

Socio Economic Issues of the War Affected Fisheries Community in Sri Lanka (with reference to the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka)

Kumudu Sumedha

Subasinghe Wasantha

Abstract:

For nearly three decades, Sri Lanka has been marked by a civil war driven by ethnic tensions. This had a devastating effect on all walks of life in Sri Lanka not the least being the fishing industry is one of the highest contributors in the Sri Lanka economy. The Fishing industry, being one of the main sources of livelihood of a large number of people living in the Eastern Province, happens to be a leading sector that was severely affected by the thirty years of ethnic civil war. Socio-economic problems surfaced in the fishing industry in the Eastern province due to the militarization that was aggravated during the last phase of the war but not completely relaxed even after the end of the war.

The main objective of the study was to explore the socio economic issues that fisheries community faced during the war period. The second objective was to study the current livelihood patterns and to measure it up with their opportunities, barriers and advantages.

The survey method was used to gather primary data. Data was collected using questionnaires and interviews including key informant interviews. Sample was selected using purposive sample method according to non-probability sampling theory. Sample consists of 100 war affected fishing families in Nilaveli village, Trincomalee District, Sri Lanka.

The fisheries industry is Sri Lanka's third contributor to economic growth and is second only to tourism and the minor export crop industry. Therefore, findings with regard to families of fisher folk and their income and consumer patterns, occupation and ambitions, and vulnerability households would pave the way for more research in the future.

keywords:

fisheries community

Livelihood

post war situation