

## Distribution analysis of per capita fish consumption among the tribes of Wayanad

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Kerala is a significant fish-producing and consuming state of India. The fishing industry is important to the state economy. About 1.58% of the state GDP is contributed by the fisheries industry. The state has an elevated fish consumption of nearly 30 kg (NSSO, 2014). But the pattern of fish consumption is not distributed evenly all over the state. Based on the availability and preferences, the fish consumption pattern varies among the regions of the state. The coastal and marine regions are found to have a higher fish consumption than that of the hilly land-locked regions of the state. Wayanad is a landlocked district of Kerala, which has a higher tribal population and data on the fish consumption patterns among the tribes is scanty. The wholesale and retail markets in Wayanad receive fish from the marine landing centres of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh. Minitrucks were commonly used to transport low-value fish such as sardines, mackerels, and tilapia from wholesale and retail markets to the tune of about 100 kg/day of iced marine and freshwater fish on average. (Shyam et al., 2020). The current research was conducted by ICAR-CIFT, Cochin, to investigate the fish-eating patterns of the tribal populace as part of the WorldFish Project. The stratified probability proportional sampling technique was devised to investigate the fish consumption habits of the district's 200 selected tribal households. (Joshy, et al.,2020).

Based on the study 45.5% of the individuals consumed fish once in a week and the per capita fish consumption of the observed tribes was revealed as 1.03 kg/month, less than the state average of 2.5kg/person/month (Sajeev et al.,2021). Most respondents (78%) belonged to an age group of 26-50 years and 78% of them were females. About 84% had 3-6 members in their family and 51% had a primary level of education. The majority (72%) were labourers and 10.5% were dependent on agricultural activities for their livelihoods.

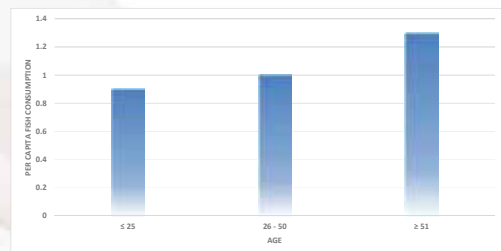


Fig 1. Distribution of per capita fish consumption vs Age

The per capita fish consumption of fish differed with age. The age groups below 25 years were found to consume 0.9 kg/month, 25-50 years age group about 1kg/month and 1.3 kg for the age group above 51 years indicating that the fish consumption rate was higher for the age group above 50 years and less among the younger age groups.

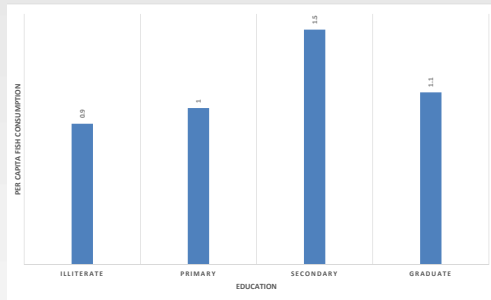


Fig 2. Distribution of per capita fish consumption vs Education

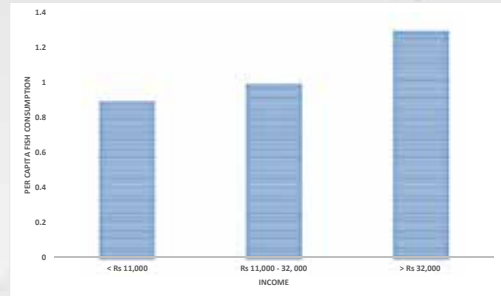


Fig 3. Distribution of per capita fish consumption vs Income

The consumption rate of fish based on the education was assessed and a higher consumption rate was observed among the respondents with a secondary level of education (1.5kg/month) followed by graduate (1.1kg/month), primary (1.0kg/month) and illiterates (0.9kg/month). Especially when they have at least primary education, their consumption rate does not vary much from the average per capita fish consumption.

The income of respondents unveiled that the consumption rate of respondents increased as the level of income increased. The per capita fish consumption of respondents with an income rate of above Rs. 32,000 was found to be 1.3 kg/month and those with income below Rs. 11,000 and Rs. 11,000 - Rs. 32,000 was found to be 0.9 kg/month and 1 kg/month, respectively. According to the study of Devi Prasad and Mahadevi (2014), the family income influenced the purchasing behaviour of fish among the respondents. The higher the family income, the higher the portion of fish purchased among the individuals and the average household consumption of fish was 2.86 kg per month. The enquiry also examined the significant factor to consume fish as the freshness of the fish purchased. The study concluded by indicating fish as the highly appreciated food in all income groups mainly due to the easiness in their availability, affordable price, taste, and nutritive value. It was already indicated in a study that age is one of the socio-economic components contributing to fish consumption preferences (Can et al., 2015). The demographic and socio-economic factors determine the fish consumption preferences of the respondents.

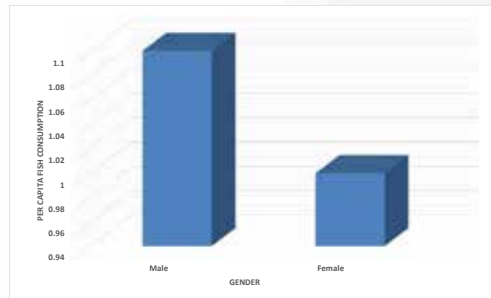


Fig 3. Distribution of per capita fish consumption vs Gender

Based on gender, the result showed that males had marginally higher per capita consumption (1.1kg/month) when compared to that of the surveyed females (1.0 kg/month).

## Acknowledgement

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