

Fish Marketing System in Aurangabad District (Maharashtra)

Ajit Gedam¹, Rajni S. Amrawkar², Vasant K. Dongare³

Jijamata College, Bhenda, Nevasa, Ahmadnagar, Maharashtra, India¹

Sundarrao More College of Arts, Commerce & Science, Poalpur, Raigad, Maharashtra, India^{2,3}

drajanicoool@gmail.com

Abstract: *The present study was conducted in fish markets of Aurangabad district namely Chhavani Bazar and Mondhanaka Bazar during September 2022 to December 2022 in order to investigate the market development, Equipment used by the sellers, species composition, demand of edible fishes, price structure and women participation. Chhavani Bazar is more developed as compared to Mondhanaka Bazar. Major carps dominated both the fish markets followed by exotic carps. Market facilities are more at Chhavani bazar where as the prices are more affordable at Mondhanaka Bazar than Chhavani Bazar.*

Keywords: Fish market, major carps, exotic carps

I. INTRODUCTION

India is the world's third largest producer of fish and the world's second largest producer of inland fish. According to Gaidhane DM., et al (2020) Fish markets significantly contribute to food security and also in generating employments. It supports livelihood of lakhs of people. It generates direct or indirect employment to them, thus, improving economic status of the people.

The fisheries segment recognized as a powerful income generator as, on the one hand, it stimulates the growth of several minor industries and, on the other hand, provides cheap and nutritious food. It plays a vital role in the socio-economic life of thousands of people directly or indirectly involved in it, as it allows for a source of occupation and income to millions of rural farmers, particularly women (Welcomme RL., et al, 2010 & He L., et al (2016).

Fish market is a place where the fishes and fish products of commercial importance are marketed. Regulation of fish production and consumption through sale is known as fish marketing by Shammi and Bhatnagar, (2002). Hatte V., et al (2015) suggested Domestic fish marketing in India holds a huge potential and is highly unorganized and unregulated. It has long been neglected for various reasons and serious efforts have not been made on marketing of fishes as compared to its production.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out at Aurangabad district (Maharashtra) from September 2022 to December 2022. 2 main fish markets were selected for analysing the data. Present study was carried out in order to know the market development, Equipment used by the sellers, species composition, demand of edible fishes, price structure and women participation by using (PRA) method suggested by Chambers (1992). 20 fishermen from each market were selected for the interview and data collection.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two main fish markets were present in Aurangabad District i.e. Chhavani market and Mondha market. Chhavani market is open only on Thursday while Mondha market is open only for Sunday. On the basis of local demand, six species have been observed in these markets. During the survey, fish species such as *Catlacatla*, *Labeorohita*, *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Tilapia mossambica* and *Clarius batrachus* were discovered in both the markets. In this market, the price of fish varies slightly between summer and winter. In the present investigation, it was observed that the month of August was the most populated. Some species were found in August but were absent in other months, whereas others were found in all months. Seasonal changes influenced body length and weight. The changes could be attributed to a decrease in the availability of food materials for fishes in the nursery pond during the winter season. It

could also be due to the very low temperatures during the winter months, as temperature affects the fish's basic metabolic rate.

3.1 Market Development

The Chhavani market has a special building facility, but the Mondha market does not have as such. Fishermen and fish sellers have set up temporary roofs, plastic bags, and gunny bag sheets to protect the fish. Similar observations were noted by (Ganesh Kumar et al., 2008) that compared to the achievements in fish production, the fish marketing system is very poor and highly inefficient in India . Based on present findings the enhancement of the current fish market structure and provision for government and private funding assistance to fishermen and fish farmers in order to improve fish quality and fish marketing is necessary for improving existing fish market.

3.2 Market Equipment used by Sellers

Fish sellers mostly used knives to cut the fish and scrappers to remove the scales, as well as a wooden platform for cutting and filleting. None of the vendors in both the markets were found to be using a refrigerator or a cold chamber at the market.

3.3 Species Composition

While investigating the market it was observed that the species sold in fish market were *Catlacatla*, *Labeorohita*, *Cyrinusmrigala*, *Tillapiamossambica*, *Clariusbatrachus*, *Ctenophryngdon Idella*, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* and *Channa punctatus*. Indian major carp dominated the market followed by exotic carp and other fishes. As most of the fishes are catch of Harsoolsavangidam , similar observations were noted by More. P., et al(2018) who reported the same species from Aurangabad District. Shinde .S .,et al (2009) reveal the occurrence of 15 fish species belonging to 3 orders, 4 families and 12 genera. The order cypriniformes found dominant with 11 species, followed by perciformes 3 species and siluriformes with 1 species from Harsool Savangi Dam of Aurangabad.

3.4 Price Structure Of Various Species

Species prices vary greatly depending on availability, freshness, and condition of the specimen being sold. According to Alam et al., (2010) influence of market structure, species quality, size and weight in price of fish. Larger fish are generally more expensive than smaller ones. During our study of the fish market, we also discovered that larger fish fetched a higher price than smaller fish. Himmatnagar fish market relies on various species, fish size, and freshness condition to sell in market. Similar results were obtained Vala .S.R .,et al (2020).

3.5 Participation of Women

It was observed that many women selling at Mondha Naka Bazar who did not get the moral support from families hence women's full participation and empowerment in the fisheries sector must be widely recognised and supported by effective support systems is needed in Aurangabad district . Women are involved in a variety of fisheries activities, including culture and capture. Female fishermen are mostly seen selling fish and crabs in both markets in the Aurangabad district. NeyeraSolano .,et al,(2021) reported that the contributions of women to fisheries are often invisible, ignored, and unrecognized even though they represent 47% of the global fisheries workforce, especially in pre- and post-production activities. According to Waikhom (2016) Review on women involvement in fisheries sector reflects that despite their contribution in the fishing sector, women’s operations are often small-scale and their incomes are low as compared to those of their male counterparts. They face various constraints, including suitable technology credit and finance problems, a lack of training, inadequate markets and transport problems.

Average price (Per Kg) of fishes in both the markets :

Sr. No	Fish species	Fishspecies selected on demand	Size in (Kg)	Chhavani Market	Mondhanaka Market
1	Indian Major carps	<i>Catlacatla</i>	1	180-200	160-180
		<i>Labeorohita</i>	1	180-200	150-160
		<i>Cirrhinusmrigala</i>	1	160-180	120-150



2	Exotic and other fishes	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	1	200-220	180-200
		<i>Tilapia mossambica</i>	1	100-120	120-150
		<i>Clarius batrachus</i>	1	240-250	120-160
		<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	1	150-200	160-180
		<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>	1	150-200	160-180
		<i>Channa punctatus</i>	1	60-80	50-80

It was observed that Mondhanaka market is more affordable as compared to Chhavni Bazar. Prices of fishes show variations depending upon size and availability of season. Similarly Deshmukh D. R., et al (2014) It was found that, marketing costs including handling and transportation of big size fishes are comparatively higher than that of smaller of fishes. The fluctuation in prices of fish is very high because of the uncertain in production of fish, perishable nature and variation in supply of fishes.

IV. CONCLUSION

While analysing both the fish markets Chhavani bazar is having better infrastructure as compared to Mondhanaka bazar which needs to be develop in future. Modern storage, processing, and packaging technologies shall be incorporated to develop the both markets.Improvements to sanitation, hygiene, drainage, washing facilities is needed.

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