

Warm Greetings to the Chair &
Participants of **GAF 5**

from



Kerala University of Fisheries and
Ocean Studies (KUFOS)

Cochin, India

.....the first State Fisheries University of India



**ON THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE OF “KADAKKODI”
(SEA-COURT) IN MALABAR REGION OF KERALA:
EXPERIENCE FROM FOUR COURTS OF KASARGOD
DISTRICT**

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A dramatic, low-key photograph of a traditional wooden boat filled with several fishermen. The scene is set on a turbulent sea with large, white-capped waves crashing against the boat. The fishermen are silhouetted against the bright, foamy water, creating a stark contrast. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues and greys, with the white foam of the waves providing a bright focal point. The text 'Fisheries sector of India' is overlaid in the center of the image in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Fisheries sector of India

Kerala- Scenario



- Presence of the Western Ghats
- Rich in aquatic resources
- 44 rivers and 53 reservoirs
- Several interlinked backwaters

All these make Kerala unique in the fisheries map
of the country

Contd...

- Area: 38,863 Sq.km
- Districts: 14
- Total population: 334.06 lakhs
- Coast line length: 590 km
- Exclusive Economic Zone: 0.36 lakh sq.km.
- Continental Shelf Area: 0.39 lakh sq.km.

Fisheries Sector

- Fishermen population: 10.07 lakhs
- Active fishermen
 - Marine: 1,97,921
 - Inland: 36,983
 - Allied workers: 74,141 (59,194 W+14,947 M)
 - Women involved in active fishing: 3,405
- Fishermen families: 1,18,937
- Traditional fishermen families: 1,16,321

Fisheries sector contd.

Fish landing (2012- 13)

Marine: 5.31 lakhs MT

Inland: 1.49 lakhs MT

Oil Sardine is the most abundant fish

Fishing Harbours: 11

Marine landing centres: 25

In-land fish landing centres: 9

Marine fishing villages: 222

In land fishing villages: 113











Problems in the Sector

- Facing social backwardness
- Resourcelessness
- Poverty
- Illiteracy
- Indebtedness to money lenders and traders
- Poor health
- Periodical exposure to natural calamities

Objectives of the study

- To investigate the purpose and functions of 'Kadakkodi'
- To analyze the efficacy/deficiency of the system
- To look into the gender perspective

“Sea Court” locally called as “Kadal Kodathy” in Malayalam language further shortened as “Kadakkodi” is a local community-based judiciary system, functioning among the coastal fisher folk in the Malabar Coast of Kerala.

Gathering of Kadakkody



This system is believed to have a history of more than 500 years and is still prevailing in some of the regions of Kasargod District with varying levels of effectiveness

Structure

Temple Ministers (Sthanikar) : Karmikal & Narthakanmar

Karmikal: 4 nos.

Kannan Karanavar: 1

Kari Karanavar: 1

Panan Karanavar: 1

Kuppa Karanavar: 1

Narthakanmar: 9 nos.

Ayathar: 4 nos. (Muthothi, Ilothi, Kandothi & Dandothi)

Velichappad: 2 nos. (Vishnu & Gulikan)

Kutakkaran: 1 no.

Kadavan: 2 nos.

Total: 13 nos. (no woman in the team!)

Temple Ministers (Sthanikar)



Karmikal



The different units of Kadakkodi presently active in Kasargod District are Kasargod, Keezhoor, Kottikkulam and Bekkal and enact the rules and regulations followed by generations and enforce them carefully to ensure the fair distribution of benefits to various sections of resource users

Types of disputes

- Social issues
- Disputes on assets
- Family issues
- Fish-catching and marketing related issues

Materials and methods

- Information collected using a structured questionnaire.
- Temple Ministers were interviewed.
- Temple records were referred.
- Interacted with public including women.

Data analysis

Simple statistical tools like mean and percentage were used in data analysis.

Kasargod Kadakkodi (2004-2013)

Total: 57 cases

Family conflicts: 28 (49.1%)

Anti-social activities: 26 (33.4%)

Disputes on assets: 14 (24.6%)

Fishing and fish marketing: 5 (8.8%)

Keezhoor Kadakkodi (2004-2013)

Total: 72 cases

Family conflicts: 4 (5.6%)

Anti-social activities: 54 (75.0%)

Disputes on assets: 2 (2.8%)

Fishing and fish marketing: 12 (16.7%)

Bekkal Kadakkodi (2004-2013)

Total: 25 cases

Family conflicts: 8 (32.0%)

Anti-social activities: 11 (44.0%)

Disputes on assets: 4 (16.0%)

Fishing and fish marketing: 2 (8.0%)

In Kottikkulam, the judiciary role of Kadakkodi is no more active and the court system has changed into mere *Karayogam* where the Temple Executive Committee mainly concentrates on the **conduct of temple rituals including the annual festival**

New initiatives..

Sea courts associate with local women for:

- Environmental protection
 - Against sand mining
- For marine turtle conservation

Conclusion

- The system is prevailing as a tradition in a small pocket of the Kerala coast.
- The future of the system is unpredictable.
- No measures have been taken to protect the gender concerns by incorporating women members (they say it is not practical to have women as the activities are temple related!).
- The women of the area got interviewed report that the system is running-FAIR.



A tropical beach scene framed by palm trees. The foreground is dark, showing the silhouettes of palm trees and a paved area. The middle ground features a sandy beach, white-capped waves crashing onto the shore, and a long boat with several people on the water. The background is a hazy, overcast sky.

Thank you all!!