

A NOVEL APPROACH TO DEVELOP METHODOLOGY FOR SOCIAL WORK IN MARINE SECTOR

RAHUL MV

Master of Social work, Centre for Postgraduate Studies in Social Work, Calicut University Sulthan Bathery, Kerala

Abstract

Literacy and awareness in the fisherman community is to be developed and also to the people of our whole world should be educated to solve the problems. There are many fields which is to be developed in Social work. Currently there is only community organization branch in social work to develop the coastal area regarding the conservation of Marine sector. But now it is the time to develop a new branch of social work to develop this area, it is Marine Social work. It will help to make a massive change in the development and also reduces the problems in the coastal as well as marine field. The economic sustainability and national security can be improved.

Keyword: Marine, Social work, Ocean Literacy, Environment, Conservation

1.INTRODUCTION

Oceans are the lifeblood of planet Earth and humankind. They flow over nearly three-quarters of our planet, and hold 97% of the planet's water. They produce more than half of the oxygen in the atmosphere, and absorb the most carbon from it.

No matter how far from the shore that you live, oceans still affect your life and the lives of your families and friends, classmates and colleagues.

The air that you breathe, the water you drink, the food you eat, the products that keep you warm, safe, informed, and entertained — all can come from or be transported by the ocean.

About half of the world's population lives within the coastal zone, and ocean-based businesses contribute

more than \$500 billion to the world's economy. Historically, we thought that we could never take too much out of, or put too much waste into, the oceans. The sheer number of people who use and depend on the ocean, and the sometimes unwise practices we adopt, have created problems such as overharvest of resources, reduction in biodiversity, and degradation of marine habitats and species, among others. We risk the very ecosystems on which our survival depends.

It is recognized from the study that most of the people from our present generation do not know about the ocean. Ocean is the part of the world which gives many resources to live. We think that, we get the oxygen to live from the trees and plants in the land only. But it is irrelevant fact. One- Third of the oxygen used by the human being is from the Ocean. That is 60-80% of oxygen is produced by the phytoplankton, kelp, and algae planktons of the ocean. These plants produce oxygen as a by-product of photosynthesis. Ocean helps the human being in the form of economy, socially, medicinally, etc. Ocean is unexplored. The social work has a broad future in the conservation of sea. Social work is blind without considering this field.

Literacy and awareness in the fisherman community is to be developed and also to the people of our whole world should be educated to solve the problems. There are many fields which is to be developed in this branch. Currently there is only community organization branch in social work to develop the coastal area. But now it is the time to develop a new branch of social work to develop this area, it is Marine Social work. It will help to make a massive change in the development and also reduces the problems in the coastal as well as marine field. The new ocean policy on ocean conservation should be developed for the healthy ocean ecosystem. We should have a global coordination to conserve and

sustainable use of the ocean. The economic sustainability and national security can be improved only by the education about the ocean. The society should be educated in the field of ecosystem, transportation and trade facilities, climate change, medicine, etc. This can be possible only by the help of the professionals. It is the social workers who can help them to aware about the ocean and its values.

2.OBJECTIVES

- To develop new methodology for connecting social work in marine field
- To review on the coastal and marine geography of the Kerala coast through fisher's traditional knowledge
- To ensure the community level participation of fishermen in this process
- To validate the applicability of traditional knowledge of fisher folk in social work
- To understand the trend of emerging models of effective social work in marine sector
- To comprehend the trend of fishing practices among the costal populations in Kerala

3.METHODOLOGY

The coastal geography and the biodiversity of the Kerala coast are very diverse in terms of soil type, landscape, flora, fauna as well as people inhabited in. Visibly, the terrain of the Kerala can be divided into three as South, Middle and North, with regards to the geography. The diversity in coastal Biogeography also reflects on the Seabed morphology. Owing to this reason, the fish folk of the above mentioned three parts of Kerala has developed their own methodology for fishing and allied activities. Such diversity in the geography has developed myriads of livelihood practices that suit the environmental condition of that particular coast. Among them Hook and line fishers are the most skilled, where other fishing practices are list as Shore seine operation, net fishing, trawl fishing, purse seine fishing, mussel collector , chunk collectors, harpooning and so on. Hence, automatically the fishing crafts and gears also show diversity accordingly.

As all the communities have been developed with respect to the environment where they inhabit, the

fishing community reveal the connection of their cultural, social, economical aspects with the features of the coast and nearby ocean they live in. According to their livelihood their language (colloquial) is developed. For this reason, a social worker in the marine sector must be well aware of the coastal biogeography, the coastal linguistics as well as the fishing practices of the particular area where he is supposed to work in.

4.CONCLUSION

This effort to develop a new methodology for connecting social work with marine sector reveals that a single methodology cannot be made applicable throughout the Kerala as the diversity in the Geography is directly depended developing the culture and livelihood of the community.