

REPROT OF THE STUDY ON SAMUDRAM ;

A GENDER PERSPECTIVE (in Ganjam district)



Study conducted by



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The study of Samudram from a gender perspective in the district of Ganjam was a long awaited effort considering the basic premises of its formation and the established state it has reached over a decade of operation.

The study was carried out by a compact research group. The depth and spread of membership of this network and geographical remoteness of the native places made it a really challenging job to formulate the questionnaire and collect the relevant information from the study fields.

Other social researchers and data analyst were involved in the subsequent stages of this effort for reference.

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Sneha Mishra
Secretary, **Qaina**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Samudram emerged as a federation of fisher women groups in Orissa. A majority of the members in Samudram are from Ganjam district as a process facilitated by UAA (United Artists Association) an organization working for the fisher folk of the district from the beginning. UAA had support facilitated formation of SHGs of fisherwomen in the coastal villages of the district. Later on these groups were federated at the village level named as NSS (Nari Surakshya Sangha) and at the state level as SAMUDRAM. It was learnt that the NSS are the major component of empowerment of fisherwomen looking from gender point of view. It was observed during the interaction with the fisherwomen that they have gained from multi facets being part of the network/Samudram. To talk about the summery findings the details goes as follows:

I Socio – economic perspective

- There is a change in income generation activities undertaken by women in terms of quality management and due to network intervention they get more working days than earlier.
- Seasonal variation – There is a variation in the income generation activities, employable days per season along with the income in comparison to men. But the significant point is women are venturing into other income generation activities like labour etc in off-season as well. Which is usually not seen among male as they prefer to keep themselves ready for the next catching in terms of taking rest and repairing net and boat.
- A remarkable change is observed even though the percentage is low in expenditure pattern specifically the authority responsible for taking decisions pertaining to expenditures in areas of fooding, clothes, travel etc Most of the women have come into the decision making fold (78%) and 12% are taken the position of sole decision making role in the family.
- Interestingly the habit of Savings is increased and obtaining loan is more frequent as the money is frequently available due to the SHGs activities. However when it comes to repayment of the loan the burden seems to be more on women than men.

II Personal, familial and social status

- There is a change in the daily routine of men and women observed during the study. Earlier cooking was just a women's activity but now men have started extending the helping hand (22%) as women too involved in income generation for the family.
- Family structure shows that 80% of them are from nuclear family.
- Women are still facing discrimination on wage. Due to certain restriction e.g. during monthly chums women are not allowed to work in the household activities and also in dry fishing preparation.
- There is a need of cold storage facility in some of the villages as the fish is a perishable item and moreover the catching is decreasing day bay day.
- It is over all observed that women have played a major role in terms of taking decision in household activities as well as in business. A clear trend of increasing role of women in decision making process is observed.

III Political status of members of Samudram

- The fisher women had articulated the kind of violence they have been facing at home, workplace and community. Some are intervened at their level however there is a lot to be done in this aspect.

- Samudram had certainly given the capacity to the women to take up a political stand on the issue and also more active in the political sphere at least in the village level. Comparatively the NSS and SHG seem to have a lead over Samudram in this regard.

IV Relation of Samudram with similar kind of network

- OTMFWU is a similar kind of net work with whom the Samudram has a direct link and sometimes work together but there is a need to define the points of convergence of these networks.
- Role of men in grooming Samudram: As per the version of the women in Samudram men has a definite role to play in grooming Samudram.

V Samudram as a support point for members on gender specific issues

- Members of Samudram could mobilize Schools, ICDS centres etc. for the community. They have also taken up adult literacy program to make everybody literate. Organized a number of Health camp and family planning camp.
- Issues of exploitation for example Huma hat was brought to an end. Number of sexual harassment case was taken up by the members till it reaches to a logical end.
- Role of Samudram in providing support to the community in handling these issues was another pertinent aspect wherever they have presence for example the harassers are fined in the community meeting for their unaccepted behaviours.
- Role of Samudram in dealing with natural calamities is also observed like they had mobilized relief for the victims and their families.

VI Supporting and constraining factors in the empowerment of women

- 90% of women have faced the resistance at home initially. This is not seen now days because of the acceptance of Samudram at the community level.
- Mostly the resistance were from home and family members (40%). 20% have faced the community's indifferent behaviour as they initiated some leadership action. 10% of the women were encouraged or not faced any resistance in joining the movement.
- Some of the women (35%) were given the active support from the network to overcome this kind of constraints whereas others were gathered the courage to overcome it on their own. 50% of the individual respondent were helped by samudram from different aspect. Whereas 20% of the respondent opined that Samudram has made an impact in their life in one or other way.
- It was interesting to note that 40% of the community leaders were quite uncooperative where as 25% of the leader extended their helping hand from the beginning.

The process of Samudram formation emerged from organizing fisher women into group and intensive work with them. In a gist it goes as follows:

- It was the deplorable condition of the Fisher community that encouraged UAA to work for them
- The UAA started its work by concentrating its energy and resources to develop basic infrastructure needs of the community
- This was followed by uniting the women in the form of SHGs, providing them orientation and trainings in order to help them to become self-sufficient not only in the economic field but empowered enough to deal with efficiency various issues affecting her life.
- This was followed by taking up economic activities as its central theme and empowering the community to handle it efficiently at their level
- The federation structures like NSS, Samudram emerged later on.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION



Artisan fishing community is one of the most vulnerable sections in Orissa. They are poor, deprived, marginalized and exploited by the so-called dominant class. They are highly unorganized to raise voice against the exploitation and demand their genuine rights from the Government. Moreover conflicts between the trawlers and traditional fishermen rose high over the years because trawlers, who are supposed to fish in deep sea are concentrated in inshore waters (which is kept reserved exclusively for traditional fishers under OMFRA) because there they get good quantity of prawns easily. They thus deprive the traditional fish workers of their livelihood violating the OMFR Act. Depletion of fish resources also contributed to push the poor fishers under the poverty line. Moreover the linguistic barrier between the Nolias and the Oriyas has given rise to, and exacerbated their mutual hostility, giving rise to serious misconceptions about one another with negative consequences for both communities more serious in the case of the former, who being the minority became the invisible poor in the coastal district. All this is reflected in the Nolia's being generally ignored in all the developmental programs with the result that their ability to access healthcare, education, economic support and social recognition was severely curtailed. Their land rights and, what is more important for a fishing community, use rights related to common property like waters (creeks, river mouths, etc.) are ill defined and their ability to take recourse to legal measures is very limited. They played a next-to-nothing role in the political processes determining their lives, had little interaction with the administrative structures that controlled them, were weary of the police and other 'support' structures because the only thing they got out of all of them was harassment and discrimination and apathy.

To add to the problems, marine fishing is a very demanding activity, and living more than half of one's life away from the terra firma, floating on a piece of wood stinking of dead and rotten fish all the time, toiling away at the oars and the nets continuously, necessitates its own adaptations. No wonder, drinking was rampant in all villages prior to the project intervention, and the fishers were – are – considered to be a bunch of drunks,

who were seldom sober. It is only during late 1990s that there was resistance to drinking within the communities for three reasons: one, with the introduction of motorised crafts, there was really little need to toil more than a fraction of what they used to do on a traditional, manually-rowed craft, so the excuse for drink became weak; two, with poor catches, fishers began to spend more time on the shore than at sea, and when they were at shore, they drank more and much of what they drank was foreign liquor that cost a bomb, and thus became a drain on the family finances; and three, there was a resistance from the women and the youth, which – as far as I could ascertain – had to do with the project's interventions, and they rose up to the occasion by banning and controlling the flow of liquor in some of the villages (Arjipalli, Kothuru, Arakha Khuda, etc.).

It was in this scenario that UAA started its initiative to work for one of the marginalized sections of the society. There were numerous social, economic and infrastructure problems that the community was facing. UAA started with its initiative to orient the community especially the women with regard to education, health, exploitation at workplace and by the traders and middlemen. Sufficient liaison was done at the level of government to create basic infrastructure like school, hospital, anganwadi center etc for these marginalized groups. Also efforts were made to give them recognitions at the official level by making attempts to help them get their land patta, ration cards etc. Simultaneously attempts were made to create awareness in the community with regard to aspects like education, health, child marriage, liquor etc. Thereafter women of the community were encouraged to form SHGs. Working with these SHGs for various issues becomes easy as the members of these SHGs are basically well oriented and trained on various aspects and hence become the voice of the general women of the community. Moreover since they are aware of their rights they are in a position to create awareness in the community.

It was in the year 2002 that UAA got into marketing scenario as its experience of around a decade showed that ultimately all the problems of the community are linked to its economic problems and unless a mechanism of directly marketing their catch is not available they will not be able to reap the benefits of their sweat. Thereafter procurement centers were opened at viable locations and women were provided training and orientations to handle the responsibilities. Almost 5 years have passed since then, numerous training and orientation programs along with exposure visits to locations both within and outside the state have been organized. Women have also participated in large numbers in different rallies and agitations on issues ranging from breaking of liquor bhatti to sexual exploitation etc. In other words sufficient input had been provided to the women and at this stage to expect the women to be empowered to deal efficiently with issues at personal and at the level of community can be expected.

Coming together:

For women coming together is always a beginning. Women get to know a number of problems that is there in and around which normally not seen as problem by many due to conditioning and discuss out it as a group. The decisions always accompany the perspective given by the women as a group during the discussion. Sometimes the gender component get addressed unknowingly or obvious and sometimes an extra effort is required to built in the perspective of gender into the approach. It is further seen that the facilitating organizations are so much focused in achieving the target that the gender perspective get sidelined or never get a chance to get addressed. However an intensive intervention always helps to keep the balance of addressing the issue even from a gender point of view.

SAMUDRAM: This is a state level federation of women fish workers organization in Orissa working for the development of marine fisher women and their families. The organization started functioning in 1993 and got registers in 1995-96 under Society Registration Act XXI of 1860. It has spread to 6 coastal districts namely Ganjam, Puri, Balasore, Kendrapada, Bhadrak. It has 42 members in the general body who were elected/selected by the district federation of fisherwomen organization. There are 9 members from Puri, 3 members from kendrapada, and 30 members from Ganjam district as present. Samudram has a 11 members Executive Committee in which 9 are from Ganjam.

Objective of Samudram: Following are the objectives of the federation as laid out by the members:

- *To promote self esteem and dignity among the traditional women fish workers*
- *To enhance socio economic, political status of the traditional marine women*
- *Capacity building of traditional marine women to counter confidently any law or system that is detrimental to their interest*
- *Improve quality of life by developing living condition of traditional marine women through spread of education and better health practice in collaboration with like minded organization and government.*
- *Act as a nodal point for collection, compilation and dissemination of relevant information*
- *Promote networking among other like minded organization working for a common cause.*

This was evident from the objectives that it is towards the empowerment of the fisher women. It is also important to note that the gender inequality in our families stand as a detrimental factor in the process. It is in this context the study of the network from a gender perspective got envisaged.

The intention of this study was to on the one hand to analyze the extent to which women of the fisher community have been empowered to deal with problems both at their personal level and at the level of community and on the other hand to see to what extent has the women's role increased in the decision making process at all level which have a direct influence on her life. The mobilization of women into group and federation was made by the facilitating organization i.e. UAA. They had also capacitated the groups and provided a number of opportunities to deal with a number of issues of the community e.g. anti-liquor campaign and so on. However most of the capacity building theme was based on the economic enhancement aspect of the community which no doubts has a gender perspective but needs special articulation.

CHAPTER II

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY: Study of the status of fisherwomen who had been organized as Samudram from a gender perspective.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To ascertain the status of the women from socio-economic perspective with a gender lens. Some of the aspects to be included in this section are range of resources men and women are able to access, control and use etc
- Personal, familial & social status from gender perspective –covering different aspects like analysis of the roles, pattern of work distribution, relationship and processes existing between men and women in operational villages of Samudram focusing on imbalances of power, wealth and workload
- Political status of member of Samudram- i) taking a political stands on gender specific issue and ii) being part of electoral politics as well. Also it will include aspects like women and men’s relative participation in decision making processes at the level of household and community
- Relation of Samudram with other similar kind of network
- Samudram as a support point for the members on gender specific issues
- Study the supporting and constraining factors in the empowerment of women of the Samudram network.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The methodology adopted for the study of Samudram was a qualitative cum quantitative methodology where the stress was laid on intensive study of various aspects of women's life that are part of Samudram from gender perspective.

TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION: For the purpose questionnaire with both open and close-ended questions were designed for the purpose of eliciting information from the members of Samudram..

STRATEGY OF DATA COLLECTION: To some extent a comparative analysis was required and thus the questions were also referred to the past and present status of women. Seven years was taken as the benchmark for collecting the past information. For the purpose of getting other relevant information related to different aspects of Women's life and Samudram Focused group Discussion (FGD) also got designed for different sectors of stakeholders like Nari Surakshya Samiti (NSS), SHG, male members (Husband of women in Samudram/NSS/SHG), local traders, members of traditional fish worker's federation and of course staff of UAA apart from the individual interviews. FGD were also designed to elicit information from groups of women who are not related to Samudram. The strategy adopted to elicit information was to first administer the FGDs to different groups and then come along with questionnaires for individual women members. It was because much information needed substantial briefing, which was many times not possible in a group. Moreover, there were some specific personal questions which to expect would be coming out easily in a FGD was futile.

FOCUSSED GROUP DISCUSSION: 17

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS: 20

FOCUSSED GROUP DISCUSSION

1. UAA staff both at managerial level and at the field level – 1
2. Members of Nari shakti sangh (NSS)– 5
3. Areas where Nari Shakti Sangh have not been formed SHG – 2
4. Members of Samudram network – 3
5. Husband/ male members who are aware of the Samudram network – 1
6. Non Samudram fisherwomen – 2
7. Traders/ non-samudram male who have influence on market –2
8. Members of Traditional fish Worker's federation- 1

In all 20 Individual questionnaires were administered to the women of Samudram. There was a purposive sampling of 8 NSS members, 8 SHG members and 4 Executive members of Samudram).

List of FGDs conducted

Sl.no	Criteria of group for FGD	Name of the village	Date of interview
1	NSS	AryaPalli	04.05.07
2	-do-	Kodampeta	05.05.07
3	-do-	Prayagi	05.05.07
4	-do-	Nuagolabandha	06.05.07
5	-do-	Anatraipur	06.05.07
6	SHG	Markundi	07.05.07
7	-do-	Kalrabadi	12.05.07
8	Samudram network members	Gokharkuda	08.05.07
9	-do-	Katuru	07.05.07
10	-do-	Markundi	07.05.07
11	Samudram EC members	UAA, Ganjam	12.05.07
12	Male members	Katuru	07.05.07
13	Traders	Aryapalli	04.05.07
14	Non SHG/Samudram fisher women	Bandar	04.05.07
15	-do-	Purunabandha	03.05.07
16	Traditional Fish workers federation	Goplapur on Sea	12.05.07
17	Staff and members of UAA	UAA, Ganjam	13.05.07

UNIVERSE: The study was conducted in 16 out of 28 villages where the initiative of Samudram has been taken in the district of Ganjam.

SAMPLE: The study being qualitative in nature non-probability purposive sampling was used to pick up the desired number of women according to the criteria fixed. With respect to the sampling technique used in FGD, it was again non-probability purposive sampling where the groups to be administered the FGD were selected on the basis of set criteria for specific groups for example for NSS purposively 2 active group 2 non active group and one average group was chosen for interview. The same process also adopted while selcting the SHGs for discussion as well. The samples were selected from all the 4 blocks of the Ganjam District where initiative of Samudram had been taken, the only check that was maintained was the selection of samples from villages at different level of their working in terms of the structure (Samudram, NSS or SHG) prevalent in their area.

In all 20 samples were selected for administering individual questionnaire and 17 Groups (as mentioned above) were selected for administering the FGDs. Each FGD had on an average 12 women, thus there were in all 224 people (both men and women) including people directly, indirectly or not at all related to Samudram were put to questions in order to ascertain the influence, impact and effect of Samudram on the lives of women directly and their community indirectly.

PROCEDURE: After the preparation of tools of data collection, a team of 2 researchers went to the field to test the tools. The tools got shared with UAA and Oxfam GB as well. After this analysis of the tools and result obtained was done and with suggested minor corrections the tools were finally selected for administering at the field

level for the purpose of data collection. The tools were also shared with UAA and OXFAM and got the suggestions incorporated before the final administration.

There were two team of researchers having two members in each team collected the data. Each team was supported with a translator from UAA as most of the people(respondents) are Telugu speaking people.

After the collection of data by means of administering 20 individual questionnaires to the members of fisherwomen and 17 FGDs to different groups who were believed to have been directly or indirectly affected by the working of Samudram and also two areas where no initiative from the side of Samudram has been taken were selected. This was followed by the collection of Secondary data from relevant sources (UAA, Traditional fish worker's federation, Samudram Procurement center)

After a hectic procedure of Data collection, coding and analysis of data obtained both from individual questionnaires and group discussions. Finally the results of both the tools were collated and a combined data obtained. Then the data were arranged as per the objective and also the correlation between the questions also ascertained for better analysis. This was followed by analysis of the data obtained and preparation of report.

VALIDATION: 10% of the data obtained were validated. This was a continuous procedure and every third day the relevant percentage of data was validated in order to affirm its validity. Apart from that the individual interview was designed to validate the information obtained from the group along with some more information as per the objective was set.

CHAPTER IV

SOCIO ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

- Main income generation activities undertaken by women and change noticed in the scenario in the last few years
- Seasonal variation – variation in the income generation activities, employable days per season along with the income
- Expenditure pattern – authority responsible for taking decisions pertaining to expenditures in areas of fooding, clothes, travel etc
- Savings and loan – if any change had taken place in these aspect in the last few years

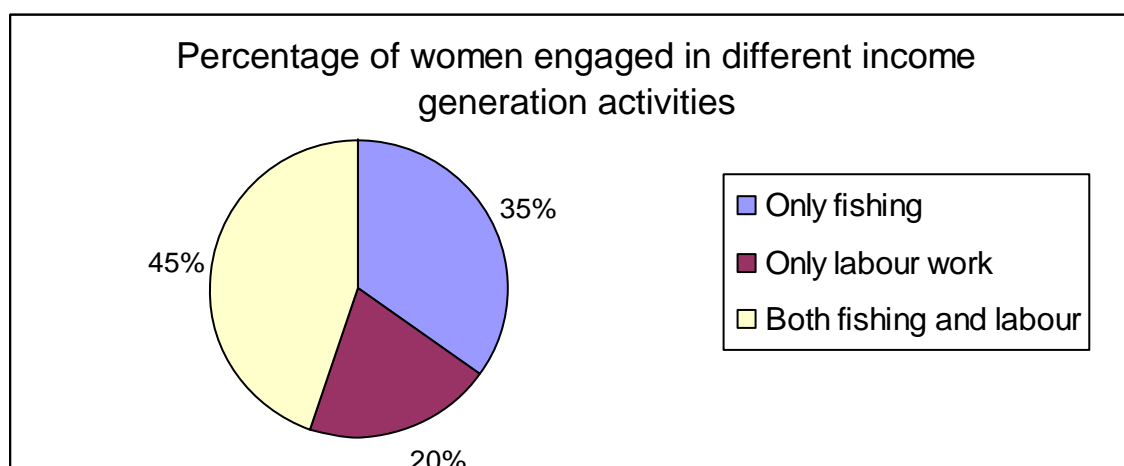
Socio economic perspective is the most important aspect of a gender study. The intention of this section was to ascertain the socio-economic status of women from a gender perspective. The important aspects included in this section were the range of resources men and women are able to access, control and use, if any change has taken place in the decisions pertaining to economic aspects, various income generation activities women are engaged in, seasonal variation in the income generation activities of both male and female, number of days getting employed in a season and the relative income per season. This was followed by ascertaining the change pertaining to the activities of saving, acquiring and reimbursing loans etc.

All these information would directly reflect the status of women in the family, whether an increase in her economic status had a direct bearing on her status in the family

MAIN INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES

An attempt was made to analyze the income generation activities of women of the fisher community. It was observed from the data collected through both individual schedule and FGD that almost 45% women are into both fishing and non-fishing activities. On further probing it came to light that because of the reduction of availability of fishes that the women prefer to take up non-fishing activities like working as agricultural labour, collecting kaju or working in Kaju factory or some other labour work during fishing-lean period. The percentage of women who restrict themselves to fishing related activities was found to be around 35% whereas women who take up exclusive labour work only was around 20%

Graph no –1 – Percentage of women engaged in different income generation activities





Seasonality scenario:

It was seen that there is seasonal variation in the earnings of both men and women. In summer owing to availability of less fishes the income of both men and women reduces. It was also noticed that during fishing lean period women mostly took up labour work either in the agricultural sector, construction site or Kaju factory. On the other hand men during their lean period preferred to prepare themselves for the next trip to the sea instead of taking up other income generation activity during the same period. During the winter season the availability of fish's increases and most men and women devote their entire month in fishing related activities. With regard to the number of days getting work it is noticed that in summer men on an average go to fishing hardly 15 days, which increases to around 20 days in rainy which further increases to almost 30 days in winter. On the other hand the same holds true for women except for the fact that during the period when the men do not go for fishing and hence women do not have fish for selling, they prefer to go for labour work if available.

Tab. 1 a. Seasonal variation of women's activity

Activity/ season	Summer		Rainy		Winter	
	W	M	W	M	W	M
Fishing	25%	80%	10%	80%	70%	90%
Fishing cum labour work	30%	5%	35%	5%	10%	5%
Women who are into unorganized sector for ex- helping hand in Samudram, where they draw a monthly compensation	10%	0	10%	0	10%	0
Women who have their own small outlet or some petty shops etc	5%	10%	5%	10%	5%	0
Exclusive labour work	30%	5%	40%	5%	5%	5%

Tab 1 b. Number of days getting work – Seasonal variation

No of days/ season	Summer		Rainy		Winter	
	W	M	W	M	W	M
Less than 15 days	25%	45%	10%	15%	10%	5%
15-20 days	25%	30%	55%	70%	25%	25%
20-25 days	25%	10%	5%	15%	10%	20%
Throughout the month	25%	15%	30%	0%	55%	50%

Tab 1 c Approx income per month - seasonal variation

Approx income/ season	Summer		Rainy		Winter	
	W	M	W	M	W	M
Less than Rs 800	20%	20%	60%	15%	15%	10%
Rs 800-Rs1200	50%	40%	10%	10%	35%	5%
Rs 1200- Rs 1800	25%	35%	25%	35%	25%	30%
Rs 1800- Rs 2500	5%	5%	5%	25%		20%
Above 2500				15%	25%	35%

An analysis of the activities undertaken, number of days getting work and the approx income per month of both men and women showed that women in comparison to men take up labour work more frequently. In fishing lean period women mostly prefer to take up labour work. Thus the percentage of women who take up both fishing and labour work is quite high in comparison to men.

With regard to number of days getting work it was again seen that the women in comparison to men had more number of employable days. This can be attributed to the fact that men mostly restrict themselves to the venturing into sea during the season and in off season they prefer to repair the net and boat and prepare them for the next catching, women on the other hand in absence of sufficient availability of fishes prefer to do labour work.



A comparison of income showed that in comparison to women income of men is still higher, this can be attributed to the fact that women mostly sell small fishes, and even if they go for labour work they earn hardly Rs 30-40 per day, which is a very nominal

amount. On the other hand the income of men mostly depends on the availability of fishes and if luck favours the income is high.

Coming to the gender aspect of seasonal variation it was seen that since the men normally did not prefer to take up non-fishing activities during fishing lean period the burden of earning for the family fell on the women. One of the important reasons sighted by men for not taking up other income generation activities was that venturing into the sea to procure fishes was in itself a very tiring affair and they needed sufficient rest to prepare themselves for the next journey. On the other hand women who normally restrict themselves to selling of fishes can easily take up other activities when fishes are not available in abundance.

MIGRATION:

One of the other factors that seem to have a direct impact on the income generation activities of both male and female was the ever-increasing trend of migration. Since the availability of fishes was decreasing with each passing day hence it was becoming pertinent on the part of men to search for other alternatives and the most feasible alternative that comes to them is to work in other coastal areas of the country and hence the increasing trend of migration. The fisher men normally migrate through contractor's contact but many a times it is seen that they are not able to bear the extent of exploitation faced at the worksite and run away from the site without any payment.

Again during the period of migration it is the women who is strained and is hence required to take the responsibility of maintaining the family during the period. But owing to the strain of earning for the women she is forced to compromise on issues of exploitation faced by her from the side of contractor or at workplace. Many cases came to light where women accepted on compromising on issues ranging from sexual to economic exploitation, as they had no other way of sustaining their family.

AUTHORITY OF WOMEN ON HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE:

This is quite a pertinent aspect when analyzed in terms of gender perspective. Interaction with women of various villages showed us that they were into both domestic and economic activities and many times (summer or off fishing season) they were earning more than their male counterpart. She was sometimes also found to be single-handedly running the family as her male counterpart did not have any income during that period. Hence it was necessary to analyze the authority responsible for taking important household decisions

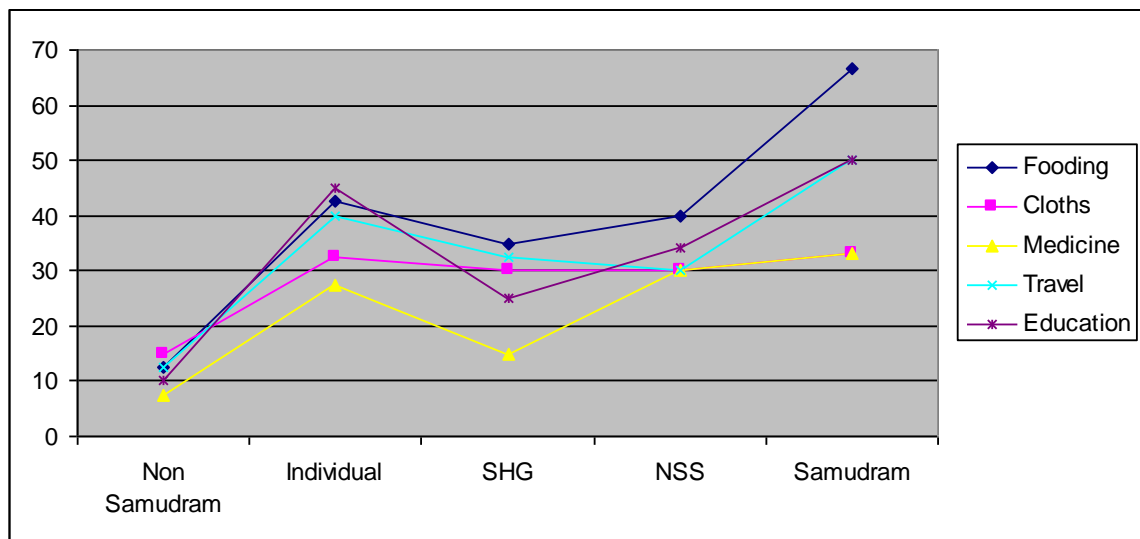
But prior to it an attempt was made to see the kind of income generation activities the women were into and if any change had taken place in it in the last few years. With regard to the income generation activities it was seen that women were taking up both fishing and non-fishing activities even around a decade back but the intensity of women getting into non-fishing activities was less mostly because fishes were abundantly available on the one hand and also because not much labour work was available within their reachable vicinity.

The intervention of UAA through the SHG/Samudram gave a definite direction to their fishing activities. They provided them with orientations and training programs and refined their selling techniques – by giving them knowledge on issues like rates of fishes, weight concept, hygienic methods of fish processing which helped them to get better prices for their products etc. SHG/Samudram also inculcated in them self confidence to raise their voice against issues of injustice and violence.

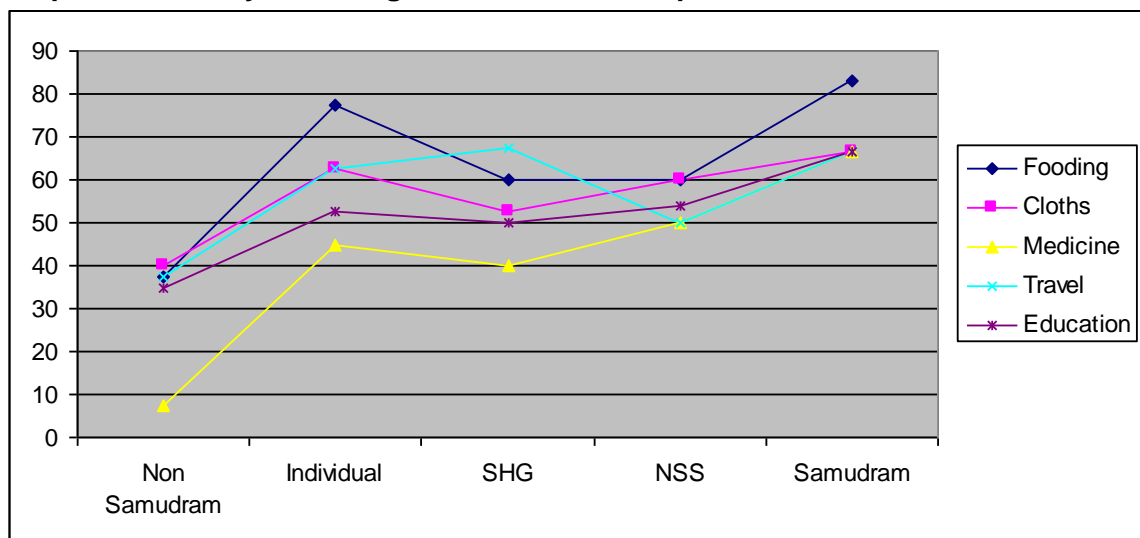
Now coming to the expenditure part it was necessary to see the authority women enjoys in making decisions at the household level. The intention of this section was also to see if any change had taken place in the authority women enjoys at the decision making level after the input she has received from SHG/NSS/Samudram or whether she is simply an earning machine who does not have a say in the way the money earned should be spent.

Analysis of the views that came forward from the side of women was mainly divided into two aspects. The primary aspect was to see the amount of decision making authority women have on household expenses for the family and the second aspect was to ascertain the authority women have on their own expenses e.g. can they have the authority to buy a saree/cloth of their own choice or medicine or fulfill other personal requirement from their own income.

Graph 2–Authority for taking simple household decisions on family expenditures



Graph-3- Authority for taking decision for self expenses



The analysis shows that women have a fair space for decision when it comes to food from all range of groups be it a member of SHG, NSS or Samudram. There is an increasing trend of capacity of decision making from SHG to Samudram. This is precisely because the negotiation level is high in women in Samudram. The clear

indication of high in decision making capacity in comparison to women not involved in Samudram/NSS activities is there. The non-Samudram group got interviewed even though have organized themselves into groups but still in nascent stage of development. There is a trend of declining at NSS level when it comes to travel which is quite evident as NSS is the federation of SHG and very few women actually travel and thus the statistics has an impact resulting declination. The figure of Individual show the average as the strategy was to interview the members from SHG, NSS and Samudram. The remarkable finding is majority women seem to have created a space for the expenses for themselves along with the family expenses.

A comparative trend analysis of number of women into the decision making fold shows that it is also in an increasing order .The views that came forward are as follows, a few years back the percentage of women who had a say in simple household decisions pertaining to aspects like fooding, clothes, medicine, travel etc stood at approx 53% which is now around 78% (this is the total percentage of cases where women either single handedly take the decision or collectively take the decisions along with men). Further revelation shows that within 78% majority of women are passive in decision making i.e. the men decides but managed to get approval of women on the decision. To add to it around 12% women had the independent decisions making authority in these aspects presently where as earlier it was limited to 3% only.



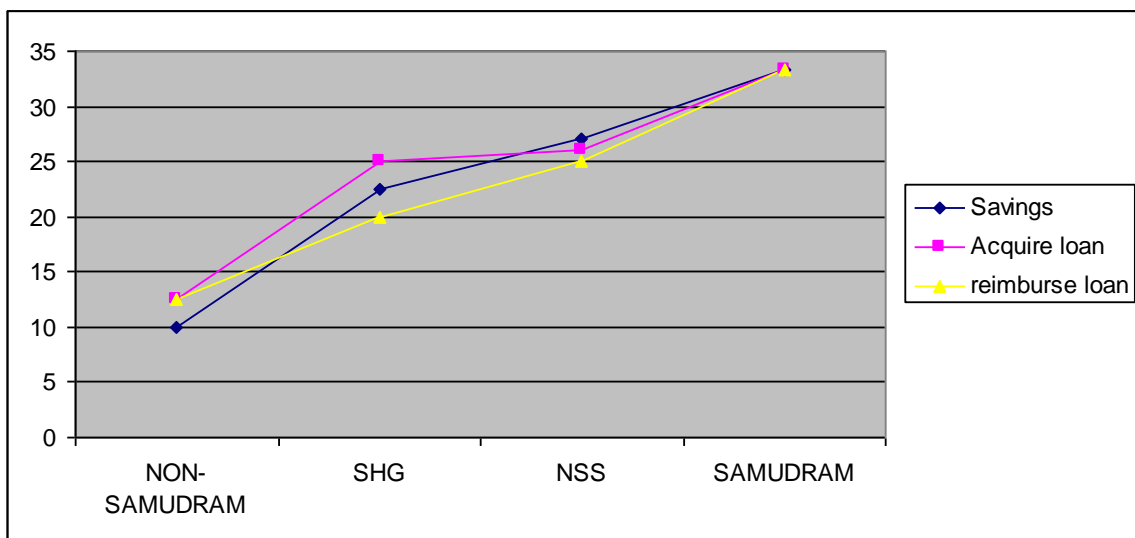
SAVINGS AND LOANS

Coming to the decisions pertaining to aspects like where to save money, from where to acquire loan, authority responsible for reimbursing loan etc it was seen that not much change had taken place with respect to the source of acquiring loan in case of male members, although few have started acquiring loans from Bank but the number of such people is less and also these members do not always approach bank for loans. It is mostly because these people do not have anything to present as mortgage in the banks and hence many a times even they prefer local moneylenders for acquiring loan. But as far as the saving habits of men was concerned it was seen that few men have started saving – a tendency which was almost missing a few years back. This is mainly owing to the habits of women to save in the SHG according to the views of the men themselves.

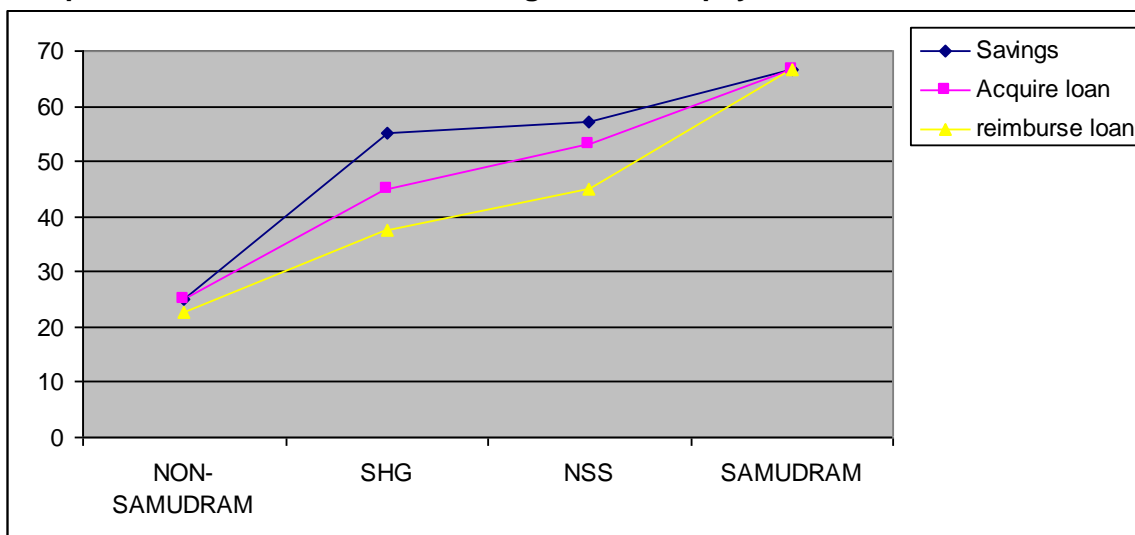
With regard to women whereas earlier the women mostly did not go for acquiring loan now almost 80% of women confirmed that they acquire loan in times of needs from their SHG. Also with regard to the saving habits almost all the women now save some or the other amount either in their SHGs or in the bank

With regard to the changes seen in the last few years in the sphere of savings and acquiring loan it was seen that because of easy availability of loans upto Rs 10,000, women were often persuaded or forced to get it from their SHGs but when it came to reimbursing of loans although women claimed that both male and female were responsible for it but a deeper probing into it showed that since the income of male was decreasing day by day hence in maximum cases the burden of reimbursement fell on the women. Also technically it is the woman who is a member in SHG and the primary onus of reimbursement is on them. But with regard to loans above Rs 10,000/- were still preferred to be taken from local moneylenders instead of approaching the banks as they did not require any kind of paper work or things to be required as mortgage.

Graph -No. 4 – Earlier scenario on decisions in savings, acquiring and reimbursing loan



Graph -No. 5 – The scenario of savings, loan and payback loan - now



The above figure shows that **there is increasing of decision making capacity with regards to savings, loan and also reimbursement of loan. The savings of women at all level is clearly showing going high over the period of time. The activities of SHG have a definite contribution to this improvement.** Secondly availability of loan become easier for them and it is obvious that women being part of the SHGs take a decision on getting the loan and also responsibility of paying back is also on her. The decision variation of these three aspects seems to be high at SHG level and comes down to one point at Samudram level again due to the status and the nature of activities women are into at Samudram level.



CHAPTER V

PERSONAL, FAMILIAL AND SOCIAL STATUS

- Work done by men and women – and the pattern of change in the work distribution
- Family structure
- Social status of women – problems faced by women at the level of economy, cultural, family, community etc
- Decisions pertaining to children, property etc

The intention of the section was to study the status of women from personal, familial and social aspect. Various aspects included in this section were work done by men and women, family structure, problems faced by women at different levels and finally the authority on taking decisions pertaining to aspects like education, employment and marriage of children, expenditures to be incurred during special occasions, property to be bought and sold etc. It was also attempted to see any change had taken place in these aspects in the last few years and the reasons there of. Analysis of family structure was intended to analyze the structure of family from a gender perspective. Here data as varied as number of children going to school, drop-out children, and children earning for the family along with earning and dependent members were also obtained. The intention of this section was to analyse the burden and support of family on these women.

The status of women in the family is a reflection of her status in the society. An attempt was made to analyze the status of women in her family, the various activities she undertakes at the household level, kind of help she gets from other members of the family, the authority she enjoys to take important decisions at the household level etc. Simultaneously attempt was made to analyze the status of women at the societal level. For the purpose her problems at different levels were tried to be analyzed.

To begin with an attempt was made to analyse the type of work undertaken by both male and female at the household level and if any change had taken place in it in the last few years and the reasons thereof.

Table No 2 . Kind of support women get in their household venture

Kind of support/ Percentage	Percentage
Women who are into both domestic and economic activities but still do not receive any support in domestic work from any one be it male or female. These are the women who are overburdened.	36%
Only economic activity	5%
Both economic and domestic work with some support from male counterpart	23%
Both economic and domestic work with support from other female members of the family and occasional help from male members also	36%

36% women categorically denied of receiving any help in the domestic activity from any side be it their male counterpart or be it the other female members of their family. These are the women who are overburdened with responsibilities and are required to carry out all by themselves. On the other hand almost 45% accepted of receiving some or the other kind of help in their household activities either from the other female members of their house or male members. Despite the norm that women should be handling the house core the percentage of women who receive a support from their male counterpart

in handling various responsibilities at the household level the percentage stands at 23%. However it is not a regular feature rather it is an occasional or circumstantial feature. The figure speaks for itself. The women are in fact over burdened. On the one hand during fishing-lean period they are bound to earn or else their family members will starve. On the other hand almost 36% women hardly receive any kind of support in their household venture. But the positive side of the whole episode is that **male have started cooperating with the female members in sharing with them some of the responsibilities at the household level and the percentage of women receiving help either from other female members or male is as high as 36%.**

A journey towards equality

From the interaction of various groups of both men and women one thing came out very prominently was that help in household activities was the last thing that men of the fisher community prefer to take up. But interestingly it also came out that men now do not hesitate to help their female counterparts in assisting them in the various household activities including cooking, taking care of children etc. Many women of Aryapalli, Katuru etc accepted that if they had gone out for work and if their male partner were at home they assisted them in the household activities and also if they were late they would have put the water for cooking rice on the chullah or have cut vegetables for cooking. This the women accepted was owing to the involvement of women in income generation activity as now men were starting to accept that if women can help them in earning bread for the family then they also had some role at the household level

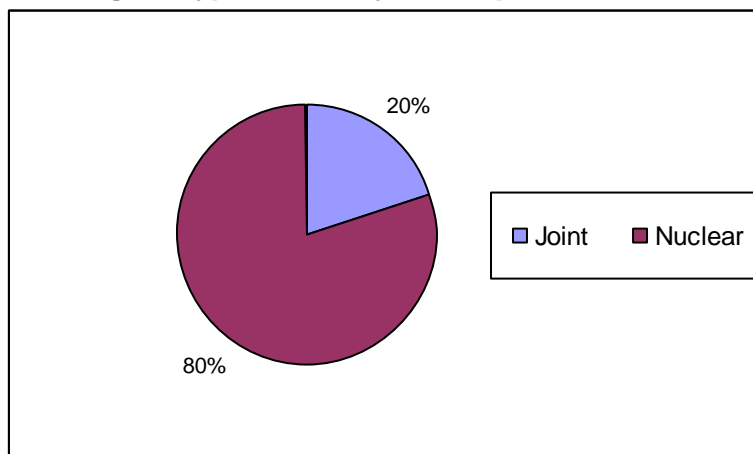


FAMILY STRUCTURE

With regard to the type of families the fisher community are from it was found that almost 80% of the women are from nuclear families – ie family having a husband, a wife and their unmarried children, although in few cases the mother-in-law was also a part of the family as she had no other source of sustenance. Rest 20% belonged to joint families – ie family having husband, wife, their children, husband's brother, his wife and their children, husband's parents etc to mention a few. It was further observed that women

coming from joint family had a quick positioning of their potentiality in various aspects of life as almost **all the EC members of Samudram hail from joint family background**. This might be due to the fact that they have some or other helping hand at home to take care of the need.

Graph No. 6 Percentage of types of family the respondents hail from:



For the purpose specific data with regard to the number of members, children, earning members and dependent members followed by number of children attending school and also earning for the family was obtained.

Family Structure:

Around 50% families have an average 5 members, whereas the number of families having more than 10 members was approx 20%. Similarly families having on an average 2 children were approx 25% and those having more than 4 children were about 50%, and percentage of families having approx. 7 or more than 7 children was 20%. Coming to the number of girls the percentage of family having only 1 girl child was approx 30%, and only 20% families have more than 3 girl children.

With regard to earning members families having 2 earning members was around 40% and 3 or more than 3 was approx 55%. Amongst it almost in 60% households 1 of the earning member was women, in 25% families more than 2 women were the earning members of the family and in almost 15% cases there were 3 female earning members.

Around 45% families had on an average 3 dependents and about 55% families had 6 or more than 6 dependents. Out of it number of families where there were on an average 2 female dependent member was approx 60%, families with no female dependent members was around 30%.

35% families have no school going children, around 45% families have on an average 2 school going children and 20% families have 4 or more school going children. In around 60% families there were no girl children going to school. With regard to drop out children around 40% families have children who had left their education either in the primary or pre-secondary level. Coming to children earning for the family around 40% families had 2 or more than 2 children earning for the family. In around 35% cases approx 2 girl children were earning for the family.

Table 3. A comparison of women-child as per their earning age

Women was not working when she was minor but her minor children are working	45%
Women started earning when she was minor but now her children are going to school and hence not working	20%
Both women and children have started earning when they were below 18 yrs	25%
Neither the women was working when she was minor nor the children are working	10%

There was a probe regarding the women's decision on education and an enquiry was made as to why these children are out of School. However, it was observed that not only women but also the men need to understand the children's rights to education. The usual argument was "sooner they are into profession better they perform"

With regard to the age at which the children of the fisher-community start working was obtained and simultaneously a comparison was made between the earning age of mother when she started earning. Here attempt was basically made to see if even the mother was a minor when she started earning. The reason for bringing out this analysis was to see the extent to which the children are compelled to get into work to earn for their family owing to the reduction in the income of their father. What came forward was quite astonishing as it was seen that in comparison to their mother the percentage of children who have started earning before they were 18 was almost 45%.



SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN

An attempt was made to see the various problems faced by the women of the Fisher community in their day-to-day life. Economic, Cultural, family and community were the main sphere of data collection.

Economic: An analysis of the views presented by these women with regard to the non fishing economic problems showed that around 40% women had pointed out to the communication problem prevalent in their area. The main reason for this was that whereas the men mostly restricted themselves to the fishing activities the women on the other hand many a times took up either labour work owing to the reduction of fishes or both fishing and labour work. Hence in search of labour work they had to travel comparatively long distances to get work and that consumes a lot of their income. Owing to poverty it is not possible for them to hire a vehicle and cheap means of communication are not available in their area hence the pointing out to this aspect was quite natural.

On the other hand 45% women pointed out to the less wages received by women in comparison to men for the same work done by them. In many areas women are still drawing a daily wage of hardly Rs 35/- where as men folk get around Rs. 50/- for the same work.

10% women pointed their finger towards the problem faced by them at the work site in terms of physical, economic and psychological exploitation. There are areas where women preferred to go in groups to work, as they feared of untoward incident at the worksite. 5% women felt that unavailability of work at a nearby location was one of the biggest problem faced by them.



A path less traveled:

Anantaraipur – a small village to reach where a river has to be crossed and there is only one boat in the river and if the boat is on the other side, problem with regard to crossing it arises. It came out very clearly from the discussion with the women of this community that they depend of snail collection and labour work. But when they decide to go for labour work, or go to sell the dry snails to the person concerned they prefer to go in groups owing to the physical and sexual exploitation they face on their route and by the contractors and middlemen. Women also spoke out about the way women of the community compromises on this aspect owing to their poverty and lack of availability of work near their area.

The health hazard is also observed in this village because of the poor communication facility. For example the rate of MMR is high and patients in terminal condition had also died due to this problem.

Cultural problems: Women even today live under a lot of restrictions. Restrictions during menstruation like girls being forbidden to go to school, women are subjected to live separately from the family. Women are still treated as untouchables during these days; they cannot enter the main house or kitchen. Now the girls although are no more married at the age of 10-12yrs but their marriage at the age of 16 are quite common. The number of girls going to school has certainly increased in the last few years, but the number is quite less when compared to the total statistics.

45% women pointed out to the restriction posed on women during childbirth or menstruation as one of the greatest problems faced by the women in their community. Around 50% women pointed towards the movement restrictions for girl child like not allowing her to go to school, marrying her at young age etc.

In villages like Anantaraipur, Golabandha etc it was seen that very few girls are going to school and are mostly girls are required to carry out the household activities so that their

mother can go out to work and earn for the family.

Problems faced by women at their household level varies from the burden of earning to single handedly taking care of the household work, wastage of resources in liquor, domestic violence, no right on properties etc to mention a few were identified by them.

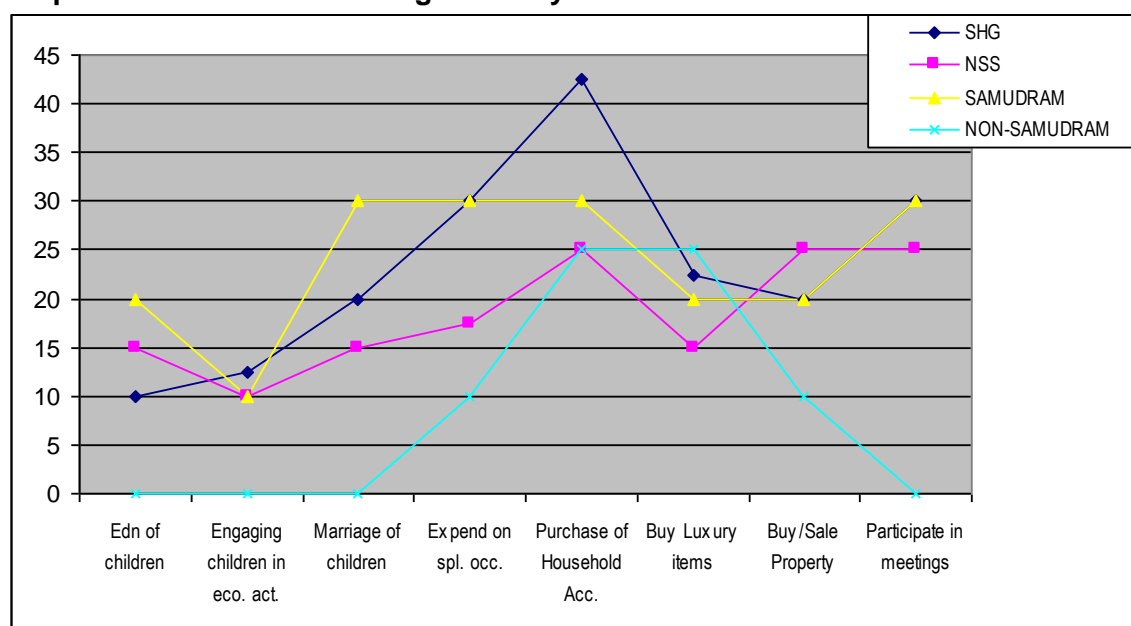
When enquired about the problems women face at their community level 45% were of the view that the women had no role in village decisions and even if a divorce case was to be discussed the women's view was of least importance. Around 20% women pointed out to the easy availability of liquor near their village and they were also very angry with the government for this. Others pointed out to the infrastructure problem of their village including communication problem, water problem, unavailability of facilities like school, hospital etc

The women were further enquired about other important problems faced by them in their daily life. Some spoke about the unavailability of loans of sufficient amount so that they can start some other economic venture. Almost 45% spoke about the burden of reimbursement of loan on women as the men's income is decreasing day-by-day. Some were of the view that fish being a perishable commodity and facility of cold storage being not available to them they suffer heavy losses in months of summer. Moreover they do not have space to dry their fishes hygienically as a result of which their products do not fetch good price at the market.

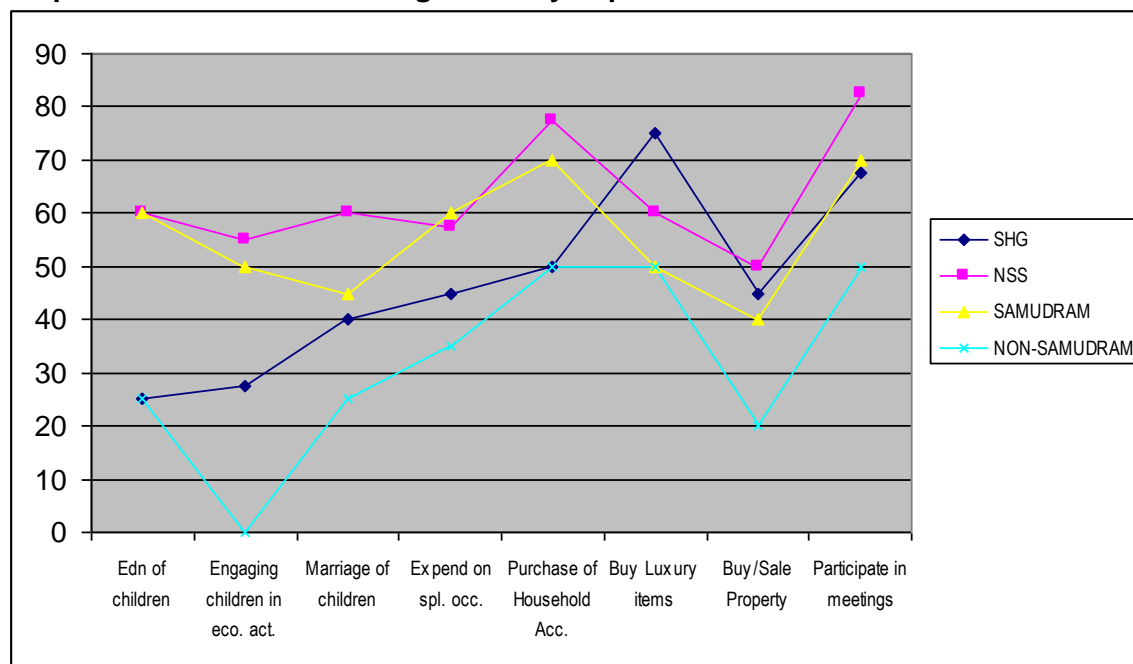
DECISION MAKING PROCESS:

Attempt was made to analyze the role of women in taking decisions pertaining to their children and household. As far as children are concerned it was tried to be seen the role of mother in deciding factors like education, their engagement in economic sector, their marriage etc. An analysis of the views presented showed that there is a 180 degree turn to the whole picture as earlier a majority of men (84%) were taking all these decision where as the percentage of cases where women has a say is approx 80% in the recent scenario.

Graph no -7. Decisions making authority earlier



Graph no -8. Decisions making authority at present



The analysis of this data shows that there is an increasing trend in the status of fisher women as a whole. This data reveals that women at NSS level have outgrown over the period of time. This is again due to the activity they are taking up at their level. It is interesting to note that women at SHG level have a major say when it comes to buying luxury item for the families where as women at Samudram are far behind them. **In certain area like purchasing of properties, household accessories and luxury items it was observed that women at Samudram are in a lower position in comparison to SHG and NSS.** The fact is most of these women belong to a joint family system and thus there is less chance of taking decision at this degree as there are senior people in the family. The analysis itself shows quite clearly that the process these women have gone through is definitely an empowering process and thus the women have acquired some capacity to take decision. However a conscious move will be more appropriate to bring a gender perspective into this empowerment process.

Coming to the decisions with pertaining to the household sector – expenditures to be incurred during special occasion, household accessories and luxury items to be bought, Property to be bought and sold etc it was seen that earlier 76% male had exclusive decision making authority which has drastically fallen to 17% in recent scenario. It was observed that now 83% of women were taken the position of decision making in above mentioned aspects.

Participating in meeting:

Finally an attempt was made to analyse the role of men in decisions with respect to the women participating either in her SHG meeting or any of her other interest area. There is a tremendous change observed in the attitude of the family members in relation to the participation of women in SHG activities as earlier 81% of men were deciding the participation of women in the SHG meeting (giving permission). It was seen that in almost 32% cases women come to meeting on their own whereas in the remaining 68% the women have to inform (no obtaining the permission) their male partners and the family members.

Professional competencies:

Here attempt was made to analyse the authority women enjoy in making decisions pertaining to her professional and economic life. It was seen that at present in almost 73% cases women were the ultimate authority in deciding with regard to aspects like amount of fish to be acquired, rate at which to sell, where to sell etc. Whereas 59% of women were absolutely depending on their male partners to take this kind of decisions earlier. The percentage of exclusive men decision has reduced to only 6% (women are still depending) in present scenario. However in another 21% of case women are joint decision makers along with the men. This the women attributed to the confidence inculcated in them as a result of the training programs and exposure visit which had been organized by Samudram & UAA.



CHAPTER VI

POLITICAL STATUS OF MEMBERS OF SAMUDRAM

- Violence – kind of violence faced by women at various level including family, community and during her economic venture
- Political participation of women – a comparison of the political behaviour of women presently and around a decade back

POLITICAL STATUS OF MEMBERS OF SAMUDRAM – the intention of this section was to analyze the level of political participation of women both in the electoral and village politics cum their motivation and political stand to take up issues affecting their life at various levels. The pattern of response was compared to the situation a decade back when they had not been provided with any kind of input from the side of Samudram. The intention of introducing this section was to see if the women have started raising voice against various issues affecting their life or still till date they numbly accept the violence. Moreover it was also intended to be seen that how strongly has the women evolved in terms of asserting her rights at various level of decision making.

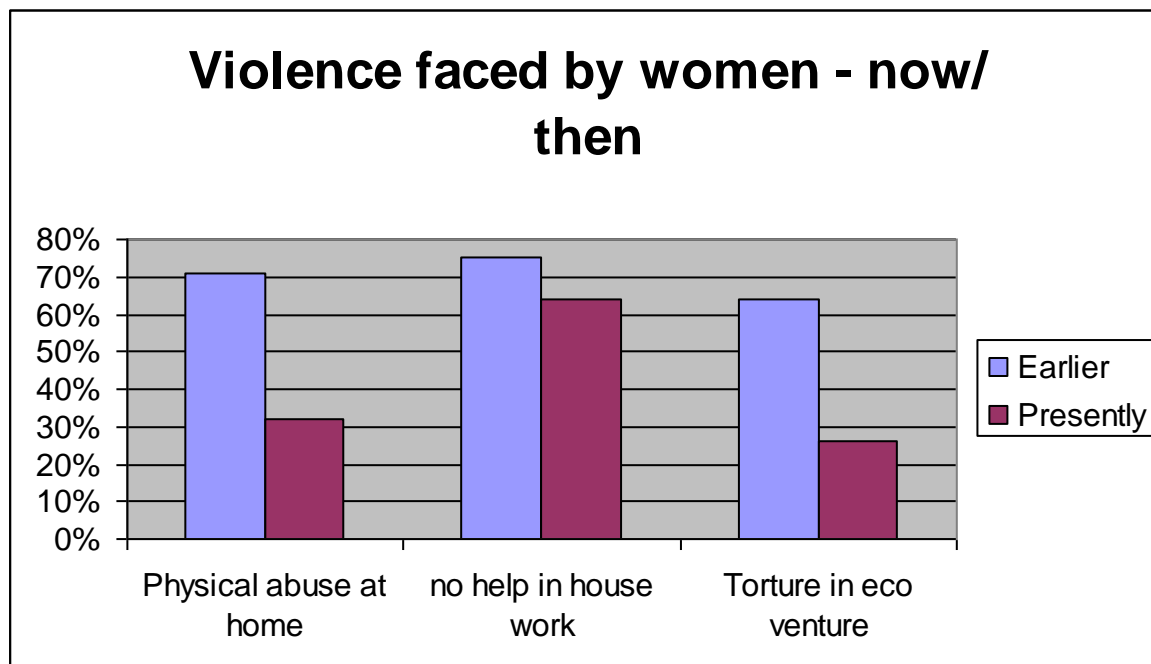
Contractor's Fraud:

A contractor ran away with the money of 40 labourers of Aryapalli, after a lot of trial when the labours could not locate the contractor they approached Samudram. Samudram contacted every possible person who could help them to trace the man including Ministry of Labour. After a lot of efforts they finally traced the man at Kerela and handed him to the police, ultimately the man returned Rs 46000/- to Samudram

VIOLENCE: Specific questions were designed to see the kind of violence the women face and any difference in the scenario in the last few years. With regard to physical abuse it was seen that earlier whereas almost 61% women some or the other kind of physical or mental torture within the four walls of the house. According to the views of the women interviewed it was mostly because of the excessive drinking habit and their habit of tolerating the violence. But after the intervention of Samudram/NSS/SHG severe protests were launched against liquor sale in the area and after the strong and vibrant struggle the drinking habit of men have come under control. Moreover the initiative of women in successfully handling issues of domestic violence has inculcated in women the confidence to retaliate. This has had a direct impact on the number of cases of domestic violence and now the percentage of women facing such violence stands at approx 20%. The women then were probed of the burden they take at the household level, whether along with economic activity they are single handedly required to look into the household activities or do they get some kind of assistance from other members of the house mainly the men folk. It was seen that in comparison to 75% women who were single-handedly handling both the responsibilities the percentage now stands at 60%. Specific questions were asked to the women to see if she had faced any kind of torture during her economic venture and any change in the scenario in the last few years. In comparison to 60% women facing some or the other kind of torture in their economic venture the percentage of such women now stands at 20%. This torture is mostly limited

to the abusive language and physical torture. As far as economic discrimination is concerned even today women get less wages in comparison to men and have to travel long distances in search of work.

Graph no -9 Percentage of women facing violence – a comparison of now/ then scenario



POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN –

In this section attempt was made to see how active the women are politically both at the level of electoral politics and with regard to raising their voice on issues affecting their life. Various aspects like have the women raised voice against issues affecting their life at various levels, have they taken up issues of injustice done to them in public or retaliated. With respect to electoral politics it was tried to be seen whether the women have participated in political activities, rallies, agitations etc, do they cast their vote and finally do they participate in village level decision making process. The attempt in this section was not only to see the present level of participation of women at various political processes but also to compare them with the situation a few years back.

Table No 4. Political status of women - comparison of political behaviour of women now and a few years back

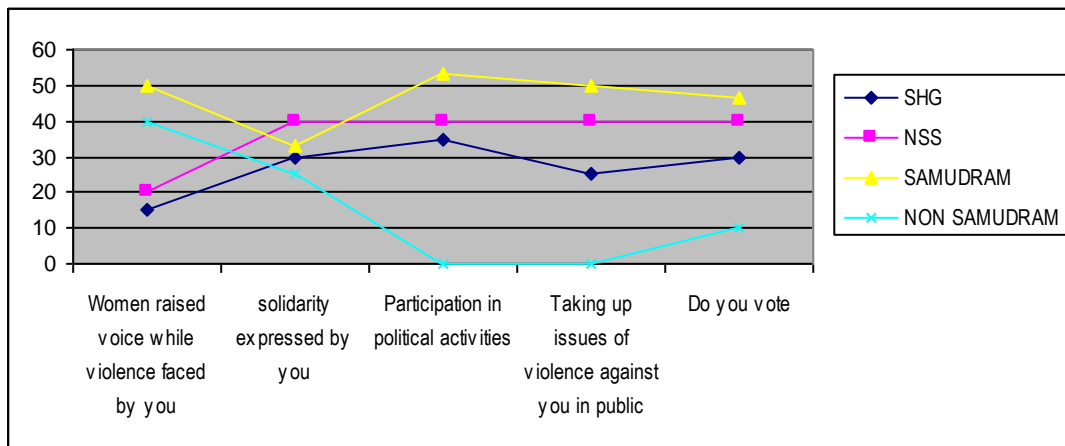
Situation	YY	NY	NN
Raised voice	12%	68%	20%
Shown solidarity with the issue	10%	58%	32%
Mobilised public against the violence/discrimination faced at home	26%	42%	32%
Participated in political activities	19%	45%	36%
Cast their Vote	39%	45%	16%

(YY – Earlier yes even now yes , NY – Earlier no now yes, NN- Earlier no now no)

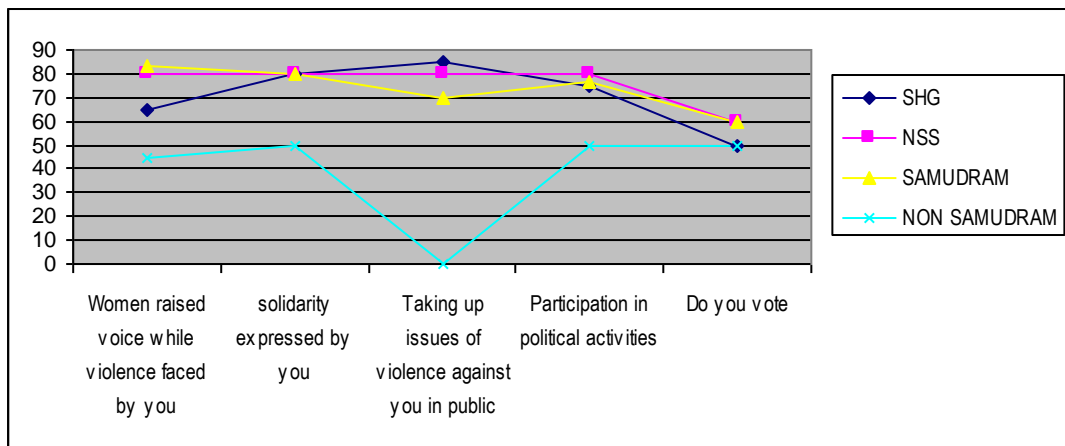
An analysis of the extent to which people are politically active showed that the intensity of women who have become politically more active in the last few years is dramatically

high in comparison to the women who were active politically even before the intervention of SHG/NSS/Samudram. Around 20% of the women were found to be taking a political stand while handling issues or raising voice against issues of injustice and violence, showing solidarity with the issue and taking up of issues of violence even against them in public on the one hand and on the other being equally active as far as electoral politics or village decision making process is concerned. The percentage of women who have become active in the afore mentioned sphere is approx 52%, whereas even today around 28% women still forbid from participating either in any kind of protest or participating in village decision making process. But as far as voting behaviour is concerned almost 83% women cast their vote which was just 38% a few years back.

Graph no- 10: Level of political participation – earlier



Graph no -11: Level of political participation – at present



The above two graphs shows clearly that women at Samudram are again at top in decision making or handling issues of violence. Women at NSS are actually at par with them. In fact at present NSS seems to be more powerful in terms of exercising the political rights and also in taking political stand in bringing the issue to a logical end. It was further observed that the women at NSS level are also active in terms of participating in political activities like campaigning for their fellow women or even contesting election.

Huma Hatta – end of an exploitative era

Huma hatta is a big fish market where fishes from neighbouring states also come for sale. The local fisherwomen who come of selling their fish and its allied products face a lot of exploitation at the hands of contractors and middlemen. They are abused verbally and physically, many a times they are paid less for their products even though it is of the same quality as the products of the neighboring state. Moreover after paying a tax for sitting in the hatta, these women instead of being provided with bill the amount is stamped on their hand and many a times they are required to pay the tax even more then one time as the stamp get washed due to heavy sweating. Samudram took up the Huma Hatta issue and strong agitations were held. The agitation even took a violent shape and for the first time in the history of Huma Hatta the Hatta was closed down. Ultimately Collector, MLA, PRI- Representatives came and their was hot discussion on various issues. They were provided a charter of 15 issues and amongst it 2-3 issues were solved immediatly. In this way a violent era came to a close and women now have dignified access in the hatta

Samudram as a support point:

M.Tatiya, husband of M.Sitamma of Gokharkuda village, used to torture her physically and emotionally. When things went beyond limit she approached Samudram. Samudram called a village level meeting but the case could not be settled. They then approached the police. Police arrested the man and kept him under prison for one night and threatened him if he did not stop beating his wife he would be sent to jail. The man promised and apologized for his behaviour. The police then released him. They now leading a peaceful life.



CHAPTER VII

RELATION OF SAMUDRAM WITH SIMILAR KIND OF NETWORK

- Relation of Samudram with Traditional fish worker's federation
- Role of men in grooming Samudram
- Impact of Samudram on market scenario

The intention of this section was to see the kind of relationship that exist between Samudram and other networks that either have a direct or indirect influence on it. This section was deliberately introduced in order to analyse the impact of various forces either supporting or antagonistic on Samudram and also to see the mechanism by which a women group had been able to sustain itself in the changing scenario.

The women were asked specific questions to see the kind of relation they have with the Traditional fish worker's federation. Replying on the question of what kind of relation they have with the larger network, almost 53% women were of the view that they have no relation with it, 47% said they occasionally sit together in meetings to discuss their future strategies, they also got assistance from the larger network at times of holding rally or protest or liaisoning at govt. level.

In order to access the impact of Samudram on the market scenario the views of women were taken in this regard. Almost 47% felt that Samudram has stabilize the rates of fishes, they are now getting their payment within a few days, which was not so a few years back. Around 36% women spoke about the trainings, orientation and exposure visit given to them by the Samudram and the confidence inculcated in them owing to it.

It was tried to be seen that if there is any scope of men in grooming of Samudram. The response that came in this regard was that unless Samudram helps the men in their economic venture it is simply impossible to expect any kind of help in grooming Samudram. But there were women who were very hopeful of the role played by the men during protests and agitation or while liaison at the level of govt. They opined that if Samudram could provide assistance to men to strengthen their economic venture, then the fishermen would directly bring their catch to the Procuring center of Samudram and will not go outside even if provided higher price. This will increase the business of Samudram thereby making it stronger with each passing day.



CHAPTER VIII

SAMUDRAM AS A SUPPORT POINT FOR MEMBERS ON GENDER SPECIFIC ISSUES

- Issues faced by the community in general
- Issues faced by the women in specific
- Issues on which solidarity has been shown by the women in particular
- Role of Samudram in providing support to the community in handling these issues
- Role of Samudram in dealing with natural calamities and personal crises

The intention of this section was to analyse the various issues faced by the women in specific and community in general. Moreover, the role of Samudram and SHGs in dealing with the issues was also interrogated. Furthermore, attempt was also made to see the kind of help extended by these organizations during period of natural calamities and personal crises. Questions were also asked about the kind of training and orientations received by the members from the side of Samudram and the help the people expect from the side of Samudram.

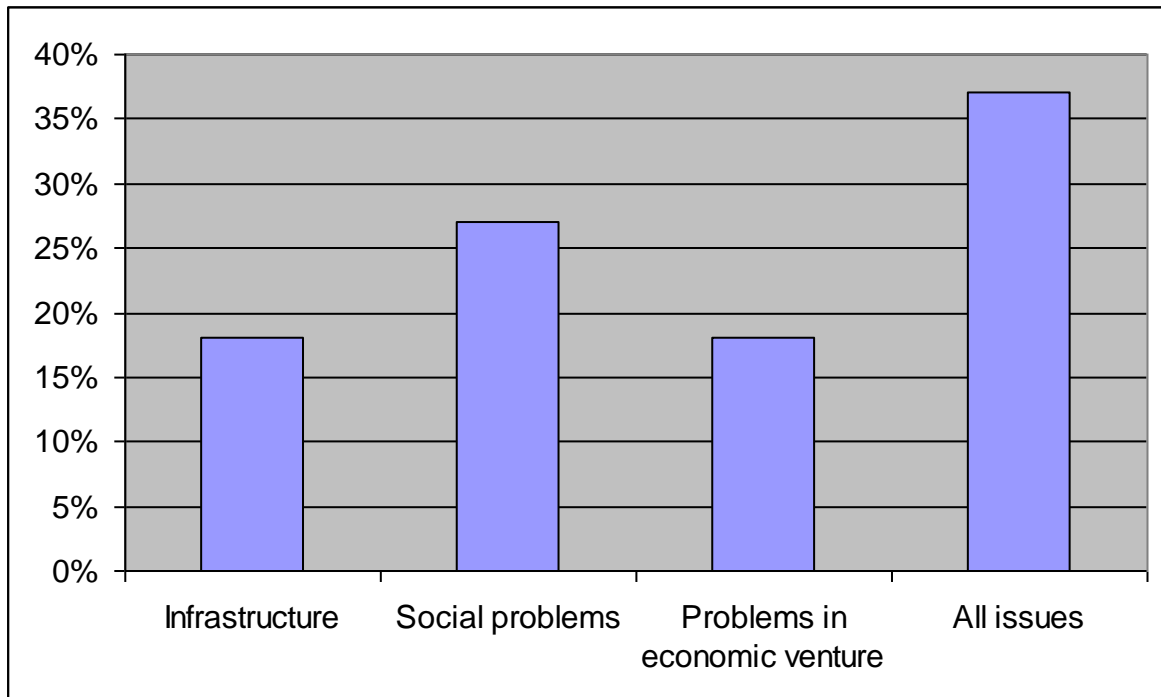
ISSUES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL AND COMMUNITY IN SPECIFIC

An attempt was tried to be made to bring to the forefront various issues and problems faced by the fisher community in general and fisher women in specific. With regard to the problems faced by the women it was seen that almost 18% women spoke about the infrastructure problems including school, hospital, water and transportation problem in general, about 27% were concerned about the social issues including restrictions for girl child with respect to education, decreasing income of men owing to the reduction in the availability of fishes with each passing day and less percentage of men opting for other income generation activity, liquor and gambling habits of the men folk of the community etc. 18% spoke about the problems faced by women in their economic venture – less wages received by women, problems of communication, physical abuse and exploitation by traders and contractors etc. About 37% women spoke about all these problems

When asked about the problems their community faces in general various came forward including infrastructure problems, non-availability of work, reduction in the availability of fishes, invasion in their fishing area by outside trawlers, heavy migration owing to all these factors, problem of house-patta, ration card were some of the other problems that came out during the course of discussion.



Graph no -12 Problems faced by women – according to their own perception



The women were then asked whether they had shown solidarity with an issue irrespective of all odds. It was interesting to note that in many villages women have shown tremendous courage and zeal to fight for issues faced both at the individual level and at the level of community or society. One of such issues on which many women had shown solidarity and had fight till a solution was reached was the issue of liquor in their areas, exploitation faced by them at the Huma hatta to mention a few. Breaking of liquor bhatti was in itself a strong agitation against liquor sale in their areas and a strong movement was launched by UAA with active participation of women of different villages and the result was the breaking of liquor bhatti in their villages not once but repeatedly many-a-times. Again with respect to the humiliation faced by the women at Huma hatta a strong agitation was launched and as a result of it an exploitative era came to an end. But one thing that needs to be emphasized here is that these agitations were not bed of roses for these courageous women.

Also a lot of input and orientation from the side of UAA went in to it to make the women reach at a stage where she could say what is good and what is bad for her. This cannot be the result of a single day. It was a continuous process that virtually brought women to a stage wherein she decided that enough is enough. The level of torture she faced in the entire venture is beyond once imagination. She was physically beaten for being active at the community level, she was not allowed to go out of the house, even at the level of community she was fined, threatened to be killed, her children and husband were beaten and so on. But it was the indomitable courage and determination of the women in front of which all atrocities had to bow down and finally it was the women who emerged victorious.

Issues taken up by Samudram

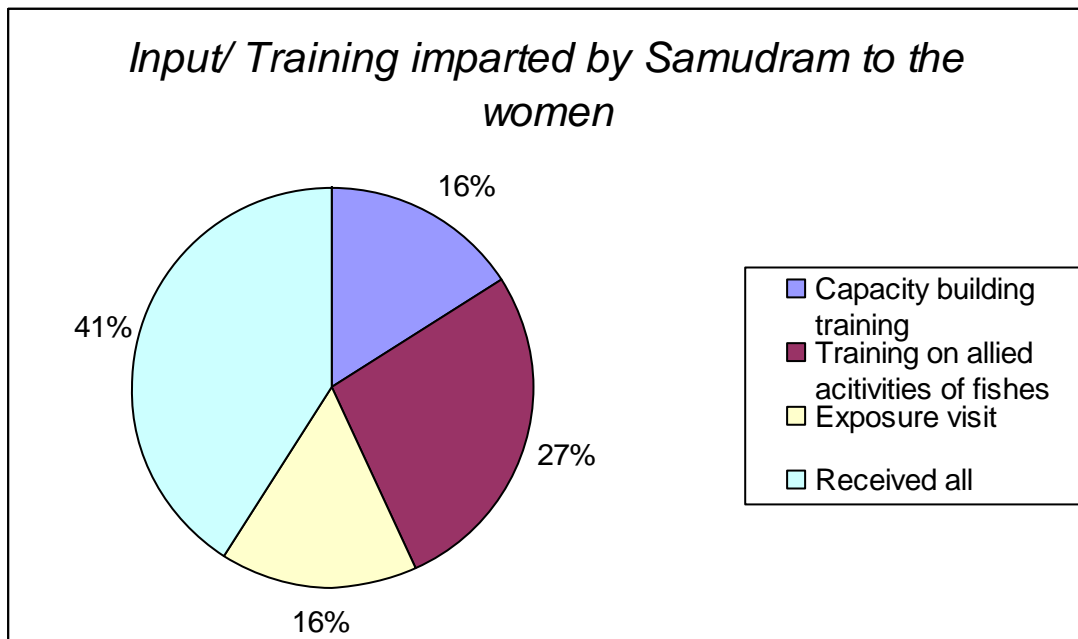
It was further tried to be seen that what were the main issues on which Samudram has taken initiative to solve it. It was seen that Samudram has taken initiative to solve issues ranging from building schools, bridge, Anganwadi center to issues like girl

child education, child labour, liquor and gambling in the social sector. In the economic arena Samudram has taken initiative to reduce the exploitation faced by the fisher community from traders and middlemen by directly procuring their fishes and providing them their payment within a stipulated time frame.

Capacity development of members of Samudram:

Samudram has also provided them trainings and orientations and help in building confidence and skill. With regard to the kind of trainings and orientations received by the members it was seen that around 16% women had received capacity building trainings like development of leadership skills, Book keeping, liaison with the government officials etc. The same percentage of women had gone to different districts and States and received trainings on different aspect of fishing. Around 27% women had received trainings on fish processing, packaging, preparation of Pickles and papads etc. Around 41% of women had received all kind of trainings and inputs from the side of Samudram.

Graph no 13 – Input/ Trainings imparted by Samudram to the women of the network



Samudram as Support point:

Samudram has also provided them assistance in times of crises, be it the natural calamity, or personal crises. The support it has given varied from material assistance to monetary help. It has provided economic assistance to a lot of women to start their economic venture. It has liasoned at the level of govt for their rights and have successfully solved issues ranging from domestic violence, sexual abuse, exploitation faced at the economic site (Huma Hatta issue) or by traders, contractors or middlemen. Samudram has mostly taken course to agitations, rallies, dharnas and liaison at the level of govt to solve the various issues and problems faced by the fisher community from time to time.

The women were also enquired about the kind of help they look to attain from the side of Samudram. Varied views came out as a response to this question. Around 51% of the women were of the view that they desperately needed training in some other income generation activities other than fishing. The main reason for the huge percentage of this opinion is probably due to the fact that availability of fishes is decreasing day by day and also due to the encroachment of trawlers behind their

restricted areas is adding to their problems. Around 12% women were interested to become equipped with allied activities of fishing including hygienic method of fish processing, packaging, preparation of pickles and papads etc. Again a big percentage of women wanted economic assistance to diversify their business and around 8% wanted to gain confidence to liaison at the level of government and they needed the required input from the side of Samudram.

Turning about cases handled by Samudram/NSS

1. A fire broke out in the Gokharkuda village of Ganjam District. The fire engulfed around 50 households. Samudram not only was the first to come with immediate help but it also liaison with various govt offices and NGOs and finally was able to arrange a help of Rs 500/- for each household.

2. A minor girl was raped and killed by pouring acid on her face. Samudram took up the issue, organized dharna and gherao at the collector's office and blocked the road. Finally the case was handed over to crime branch. After 1 and half years the man was caught and now the case is in the court.

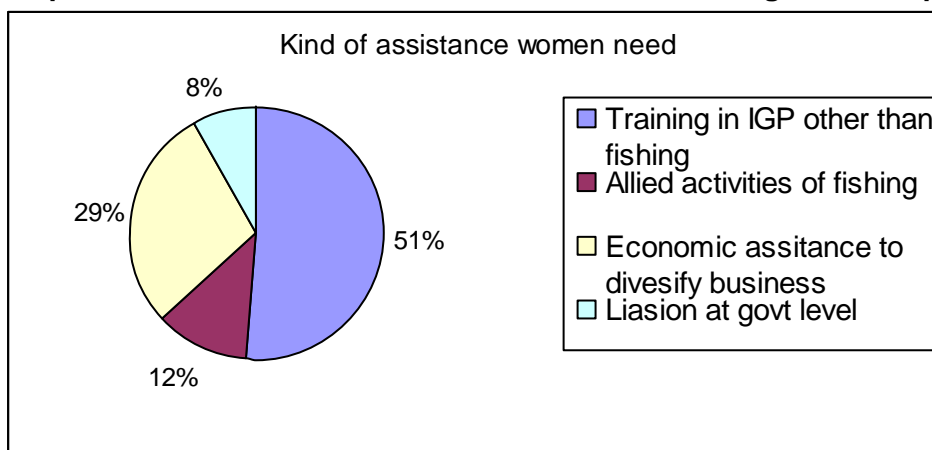
3. B. Laxmi, Resident of Podempeta, mother of two children was left by her husband who had got married a second time. The women was very poor and faced a lot of problems as she was also thrown out of the house. She approached NSS for help. The case was took up at the village level and finally the man was made to pay a compensation of Rs 35000

4. Anantaraipur – G Danamma a SHG member was given a loan of Rs 30,000/- for tumor operation by the SHG

5. Aryapalli – a high school had been opened on the initiative of the members of Samudram. It is also liasioning at the level of govt for opening a sub-centre of PHC in their area.

6. Gokharkuda – M.Kamma, a poor women, mother of 3 children had a tumor in her stomach. She approached Samudram for assistance. Samudram gave an assistance of Rs 400, further they got an assistance of Rs 2000/- from Collector, Rs 1000/- from BDO for her operation. She had been operated successfully and is now leading a healthy life

Graph no 14 – Kind of assistance women need to strengthen their position



One thing that needs to be stressed here is that it is not always the Samudram that plays a lead role in motivating the community to fight for its rights and issues. Rather there are

Nari Shakti Sanghs of various villages that have taken a lead role in fighting for the rights and issues of women and community in general. Many cases came to light where these NSS had taken an indomitable stand on issues of both individual and social significance and have fought for the rights of their sisters and daughters. NSS in some areas like Aryapalli, Katuru, Golabandha, etc are so empowered today that when the situation demands they do not even hesitate to reach to the collector directly for intervention and help. Issues ranging from construction of roads, schools, hospitals, bridges to exploitation faced by women in different walks of life had been solved successfully owing to the intervention of these NSS.

However the observation reveals that when comes to taking decision at home front the percentage goes down substantially. There is an extent of pushing the women into the front while it comes to handle the issues of the community.



CHAPTER IX

SUPPORTING AND CONSTRAINING FACTORS IN THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

- The kind of resistance faced by women in their venture of joining SHG/ Samudram or any such activities
- The kind of resistance she has faced and at different level
- Ways of overcoming the resistance – help extended by them in their effort
- Role of Community leaders in the entire venture

On any kind of move constraints are always there. But it depends on the strategies adopted by the persons to overcome it. The fisher women also faced a lot of problems in the beginning which has reduced to a large extent. The resistance was much more at family level. There was a threat from the community as well from the leaders and traders who were thinking that Samudram could be a threat to their leadership position in the village. However Samudram was able to establish its position due the kind of activities it indulged in empowering women.

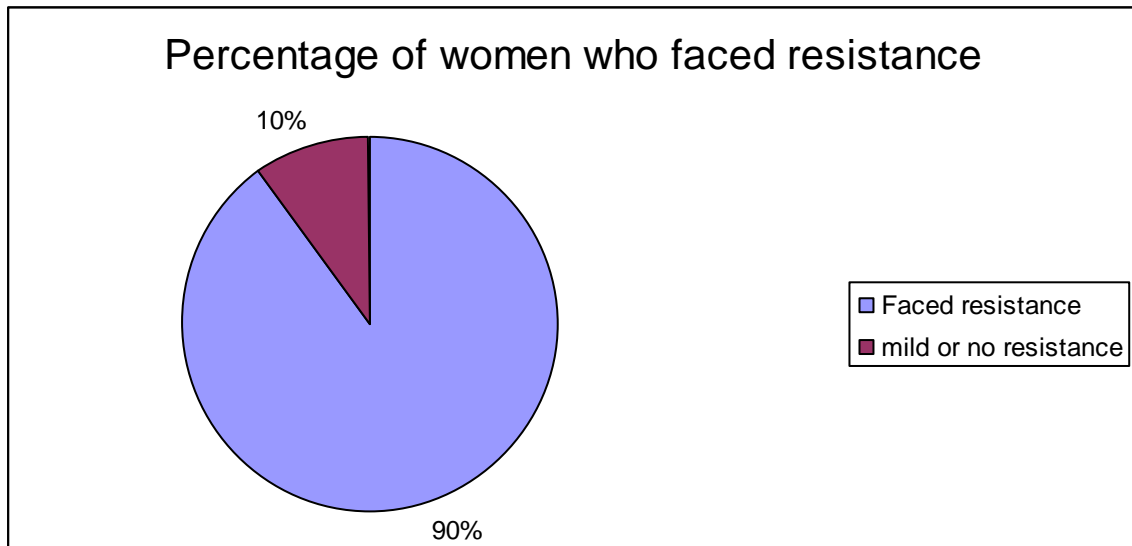
The reason for introducing the section for study in supporting and constraining factors in the empowerment of women was mainly to understand the kind of forces faced by women in their venture – both positive and negative. It is well understood that any attempt to bring the women of a community to a forum which is visioned to have a great influence on the status of women in the community and a great impact on the community in the long run can never be a smooth process. Hence it was essential to know the kind of forces that were acting on the women during her entire venture. Emphasis was also laid on understanding the role of leaders. What came to light in this section was simply unbelievable. Almost 30% women had faced stiff resistance from the side of family, community and traders. These were the women who were physically, emotionally and economically tortured, many of the women had also faced threat on their life and after a long fight at various levels were she ultimately able to make a stand in the community. But one important aspect that needs a special mention here is that Samudram/ NSS/ SHG had almost all the time stood by the side of the women and helped her to counter the threat at their level. Many a times Samudram had gone to the extent of taking the help and intervention of police to stop the torture faced by the women.

RESISTANCE FACED BY WOMEN

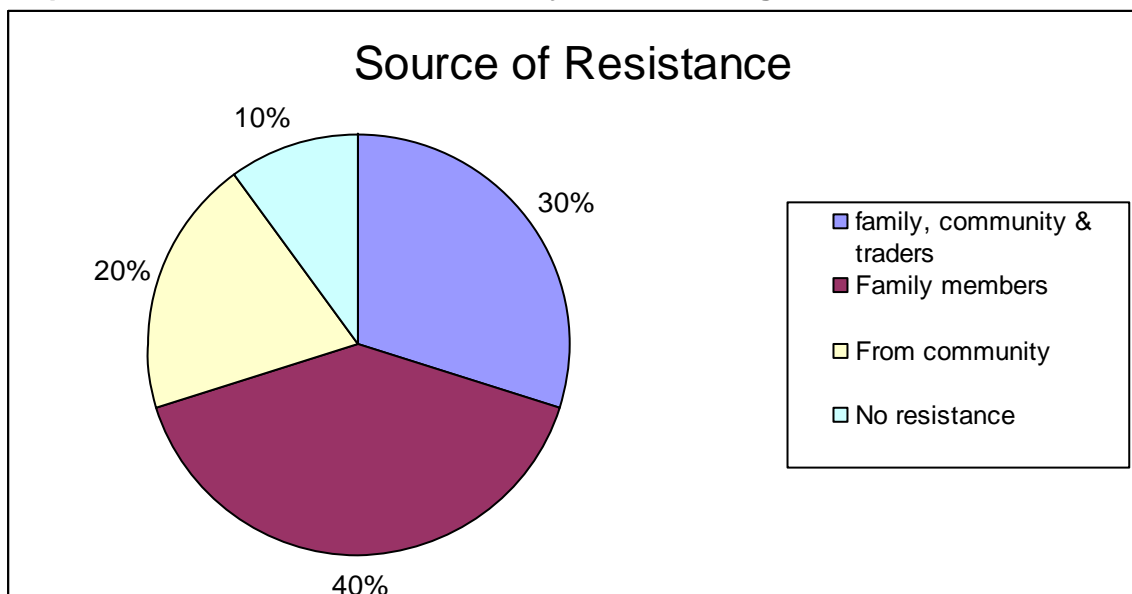
Bringing women on a forum to strengthen their voice, inculcating in them the confidence to fight for their rights was not a smooth affair. The path was full of resistance at various levels right from the level of family to community. Some resistances were mild and after few consultations the resistance was overcome. But there are cases where the resistance was strong and quite long and in many cases the intervention of police and court was also seek.

Almost 90% women confirmed of receiving some or the other kind of resistance in their path while joining either their SHG or while participating at various kinds of agitations. Almost 30% women faced stiff resistance from the side of community and traders while almost 40% faced resistance form the side of family members. At some level the women were able to overcome the resistance by themselves, but where they were not able to overcome the resistance the members of Samudram helped them in a negotiation.

Graph 15–Percentage of women who faced resistance in their venture



Graph 16– Source of resistance faced by women during their venture



Attitude of leaders : With regard to the attitude of leaders, in almost 40% cases the attitude of village leaders was uncooperative and in some areas it was even harmful in the sense that the women leaders had faced a lot problem as they had taken a lead role in mobilizing people (case study attached). But in around 25% cases leaders were supportive and had helped the women at their level to a great extent. Today what we see is that in many areas like Aryapalli, Golabandha, Markandi etc the women leaders are allowed to take active role in village level decisions. Also in many other villages it came out that women’s view are held important and given due weightage while making any decisions.

A firm and confident move:

Kodempeta - B. Buchamma a resident of Podempeta was the leader of SHG members and protested the Oriya people who were forcing Nolia's to leave the village. His husband and son did not want her to indulge in the quarrel and many a times beat her for not listening to them. A village level meeting was called and without involving her was fined an amount of Rs 3000/-. Community leaders also did not cooperate with her rather created trouble for her and asked her to pay a fine of Rs 1000/- because she resisted moving from the place. Ultimately the Nolia's were forced to leave the place even B. Buchamma had to leave. But she was again asked to pay Rs 2000/- as fine for building her house in the new area. Had she not given the money she would not have been allowed to construct her house. But her problems did not end there. Her active role in Samudram had upset the local traders and they feared that because of her they might lose their business. She was not allowed to go to market to sell fishes, many a times her fishes, money were also snatched. She ultimately approached Samudram, which ultimately approached the police as all other strategies failed and now she is leading a comparatively undisturbed life.

Doing away Constraints:

S. Debaki of Golabandha, a woman leader of the village faced a lot of problems while joining hands with Samudram for the upliftment of the women of her community. She was threatened to be killed, was not allowed to go out of the village and was also fined by the village leaders. She faced a lot of problems while going to sell fishes in the market and many a times her fishes or money were snatched by the local people. While breaking of liquor bhatti in their area she faced a lot of problems from the influential people of the area. Finally Samudram intervened and police interference was sought.



CHAPTER X

Major observations of the survey team were:

Out of the 28 villages wherein the activities of Samudram had been initiated in some form or the other the survey team had visited 16 villages. Its major observations can be put up as:

- Samudram had been a leader oriented activity, the area wherein Samudram had been able to locate a strong and efficient leader there the impact of Samudram on women's lives had been tremendous
- Various training, orientations and exposure visits had been organized for the women of the Samudram network. Unfortunately the trainings especially with regard to allied activities of fishes have not been able to yield much result. But again one important thing that has to be kept in mind is that market has to be created for the allied products of fishes and this is only in the infancy stage. Hence a lot of input has to be given before the product gets a strong welcome from the people. But coming to the exposure visits the impact of it has been tremendous and this had been able to pump in a lot of confidence in the women of the network.
- At the level of liaison the women of the network have now reached a stage wherein they now are no more dependent on outside organization to fight for their rights or issues affecting their life. Many cases have come to light wherein the local village level organization has been able to solve many of the problems of their area without outside help. They have successfully liaison at the level of government for their rights and issues and got it solved.
- What we saw in villages like Aryapalli and Katuru with regard to the role of women in maintaining the procurement center of Katuru clearly indicates that women can single-handedly handle the center although some help is still needed in the area of book-keeping and liaison for creation of markets outside the State.
- The impact of Samudram on aspects like education, awareness on health needs, economic empowerment of women had been tremendous. The women also are now more conscious of their rights and are ready to bear in with any kind of exploitation. Many cases came to light wherein the women of the area have taken a lead role in raising voice against various issues negatively impacting their life
- There were many areas wherein the Samudram initiative had not been able to create the desired impact. Many factors could be attributed for the same, the important reasons being unavailability of an efficient leader who could take up the lead role in motivating community, difficulty in communication, much emphasis on labour work for sustaining life - in such cases it is not feasible for women to go to attend meeting and a leave one day's salary as the family is dependent on the salary for sustenance.
- What came out very strongly was the support of the organization in the field of creating alternative sources of income and train the community in the same direction
- Much work still needs to be done in very many areas on aspects like education with special emphasis on girl child, child labour, different aspects of health – water and sanitation, maternity and child care, HIV/AIDS etc.

SUGGESTIONS GIVEN BY DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDER FOR IMPROVEMENT

During the entire survey this aspect was well kept in mind and hence attempt were made to get the views in this regard from each and every group contacted during the entire process. Hence the recommendations that are being presented here are the views of UAA, Traditional Fish Worker's Federation, Members of Samudram, Members of NSS, SHG, and other male members of the area.

1. Skill development of women and local people to independently handle the procurement center in the future
2. Some income generation programs other than related to fishing to be introduced on an urgency basis so that the economic problems faced by the community can be checked and a check can be maintained on increasing rate of migration
3. One of the important problems that came forward was the problem of communication faced by these communities. Some strategy to solve the issue should be chalked out at the local level
4. Boat and net are the biggest need of the people of this community, and it is only to procure it that the people of this community fall in the debt trap of the moneylenders. Hence Samudram should take some initiative to solve this problem, this will create positive inclination in the community towards Samudram and probably after this the fishermen would themselves prefer to give their catch to the network.
5. Samudram should take Traditional Fish Worker's Federation into confidence and whenever it plans to venture into a new village it should be through the OTMFU. This will strengthen the OTMFU on the one hand and on the other hand OTMFU can act as a watchdog to see to it that the interests of the Samudram are not hampered in any case.
6. The working of the Samudram should be made more open and should not be visible as a personal affair of a few empowered women. Other women should be given equal and adequate input to develop their skill and take lead role in the Samudram activities.

RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER INTERVENTION:

This section contains recommendations suggested by the team of researchers who had been in contact of the community for more than 2 months now and who have tried to analyze the problems faced by the community, women and the network on minute specifications.

Gender specific recommendation:

1. The village level workers who are working in the field directly with the community to expand and strengthen the network should be provided with regular skill development input including input on gender and development along with adequate package to motivate them for the mission.
2. Leaders of Samudram to be oriented on gender in general and related to their work in specific e.g. market relationship and gender role thereof.
3. Leaders of NSS need to be given gender orientation. Legal awareness to the NSS and Samudram leaders are also recommended. NSS should be encouraged as resource centre from gender point of view.
4. Male members and OTMFU to be made sensitized from gender perspective.
5. Creche facility to be provided to ascertain girl children's education in the villages.
6. Acknowledging/highlighting the helping attitude of men folk in some villages would help others to rethink about the work distribution pattern.

Economy related:

7. Expansion of activities of the procurement centers is necessary as well as the number of such centers to be increased. Members to be given additional skill training for the processing of bigger fishes. This will effect the delocalization and widening of the empowerment process.
8. Women to be encouraged to have land patta in their name and a right to property to be ensured.
9. Marketing skill training to the women as well as enhancing marketable products should be undertaken. Fishing and allied activities to be promoted.
10. Boats and net could be provided to single women and women headed household who can then let out these to the men to enhance their income.

Social Development:

11. Stress on programs of education – enough awareness programs to create a positive inclination in the community for the needs of education for their children.
12. Simultaneously health as an issue needs to be stressed. Typical themes like maternity and child care, institutional deliveries, HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation etc should also be addressed. Special attention to be given on reproductive health, adolescent health issues and sanitation.
13. Almost all these villages are situated near sea and hence their susceptibility to natural disasters is very common. Hence adequate infrastructure facility (cyclone shelter etc) along with training to deal it should also be provided.



ANNEXURE

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE WOMEN OF THE SAMUDRAM NETWORK

I. PERSONAL, FAMILIAL AND SOCIAL STATUS

Personal data

1. Name of member
2. Name of Father/ Husband
3. Age: a. below 18 yrs b. 18-25 yrs c. 25-35 yrs
 d. 35-50yrs e. above 50 yrs
4. Religion: a. Hindu b. Muslim c. Christian d. any other (specify)
5. Caste: a. SC b. ST c. OBC
6. Sub caste: a. Keuta (Kaibarta) b. Kandara c. Tiar d. Nolia
 e. Niary f. Gokha . Kartia h.Khatia
 i. Bengali refugee j. Others (specify)
7. Originally belongs to: a. Orissa b. Andhra Pradesh c. W. Bengal
 d. Any other state (specify)
8. Marital Status: a. Unmarried b. Married c. Deserted
 d. Widow e. divorced
9. Educational Qualification: a. illiterate b. drop out at primary level
 c. primary d. Upper-primary e. high school f. College
10. Source of Income: a. Fishing activities b. Non-fishing activities
 c. Both
11. Monthly Income:
I. (Present) a. less than Rs 500 b. 500-1000 c. 1000-2000
 d. Above 2000
II. (Before Samudram's existence)
a. low Rs 500 b. 500-1000 c. 1000-2000 d. Above 2000

IS THERE ANY SEASONAL VARIATION IN YOUR EARNINGS

FAMILY DATA

Nature of family: a. nuclear b. Joint c single d. any other type (pl mention)

S no	Family structure (Who live in the family)	Total	Male	Female
1	Number of Family members			
2	Number of children			
3	Earning members			
4	Dependent members			
5	Number of children attending school			
6	Number of children drop out of school			
7	Number of children earning for the family			

At what age did you start earning

At what age did your children earn

Why the difference

DECISION MAKING

S No	Situation	Before	After
1	Education of children		
2	Engagement of children in economic activities		
3	Marriage of children		
4	Expenditure to be incurred during special occasion		
5	Household Accessories to be bought		
6	Luxury items to be bought		
7	Property to be bought and sold		
8	Household work distribution- cooking, washing, cleaning, water fetching		
9	Participate in meetings		

M- Men

W- women

B- both

SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN

1. What according to you are the main problems still faced by the women of your community
 - a. Economy related
 - b. Cultural related
 - c. Family related
 - d. Community related
 - e. Any other (pl specify)

Q. If you have raised your voice then kindly mention the medium:

- a. Interpersonal or bilateral discussion

- b, personal protest
- c. Sustained protest
- d. Taking a definite stand
- e. Through protest (dharna, bandh, rally etc)

II. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

1. Work done by you during the entire day
2. Work done by male partner during the entire day
3. Has there been a change in the work distribution pattern in the last few yeas, if yes, how and what has taken place
4. How many days in a month do you get work including fishing and non fishing
5. Income of male and female members - seasonal

SEASONALITY DIAGRAM - female

Month	Work done	No of days getting work	Approx earning
Summer			
Rainy			
Winter			

SEASONALITY DIAGRAM - male

Month	Work done	No of days getting work	Approx earning
Summer			
Rainy			
Winter			

6. EXPENDITURE AND INCOME TABLE

INCOME TABLE:

S No	Activities	Before	After
1	Fish Vendering		
2	Fish selling at market		
3	Dry fish selling		
4	Firewood/ leaves selling		
5	Agriculture		
6	Govt/ private		
7	Small outlet		
8	Liquor selling		
9	Any other (pl specify)		

EXPENDITURE TABLE: (After the formation of Samudram network)

Head	Who decides	For women/you
Fooding		
Cloths		
Medicine		
Travel		
Education		
Fuel wood/ leaf		
Liquor, pika, nasa, gutka etc consumption		
House rent/ electricity		
Others		

M- Men

W- women

1. Do you/others decide expenditure for your self?

7. SAVINGS AND LOANS

Headings	Before		After	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Acquire loan from				
Savings				

A- Traders B- Local money lenders C- Network D- Banks E- Any other (pl specify)

8. DECISION MAKING POWER

S No	Decision making	Before	After
1	Amount of fish to be procure		
2	Rate at which to sell		
3	Where to save money		
4	Where to acquire loan from		
5	Who is responsible for reimbursing loan		

M- Men W- women B-both N- network

POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN

S No	Situation	Before	After
1	Have the women of your community raised voice against any issue of violence faced by you		
2	Have you ever shown solidarity with such an issue irrespective of all odds		
3	Have you ever taken up issues of violence against you in public		
4	Have you participated in political activities		

5	Do you vote		
6	Do you participate in village level meetings		

Y – Yes

N- no

2. What kind of relationship do you have with the larger fish worker's community?

3. Role of the larger network in your day-to-day working

4. What has been the impact of Samudram on the market scenario?

SAMUDRAM AS A SUPPORT POINT

SECTION A

1. What kind of support have you received from Samudram
 - a. training
 - b. infra-structure
 - c. financial
 - d. asset
 - e. any other (pl specify)

2. Were men also involved in the training process a YES b. NO
3. How has the training received by you of any help in your day to day activities

4. What more inputs do you require in order to become self sufficient
 - a. With regard to processing and packaging of marine products
 - b. With regard to dealings in the market or search of suitable market
 - c. With regard to economic management
 - d. With regard to awareness on your rights (rt to information etc)
 - e. Any other (pl specify)

5. Have you ever gone out of the village a. YES b. NO
6. When and why

7. What are the issues taken up by Samudram

8. Were these issues taken up exclusively by your network without the support of outside organization a. YES b. NO
9. If No, Has your network ever taken up any issue independently
 - a. YES
 - b. NO

10. What role does the network play in times of flood and other natural calamities

11. Does the network provide any relief/counselling during times of personal crises a. physical, tangible 2. financial c. emotional/psychological

a. YES

b. NO

Section B

1. VIOLENCE

Before the formation of Samudram network

Situation	Before	After
Do you face abuse – physical or verbal by the family members		
Are you required to do all the household activities alone		
Did you face any kind of torture be it physical or sexual while on your economic venture/ family/community		

Y- YES

N-NO

Section C

1. What are the main issues on which Samudram has taken a strong stand?

2. What way has the network dealt with the issue?

3. How do you show your strength against a crime or an issue?

4. Kindly mention a few cases where the intervention of Samudram has yielded positive results

VI CONSTRAINING AND RESTRAINING FORCES FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

1. Did you face any resistance while joining Samudram/SHG

a. YES

b. NO

I. FGD FOR MEMBERS OF SAMUDRAM NETWORK

ISSUES :

1. What are the main issues faced by the women of your community
2. Have you ever raised voice against any of these issues
3. Role of Samudram in the entire venture. Has it ever taken up issues faced by you (individually/group)

SAMUDRAM:

1. Main objectives of the network
2. Impact of network on your life – economic, social, political, education, health
3. Kind of input given to you by the network
4. Relation of Samudram and fish worker's federation
5. Do you see a role of men in grooming Samudram? If Yes: how? If no, why?
6. Impact of Samudram on the market scenario
7. What more activities should the network take up
8. What kind of help do you look to attain from the network in the future
9. Recommendations for improvement

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

1. Activities done by you during the entire day
2. Activities done by your male partner during the entire day
3. Main income generating activities in which women engage themselves
4. Main income generating activities in which men engage themselves
5. Has any change taken place with regard to the income generating activities in the last few years, If yes, reasons thereof
6. Main expenditures of men
7. Main expenditures of women
8. Any change, reasons there of
9. Any change with regard to the common property resource management system

SEASONALITY DIAGRAM – for both male and female

Month	Work done	No of days getting work	Approx earning
Summer			
Rainy			
Winter			

DECISION MAKING POWER

S No	Situation	Before	After
1	Education of children		
2	Engagement of children in economic activities		
3	Marriage of children		
4	Expenditure to be incurred during special occasion		
5	Household Accessories to be bought		
6	Luxury items to be bought		
7	Property to be bought and sold		
8	Household work distribution		
9	Participate in meetings		

EXPENDITURE TABLE: (After the formation of Samudram network)

Head	Who decides	For women/you
Fooding		
Cloths		
Medicine		
Travel		
Education		
Fuel wood/ leaf		
Liquor, pika, nasa, gutka etc consumption		
House rent/ electricity		
Others		

M- Male

F- Female

DECISION MAKING POWER

S No	Decision making	Before	After
1	Amount of fish to be procure		
2	Rate at which to sell		
3	Where to save money		
4	Where to acquire loan from		
5	Who is responsible for reimbursing loan		

M- Male

F-Female

B-both

N- network

POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN

S No	Situation	Before	After
1	Have the women of your community raised voice against any issue of violence faced by you		
2	Have you ever shown solidarity with such an issue irrespective of all odds		
3	Have you ever taken up issues of violence against you in public		
4	Have you participated in political activities		
5	Do you vote		
6	Do you participate in village level meetings		

Y – Yes

N- no

II FGD – FOR NSS

1. Main activities undertaken by you during the entire day
2. Main activities undertaken by your male partner during the entire day
3. Has there been any change in the activities in the last few years, If yes, reasons thereof?
4. Main Issues faced by the people of your community
5. Main Issues faced by the women of your community
6. Role of Samudram in solving these issues
7. Role of federation in the following
 - a. Solving the immediate personal problems including financial crises, domestic problems etc
 - b. Role with respect to the market scenario –training, problems during financial transaction, acquiring of fishes, deciding of rates etc
 - c. Any liasoning done with govt/ traders/ NGO
8. Effect of Samudram on your life –social, economic, political and health
9. Issues taken up by the federation – violence, child marriage, education of children
10. What kind of input or support you require from Samudram?
11. Recommendations to improve the status of fisherwomen in your community
12. Recommendations to improve the status of Samudram

DECISION MAKING POWER

S No	Situation	Before	After
1	Education of children		
2	Engagement of children in economic activities		
3	Marriage of children		
4	Expenditure to be incurred during special occasion		
5	Household Accessories to be bought		
6	Luxury items to be bought		
7	Property to be bought and sold		
8	Household work distribution		
9	Participate in meetings		

EXPENDITURE TABLE: (After the formation of Samudram network)

Head	Who decides	For women/you
Fooding		
Cloths		
Medicine		
Travel		
Education		
Fuel wood/ leaf		
Liquor, pika, nasa, gutka etc consumption		
House rent/ electricity		
Others		

M- Male

F- Female

DECISION MAKING POWER

S No	Decision making	Before	After
1	Amount of fish to be procure		
2	Rate at which to sell		
3	Where to save money		
4	Where to acquire loan from		
5	Who is responsible for reimbursing loan		

M- Male

F-Female

B-both

N- network

POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN

S No	Situation	Before	After
1	Have the women of your community raised voice against any issue of violence faced by you		
2	Have you ever shown solidarity with such an issue irrespective of all odds		
3	Have you ever taken up issues of violence against you in public		
4	Have you participated in political activities		
5	Do you vote		
6	Do you participate in village level meetings		

Y – Yes

N- no

III. FGD – FOR SHG MEMBERS (In areas where NSS has not been formed)

1. What are the main activities undertaken by you
2. What are the main activities undertaken by your male partner
3. Has there been any difference in the activities in the last few years. If yes, reasons thereof?
4. Who initiated the process of the formation of the SHG
5. Main Issues faced by the women of your community
6. Role of Samudram/ SHG in solving these issues
7. What are the main issues on which the SHG has taken a definite stand
8. Effect of SHG on your life- personal, economical, health, political
9. Effect of Samudram/ SHG on your life
10. Inputs received by the members of the SHG – capacity development
11. Support extended by Samudram, especially during times of personal crises, natural calamities
12. Is there any change in the record maintaining process
13. What needs to be done to improve the status of fisherwomen of your community
14. Recommendations to improve the status of SHG/ Samudram

DECISION MAKING POWER

S No	Situation	Before	After
1	Education of children		
2	Engagement of children in economic activities		
3	Marriage of children		
4	Expenditure to be incurred during special occasion		
5	Household Accessories to be bought		
6	Luxury items to be bought		
7	Property to be bought and sold		
8	Household work distribution		
9	Participate in meetings		

EXPENDITURE TABLE: (After the formation of Samudram network)

Head	Who decides	For women/you
Fooding		
Cloths		
Medicine		
Travel		
Education		
Fuel wood/ leaf		
Liquor, pika, nasa, gutka etc consumption		
House rent/ electricity		
Others		

M- Male

F- Female

DECISION MAKING POWER

S No	Decision making	Before	After
1	Amount of fish to be procure		
2	Rate at which to sell		
3	Where to save money		
4	Where to acquire loan from		
5	Who is responsible for reimbursing loan		

M- Male

F-Female

B-both

N- network

POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN

S No	Situation	Before	After
1	Have the women of your community raised voice against any issue of violence faced by you		
2	Have you ever shown solidarity with such an issue irrespective of all odds		
3	Have you ever taken up issues of violence against you in public		
4	Have you participated in political activities		
5	Do you vote		
6	Do you participate in village level meetings		

Y – Yes

N- no

IV. FGD – MALE MEMBERS

(Husband of the women who is a part of the samudram network or someone who is well versed with the working of the network)

1. Since how long has the female member of your family a part of the Samudram network/ SHG
 2. Do you have any idea with respect to the working or activities undertaken at the SHG or Samudram level
 3. Kind of input received by the women by the network
 4. Do you see any change in the women after their involvement in the SHG/ Samudram
 5. What are the main activities undertaken by you during the entire day
 6. Do you see any change in your life in the last few years – child education, health, marriage, income, expenditure, savings, availability of loans, marketing of fishes, etc
 7. Has the involvement of women in the network done any benefit to you, if yes, what?
 8. Do you see a role of men in the grooming of Samudram network
 9. What more do the network needs to do in order to improve the condition of your community, especially women -
- RECOMMENDATIONS**

V. FGD – TRADERS

1. Since how long have you been operating in the area
2. Where do you collect the fish from
3. Terms and condition on which you give the fish to the local people – cash payment, quantity etc
4. Do you give loans to the people of the village – if yes, how is it repaid – by cash or by fish
5. Are you aware of the working of the Samudram – its impact on you, where do the people now give fish – to you or to the network
6. Difference in the scenario after the formation of Samudram

VI. FGD – NON SAMUDRAM FISHER WOMEN

1. What are the main issues faced by the women of your community and how do you solve it
2. Where do you acquire fish from, what problems do you face in your economic venture and how do you solve it
3. Are you aware of the Samudram network? If yes, activities undertaken?
4. Why are you not a part of the Network
5. What are the positive and negative aspects of being a member of the samudram network
6. Do you intend to be part of it, given a choice

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

1. Activities done by you during the entire day
2. Activities done by your male partner during the entire day
3. Main income generating activities in which women engage themselves
4. Main income generating activities in which men engage themselves
5. Has any change taken place with regard to the income generating activities in the last few years, If yes, reasons thereof
6. Main expenditures of men
7. Main expenditures of women
8. Any change, reasons there of
9. Who is responsible for managing the common property resources of the village, any change in the last few years

DECISION MAKING POWER

S No	Situation	Before	After
1	Education of children		
2	Engagement of children in economic activities		
3	Marriage of children		
4	Expenditure to be incurred during special occasion		
5	Household Accessories to be bought		
6	Luxury items to be bought		
7	Property to be bought and sold		
8	Household work distribution		
9	Participate in meetings		

M- Male

F- Female

B – both

EXPENDITURE TABLE: (After the formation of Samudram network)

Head	Who decides	For women/you
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Fooding		
Cloths		
Medicine		
Travel		
Education		
Fuel wood/ leaf		
Liquor, pika, nasa, gutka etc consumption		
House rent/ electricity		
Others		

M- Male

F-female

DECISION MAKING POWER

S No	Decision making	Before	After
1	Amount of fish to be procure		
2	Rate at which to sell		
3	Where to save money		
4	Where to acquire loan from		
5	Who is responsible for reimbursing loan		

M- Male

F- Female

B-both

N- network

POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN

S No	Situation	Before	After
1	Have the women of your community raised voice against any issue of violence faced by you		
2	Have you ever shown solidarity with such an issue irrespective of all odds		
3	Have you ever taken up issues of violence against you in public		
4	Have you participated in political activities		
5	Do you vote		
6	Do you participate in village level meetings		

Y – Yes

N- no

VII. FGD- FISH WORKERS FEDERATION

1. What are the main issues faced by your community?
2. How do you handle the issues both personal and economic?
3. When was the federation formed, support given, issues handled successfully., total members etc ?
4. Are you aware of the Samudram network? If yes, kind of activities undertaken by the network
5. What kind of link do you have with the network – eco, social, political or any other
6. Where do you give your catch, do you sell it directly?
7. Your role in the Samudram network?
8. Recommendation to improved the working of federation and Samudram.

VIII. FGD – FOR THE MEMBERS OF UAA

1. What are the main issues faced by the women of the fisher community
2. Reasons for the formation of Samudram network
3. Objectives of the network
4. Strategy adopted for bringing the women into the network
5. Inputs given to the women
6. Issues handled by the network at the level of personal, economic, political and social
7. What do you think the network has been able to achieve
8. Challenges faced during the entire venture
9. Where do you see Samudram after say 5-10 years
10. Suggestions to improve Samudram.