



**SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF SMALL SCALE
FISHERY IN KOGGALA LAGOON SRI LANKA**

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ABSTRACT

Small scale fisheries in Sri Lanka make an important contribution to the livelihood, protein nutrition, and food supply as a developing country. Koggala lagoon in the Southern province of Sri Lanka was selected as a study site due to lack of published research work in this regard. The objectives are studying status related to socio-economic of small scale fishermen, constrains of small scale fishery in the study area and to recommend optimal management strategies. Fifty fishermen were interviewed using pre-tested structured questionnaire by using a convenience sampling method from January to May 2021. The sample size was selected from five areas in order to scatter around the lagoon. Primary data and secondary data were collected from personal interviews and field observations, past research articles respectively. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze data. According to variables of fishermen information, 100% male fisherman represented in the area. 52% were middle aged fishermen, 36-50 years old. 84% of fishermen were married. 40% fishermen educated up to grade ten. According to job-related variables, 48% fishermen had 16-32 years' of fishing experience. 42% fishermen had a monthly income range between LKR 20,001- LKR 30,000. 36% fishermen had hired work as an alternative income source other than lagoon fishery. According to information about family, 45% fishermen had medium size family include 4-5 members. According to the study, constrains that related to livelihood were increasing tourism activities, decrease vegetation coverage area around the lagoon, increase illegal fishing activities and increase crocodile population based on questionnaire survey. The Study revealed that most fishermen partially depend on fishing. Results proved they had the satisfactory wealth condition, according to monthly income even though lagoon condition became poorer based on the survey. Based on currently studied constraints that related to livelihood urgently need for conservation of Koggala lagoon sustainably, while enhancing fishermen's livelihood.

Keywords: Small Scale fisherman; Koggala; Coastal Fishery; Socio-Economic Status