

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DYNAMICS OF FISHING COMMUNITIES IN THE MIDDLE STRETCH OF RIVER GANGA

ANURAG SINGH, BASANTA KUMAR DAS*, SHREYA BHATTACHARYA, PIYASHI DEBROY,
GITASHREE THENGAL AND PRANAYA KUMAR PARIDA

The middle stretch of the Ganga River has historically been a vital fish production zone, supporting millions of riverine fishers and contributing significantly to local economies. The study, conducted in 2022-23 using a mixed-methods approach, covered 1,082 km across 135 fishing villages in 25 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. A total of 351 fishers were interviewed to assess their socio-economic status, fish catch data, and the challenges they face. During the summer season, Varanasi recorded the highest fish catch per boat at 2.69 tonnes, followed by Kaushambi with 2.45 tonnes, in Uttar Pradesh. The average monthly income of fishers was ₹8,430. The study highlights ongoing challenges such as low literacy, pollution, and destructive fishing practices. Strengthening gear regulations, promoting sustainable methods conserving fish stocks, and supporting community-based fisheries management are essential to improve livelihoods. These findings offer key insights for policy interventions aimed at empowering Ganga fishers and enhancing their role in nutritional security.
