Warm Greetings to the Chair & Participants of **GAF 5**

from



Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) Cochin, India

.....the first State Fisheries University of India

ON THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE OF "KADAKKODI" (SEA-COURT) IN MALABAR REGION OF KERALA: EXPERIENCE FROM FOUR COURTS OF KASARGOD DISTRICT

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Fisheries sector of India

109 Wayanad (Wynad)

Kozhikode 🕡

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TamilNadu

Malappuram Thingen Coimbatore

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Palakkad (Palghat)

Romaniadam

Kerala- Scenario

Ernakulam

18 July Kit

Micatellet

Costine

Kottayam

Pathanamthista

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Distance .

The second

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- Presence of the Western Ghats
- Rich in aquatic resources
- 44 rivers and 53 reservoirs
- Several interlinked backwaters

All these make Kerala unique in the fisheries map of the country

Contd...

- Area: 38,863 Sq.km
- Districts: 14
- Total population: 334.06 lakhs
- Coast line length: 590 km
- Exclusive Economic Zone: 0.36 lakh sq.km.
- Continental Shelf Area: 0.39 lakh sq.km.

Fisheries Sector

- Fishermen population: 10.07 lakhs
- Active fishermen Marine: 1,97,921 Inland: 36,983 Allied workers: 74,141 (59,194 W+14,947 M) Women involved in active fishing: 3,405
- Fishermen families: 1,18,937
- Traditional fishermen families: 1,16,321

Fisheries sector contd.

Fish landing (2012-13) Marine: 5.31 lakhs MT Inland: 1.49 lakhs MT Oil Sardine is the most abundant fish Fishing Harbours: 11 Marine landing centres: 25 In-land fish landing centres: 9 Marine fishing villages: 222 In land fishing villages: 113











Problems in the Sector

- Facing social backwardness
- Resourcelessness
- Poverty
- Illiteracy
- Indebtedness to money lenders and traders
- Poor health
- Periodical exposure to natural calamities

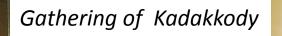
Objectives of the study

 To investigate the purpose and functions of 'Kadakkodi'

To analyze the efficacy/deficiency of the system

To look into the gender perspective

"Sea Court" locally called as "Kadal Kodathy" in Malayalam language further shortened as "Kadakkodi" is a local community-based judiciary system, functioning among the coastal fisher folk in the Malabar Coast of Kerala.



This system is believed to have a history of more than 500 years and is still prevailing in some of the regions of Kasargod District with varying levels of effectiveness

Structure

Temple Ministers (Sthanikar) : Karmikal & Narthkanmar

Karmikal: 4 nos.

Kannan Karanavar: 1 Kari Karanavar: 1 Panan Karanavar: 1 Kuppa Karanavar: 1

Narthakanmar: 9 nos.

Ayathar: 4 nos. (Muthothi, Ilothi, Kandothi & Dandothi) Velichappad: 2 nos. (Vishnu & Gulikan) Kutakkaran: 1 no. Kadavan: 2 nos.

Total: 13 nos. (no woman in the team!)

Temple Ministers (Sthanikar)



Karmikal



The different units of Kadakkodi presently active in Kasargod District are Kasargod, Keezhoor, Kottikkulam and Bekkal and enact the rules and regulations followed by generations and enforce them carefully to ensure the fair distribution of benefits to various sections of resource users

Types of disputes

- Social issues
- Disputes on assets
- Family issues
- Fish-catching and marketing related issues

Materials and methods

- Information collected using a structured questionnaire.
- Temple Ministers were interviewed.
- Temple records were referred.
- Interacted with public including women.

Data analysis

Simple statistical tools like mean and percentage were used in data analysis.

Kasargod Kadakkodi (2004-2013) Total: 57 cases Family conflicts: 28 (49.1%) Anti-social activities: 26 (33.4%) Disputes on assets: 14 (24.6%) Fishing and fish marketing: 5 (8.8%)

Keezhoor Kadakkodi (2004-2013) Total: 72 cases Family conflicts: 4 (5.6%) Anti-social activities: 54 (75.0%) Disputes on assets: 2 (2.8%) Fishing and fish marketing: 12 (16.7%)

Bekkal Kadakkodi (2004-2013) Total: 25 cases Family conflicts: 8 (32.0%) Anti-social activities: 11 (44.0%) Disputes on assets: 4 (16.0%) Fishing and fish marketing: 2 (8.0%)

In Kottikkulam, the judiciary role of Kadakkodi is no more active and the court system has changed into mere *Karayogam* where the Temple Executive Committee mainly concentrates on the conduct of temple rituals including the annual festival

New initiatives..

Sea courts associate with local women for:

- Environmental protection
 - Against sand mining
- For marine turtle conservation

Conclusion

- The system is prevailing as a tradition in a small pocket of the Kerala coast.
- The future of the system is unpreductable.
- No measures have been taken to protect the gender concerns by incorporating women members (they say it is not practical to have women as the activities are temple related!).
- The women of the area got interviewed report that the system is running-FAIR.

Thank you all!!

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