

A Review of the Present Status of Fishermen's Co-operatives of Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The fishermen's co-operatives of Sri Lanka were established to address specific problems of the fishing community. From the inception there were ups and downs of the fishermen's co-operatives and a field survey was carried out to assess the present situation and appraise the facts relating to failure and success of the movement. The main activity of many co-operatives was confined to providing credit. Some of the co-operatives were performed supply of fishing requisites, undertake saving and provide welfare facilities to its members. However, none of the co-operatives were engaged in fish marketing which is essential to safe guard its membership from middleman. Also, attitudes of members were not favourable to the development of fishermen's co-operatives. That was an outcome of structural, socio-political and governmental policy changes in the formation of fishermen co-operatives. For a better fishermen's co-operative movement enactment of comprehensive legislation is required. Moreover, in the formation of co-operatives bottom up approach should be followed. Also, fishermen's co-operatives should play a major role towards community based fisheries management.

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