



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

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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. 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. 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.

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 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.

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. Social work has a broad future in the conservation of sea and the coastal communities. Social work is blind without considering this field.