the results

e) Tools and Data Collection

60 Fisherman were taken for data collection. Questionnaires, were used for data collection. Normally this method is the best method. This method always gives the right responses and their thoughts and feelings are expressed directly without any hesitation and doubt.



3. Data Investigation & Explanation

The data received for fisherman assertiveness are given below

Table-1 .Type of Fishing Areas and Gender

S. No	Fishing Areas	No.	(%)
1	Small villages	48	80
2	Medium villages	12	20
Total		5	100
S. No	Gender	No.	(%)
1	Male	60	60
Total		60	100

Source: Primary Data

The data was collected from 60 respondents among which 100% are males, since mostly fishing is done by males. Fisherman belonging to small villages [48]- 80% and Medium villages [12]- 20%.

Table -2 Assertiveness of Fisherman

The data shows that in **small villages**, 16 individuals expressed confidence in asking questions and clarifications, while 32 did not. In medium villages, 6 individuals were confident, and 6 were not. Overall, there were 22 confident

S. No	Check for Assertiveness	Yes		No		Total	
1	Confident in asking questions and clarifications	2	37	3	63	6	100
		2	%	8	%	0	%

individuals and 38 not confident out of 60 total respondents.

The chi-square test results reveal a Pearson chi-square value of 1.148 with 1 degree of freedom and an asymptotic significance of 0.284. The correction for continuity yields a value of 0.543 with the same degrees

of freedom and a significance of 0.461. The ratio of likelihood chi-square value is 1.118 with a significance of 0.290, and the Fisher's Exact Test result is 1.129 with a significance of 0.288.

Source: Primary Data

2	Expression of thoughts and feelings	2	33	4	67	6	100
		0	%	0	%	0	%
3	Boldness to say "NO"	1	25	3	75	6	100
		5	%	5	%	0	%



All these p-values are greater than the commonly used significance level of 0.05. Therefore, the chi-square tests indicate that there is no statistically significant difference in confidence in asking questions and clarifications between individuals from small and medium villages. This suggests that confidence in seeking clarifications is similarly distributed across the fishing areas examined, and the variations observed are likely due to random chance rather than a significant

underlying difference.

The result indicates 63% of fisherman don't have confidence in asking questions and clarification. Similarly, 67% of the fisherman are not comfortable expressing their thoughts and feelings. Further, 75% fisherman don't have the boldness to say NO. Hereby from the result, it can be interpreted that most fisherman don't possess assertiveness or not assertive by actions.

Table-3 Confidence in Asking Questions and Clarifications

Confidence In Asking Questions And Clarifications * Fishing Areas Cross tabulation				
Count				
		Fishing Areas		Total
		Smallvillages	Mediumvillages	
Confidence in asking questions and clarifications	Yes	16	6	22
	No	32	6	38
Total		48	12	60
Chi-Square Tests				
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance	Exact Sig.
Chi-Square-Pearson	1.148 ^a	1	0.284	.327
Correction - Continuity	.543	1	0.461	
Ratio of likelihood	1.118	1	0.290	
Exact Test for Fisher's				
Association (Linear-by-Linear)	1.129	1	0.288	
Valid Cases - N	60			

TABLE-4 Expression of Thoughts and Feelings * Fishing Areas Cross Tabulation

Count



		Fishing Areas		Total
		Small villages	Mediumvillages	
Expression of thoughts and feelings	Yes	18	2	20
	No	30	10	40
Total		48	12	60
Chi-Square Tests				
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance	Exact Sig.
Chi-Square-Pearson	1.875 ^a	1	0.171	.304
Correction - Continuity	1.055	1	0.304	
Ratio of likelihood	2.058	1	0.151	
Exact Test for Fisher's				
Association(Linear-by-Linear)	1.844	1	0.175	
Valid Cases – N	60			

Source: Primary data

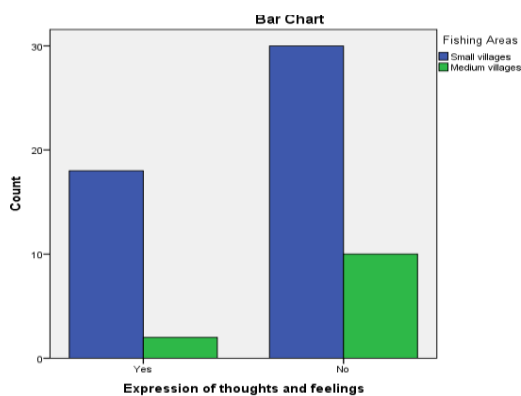


Fig: 1 Level Of Expression Of Thoughts And Feelings Fisher Boldness To Say “NO” * Fishing Areas



The above table 4 show a Pearson chi-square value of 1.875 with 1 degree of freedom and an asymptotic significance of 0.171. The continuity correction value is 1.055 with a significance of 0.304, while the ratio of likelihood chi-square value is 2.058 with a p-value of 0.151. The Fisher’s Exact Test yields a value of 1.844 with a significance of 0.175.

All these p-values exceed the standard significance level of 0.05, indicating that there is no statistically

significant difference in the expression of thoughts and feelings between individuals from small and medium villages. This suggests that the tendency to express thoughts and feelings is similar across these fishing areas, implying that the community’s openness to sharing personal thoughts and emotions does not significantly vary between the two types of villages.

Table-5

Boldness to say “NO” * Fishing Areas				
Count				
		Fishing Areas		Total
		Small villages	Mediumvillages	
Boldness to say “NO”	Yes	14	1	15
	No	34	11	45
Total		48	12	60
Chi-Square Tests				
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance	Exact Sig.
Chi-Square-Pearson	2.22 2 ^a	1	0.136	0.26 2
Correction - Continuity	1.25 0	1	0.264	
Ratio of likelihood	2.64 7	1	0.104	
Exact Test for Fisher’s				
Association(Li near-by-Linear)	2.18 5	1	0.139	
Valid Cases – N	60			

Source: (Primary data)

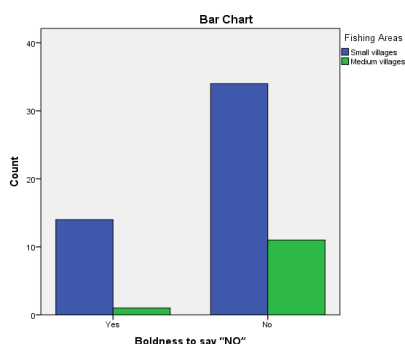


Fig: 2 Boldness to say “NO” * Fishing Areas

The estimated significance value is less than 0.05 for all the cases, meaning the null hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant association between the Assertiveness of fisherman and type of village he resides. Further from the crosstabulation and graph it can be interpreted that he cross-tabulation data for

boldness to say “NO” across different fishing areas shows that in **small villages**, 14 individuals reported having the boldness to say “NO,” while 34 did not. In **medium villages**, only 1 individual expressed boldness, while 11 did not. Overall, 15 individuals were bold enough to say “NO,” and 45 were not, out of a total of 60 respondents.

The chi-square test results show a Pearson chi-square value of 2.222 with 1 degree of freedom and an asymptotic significance of 0.136. The continuity correction gives a chi-square value of 1.250 with a significance of 0.264. The ratio of likelihood chi-square value is 2.647 with a p-value of 0.104, and the Fisher’s Exact Test yields a value of 2.185 with a significance of 0.139.

Table –6 Assertive Behaviour

S. No	Are you Assertive in your	Yes		No		Total	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
1	Speech	25	42%	35	58%	60	100%
2	Body language	26	43%	34	57%	60	100%
3	Attitude	22	37%	38	63%	60	100%
4	Behavior	23	38%	37	62%	60	100%
5.	Rights	15	25%	45	75%	60	100%

Source: Primary Data

The data collected from respondents indicate that 58% of the fisherman are not assertive in their speech. 57% of the fisherman are not assertive with respect to their

body language. 63% are not assertive with their attitude. 62% are not assertive in their behavior and 25% are assertive in attaining their rights.

Count				
		Fishing Areas		Total
		Small villages	Medium villages	
Speech	Yes	18	7	25
	No	30	5	35
Total		48	12	60



Chi-Square Tests				
	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)
Chi-Square- Pearson	1.714a	1	0.19	
Correction - Continuity	0.964	1	0.326	
Ratio of likelihood	1.692	1	0.193	
Exact Test for Fisher's				0.210

Hereby from the result, it can be interpreted that the majority of the respondents are not assertive by character.

Table-7 Level of Speech

Table 7 Shows The cross-tabulation for the level of speech across different fishing areas shows that in **small villages**, 18 individuals are reported to have a higher level of speech, while 30 do not. In **medium villages**, 7 individuals have a higher level of speech, compared to 5 who do not. Overall, 25 individuals

exhibit a higher level of speech, and 35 do not, out of a total of 60 respondents.

The chi-square test results reveal a Pearson chi-square value of 1.714 with 1 degree of freedom and an asymptotic significance of 0.190.

Association(Linear-by-Linear)	1.686	1	0.194
Valid Cases -N	60		



Fig: 3 Speech Level And Fishing Areas

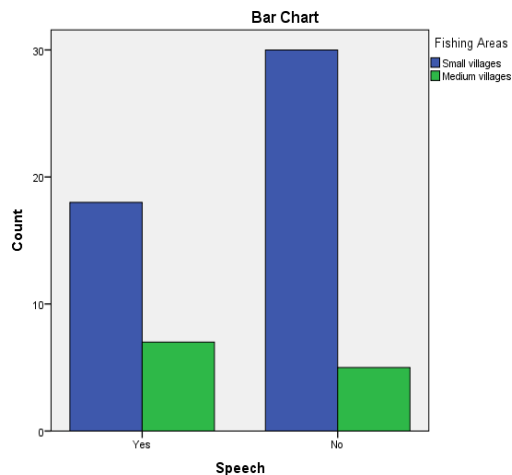


TABLE 8 Body Language in Fisher Folk Areas

Count				
		Fishing Areas		Total
		Small villages	Mediumvillages	
Body language	Yes	23	3	26
Body language	Yes	23	3	26
	No	25	9	34
Total	48	12	60	
Chi-Square Tests				
	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig.(2-sided)
Chi-Square-Pearson	2.053 ^a	1	.152	
Correction - Continuity	1.226	1	0.268	
Ratio of likelihood	2.153	1	0.142	
Exact Test for Fisher's				0.201
Association(Li near-by-	2.01			



Linear)	9	1	0.155	
Valid Cases -N	60			

The chi-square test results show a Pearson chi-square value of 2.053 with 1 degree of freedom and an asymptotic significance of 0.152. The continuity correction yields a chi-square value of 1.226 with a significance of 0.268. The ratio of likelihood chi-square value is 2.153 with a p-value of 0.142.

Since all p-values are above the conventional

significance level of 0.05, these results indicate that there is no statistically significant difference in the use of body language between individuals from small and medium villages. This suggests that the frequency or use of body language is similar across the two fishing areas, implying that cultural or contextual factors influencing body language are comparable between these communities

TABLE – 9 level of Attitude

Count				
		Fishing Areas		Total
		Smallvillages	Mediumvillages	
Attitude	Yes	19	3	22
	No	29	9	38
Total		48	12	60
Chi-Square Tests				
	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig.(2-sided)
Chi-Square-Pearson	0.879a	1	0.348	-
Correction - Continuity	0.363	1	0.547	-
Ratio of likelihood	0.919	1	0.338	
Exact Test for Fisher's				0.507
Association(Linear-by-Linear)	0.865	1	.352	
Valid Cases -N	60			



The cross-tabulation for the level of attitude in different fishing areas shows that in **small villages**, 19 individuals have a positive attitude, while 29 do not. In **medium villages**, 3 individuals have a positive attitude, compared to 9 who do not. Overall, 22 individuals have a positive attitude, and 38 do not, out of a total of 60 respondents.

The chi-square test results show a Pearson chi-square value of 2.053 with 1 degree of freedom and an asymptotic significance of 0.152. The continuity correction yields a chi-square value of 1.226 with a significance of 0.268. The ratio of likelihood chi-square value is 2.153 with a p-value of 0.142.

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		Smallvillages	Mediumvillages	1
Behavior	Yes	18	5	23
	No	30	7	37
Total		48	12	60
Chi-Square Tests				
	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig.(2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.071 ^a	1	0.791	
Continuity Correction ^b	0.000	1	1.000	
Likelihood Ratio	.070	1	0.791	
Fisher's Exact Test				1.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	.069	1	0.792	
N of Valid Cases	60			

The chi-square test results indicate a Pearson chi-square value of 0.071 with 1 degree of freedom and an

asymptotic significance of 0.791. The continuity correction value is 0.000 with a significance of 1.000,



and the likelihood ratio chi-square value is 0.070 with a p-value of 0.791. The Fisher's Exact Test result is 1.000.

All p-values exceed the conventional significance level of 0.05, indicating no statistically significant difference in behavior between individuals from small and medium villages.

Count				
		Fishing Areas		Total
		Smallvillages	Mediumvillages	
Rights	Yes	14	1	15
	No	34	11	45
Total		48	12	60

Chi-Square Tests				
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)
Chi-Square-	2.22	1	0.136	

Pearson	2 ^a			
Correction - Continuity	1.250	1	0.264	
Ratio of likelihood	2.647	1	0.104	
Exact Test for Fisher's				0.262
Association (Linear-by-Linear)	2.185	1	0.139	
Valid Cases -N	60			

Source: (Primary data)

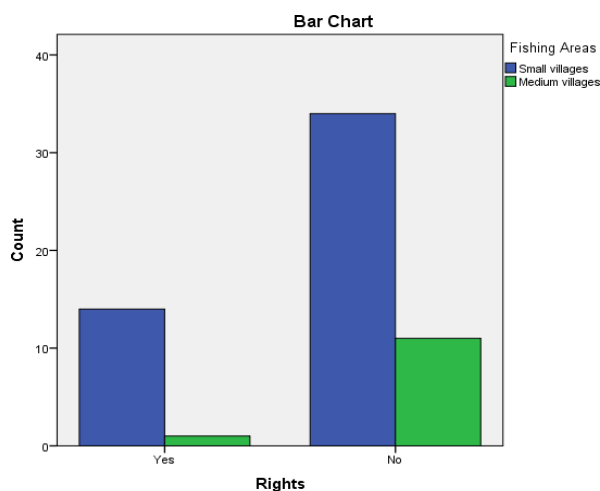


Fig: 4 Rights of fisher folk

The estimated significance value is less than 0.05 for all the cases, meaning the null hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant association between the Assertive behaviour of fisherman and type of village he resides. Further from the crosstabulation and graph it can be interpreted that;

Findings

- The result indicates 63% of the fisherman don't have confidence in asking questions and clarification.
- Similarly, 67% of the fisherman are not comfortable expressing their thoughts and feelings.
- Further, 75% of the fisherman don't have the boldness to say NO.
- 58% of the fisherman are not assertive in their speech.
- 57% of the fisherman are not assertive with respect to their body language.
- 63% are not assertive with their attitude.
- 62% are not assertive in their behavior.
- 25% are assertive in attaining their rights.
- From the study it is clearly noticed that only less percentage of fisherman possess assertiveness and assertive by actions.
- From the study it is clear that there is no significant association between the Assertiveness of fisherman and type of village he resides.
- From the study it is clear that there is no significant association between the Assertive

behavior of fisherman and type of village he resides

- Hereby from the result, it can be interpreted that the majority of the respondents are not assertive by character.
- Hereby from the result, it can be interpreted that most fisherman don't possess assertiveness or not assertive by actions.

VII) Suggestions

- Hereby from the result, it is found that the majority of the respondents are not assertive by character. Hence assertiveness training can be given for improving their assertive behaviour
- The fisherman need to enhance their assertiveness. They also need to show assertiveness in their actions in their day to day life.
- When they are assertive they may get out of tension and stress free life.
- While exercising assertive behavior they can improve their efficiency and performance, Mental health can be improved

Conclusion

The present scenario in fishing has drastic changes which is distinctly different from what it was a decade ago. The culture of work has changed to a great extent, hence the attitude of the fisherman also changed. Today's fisherman are highly goal-oriented, shrewd, never think twice about working late into the night or standing up for long days in fishing if they need to. There the problem lies they are not aware of the assertive rights. Assertive rights is to say boldly to the boss or leader about their difficulty in spending more time in their workplace and to express their mental stress. Though there may be some exceptions, the fact remains that many fisherman don't really feel the need to be subversive or adopt a "NO, boss" attitude.

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