SELF HELP GROUP: AN EFFECTIVE APPROACH IN EMPOWERING MARINE FISHER WOMEN FOLK

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ABSTRACT

India is the third largest producer of fish and second largest producer of inland fish in the world. It has been recognized as a powerful income and employment generator as it stimulates growth of a number of subsidiary industries and is a source of cheap and nutritious food besides being a foreign exchange earner. Women in marine fishing play an important role in the processing and trading of fish. However, they are limited in their marketing opportunities and access to credit. Moreover, arrangement of adequate finance at market rate may contribute significant role in the socio-economic development of coastal women fisherfolk. In this backdrop the present study is undertaken to know the status of marine fisher women in India and it is observed that these segment of population is exploited by the informal agencies like money lenders and traders and their economic condition is mostly effected by uncertainty in fish catch and seasonality of income. The concept of SHGs and provision of micro-credit has often been considered as the appropriate approach to meet the financial requirements of the fisherwomen for their overall development.

Keyword: Self Help Group, Women Fisherfolk.