

A comparative study of marine fisher-folk census 2005 and 2010 of Puducherry

D. Pugazhendi

Madras Research Centre of CMFRI, Chennai

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute regularly undertakes **Marine Fisheries Census** for all the maritime states of the country. Based on the census report of Puducherry a comparative study focusing mainly on population, fishing villages, landing centres, sex ratio, religion, BPL, education and occupation was carried out for two census period viz. years 2005 and 2010.

The Union Territory of Puducherry comprises of four coastal districts namely, Yanam, Puducherry, Karaikal and Mahe with coastline extending over 45 km.

Population

The fisher-folk population has been recorded during 2005 and 2010 as 43028 and 54627 respectively. The average family size slightly increased after five year period and average person per village has considerably decreased in Karaikal district where as

in the other three districts it increased significantly. The adult population of male and female have increased by 0.3 and 3.3 % respectively and both male and female children population evenly increased to 29 and 25% respectively (Fig. 1.).

Landing Centres and Fishing Villages

A total of 28 and 40 fishing villages were recorded during 2005 and 2010 respectively. Though the number of fishing village has increased over the period the number of landing centre decreased by 1, making a total of 25 during 2010. In Yanam district fishing villages increased 6 times over the period followed by puducherry district increased by 2 time. Though 10 fishing villages have popped up in the Yanam district there is no single landing center recorded. Puducherry and Karaikal district landing centre sizes increased and decreased by one each respectively, and Yanam district has no landing centre by losing one centre over the 5 years.

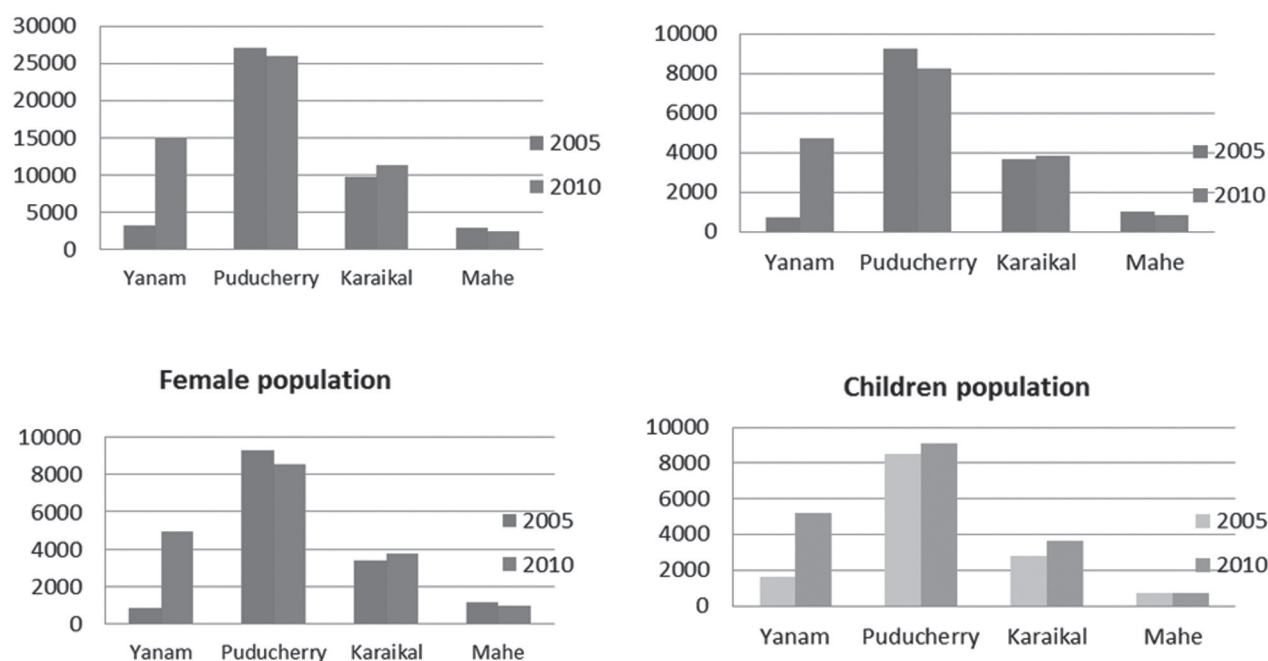


Table 1. Fishing Villages, Landing Centres, family size, total population

District	Landing Centres		Fishing Villages		Fishermen families		Fisher-folk population		Average Family Size	
	2005	2010	2005	2010	2005	2010	2005	2010	2005	2010
Yanam	1	0	2	12	775	3754	3218	14893	4.15	3.97
Puducherry	15	16	15	17	7513	7088	27047	25892	3.60	3.65
Karaikal	9	8	10	10	2858	3077	9858	11294	3.45	3.67
Mahe	1	1	1	1	395	352	2905	2548	7.35	7.24
Total	26	25	28	40	11541	14271	43028	54627		

Sex Ratio

In the year 2005, average female to male ratio was 980. The Mahe district has the highest value of 1114 and the Karaikal district remained last with a value of 936. The average sex ratio in 2010 was 982, and the highest and lowest value remained same after 5 years. There is closer to perfect ratio in the Yanam district with a rated of 1007 in 2010.

Religion

The people belonging to Hindu religion families constituted 99.2 and 99.7% in 2005 and 2010 respectively. The Christian and Muslim families had been moved down marginally. The SC/ST population have decreased by 27% over the period. The Yanam and Puducherry districts got more SC/ST population and 97% families migrated to Yanam and Puducherry districts.

Membership

In 2005, about 63% adult fisherfolk have membership in fisheries and other co-operative societies where as in 2010 the adult fisherfolk having membership in co-operative societies increased by 8%.

Below Poverty Line

The latest survey reveals that 77% of families fall below poverty line. The Yanam district acquired disfavor status of first place with 96% followed by Puducherry 73% and Karaikal 67%. In 2011-12, a general survey reveals that 9.7% of population are Below Poverty Line (BPL) in Pondicherry despite Govt. of India estimates for in 2011-12 was 21.9% by Planning Commission adopting Tendulkar Methodology.

Education

Literacy shows decreasing unschooled strengths in 2005 and 2010 as 37% and 32% respectively.

Primary education decreased by 8% whereas higher secondary level increased by 3%. On the whole literacy level decreased by 6% (Fig 2.).

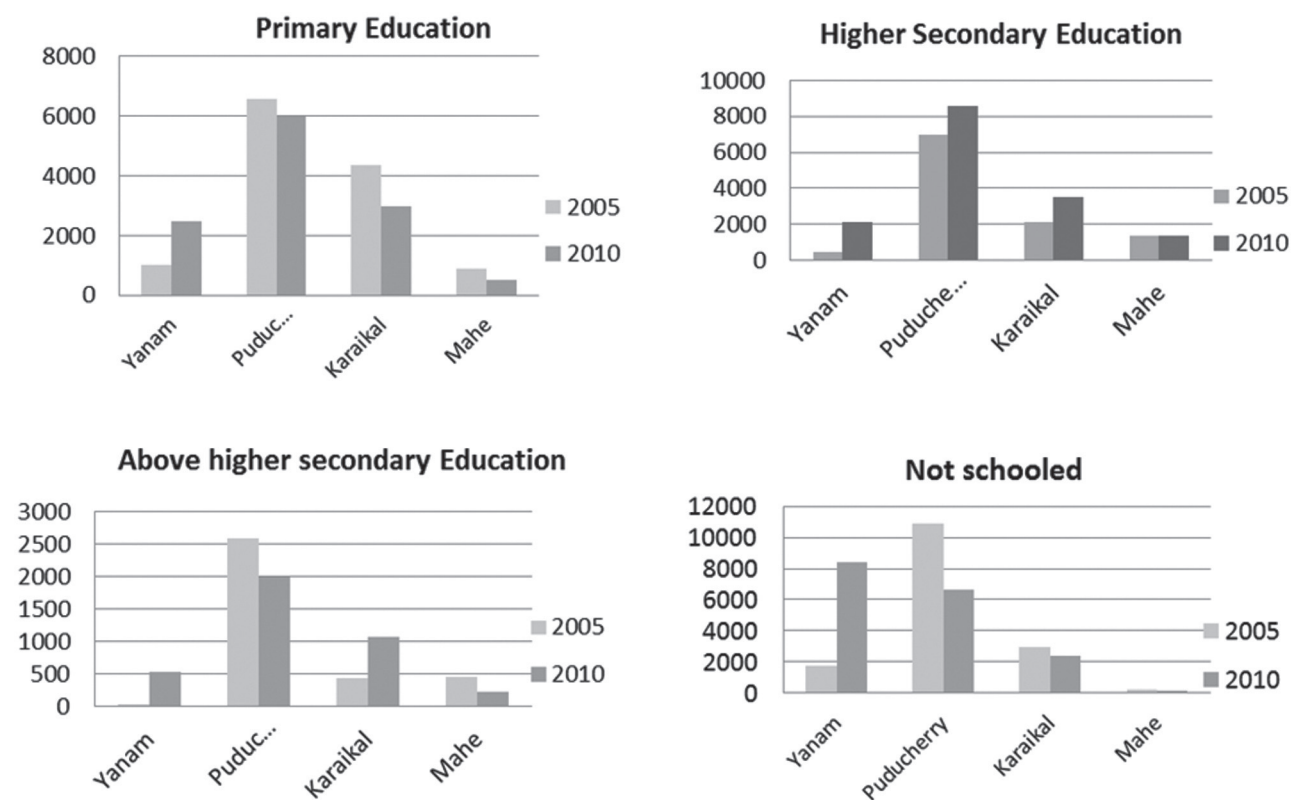
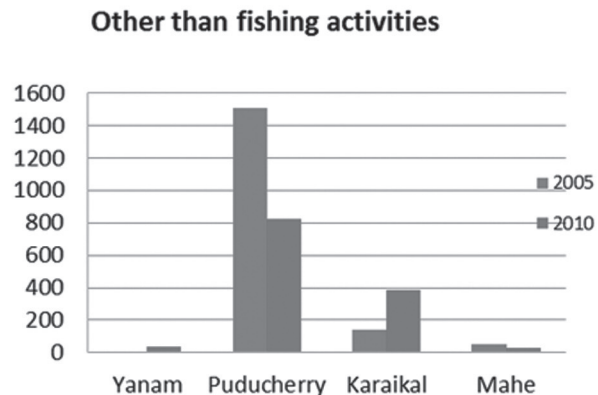
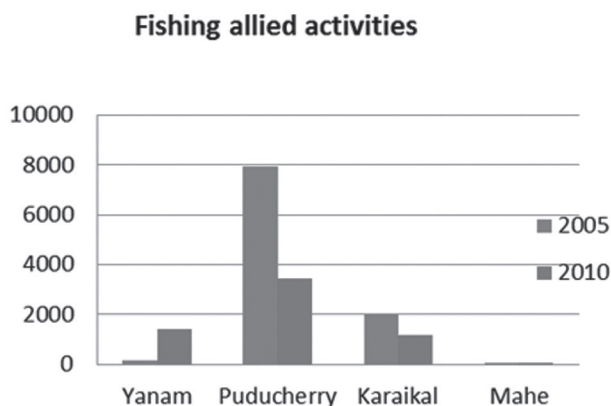
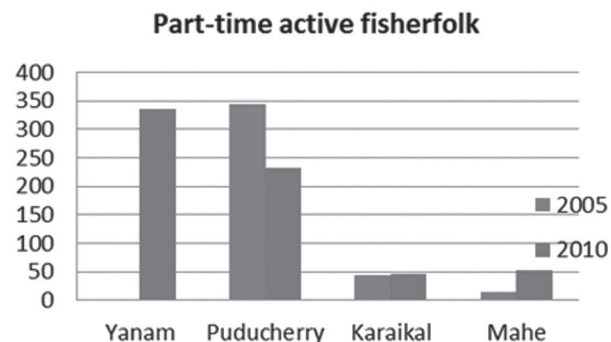
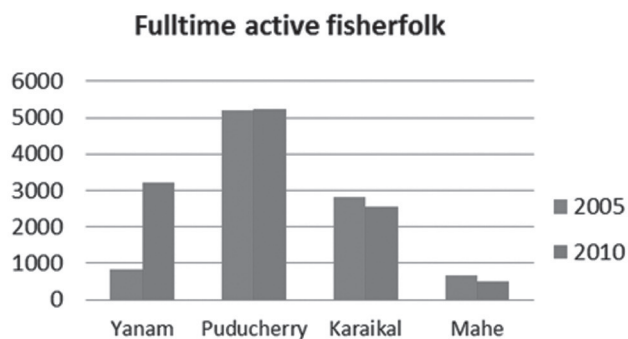


Table 2. Male, Female and Children population distribution

District	Male Adult		Female Adult		Male Children		Female Children		TOTAL	
	2005	2010	2005	2010	2005	2010	2005	2010	2005	2010
Yanam	751	4714	845	4975	823	2707	799	2497	3218	14893
Puducherry	9247	8253	9312	8559	4447	4909	4041	4171	27047	25892
Karaikal	3678	3870	3401	3764	1413	1903	1366	1757	9858	11294
Mahe	1021	858	1180	992	353	341	351	357	2905	2548
Total	14697	17695	14738	18290	7036	9860	6557	8782	43028	54627

Table 3. Occupation details of fishermen in various districts

District	Full Time Fishing		Part Time Fishing		Fishing Allied Activities		Other than Fishing	
	2005	2010	2005	2010	2005	2010	2005	2010
Yanam	818	3217	0	336	145	1390	0	33
Puducherry	5208	5247	343	233	7956	3417	1505	821
Karaikal	2804	2547	44	47	1980	1192	143	387
Mahe	673	499	14	52	14	11	49	30
Total	9503	11510	401	668	10095	6010	1697	1271



Occupation

The full time fishermen density over the periods increased from 92 to 94% and the same trend continue even in part time by 2%. Of the total fishermen population, the active full time and part time fishermen increased by 21 and 66% respectively. The fisher-folk to engaged in allied activities such as marketing, repairing/making nets, curing/

processing, peeling, labours and other related activities drastically decreased by 40%. The deviation from fishing activities shows favorably that 421 fishermen returned to their traditional line of work by 25%. The Puducherry and Karaikal fishermen have more trustiness on their own industry by engaging 85%. The ratio of other than fishing was decreased by 8% over the periods.