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Topic of Research: Development Models and Fisherfolk in India: A Comparative Study of Kerala and Gujarat

Abstract

The study analysed development of marine fisheries sector and marine fisherfolk in Kerala and Gujarat by examining the efforts of the state such as modernization of marine fisheries, legal and institutional framework for its management and welfare measures for the marine fisherfolk. In both states development of marine fisheries has been initiated by the central government as marine fisheries is a shared responsibility between central and state governments. Later, both Kerala and Gujarat have taken forward the developmental interventions in different directions. The analysis of legal and institutional framework for marine fisheries and fisherfolk in both states reveals that Kerala has tried to follow a development strategy which gives equal emphasis to the development of the sector and welfare of marine fisherfolk. Whereas in Gujarat, focus of the state is on increasing marine fish production rate rather than the social development of its marine fisherfolk.

An empirical analysis of marine fisherfolk in Kerala and Gujarat by collecting data regarding their livelihood pattern, economic conditions, educational and health status indicate that both these acclaimed models of development in India could not address the issues of marine fisherfolk and their multidimensional deprivation effectively. In both states, marine fishing communities are vulnerable to unstable livelihood, natural and occupational hazards, poor economic status, low educational status, poor hygiene and sanitation, low standard of living and disparities within the communities.