

COMMUNITY BASED SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY IN THE COASTAL ZONE OF ORISSA, INDIA

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Orissa is a coastal state along the east coast of India and is bestowed with a long coastline of 480 km in length and important coastal resources. Population pressure in the coastal zone of Orissa in the last few decades has led to conflicts in the use of coastal resources, poor socio-economic conditions of the dependent community and their minimal involvement in coastal zone management efforts. Therefore, in the present study a modest attempt has been made to evaluate the socio-economic conditions, demographic composition, educational and health status of the fisherman community of the south Orissa coast. The study area encompasses some base line villages along the coastline of south Orissa and mostly inhabited by fisherman community, which depend on marine fishery and other coastal resources for their livelihood. The study method includes field survey, interview, questionnaire, sampling, census schedule, case studies and further critical analysis of observations and statistical analysis of data. The study depicts a clear picture of the population, marital, educational, occupational, health, economic, political and socio-cultural status of the fisherman community. It is observed that the socio-economic status is not sufficient for their sustenance as the population pressure and traditional technology are its characteristics features. The educational and health facilities are hopelessly inadequate for a friendly co-existence between people and the nature. The study suggests various strategies and solutions to create sustainable socio-economic conditions in the coastal zone, which are also sensitive to environmental limitations.