

## **Adapting the tide dynamics of occupational mobility among the fishing community of Kerala**

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### **Abstract**

*The vision 2047 emphasizes a "Whole of Government" approach that entails cooperation across a range of sectors, as well as state governments, universities, and business leaders, in order to guarantee effective plan execution and improvement. Public discussions are being organized to gather input and nurture consensus on national issues. <sup>1</sup>Nevertheless the ambitious objectives of Vision India 2047, there are still many challenges to be identified and addressed, such as the possibility of falling into a middle-class trap, the requirement for better infrastructure, and the need to bridge the divide between urban and rural areas. Furthermore, achieving these difficult economic objectives would depend on maintaining robust growth rates. <sup>2</sup>Considering the well-being of fisherman and the sustainability of the fisheries sector a new paradigm shift is needed. Age-related indifference, a lack of opportunities, and a lack of skills all affect fishermen's vocational mobility today. Both upward and downward mobility are clearly present, with younger fishermen often giving up traditional fishing due to lower incomes and higher living costs caused by factors such as changing market conditions. A lack of skills, a lack of opportunity, and age-related apathy all have an impact on the current status of occupational mobility among fisherman. There is a discernible tendency of both upward and downward mobility, with younger fishermen*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-editorials/vision-india-2047-transforming-the-nation-future>

<sup>2</sup> Anon, (2006) "Annual Report 2005-2006" CMFRI, Cochi

*frequently abandoning conventional fishing as a result of reduced earnings and increased living expenses brought on by variables including shifting market conditions*

**Key Words:** *Fishermen, Occupation, Mobility, Income disparity, Labour market, Sustainability.*

## **1. Introduction**

A strategic national strategy called Vision India 2047 seeks to make India a developed nation by the time of its centennial of independence. This vision covers a wide range of topics, such as social welfare, technology innovation, good government, and economic growth. Along with an emphasis on sustainable development and the digital economy, there is a focus on increasing job creation and citizen economic engagement.

The fisheries sector Fisheries sector is one of the sources of livelihood for a large section of economically backward population of the country. The main challenges facing fisheries development in the country have been in assessment of fishery resources, generating employment, improving welfare of fishermen and their socio-economic status.

<sup>3</sup>Occupation is an activity that serves as one's regular source of livelihood. Sociologist, Miller (1960) in his study viewed work as an action performed with object of achieving some particular objective.

<sup>4</sup>Social mobility can be thought of as having two components – intra generational mobility (i.e., the movement up or down the economic ladder that an individual experiences within her or his lifetime) and intergenerational mobility (the incremental achievement of a child compared to his or her parent).

### **Statement of the problem**

Means and measures are taken in to consideration for the development of all the backward and marginalized communities. Being considered as marginalized, the fishing community have been at the outset of the economy for decades. This backwardness is due to number of

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<sup>3</sup> Ayyappan S. and M.Krishnan ,(2004) Indian fisheries: dimensions of development, Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, July-September 2004, 59(3) : 391-41.

<sup>4</sup> Bheemeshwar Reddy and Madhura Swaminathan, (2004), Intergenerational Occupational Mobility in Rural India: Evidence from Ten Villages, Review of Agrarian studies.

factors like failure in educational attainment, lack of employment opportunity, changes in structure and culture etc. This study tries to fill the gap and to understand the trends of the occupational mobility- the inter-intra generational occupational mobility and to find out the factors that hinder this occupational mobility among the fishing community.

### **Review of literature**

Changes in mobility patterns in the long run may result either from an evolution of the economic structure, for example due to industrialization or from changes in the degree of openness of the society. Social mobility can be thought of as having two components – intragenerational mobility (i.e., the movement up or down the economic ladder that an individual experiences within her or his lifetime) and intergenerational mobility (the incremental achievement of a child compared to his or her parent). Both intra- and intergenerational mobility can be assessed in terms of different base indicators, including incomes, asset holdings, educational achievement and occupational status<sup>5</sup>.

According to liberal theory the movement within a system should result from a person's achievement and should not be based on ascribed characteristics such as sex, race, region of birth, and parent's class position. An individual class or status of social origin and social mobility occurs when the class or status positions differ from those of origin. A situation of low mobility across generations may be favourable for families that are in fortunate socio-economic circumstances, but in the case of families that are less fortunate, low mobility often entails “social exclusion, material and human capital impoverishment, and restrictions on the opportunities and expectations that would otherwise widen their capability to make choices”<sup>6</sup>.

Motiram and Singh (2012) used data from the India Human Survey, 2005, jointly conducted by the University of Maryland and the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), to study intergenerational occupational mobility. This study showed that a substantial proportion of sons of low-skilled and low-paid workers remained in the same occupations as their fathers at the all-India level, for urban and rural areas combined<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Blanden, J., Gregg, P., & Macmillan, L. (2007). Accounting for intergenerational income persistence: Non-cognitive skills, ability and education (CEP Discussion Paper No. 0731). Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics.

<sup>6</sup> Hancock, L. (2007). Social exclusion and the capabilities approach: Evidence from social policies in Australia. *Social Work Review*, 49(2), 41–52.

<sup>7</sup> Motiram, S., & Singh, A. (2012). How close does the apple fall to the tree? Some evidence on intergenerational occupational mobility from India. *Review of Income and Wealth*, 58(3), 454–481.

Flexible labor markets provide ample opportunity for upward and downward mobility. Consequently, if an increase in the propensity of low-wage workers moves into higher paying occupations, lifetime earnings inequality may be reduced in spite of increases in annual cross-sectional measures of labor-market inequality. While the pace of urbanisation in India has risen in this decade, occupational mobility is still very low in comparison to other developing countries, including China and countries of East and South-East Asia. A large section of India's population and work force is therefore going to remain rural for the next few decades. Such employment generation is critical to improving the well-being of rural populations<sup>8</sup>.

Mobility is an important consideration in the nature of social systems as a whole, as in the, comparison of class, caste and occupation (Hall, R.H, 1969:31). It is usually approached from a number of dimensions. These are, Firstly the time phase mobility, here intergenerational mobility can be distinguished from intra-generational mobility even though two forms can exist simultaneously for individuals and collectives. The second dimension involves direction; three separate but often related directional axis can be identified. The most commonly analyzed is vertical mobility, • that is movement up or down within the stratification system. A second axis is a change in social function that does not involve a change in status, or horizontal mobility. The third axis is spatial mobility which plays an important role in inter-generational and intra-generational mobility<sup>9</sup>.

### **Objectives**

To assess the economic profile of the fishermen in Alappuzha.

To identify the factors that accounted for factors that hinder occupational mobility.

### **Significance of the study**

A worker's ability to experience upward occupational mobility generally results from favourable events such as the acquisition of additional human capital, or from intangible factors such as motivation or luck. A second possibility for occupational advancement may be the workings of the internal labour market.<sup>10</sup> The factors that lead to downward occupational mobility are less well-developed, but include such things as structural change in the labour market (for example, a declining industry), a voluntary change in career, or the

<sup>8</sup> Mehrotra, S., & Parida, J. K. (2019). Why is the labour force participation of women declining in India? *World Development*, 111, 1–17.

<sup>9</sup> Hall, R. H. (1969). *Occupations and the social structure*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall,31.

<sup>10</sup> Census of India, 2001

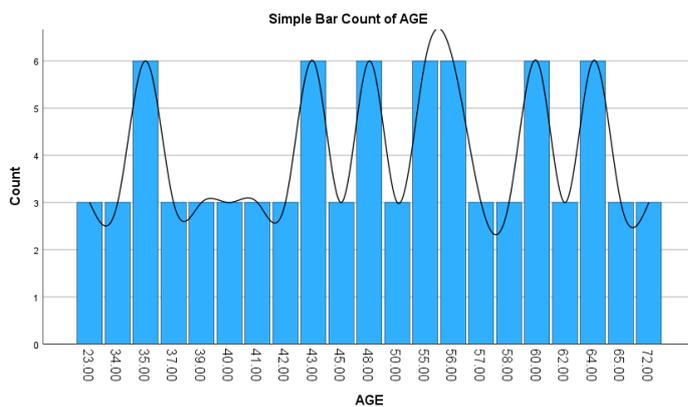
atrophy and obsolescence of labour market skills. In any event, occupational mobility can best be measured by tracking individuals over time.

**Methodology of the study**

The study is concerned with Alleppy which is the highest fishermen populated district. Both primary and secondary sources provide data for the collection. Primary data are gathered via a survey and a structured interview schedule. Books, Government documents, journals, and census data are used as a secondary information. The analysis of empirical data in the research comparative viewpoint on the professions' mobility. Simple random method is used to collect the data.

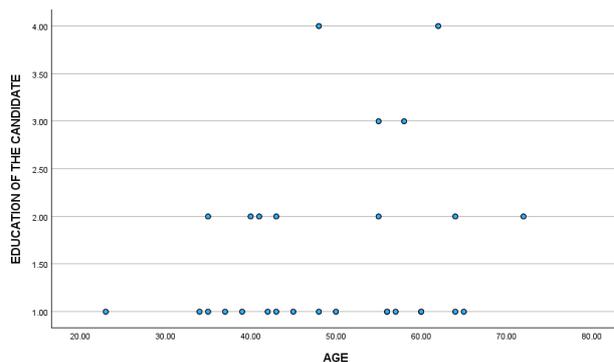
**Analysis of the study**

**Figure : 1 - Age wise category of the respondents:**



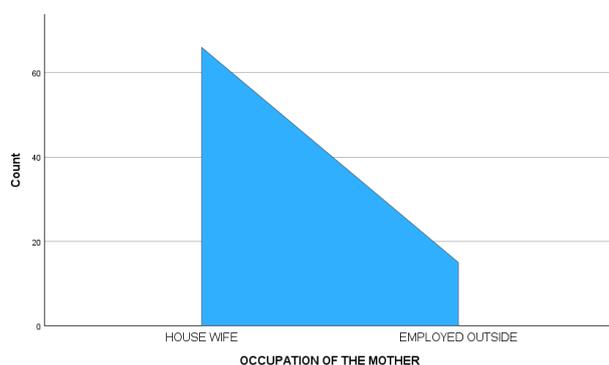
The majority of the respondents belong to the age group of 23 to 72 and among them the highest number of persons belonged to the age group of 35, 43, 55,60 and 64 which include 42% of the respondents.

**Figure : 2 - Educational qualification**



Among the respondents majority belonged to the group of below SSLC (26.9%) and 30% belonged to the group of above SSLC. 38% have completed SSLC. Access to education is restricted to fisheries community due to insufficient income and the social situations. There is also an emerging trend which shows that the lower age group category have access to education.

**Figure : 3 - Women work participation**



Considering the women work participation in the fishing community, the survey depicts that 86 % of women are house wife and they do enter in to any field of income generation. Only a few percentage (6%) women are engaged in the coir making and a few percentage is engaged in self-employment.

**Table: 1 - Education of the children:**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Government school	48	57.1	57.1	57.1
	Aided school	33	39.3	39.3	96.4
	Private school	3	3.6	3.6	100.0
	Total	84	100.0	100.0	

Out of the total respondents 50% of their children study in Government school since they cannot effort to access high quality education in the private schools. 4% of a minor section send their children to private school and 46.2% of the population send their children to aided schools which will provide them with quality education. It is visible that the children of the fishermen community are encouraged to study well so as to help them find a better job opportunity than the fisheries sector.

**Table: 2** - Occupation of the children

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Government	6	7.1	7.4	7.4
	Private company	39	46.4	48.1	55.6
	Self employed	36	42.9	44.4	100.0
	Total	81	96.4	100.0	
Missing	System	3	3.6		
Total		84	100.0		

As it is depicted in the diagram majority of the fishing people's children engage themselves in entrepreneurial works and only a 7% of the children have secured government job. They are deprived of a better safe life due to lack of educational and competency. 42.3% of the children of fishing community engage themselves in private company and are at times exploited by the rich community.

**Table : 3** - Descriptive statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Education of the children	84	1.00	3.00	1.4643	.56922
Occupation of the children	81	1.00	3.00	2.3704	.62138
Valid N (listwise)	81				

- The mean represents the average value of the dataset.

**Education of the Children:** The mean value is 1.4643, suggesting that on average, the education level of the children falls between categories 1 and 2 (if the variable is categorical, 1 could correspond to lower education, and 2 to higher education).

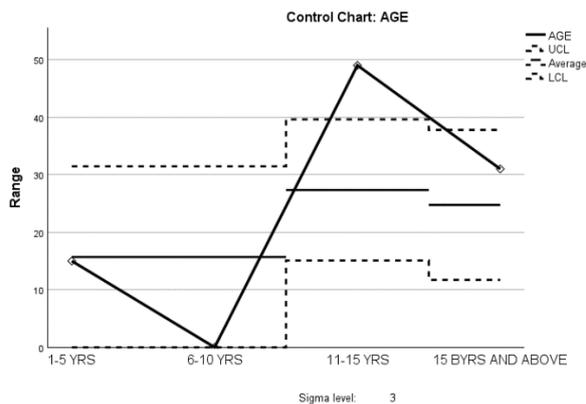
**Occupation of the Children:** The mean value is 2.3704, indicating that the occupation level of the children tends to fall closer to category 2 or 3 (possibly indicating mid-level occupations).

### Standard error of mean

This statistic estimates the variability of the sample mean. A smaller standard error indicates a more precise estimate of the population mean.

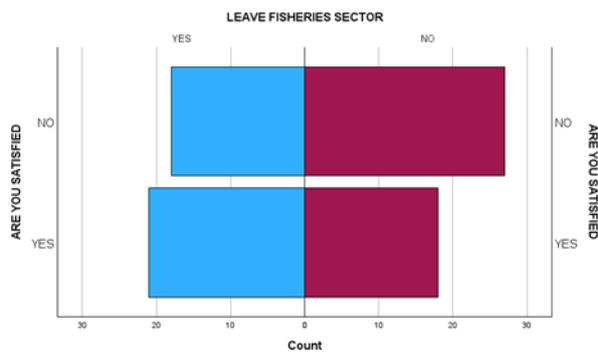
For **Education of the Children**, the standard error of the mean is **0.06211**, which is relatively small, implying a precise estimate of the average education level. For **Occupation of the Children**, the standard error is **0.06904**, also small, suggesting good precision for the occupation mean estimate

**Figure: 4** - Experience in the fisheries sector



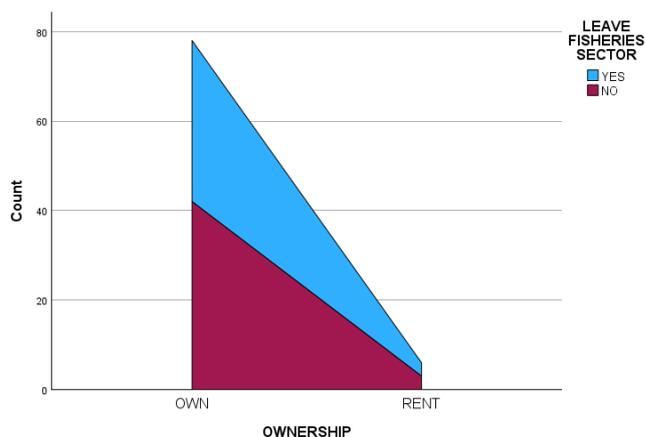
From the diagram it is visible that 69.2% respondents have more than 20 years of experience in the fishing field and only there are a few percentage with 6-10 years of experience and 26.9% with 11-15 years of fishing experience. It clearly state that the younger generations are reluctant to come to the fishing field due to various reasons which will be enlisted later.

**Figure : 5** - Satisfaction level



The evaluation of the satisfaction level in the fishing filed is depicted in the diagram. 65.4% of the respondents are satisfied with the fisheries sector and 34.6% of the people are not satisfied with the fisheries sector. This may be due to the seasonal employment, low investment and high income accessibility during the seasonal work. However the elder generation are reluctant to forgo their traditional employment in which they have experiential knowledge.

**Figure: 6 - Housing and financial status**



The analysis regarding the ownership of the house clearly state that 92.3% of them have their own house and only 7.7% of minor section live in rented house. This represent that though fisheries sector is not well appreciated the seasonal work help them to settle their life well and their livelihood is supported by the fisheries sector.

The analysis states that the 42% of fishermen do not have any loan in their name and have a tension free life. But it is very important to note that 26% of them do have a loan of more than 5 lakh rupees. Fishermen who depend on the sea and seasonal work will have to sweat their blood in order to pay back the loan. There are people of 30.8% who have loan between 1-5 lakhs.

**Table : 4 - Willingness for occupational mobility**

<b>Correlations</b>			
		Leave fisheries sector	Fisheries aid
Leave fisheries sector	Pearson Correlation	1	-.020
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.858
	N	84	84
Fisheries aid	Pearson Correlation	-.020	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.858	
	N	84	84

In terms with the objective of the study the question was asked whether they are willing to quit their fisheries sector. The answer from 34.6% is that they have the desire and the willingness to quit the job but the rest of 65.4% of them replied that though there are

difficulties and limitations for their job they are not willing to quit it. The occupational mobility is a matter of necessity and decision making.

The correlation table provides a statistical analysis of the relationship between two variables: **leave fisheries sector and fisheries aid**. Here's the explanation:

**Pearson correlation coefficient:**

- The value of the **Pearson Correlation** between the two variables is - **0.020**.
- This indicates a very weak and negligible negative relationship between the two variables. A value close to 0 implies no significant correlation.

**Significance (Sig. 2-tailed):**

- The p-value (**Sig. 2-tailed**) is **0.858**, which is much higher than the conventional significance level of 0.05.
- This means the relationship is not statistically significant. In other words, there is no evidence to suggest a meaningful connection between **leave fisheries sector** and **fisheries aid** in this datas.

The results show that **FISHERIES AID** does not have a statistically significant effect on whether individuals leave the fisheries sector. The negligible correlation and high p-value suggest that these two variables are independent in this context.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Danger	12	14.3	14.3	14.3
	No profit	66	78.6	78.6	92.9
	No govt. insurance	6	7.1	7.1	100.0
	Total	84	100.0	100.0	

	Valid	84
	Missing	0
Skewness		-.279
Std. Error of Skewness		.263
Kurtosis		1.752
Std. Error of Kurtosis		.520

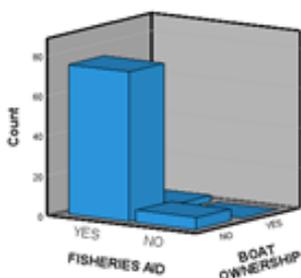
When asked for the reason to quit the fisheries sector the answer was: 46% of them were of the response that they are not satisfied with the sector. 15.4% opined that the fisheries sector involves a lot of risk factor. 38.5% of them were of the opinion that they cannot get the income as expected since this is a seasonal job. Hence the occupational mobility depend on the decisions made by the fishermen of their choice.

Skewness quantifies the distribution's asymmetry. A distribution that is sufficiently symmetric is indicated by a value near zero. A small tail on the left is shown by the slight negative skew (-0.279), suggesting that more individuals may have slightly biased motives toward higher values. The significance of the skewness will be assessed with the aid of the standard error of skewness (0.263). It is possible that the distribution is still fairly balanced because the skewness value is near zero. Kurtosis (1.752): "Tailedness" of the distribution is measured by kurtosis. The kurtosis of a normal distribution is zero. In contrast to a normal distribution, the positive kurtosis (1.752) indicates a distribution with heavier tails or a more peaked shape. Kurtosis standard error (0.520): This shows if there is a considerable deviation from zero in the kurtosis. Considering the kurtosis.

**Table : 7 - Ownership of boat**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
Fisheries aid	84	1.00	2.00	1.0714	.25909	3.389	.263	9.716	.520
Boat ownership	84	1.00	2.00	1.9643	.18669	-5.095	.263	24.544	.520
Valid N (list wise)	84								

**Figure: 8**



Regarding the question whether they own the fisheries boat of their own the reply was that on 4% of them has their own boat and the rest 96% depend on neighbours, relatives and friends for their livelihood. Hence they are deprived of earning an income equal to the effort that they have put in. occupational mobility can be articulated only when the people are confident enough that they can make things happen with their own effort.

The annual fisheries report of 2022-23 clearly states that a lot of fund has been allocated for fisheries and still a percentage of fishermen was of the opinion that the government pool enough money in to the economy and whether it reaches the deserving hands. Measures should be undertaken for the same.

### **Conclusion**

In order to ensure efficient plan execution and refinement, the vision 2047 places a strong emphasis on a "Whole of Government" strategy that involves collaboration across a variety of sectors, including state governments, academics, and industry leaders. In order to get feedback and promote agreement on national priorities, public consultations are being held. Even though Vision India 2047 has lofty goals, there are still a lot of obstacles to overcome, including the risk of becoming mired in a middle-class trap, the need to improve infrastructure, and the need to close the gap between urban and rural areas. Furthermore, maintaining strong growth rates will be essential to reaching these challenging economic goals.

With a focus on the welfare of fishermen and the long-term viability of the fishing industry, Vision 2047 seeks to increase fish production and encourage sustainable development in the field. This vision calls for goals including increasing fisheries through science, raising the earnings of fishermen, and guaranteeing food supply and nutritional security through sustainable methods.

The government has implemented a number of programs and policies under Vision 2047 to enhance the standard of living for fishermen. These tactics center on executing the Blue Revolution, which aims to improve governance and productivity in the fisheries industry, encouraging participation in policy creation, and improving fish production through sustainable methods.

<sup>11</sup>A lack of skills, a lack of opportunity, and age-related apathy all have an impact on the current status of occupational mobility among fisherman. There is a discernible tendency of both upward and downward mobility, with younger fishermen frequently abandoning conventional fishing as a result of reduced earnings and increased living expenses brought on by variables including shifting market conditions.

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