

**DETERMINANTS OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN FISHERY INDUSTRY (WITH
REFERENCE FROM DICKOWITA AREA)**

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ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka is an island surrounded by the Indian Ocean, self-sufficient with fishery production which currently provides direct and indirect employments around 650,000 including more than 50% of youth. Generally, fishery is a risky job in which life style and living condition of majority lies between comparatively at low level and they have a fluctuating living condition. Even though there are some drawbacks, majority of youngsters is engaging in fishery industry. The main objective of the study was to identify the factors affected to youth employment in fishery industry. 100 of youngsters in Dickowita fishery divisional area were chosen as the sample using Morgan approach of sample selection through the purposive sampling technique, using a structured questionnaire. Results of the Binary Logistic analysis revealed that youth employment in fishery industry is increased by 98% when youngsters are in leisure time (high) category relative to the leisure time (low) category while youth employment in the fishery industry is increased by 99% when the youngsters are in job satisfaction (high) category relative to the job satisfaction (low) category. Further, the youth employment in the fishery industry is increased by 97% when the occupation of the father is fishing relative to the other occupation.

Keywords: Employment, Fishery industry, Youth

INTRODUCTION

Since ancient ages, fish from the oceans and other aquatic sources have been an important source of food. Fisheries have also provided livelihood and economic benefits for those engaged in activities related to the harvesting, processing and trading of fish. After, invention of large vessels to cross the ocean, the fishery industry has turned a new page. Since 19th century to present a big change can be seen in the fishery industry. Concerning about the current situation of fishery industry, there can be seen some differences between the methods that use in various countries. Developed countries use highly technological methods for fishery industry such as high technological boats, equipment and high technological fishing finding equipment etc. But most

fishermen and fish farmers in developing countries still use traditional boats and methods in fishing (John Kurien, 2005).

Global fish production from all marine and inland sources increased well over three- fold from around 44 million ton in 1963 to 132 million ton in 2003. United Nations has coded the fishery countries according to international standard. The compliance score should be more than 70% to be one of the best fishery country and the compliance score should be more than 40% to approach normal pass level. According to that categorization, the best 5 fishery countries were Norway, United States, Canada, Australia and Ice land (University of British Columbia, 2009).

Concerning about the condition in Sri Lanka, the fishery sector has become the third most important sector for the first time. The country has an economic zone of 200 naval miles. Nearly 517,000 hectares around the country and 303,000 hectares in the country are covered with water. The fishery sector plays indispensable role in Sri Lankan economy contributing around 2.4% for the Gross domestic production. The total export earnings of country is around 2.5 percent. The Tsunami disaster has been badly affected to the economic situation of the country. Consequently, it affected to the fishery industry as well. Post tsunami disaster, now there are 3858 multi day boats, 953 one day boats, 19709 small fibber glass boats, 1842 traditional motorized boat, traditional non motorized boats and beach seine vallam 19,485 and 1142 respectively (Department of fisheries and aquatic resources, 2007).

Sri Lankan fishery industry can be divided into two main parts as marine and inland fishery industry. Marine fishery industry exist in two parts as coastal and deep sea fishery sector. Coastal, offshore/ deep sea and inland fishery sectors componentize the Sri Lankan fishery industry with a respective provision of 53%, 33% and 14%. Amongst coastal fishery sector plays the most important role in the Sri Lankan fishery industry (Department of fisheries and aquatic resources, 2007). Matara, Negambo and Kaluthara have recorded as the best fishery districts which brings the largest marine fish catch to the country. Matara district accounts a share of 15% of total fish production, while Negambo and Kaluthara districts accounts for 13 % and 11% respectively (Department of fisheries and aquatic resources, 2011).

In the country, there are 149 fishery divisions containing 129,746 fishery families(Rajitha senarathne, 2012). This sector currently provides direct and indirect employment for around 650,000 people comprising 100,000 associated in service activities, 400,000 in fish trade, and 150,000 in fishing. The most highlighted fact in the fishery employment is that more than 50 percent of the industry is dominated by youth employers.(Ministry of fisheries and aquaculture resources, 2009)

The youth is the most important and powerful group of the labor force of any country. Youth is the group which transferring childhood to adulthood. Within this time period they move from school to job market. The United Nations, define “Youth”, as person between the ages 15-24 around 18% of the world population. (United Nations, 2002) However, in Sri Lanka the youth is

defined to be in the age range of 15-35 (Census and statistical department, 2004) and currently it represents more than 30% of entire population. (Census and statistical department, 2015). This study engaged in revealing what leads the youth to engage in fishery related work. This study based only on the youth engaged in coastal fishery sector.

Compared to the other occupations, fishery is a risky job in which life style and living condition of majority lies comparatively at low level and they do not have a fixed income for a good living condition. An improvement of poverty can be seen among fishery as well as the lower level of education can be seen in these fishery villages. They have a fluctuating living condition. That means their income is increased during one period of the year and not that in the rest of the year. They have to be unemployed for three, four months in a year. Due to uncertainty of the fishermen's economy, their living condition also degenerated. When considering about this occupation, qualifications are not considered. Therefore majority believe this occupation as an inferior job.

Even though there are lots of other employment opportunities and vocational trainings at present, most of young crowd still focusing on fishery industry. Youth is the backbone of any country. Therefore future of a country depends on youth generation. It is very important to empower youth socially as well as economically. Therefore this study is mainly carried out to identify the factors affecting youth employment in fishery industry.

Materials and Methods

Data Collection

This study mainly based on primary data and data were generated by using a structured questionnaire filled by 100 of youngsters in Dickowita fishery divisional area.

Population and Sample

People who are in Dickowita fishery divisional area has been considered as the population. The population has been divided into two groups such as youth (age's between 15-35) and others. Depending on their occupations, youth has been divided into two groups such as youth employed in fishery industry and other occupations. 60 young fishermen have been selected proportionately from 4 GN divisions. Other 40 persons were selected from the non fishery youth community. It is noteworthy that, it has been selected a group of youth those who are involving in other occupations other than fishery. In order to select that sample, purposive sampling method was used.

Data Analysis

Binary Logistic Regression Model has been used as main analysis method since the dependent variable is developed with two categories as fishery and other occupations.

Results

The model with leisure time, job satisfaction and job of father has been recognized as the best logistic regression model in determining the significant factors of youth for employing in fishery industry.

$$\text{logit}(\pi) = 2.282 + 1.897 \text{ leisure time(high)} + 3.307 \text{ job satisfaction(high)} + 1.370 \text{ fathers job(fisher)}$$

Table 1: Best Fitted Logistic Regression Model

Parameter	Category	β	Sig.	Exp(β)	Reference category
Leisure time	High	1.897	.033	6.667	Low
Job satisfaction	High	3.307	.012	27.292	Low
fathers Job	Fisher	1.370	.039	3.935	Other
	Constant	2.282	.035	0.102	

Source: Sampling Survey, 2014

According to the results of the best fitted logistic regression model, all estimated exponentiated coefficients are greater than one and it denotes positive relationship with dependent variable.

By setting up the leisure time low category as 0, the youth employment in the fishery industry is increased by 6.667 times or by 98% compared to the youngsters prefer high leisure time (high) relative to the leisure time (low) category. Youth employment in the fishery industry is increased by 27.3 times or by 99% when the youngsters are in job satisfaction (high) category relative to the job satisfaction (low) category. Youth employment in the fishery industry is increased by 1.37 times or by 97% when the occupation of the father is fishing relative to the other occupation.

Discussion

A comparison between the fishery industry and other jobs implies the fact that the employees obtain a much leisure time in fishery industry. And that particular fact makes the fishery industry more attractive among the youth in coastal areas in Sri Lanka. The youth employment in the fishery industry is increased by the 6.667 times or 98% when youngsters are leisure time (high) category relative to the leisure time (low) category.

Considering about the youth employment in fishery industry and job satisfaction of the person there exist an association between these two constituents. There is positive relationship among these constituents; when the job satisfaction of the person is increased the employment of the youth in fishery industry is also increased. Youth employment in the fishery industry is increased

by 27.3 times or 99% when the youngsters are in job satisfaction (high) category relative to the job satisfaction (low) category.

There is connection between youth employment in fishery industry and the occupation of the father in the family. When father's job is linked to the fishery industry, the youth in the family also turns in to the fishery industry automatically. Youth employment in the fishery industry is increased by 1.37 times or 97% when the occupation of the father is fishing relative to the other occupation.

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