

# Impacts of COVID19 on Women Dried Fish Processors of Karnataka: Some Empirical Evidence

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# About the study

- Women play a dominant role in the dried fish value chain of Karnataka
  - Dried fish processing and retailing
  - All are small-scale operators
  - Increasingly under stress from anthropogenic and natural factors
- COVID19 was a major rupture in the social/economic/other arrangements
  - Prolonged market disruptions
  - The Government of India enforced a 21-day national lockdown on March 24, 2020
  - Chaos, uncertainty, and anxiety
  - Not much details available on the impacts

## *Methods*

Primary data collection through surveys, and their analysis using graphical descriptions

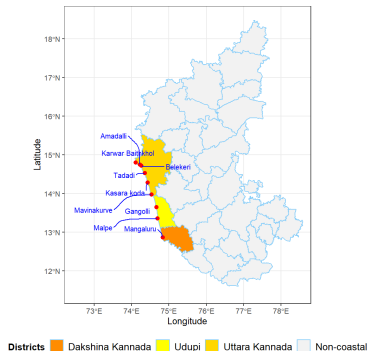
# Surveys of dried fish processors/producers



- Survey data collection through a consultative, democratic, and reflective process amid the COVID19 pandemic
- In collaboration with the Network for Fish Quality Management and Sustainable Fishing (NETFISH) Karnataka
- Using Google® Forms®

# The survey

Conducted in/around the nine major fishing harbors of Karnataka and some beach landing centers

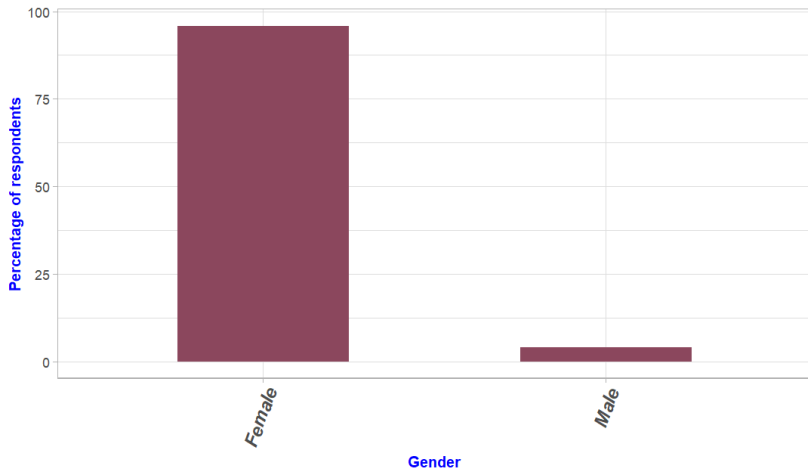


- 30 respondents each
- 3 rounds of survey, contacting the same respondents during June-August 2020, Oct-Dec 2020, April-June 2021
- 3rd round of the survey had more focused questions on COVID19
  - Adapted the "Coronavirus Impact Scale" developed by Stoddard et al., 2021  
<https://psyarxiv.com/kz4pg/>

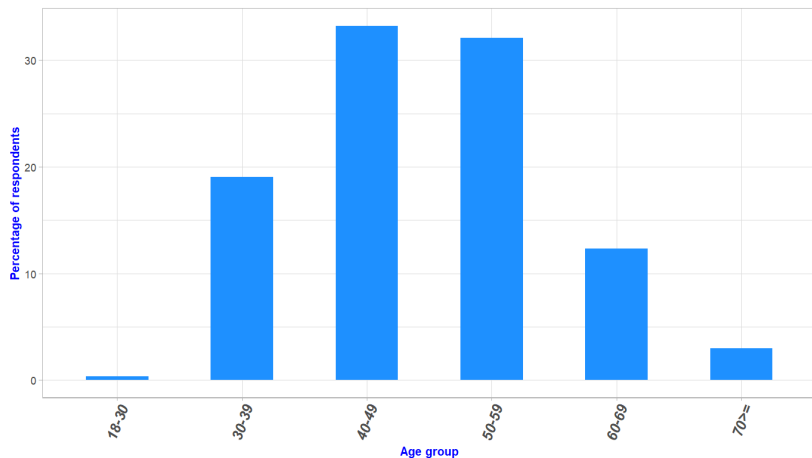
## *Results*

Descriptions of the respondents, and their COVID19-related perceptions

# Respondent description: Gender

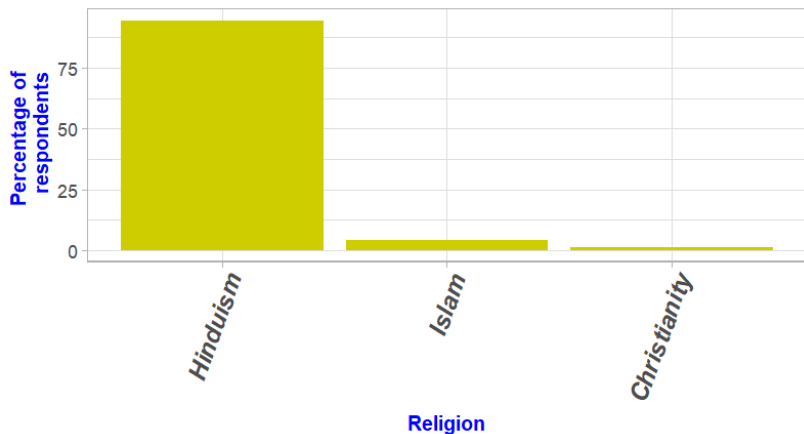


# Respondent description: Age group

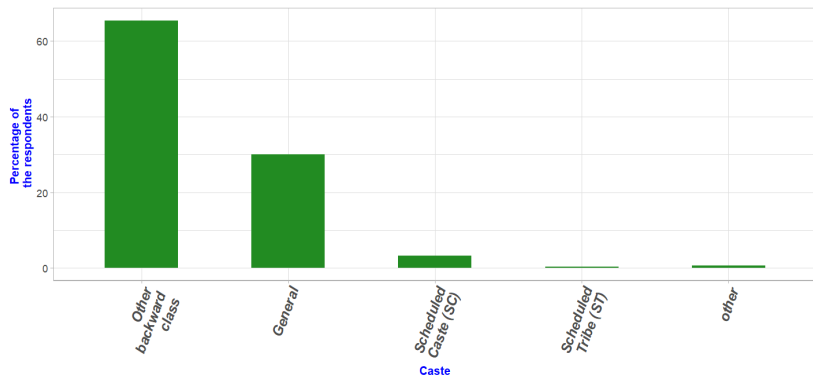




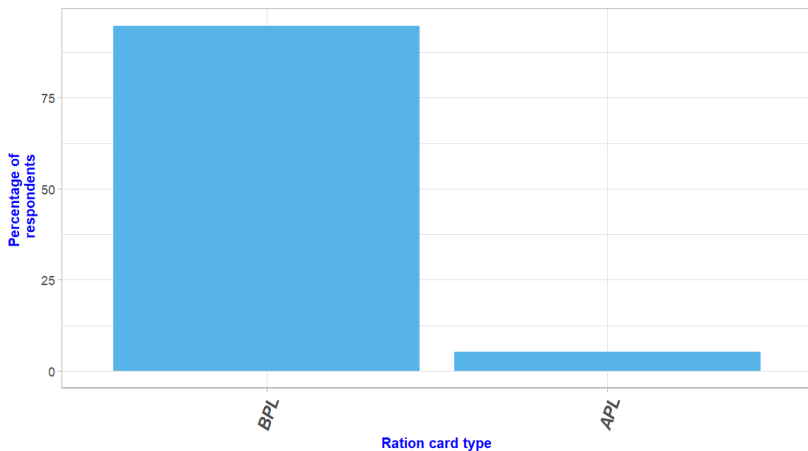
# Respondent description: Religion



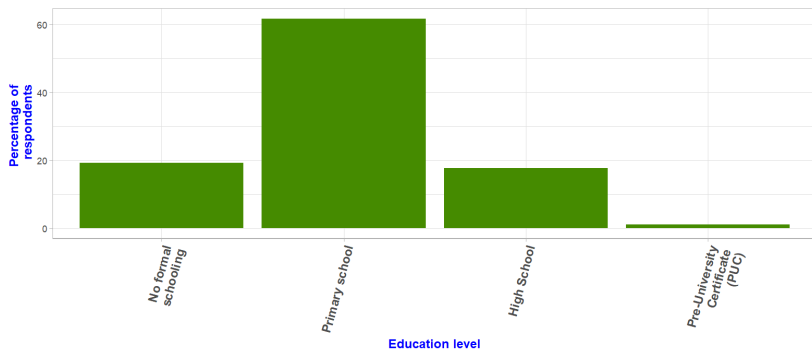
# Respondent description: Caste



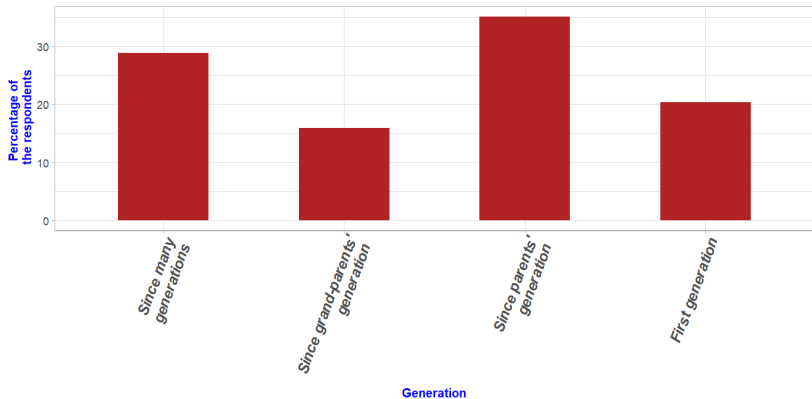
# Respondent description: Type of ration card possessed



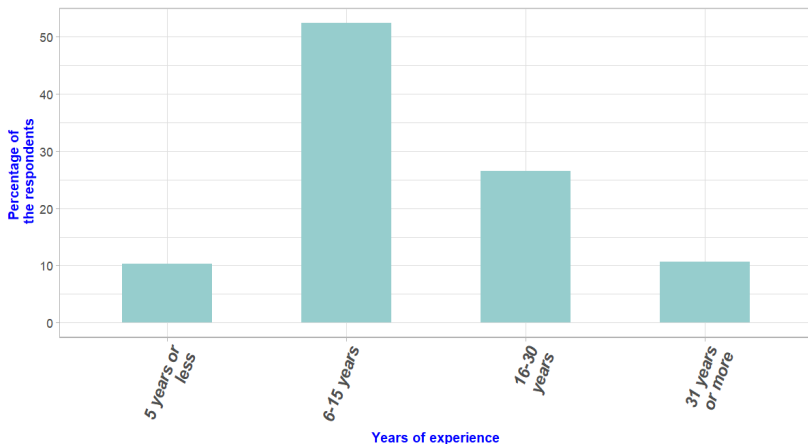
# Respondent description: education level



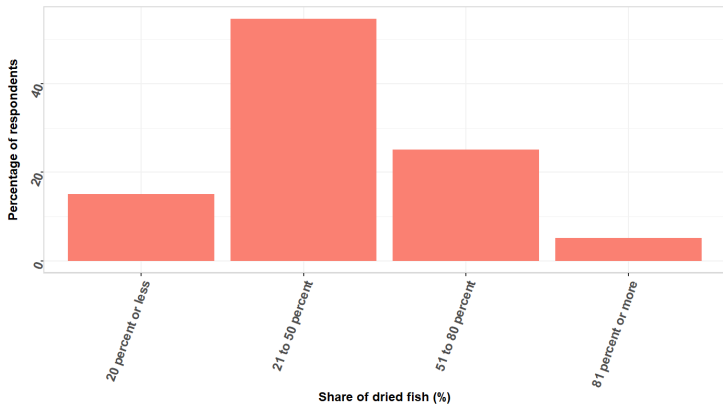
# Respondent description: Family's history in fishing and related activities



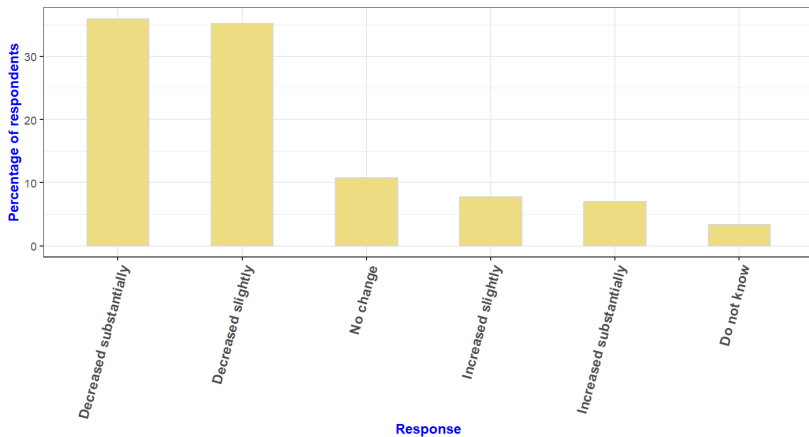
# Respondent description: work experience



# Respondent description: Share of dried fish operations in household income

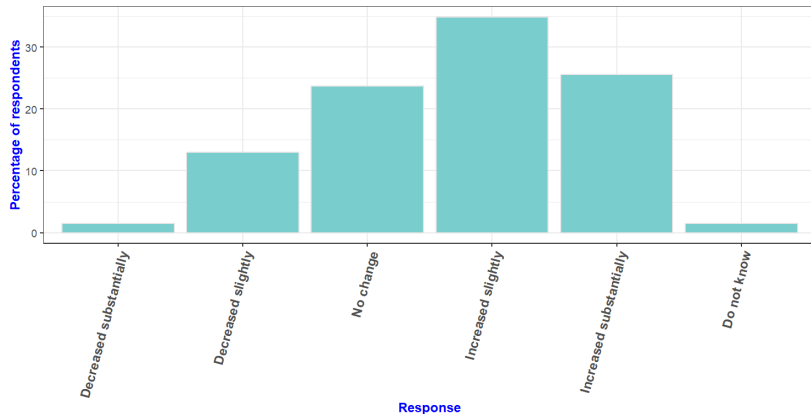


# Availability of fresh fish for dried fish operations during COVID19, compared to normal times

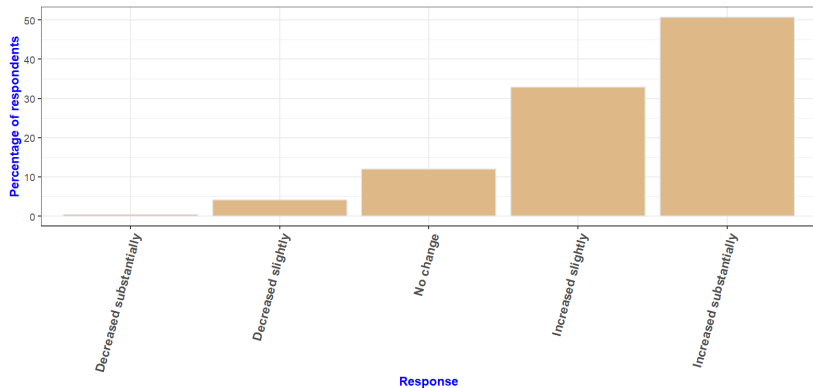




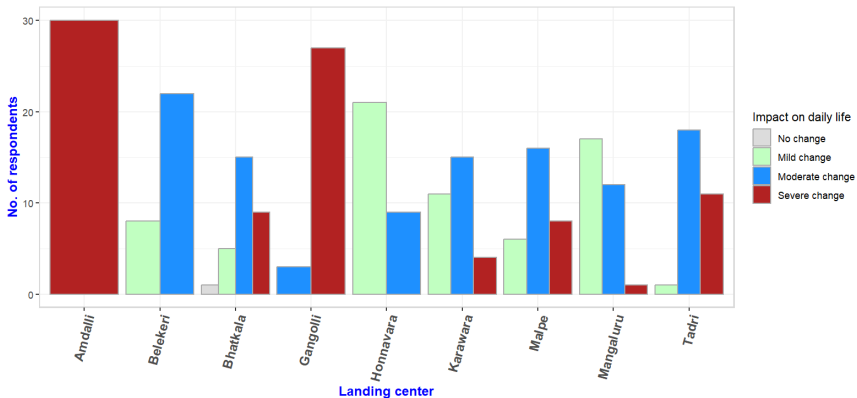
# Demand for dried fish during COVID19, compared to normal times



# Demand for fresh fish during COVID19, compared to normal times



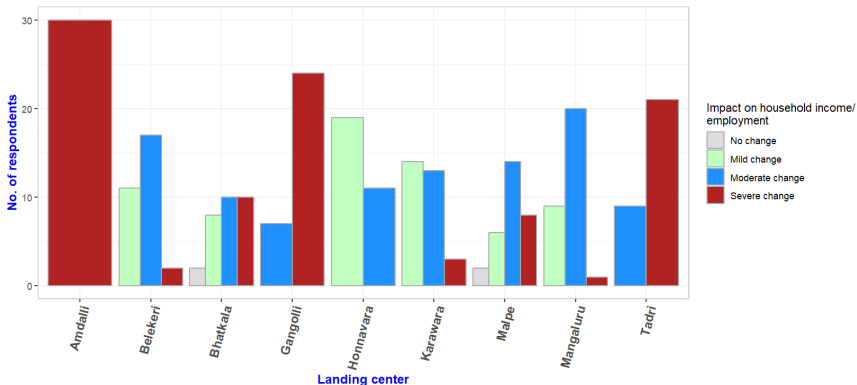
# COVID19 impact on daily life



On a scale of 0 to 3 how much your/family daily life/routine changed during COVID19, compared to normal times?

The Amdalli fishing harbor was constructed to rehabilitate the fishers evicted from Karwar for the construction of Sea Bird Naval Base. Unfortunately, fishers of Amdalli are facing another round of evictions to make space for port expansion

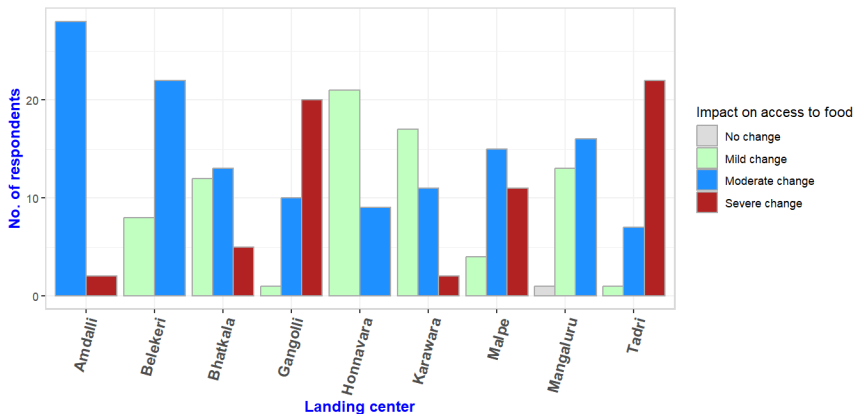
# COVID19 impact on household income/employment



On a scale of 0 to 3 how much your household income/employment changed during COVID19, compared to normal times?

Remember that for a majority of the respondents dried fish operations contribute a nontrivial share in household income of at least 20%.

# COVID19 impact on access to food



On a scale of 0 to 3 how much your/family access to food changed during COVID19, compared to normal times?

# Conclusions

- Dried fish processors in coastal Karnataka are mostly older Hindu women, economically vulnerable, not well educated, who are mostly dependent on fisheries for their livelihood
- Dried fish operations contribute a substantial share to the household income of the small-scale fishers
- COVID19 has had a relatively severe impact on dried fish processors mainly in terms of household income and employment
- Though the demand for dried fish and fresh fish increased during COVID19, fishers were unable to capitalize because of restrictions on movements

# Thanks to

- The Dried Fish Matters (DFM) project
- NETFISH
- Dried fish processors, wholesalers, and retailers of Karnataka
- Audience!!