

**LIVELIHOOD OF WOMEN AT THE
KASIMEDU FISHING COMMUNITY:
UNVEILING THE REALITIES OF RISK**

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1.1 ABSTRACT

This study explores the often-overlooked realities of women in the Kasimedu fishing community, a critical yet underrecognized contributor to Tamil Nadu's fisheries sector. Drawing on primary data collected from 80 women through surveys and interviews, the research examines the socio-economic status, livelihood patterns, and specific vulnerabilities of fishery and non-fishery women from fishing families. Findings reveal generational shifts in occupational engagement, educational disparities, heavy dependence on informal credit systems, and significant physical and mental health burdens due to the labour-intensive and unstable nature of their work. Despite their foundational role in sustaining the fisheries economy, women remain excluded from key policy benefits, face structural neglect, and are left vulnerable to social stigma, drug-related community decline, and climate-induced livelihood risks. This study underscores the urgent need for gender-sensitive, community-informed policy interventions to ensure safety, dignity, and sustainability in coastal livelihoods.

Keywords : Kasimedu, Fishery women, Socio-economic status, Livelihoods, Risks, Vulnerabilities, Safety, Gender-sensitive policies

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