

# A Study of Problems Faced by Fish-selling Women of Gawde (Christian) Community in Goa State

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## Abstract

In the present scenario of development and globalisation the role of women has changed the dimensions like cultural expression, work and mobility, education, health and family size, political expression, and social awareness. Women have made their mark in different walks of life and are competing successfully with men despite the social, psychological, and economic barriers. The role of women in economic development of our country is as important as that of their male counterparts. Apart from participating in domestic work, she is also a partner with the male family members in undertaking productive work in agriculture and allied activities.

Women entrepreneurs are those who explore new paths of economic involvement and contribution, and have been making a significant impact in all segments of the economy. Women get empowered through their entrepreneurial attitude and skills either by choosing a profession as challenge and doing something new or by taking up business enterprises to get over financial difficulties and responsibilities thrust on them due to family circumstances. Keeping this in mind the researcher has selected the research problem "A study of problems faced by fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community in Goa state" since Goa state has huge fish-seller rural women population. The study will contribute significantly to the growth and development of rural fish-selling women entrepreneurs in Goa state of India.

**Keyword:** Fish-seller, Problems, Government and Society

## INTRODUCTION

"Women are the noblest of god's creation, supreme in their own sphere of activity."

## Mahatma Gandhi

"In order to awaken the people it is the women who have to be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves."

## Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the status of women in India has been changing as a result of growing industrialisation and urbanisation. Because of spasmodic mobility and social legislation over the years, more and more women are actively participating in all sector of the economy. Whether it is educational, technical, agricultural, or professional work, their proportion in the work force has also increased. In India women entrepreneurs constitute negligible proportion of the total entrepreneurs. Attitudinal constraints, social traditional and kinship system inhibit the emergence of women entrepreneurs in India. In the present statistics women constitute more than 50 percent of the total population. The role of women is most intimately related to the goal of comprehensive socio-economic development. Any development strategy which neglects the need for enhancing the role of women cannot lead to national prosperity. Women are vital human infrastructure and their empowerment would accelerate the pace of development. Investing in women's capabilities and empowering them in all respects are the surest way of contributing to sustainable economic development and growth. The development of entrepreneurship among women has become an important aspect of the overall economic development.

Women empowerment cannot, therefore, be ignored while devising various policies for rural and socio-economic development. Women participation is significant in rural employment. Rural women put their entrepreneurial skill

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in all rural employment activities such as agriculture operation, poultry, sheep rearing, dairy, firewood cutting and selling, sales of vegetables etc. Though they put their heart and soul in rural employment activities, their economic status is not improved and their livelihood is poor. Though they have entrepreneurial potentials, due to poor financial strength, they need financial assistances. Keeping this in mind the researcher has selected the research problem: A study of problems faced by fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community in Goa state.

## Objectives of the Study

1. To study demographic environment of fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community in Goa state.
2. To study the different problems faced by fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community in Goa state.
3. To suggest measures to overcome the problems faced by fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community in Goa state.

## Hypotheses of the Study

### Working Hypothesis

**H<sub>1</sub>.** Fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community face financial, operational and sales and marketing problems.

### Null Hypothesis

**H<sub>0</sub>.** Fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community do not face any financial, operational and sales and marketing problems.

## Research Methodology Applied

The present research is descriptive in nature, which involves facts-finding investigation with adequate interpretation and identifying the various problems. For the purpose of research the researcher has selected rural areas of Goa state, since Goa is the leading state for production and consumption of fish in India and fish selling activities are done by women of Gawde (Christian) community in Goa. The research approach was field study

where researcher has interacted with the respondents. The instrument used to collect the information was structured questionnaire. The sampling procedure implemented was purposive convenience sampling and random sampling.

With 347 villages in comparison to 44 towns, Goa is basically a village state and the smallest state of the Indian territory. The villages of Goa are not like the other villages of India in the sense that Goa is counted among those states to have highest rate of literacy in India. Famous villages of Goa have been considered to collect the data which are as follows 1) Arambol, 2) Agawada, 3) Anjuna, 4) Colva and 5) Agonda. From these five famous villages randomly 120 respondents are interviewed, who are willing to participate in interaction.

The geographical Scope was limited to fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community from selected villages of Goa state; topical scope was limited to problems faced by fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community; analytical scope was limited to fulfillment of objectives and testing of hypotheses; and functional scope was limited to conclusions and suggestions for solving the problems of fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community. While collecting the data, both the primary and the secondary sources were used. Primary sources included arranging extensive field work, and for this purpose questionnaire of selected questions was prepared and distributed among the fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community in different villages of Goa state. The secondary sources used included daily newspapers, published literature by various magazines, seminar papers, government, research articles etc. The collected data were presented with the help of different statistical techniques like classification, tabulation, graphical, percentage, mean, Likert Rank Scale etc.

## Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

**Table 1: Dimension – Age Group**

Sr. No	Age Group	Respondents	Percent
1	<15	00	00%
2	16- 25	19	16%
3	26-35	34	28%
4	36-45	37	31%
5	46-55	22	18%
6	>56	08	07%
<b>Total</b>		120	100%

Source: Field Data

## Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows the age-wise classification of respondents. Out of 120, 31% belong to age group of 36-45, 28% to age group of 26-35, 16% and 18% to 16-25 and 46-55 and 7% belong to age group of above 56. It is found that majority of respondents belong to the age group of 26-45 respectively.

**Table 2: Dimension – Educational Level**

Sr. No	Education	Respondents	Percent
1	No Education	43	35%
2	Primary	37	31%
3	Secondary	29	25%
4	Higher Secondary	08	6.5%
5	Diploma/ ITI	03	2.5%
6	University	00	00%
<b>Total</b>		120	100%

Source: Field Data

### Results and Discussion:

Table 2 shows educational level of the respondents. Out of 120 respondents, 25% and 31% have education upto secondary and primary level respectively whereas 6.5% and 2.5% of respondents have higher secondary and diploma course respectively. No respondent has university degree course. Overall 35% of respondents have no formal education but have experience in fish selling for many years since it is a traditional occupation of respondents.

**Table 3: Dimension – Annual Income**

Sr. No	Income	Respondents	Percent
1	< 50,000	18	15%
2	50,000-1,00,000	66	55%
3	1,00,000-1,50,000	20	17%
4	1,50,000-2,00,000	12	10%
5	>2,00,000	04	3%
<b>Total</b>		120	100%

Source: Field Data

### Results and Discussion

Table 3 shows annual income of fish-seller women. Out

of 120 respondents, more than 50% respondents' annual income ranges between 50,000-1,00,000 whereas 17% respondents' income ranges between 1,00,000-1,50,000. 10% respondents have income ranging between 1,50,000-2,00,000. 3% and 15% respondents have annual income above 2,00,000 and below 50,000, respectively. Fish-seller women have about 50% of profit margin but there are more risks associated with it which they have to bear.

## Results and Discussion

Table 4 shows the social problems faced by fish-seller rural women in Goa which include problems like discriminatory attitude, negative attitude, sexual harassment, and cheat and fraud by community. The majority of the respondents disagree about these social problems. The mean of disagree (38.25) is more as compared to other level of agreement. Only the problem of Cheat and Fraud by Community is commonly realized by fish-seller women. Out of 120 respondents, 32 respondents strongly agree and 44 respondents agree. It is found that social problems are not faced by respondents except Cheat and Fraud by Community.

## Results and Discussion

Table 5 shows the financial problems faced by fish-selling rural women in Goa like shortage of funds, negative response by banks, financial illiterate, and low savings due to fluctuation in price. The majority of the respondents agree about these financial problems. The mean of strongly agree is 34.5 and that of agree is 39.25. Only the problem of Negative Response by Banks is realized more by fish-seller women. Out of 120 respondents, 44 respondents strongly agree and 47 respondents agree. It is found that financial problems are faced by respondents.

## Results and Discussion

Table 6 shows the operational problems faced by fish-seller rural women in Goa like lack of storage facilities, price fluctuations, low extending and diversifying opportunity, and unhealthy competition. The majority of the respondents agree about these operational problems. The mean of strongly agree is 34.5 and that of agree is 40.75. Only the problem of Price Fluctuations is realized more by fish-seller women. Out of 120 respondents, 44 respondents strongly agree and 36 respondents agree. It is found that operational problems are faced by respondents in Goa.

**Table 4: Social Problems**

Sr.No	Problems	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1	Discriminatory Attitude	12	28	19	45	16	120
2	Negative Attitude	24	23	14	48	11	120
3	Sexual Harassment	8	24	22	47	19	120
4	Cheat and Fraud by Community	32	44	27	13	4	120
	Total	76	119	82	153	50	480
	Mean	19	29.75	20.5	38.25	12.5	120

Source: Field Data

**Table 5: Financial Problems**

Sr.No	Problems	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1	Shortage of Funds	31	37	18	21	13	120
2	Negative Response by Banks	44	47	6	14	9	120
3	Financial Illiterate	29	38	22	19	12	120
4	Low Savings due to fluctuation in Price	34	35	27	8	16	120
	Total	138	157	73	62	50	480
	Mean	34.5	39.25	18.25	15.5	12.5	120

Source: Field Data

**Table 6: Operational Problems**

Sr.No	Problems	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1	Lack of storage Facilities	28	46	10	22	14	120
2	Price Fluctuations	44	36	12	17	11	120
3	Low Extending and Diversifying Opportunity	31	43	19	13	14	120
4	Unhealthy Competition	34	38	9	18	21	120
	Total	137	163	50	70	60	480
	Mean	34.25	40.75	12.5	17.5	15	120

Source: Field Data

**Table 7: Sales and Marketing Problems**

Sr. No	Problems	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1	Intermediaries Share of Profit is More	49	35	7	16	13	120
2	Low Level Negotiation and Bargaining Skills	32	41	17	19	11	120
3	Municipality/ Panchayat Intervention	42	37	13	16	12	120
4	Market Fluctuation	51	46	6	9	8	120
	Total	174	159	43	60	44	480
	Mean	43.5	39.75	10.75	15	11	120

Source: Field Data

**Table 8: Family Problems**

Sr. No	Problems	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1	Dual Responsibility	10	22	9	48	31	120
2	Lack of Support	24	29	13	36	18	120
3	Male-dominated Culture	32	48	19	14	7	120
4	No Motivation	26	27	12	39	16	120
	Total	92	126	53	137	72	480
	Mean	23	31.5	13.25	34.25	18	120

Source: Field Data

**Table 9: Testing of Hypotheses**

Rank	Likert Rank Scale	Financial	Operational	Sales & Marketing	Total	Mean
1	Strongly Agree	138	137	174	449	149.67
2	Agree	157	163	159	479	159.67
3	Neutral	73	50	43	166	55.33
4	Disagree	62	70	60	192	64.00
5	Strongly Disagree	50	60	44	154	51.33

From Table 9, we conclude that  
Accept Working Hypothesis  $H_1$ , and  
Reject Null Hypothesis  $H_0$

## Results and Discussion

Table 7 shows the sales and marketing problems faced by fish-seller rural women in Goa like intermediaries share of profit is more, low level negotiation and bargaining skills, municipality/ panchayat intervention, and market fluctuation. The majority of the respondents agree about the sales and marketing problems. The mean of strongly agree is 43.5 and that of agree is 39.75. Only the problem of Market Fluctuations is realized more by fish-seller women. Out of 120 respondents, 51 respondents strongly agree and 46 respondents agree. It is found that sales and marketing problems are faced by respondents in Goa.

## Results and Discussion

Table 8 shows the family problems faced by fish-seller rural women in Goa like dual responsibility, lack of support, male-dominated culture, no motivation etc. The majority of the respondents disagree about these family problems. The mean of disagree (34.25) is more as compared to other level of agreement. Only the problem of Male-dominated Culture is realized by fish-seller women. Out of 120 respondents, 32 respondents strongly agree and 48 respondents agree. It is found that family problems are not faced by respondents except the problem of male-dominated culture.

## TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

### Working Hypothesis:

**H<sub>1</sub>:** Fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community face financial, operational, and sales and marketing problems.

### Null Hypothesis:

**H<sub>0</sub>:** Fish-selling women of Gawde (Christian) community do not face financial, operational, and sales and marketing problems.

## Conclusion

Rural women empowerment has become a catchword today and has got an important place in the socio-economic development activities of the Government. Women empowerment is a continuous process of enabling them to fight the forces that oppose them, and providing them equal access to the resources and opportunities, and control over the resources.

Considering the vast number of poor, discriminated and underprivileged women there is a need to encourage them to become the entrepreneurs on their own. Women

entrepreneurs should be encouraged and increased for the development of economy and to remove poverty from village areas. So there is need to boost the women entrepreneurs. Women are participating in all the productive activities and are at par with men. Government banks and other financial institutions should come forward to offer loans for rural women, so that women entrepreneurs' movement in Goa and other parts of India work in right direction to empower more and more women in social, economical, cultural, and political affairs.

The formation of women groups not only opens only occupational awareness to individual members but also brings social revolution in women empowerment.

### Suggestion and Recommendations

1. Government should take keen interest regarding incentives/ concessions and should organise more awareness programmes on women empowerment using proper media.
3. The fish-selling women associations and SHGs should make use of various schemes and incentives introduced by the government.
4. To encourage more women for entrepreneurship, government should arrange training institutions, guidance and assistance with regular and adequate credit and provision of fish-selling shops for rural fish-selling women.
5. The fish-selling women should approach directly to the fishermen. Then the profit margin will be more.
6. There is need of special numerical skill development programmes to avoid financial mistakes in record keeping, interest computation, depositing etc. Academicians may spare one day of the week to conduct such programmes.
7. National institutions and local government should promote for the development of fish-selling women by providing special loans for establishment of fish shops.
8. In the process of social reform the NGOs and local government should support the growth and development of rural women entrepreneurs through formation of rural fish-selling women's associations.
9. Goa government has provided vegetable shops for rural women on 'no profit and no loss' basis to promote rural entrepreneurs. In the same way fish shops should be provided for rural fish-selling women in specific areas.

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