

**A STUDY ON THE PSYCHO SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE ADOLESCENT
STUDENTS BELONGING TO FISHERMEN COMMUNITY IN CUDDALORE
DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

The present study examines the psycho social problems of the adolescent students of fishermen community in Cuddalore district. This study sampling has designed costal area government school functioning with in jurisdiction of Cuddalore district school adolescents. Non probability sampling was decided to collect the samples, particularly Simple Random Sampling is applied where opinion from students were obtained. The sample size considered for the present study is 946 fishing adolescent school students and 363 non fishing adolescent students Students studying in VIII, IX and X standard were selected. Qualitative and Quantitative analysis was done based on the data. The results reveals that there was significant difference in the mean scores of temperaments for two sets- female fishing and male non-fishing and male fishing and non-fishing adolescents. In the other three sets, the difference in the mean scores was not significant.

Keywords: *Psycho Social Problems, Occupational Aspiration, Independence & Self-concept.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a critical developmental phase marked by significant physical, emotional, and psychological changes. For adolescents belonging to marginalized or specific socio-economic communities, such as the fishermen community in Cuddalore District, these changes often intertwine with unique environmental, cultural, and socio-economic challenges. Fishermen are defined as those who make their living primarily from fishing and related activities (Ambili C S, 2007). Because of their closeness to nature and the high risk to life, he is as superstitious as he is giving and unconcerned. The knowledge that Tamil Nadu fisherman have amassed about fish, their behaviours, waves, currents, and stars is their greatest advantage. They have a generation-to-generation heritage of learning by doing (John Kurien, 1981). Prenatal and postnatal care, food consumption, and the capacity to undergo a prolonged educational process are all influenced by a

child's family history (Bhagawathi, 1973). The fishermen community, known for its dependence on marine resources and traditional livelihoods, faces numerous hardships that directly or indirectly affect the psycho-social well-being of its adolescent population. Adolescents in this community often grapple with a range of psycho-social problems, including anxiety, stress, identity confusion, and behavioral issues, shaped by factors like poverty, unstable income, educational challenges, and societal expectations. These problems are exacerbated by limited access to mental health resources, quality education, and career opportunities, which hinder their ability to cope with developmental and societal pressures. The influence of familial structures, community norms, and environmental vulnerabilities such as natural disasters also play a significant role in shaping the psycho-social landscape of these adolescents. As a result, addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that considers the unique socio-economic and cultural fabric of the fishermen community.

The first psychologist to systematically study the behavioural traits and changes of American teenagers in the first decade of the current century was Stanley Hall G. (1844–1924). Darwin's idea of species evolution had a significant influence on him as he developed his own hypothesis. The age range of 12 to 15 is known as adolescence. This is the most pivotal time, marked by numerous changes in the social, emotional, intellectual, and physical domains. The youth begin a new life in which new traits of personality are born. Hall characterized adolescence as a period of 'storm and stress'. During this phase of development contradictory tendencies develop in adolescents. This study aims to explore the various psycho-social issues faced by adolescent students in the fishermen community of Cuddalore District, identifying key factors contributing to these problems and proposing strategies to enhance their overall well-being and resilience. The findings are intended to provide valuable insights for educators, policymakers, and community leaders to foster a supportive environment for the holistic development of these adolescents.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Adolescent issues such as behavioural, emotional, educational, and social issues are often referred to as psycho-social disorders. Behavioural issues include any or all of a person's outward behaviours that are immediately noticed, such as lying, breaking the law, or acting in a way that hurts or threatens to hurt others. Any issues pertaining to any of the several emotions that define a person's mental state are considered emotional disorders. Cognitive skills, parental and teacher motivation in the classroom, school adjustment, and other issues are all considered educational challenges. Social environment-related issues include peer pressure, social behaviour, social participation, and adjusting to family, society, and religion. Adolescents during this transitional stage face lot of psychological and social problems in family and at school. Peer influence becomes stronger during this stage and hence problems they encounter are mostly related to behavior and school issues. Here the researcher studies about the Psycho social problems of the adolescent students of fishermen community in cuddalore district.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the socio - demographic data of the adolescent students belonging to fishermen community in Cuddalore district.
- To identify the psychosocial problems among adolescent students belonging to fishermen community in Cuddalore district

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study sampling has designed costal area government school functioning with in jurisdiction of Cuddalore district school adolescents. There are 13 schools are functioning in Cuddalore district. The sample size considered for the present study is 946 fishing adolescent school students and 363 non fishing adolescent students Students studying in VIII, IX and X standard were selected. Non probability sampling was decided to collect the samples, particularly Simple Random Sampling is applied where opinion from students were obtained. Qualitative and Quantitative analysis was done based on the data. Further, statistical tools to use to find out the level of psycho social problems of the adolescent students of fishermen community.

5. ANALYSIS AND INFERENCE

Table-5.1: Occupational aspiration of the fishing and non - fishing adolescents

Standard	Category	Students	Mean	S.D	C.R Value	Remark (5% level)
VIII	Fishing	314	47.694	10.044	1.315	Significant
VIII	Non-Fishing	70	49.386	9.657		
IX	Fishing	353	46.688	9.738	3.807	Significant
IX	Non-Fishing	120	50.658	9.904		
X	Fishing	279	48.978	10.439	0.037	Not Significant
X	Non-Fishing	173	48.942	10.15		
VIII	Fishing	314	47.694	10.044	1.31	Not Significant
IX	Fishing	353	46.688	9.738		
VIII	Fishing	314	47.694	10.044	1.522	Not Significant
X	Fishing	279	48.978	10.439		
IX	Fishing	353	46.688	9.738	2.821	Significant
X	Fishing	279	48.978	10.439		

Source: Primary data computed.

Inference:

The above table-5.1 discloses that out of the six sets compared for the difference between the mean scores in occupational aspiration, three sets – VIII standard fishing and non-fishing, IX standard fishing and non-fishing and IX and X standard fishing community adolescents exhibited significant difference. In the rest the differences were not significant.

Table-5.2: Independence of the fishing and non-fishing adolescents

Gender	Category	Students	Mean	S.D	C.R Value	Remark (5% level)
Male	Fishing	498	45.70	5.791	0.685	Not Significant
Male	Non-Fishing	180	46.05	5.837		
Female	Fishing	448	45.33	6.241	1.895	Not Significant
Female	Non-Fishing	183	46.30	5.711		
Male	Fishing	498	45.70	5.791	0.948	Not Significant
Female	Fishing	448	45.33	6.241		
Male	Fishing	498	45.70	5.791	1.217	Not Significant
Female	Non-Fishing	183	46.30	5.711		
Female	Fishing	448	45.33	6.241	1.369	Not Significant
Male	Non-Fishing	180	46.05	5.837		

Source: Primary data computed.

Inference:

The table-5.2 discloses that in all the five sets compared, there was no significant difference in the mean scores of independences with respect to either gender or occupation of the parents.

Table-5.3: Temperament of the fishing and non-fishing adolescents

Gender	Category	Students	Mean	S.D	C.R Value	Remark (5% level)
Male	Fishing	498	39.349	6.618	2.514	Significant
Male	Non-Fishing	180	37.839	7.01		
Female	Fishing	448	39.112	7.5	0.519	Not Significant
Female	Non-Fishing	183	38.798	6.636		
Male	Fishing	498	39.349	6.618	0.515	Not Significant
Female	Fishing	448	39.112	7.5		
Male	Fishing	498	39.349	6.618	0.962	Not Significant
Female	Non-Fishing	183	38.798	6.636		
Female	Fishing	448	39.112	7.5	2.016	Significant
Male	Non-Fishing	180	37.839	7.01		

Source: Primary data computed.

Inference:

The table-5.3 reveals that there was significant difference in the mean scores of temperaments for two sets- female fishing and male non-fishing and male fishing and non-fishing adolescents. In the other three sets, the difference in the mean scores were not significant.

Table-5.4: Critical ratio of the personality of the fishing and non-fishing adolescents

District	Category	Students	Mean	S.D	C.R Value	Remark (5% level)
Cuddalore	Fishing	489	45.224	6.385	1.561	Significant
	Non-fishing	159	44.041	5.246		
Chidambaram	Fishing	314	44.42	5.786	0.664	Not Significant
	Non-Fishing	104	44.92	5.777		
Virudhachalam	Fishing	143	44.073	6.878	0.452	Not Significant
	Non-Fishing	100	44.49	8.542		
Total	Fishing	946	44.572	6.349	0.8923	Not Significant
	Non-fishing	363	44.483	6.521		

Source: Primary data computed.

Inference:

The above table-5.4 reveals the critical ratio value for the means of three districts, and for the total respondents from fishing and non-fishing communities. There were significant differences between the mean scores of personality of the students belonging to the Cuddalore district in both fishing and non-fishing community, whereas in other two districts the differences were not significant.

6. SUGGESTIONS BASED ON THE STUDY

- ✓ As the fishing community respondents were found to be more anxiety ridden than their non-fishing counterparts, periodical personality orientation programmes may be launched in the educational institutions with the help of the psychologists. This programme may help in diagnosing and releasing the general anxiety among these learners.
- ✓ The fishing community respondents were not having higher level of occupational aspiration than their non-fishing counterparts, and this could be due to illiteracy among the fisherfolk and their separation from the main stream of our national life. There is every need to raise their awareness about the various employment programmes open for them and in this regard, the governmental and non-governmental social welfare organizations could play a leading role in rooting out illiteracy among this community as well as launching carrier counselling programmes at Secondary and Higher Secondary educational institutions of Tamil Nadu.

7. CONCLUSION

This investigation has been delimited to fishing community learners in VIII, IX and X standards in the secondary educational institutions. Hence it is suggested that fishing community learners in the higher secondary schools may also be taken into consideration. These psycho, socio and educational factors of the fishing community learners in the general and professional colleges may also be investigated by the ensuing researchers. Similarly, the technical institutes, such as industrial training institutes, polytechnics and other vocational institutions may also be taken into account by the researchers in this area.

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