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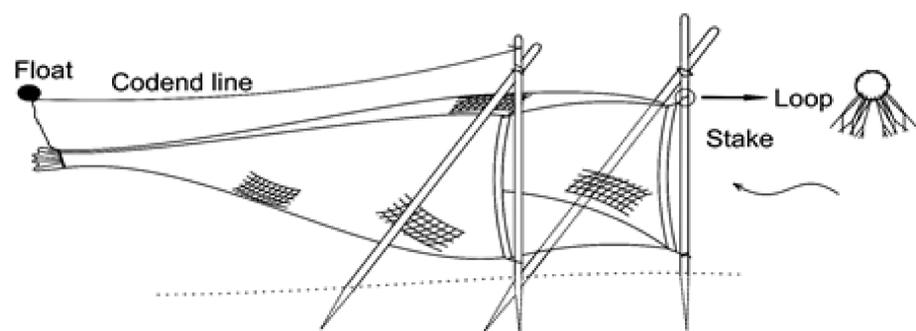


Introduction

- Women play a major role in stake net operations in Kerala.
- Stake net (Oonni vala) is a conical bag net (non-selective gear) set in streams and tidal waters mainly to filter out shrimps and small finfishes that are swept along with tidal currents.
- Stake nets are kept in linear sets or series, each set being known as Padu or Oonipadu.



- Another major activity is the involvement of women (post harvest) in sorting of fish which includes removal of debris, species and size wise segregation; drying and marketing of dried as well as fresh fish.
- Fishing operations are carried out mostly in evenings extending to late night till early mornings (anthikettu, pulararchakettu).
- Women and children do the sorting of the catch, even during the late hours.
- When Daybreaks, they started doing marketing in local markets.



- Stake net fishery is perhaps one of the fisheries in India having ownership for women also.
- Stationary bag nets and stakes (Oonipadu) were received by daughters as dowry.
- Nowadays inheritance is mainly through male lineage and passes it from father to son/daughter.

Objective

To categorise the activity of women into pre and post-harvest operations in stake net fishery along Aroor fishing village of Alappuzha district.

Material and Methods

- Case study was conducted along Aroor, traditional fishing village, Alappuzha district, Kerala in the context of very little documentation on this subject.
- Survey was conducted for collecting the primary data through structured performas.

Results

- Stake net fishing system follows many traditional customs and procedures for fabrication/installation, operation and maintenance.
- Under the pre-harvest activities, women are engaged in preservative treatment of net by using indigenous technical knowledge.
- They prepare a decoction of tamarind seed (*tamarindus indica*)/bark of kalasu (*Lamnea coromentilica*)/ panachikka (*Diospyros malabarica*) etc, and immerse the net for 24 h, which they believe will improve the strength and longevity of netting materials.
- This treatment is repeated every two to three months.



Conclusion

- Although women play a pivotal role in stake net fisheries, their participation is not recognized or it remains imperceptible and considered to have no real value.

References

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