**REIMAGINING THE GOOD CITY FROM ENNORE CREEK**

Interview Transcription

**Interview Information**

Interviewer/s: V. Gajendran and Raju K and Durga M.

Place of interview: Mugathuwarakuppam

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Transcription by: VKM

**Interviewee Information**

Name: Anonymised

Pseudonym: R1

Question: My name is Gajendiran. We are doing a project about livelihoods of fisherman, People and fisheries, and particularly we are doing an interview about Prawns and crabs. So Saravanan told about you regarding this. We will ask some questions to you on this subject!

Question: Where this Prawn available in much quantity?

R1: you mean the place where prawns got produced?

Question: you can tell about the both places.

R1: **Kandacheri or Alayathikadu or** Mangroves where the prawns are hatched in large quantity, there they lay eggs later hatched, and based on the water current the young prawns will come out that is the growth cycle of Prawns. After they came out where there is much water current is there they will stay and grow.

Question: So in Mangroves Prawns are hatched in much. So Prawns won't hatch in any other place?

R1: in other places they won't hatching much, wherever they hatched! If they hatched in Mangroves, they will grow fast.

Question: In general Prawns live at what depth in the sea?

R1: As far as in this river concerned, current depth is four or three feet only.

Question: oh! The river depth is only four feet only!?

R1: the depth was more than ten feet even up to twenty feet in earlier now the river depth is decreased to four to five feet to maximum six feet by **Manal, Seru, and Sagathi**. During rainy season due to the increase of Lake water level will also increase the river depth somewhat to 12-15 feet.

Question: you told earlier ten to twenty feet of depth level, how many years before this level of depth the river had?

R1: Some 30 to 35 years before that level of depth this river had.

Question: Did you remember it?

R1: yeah, i was started my profession at that time itself. I was started to go to river at very young age seven.

Question: Can you tell us about those times?

R1: **"Athu oru kalam, eppavumae varumanam irukkum"**

Question: in these four to five feet depth we can catch prawn easily but in those days the depth was ten to fifteen feet, so how you are catching the prawn?

R11: in those days prawn growth, production and income all are good, we don't have to go inside to catch prawn we can catch it from river bank. Inside the river ten to fifteen feet depth will be there and in the river bank four to five feet will be there. What we will do was we used to build the barrier (Thadukku) inside the river and kept it in the river bank. So we will get much prawns blocked by the Thadukku, we don't have to go inside the river to catch the prawns. The quantities of prawns were much in those days, so we used to get them in the river bank itself.

Question: so when the depth was high did you went to the mid of the river to catch the prawns?

R11: yeah, we used to catch the prawns that time itself. We have separate net to catch the prawns in depth water. We can't use all kinds of nets in that depth water. We used to plant specific net for it,

Question: for which?

R11: for Palla paguthi or sunken area, in river bank side we use sticks and in mid of the river we use big rod like 20 to 22 feet length. Rod length is based on river depth. It is like stick but bigger then we use net to catch the prawns.

Question: For that period, will it be larger than this room?

R11: Yes, it will be larger than this.

Question: Will the net be large enough for that?

R11: Even now we have that kind of net for that kind of purpose.

Question: Rod means which one?

R1: Red colour.

Question: Thadukku means?

R1: Plastic nylon, for Thadukku holes will be larger in size, for net the wholes will be smaller in size.

Question: what is the difference between fishing Net and Thadukku?

R11: it is based on the Prawns, why we are putting **Thadukku** because the barrier will block the prawns and so they will come to net, prawns won't come directly to the net. That is the purpose of using the Thadukku.

Question: by what prawns are blocked and came to net?

R1: By the Thadukku which planted by us. Shall i draw it and show? See! if this is river bank we used to plant one plastic Thadukku here, same like here one barrier will be planted then for the next net we used to block the Thadukku, after that we used to fold the Thadukku then we used to put the fishing net same like first one with one Thadukku. Like that we will put the fishing net; if we can only put three fishing net then we will put the barrier in the river bank from this side to the other side. This is river, so what Prawn will do is, they will come straight and won't go beyond the Thadukku and eventually come to this net side. If suppose the prawns moved to that side will blocked by that Thadukkus and come to this net side. Even if Prawn goes to river bank side they will come to net. Prawn can't escape.

Question: so this is one side of river and this is another side of the river, so Prawns are blocked by the Thadukku and ended in net. Is this sea?

R1: No this is back side of the river, this is mid of that river, and how can I say! If you went to kalanji, from kalanji to this house is forest, we each one have card, totally around 62 boats are here. If one member goes others wait behind him until steps taken.

Question: So you people won't do fishing in Mugathuvaram?

R1: Nope, we can't use this Net, because this net is not suitable in Estuary.

Question: so this net is not suitable for waves of estuary, you didn't catched prawns in the estuary?

A: i told you earlier that we used to catch prawns by using the large size twenty feet size poles with that net i told. But we can't catch the prawns in all the time.

Question: why we can't catch the prawns all the time?

R1: Prawns won't stay there.

Question: why Prawns are not stay there?

R1: Prawns won't stay in the wave, in moderate flow of the water prawns used live there.

Question: so prawns used to live in moderate flow of water?

R1: if water is flow in speed Prawns won't live there. During rainy season how people are catching the prawns in the sea! You may ask how prawns used live in the much water flow of the sea! During the rainy season we can't catch the prawns in the river, because water flow will be high and speed, we can't use the net in all places, only we can use this net in several places. So in these situations prawns used to leave to sea. There is no prawn production in sea. So prawns are going from river to sea. So when prawns are going to sea! What people will do was, there are places where muddy, rocky and soil places are there, in muddy places prawns were used to live more and become grow well based on the water flow and speed. In river we can get smaller or medium size prawns but in sea we can get large size prawns because in sea prawns growth is good.

Question: so you are telling that prawns are used to grow good in salt water than the fresh water? As you said during the rainy season you won't catch prawns in the river?

R1: During rainy days also we used to catch the prawns, but not much income. But we can't use this net in all the time.

Question: So at that time what kind of net you use in rainy season?

R1: during the rainy season we use **Adaippu valai or Thoovi.**

Question: How that net looks like?

R1: The thread of that Net is stronger that this net which has small thread. So in much water speed we need that kind of strong net, otherwise the net will torn.

Question: how you using that net?

R1: just imagine this is river. We can't use this net in Long Distance River. We can use the net in the narrowest place because in such place river water flow will be in high speed so prawns will take to there. This is river we used to plant the pole here. Here one knot, here one knot, here one knot, down side one knot, here one knot, here one knot. So this net will become to this position. Did you seen launch net!?

Question: Nope, i haven't seen such net.

R1: This pole will come like the launch net. In long distance this pole will become like this. So here in this place the knot is like **surukku**, for instance if this is water flow the prawns will come to this side. All the prawns will stay in so what will do is, we used to lift and take it into boat and release the prawns into water again. We won't remove the pole.

Question: Pole means you shown straight line like that it will be positioned right? Here one and here one tying the net in the mid of the pole right?

R1: yeah, in the mid and down side of the river bed also we used to tie the net. That river bed is around 15-20 feet depth. In all the poles we used to go down and press it down without any gap in the centre. So how the net looks like, the net will be like this.

Question: What you call this net?

R1: we used to call it as **Adaippu valai or Thoovi**.

Question: you told fifteen feet depth, do you will go by swimming into that depth? Will all people used to do it or only some people will do?

R1: all people in the village will do that, they know that method, for that kind of net that is the only method no other alternative method. We have to swim into the water and have to do, if we use the net from the boat the net will get damaged, because the water flow will be very much. We can't use the net in all the places. Where the river is in narrowly condition in that area water flows will high speed, so in such places if we put the net there the prawns will come to this side.

Question: in general where you will put the net! Is there any particular place is there

R1: in opposite side of **Kamaraj** port harbour, there is a gap that is the important place where we used to catch the prawn; we used to call in main **patal**.

Question: What you call the place?

R1: **Kaldurai padal** or main **padal**, where there only we use that **Thoovi** net. After that subaralam padal is also important place to catch the prawns, then jallikuli then Peratha Bridge. In all these four places where we use the particular Adaippu valai.

Question: so this Adaippu valai used only where river is lengthy and big? Is this is Thaduppu valai or thoovi?

R1: This one is suthuvalai.

Question: in single padal you people use all three nets or in different places you use different nets?

R1: in one Padal not three nets, they used to put even five nets or six nets. It is based on the place where how many nets that place need.

Question: so this three nets are belongs to one padu team? Even they put five nets, whatever they got in those five nets its belongs to that day padu team?

R1: There are places to put five nets and six nets. At the same time during the rainy season you can add more nets place where four nets were used in normal days.

Question: Anna you told about some narrowingly four padus just before, did you catch prawns in all these places in a day by your team (padu) or matri matri poduveengla?

R1: nope. For each person one place will be there. We can't catch the prawns in four places by single person. i told earlier that in 62 padus one by one turn will come, in that day whoever will get their turn for that place they will go to that padu, other persons don't have rights to put pole there.

Question: you told that prawns are grown in Mangroves where they lay eggs and grow and in muddy places, is there any other places where prawns used to thrive well?

R1: muddy places and Mangrove prawns used to grow well. Prawns are used to live in river and sea bed only; they won't stay in up water. During the time of changes of water flow (neerottam) only prawns used to come to water that time we used to catch the prawn.

Question: when that water current will change?

R1: when water becomes dry. During the time of high tide and low tide, in that fluctuations prawn will to come to up water.

Questions: Do prawn used to come to up water in high tide or low tide?

R1: In both tides prawns used to come to up water it depends on the season. Do you know a kachayanal (season of wind) we can catch the prawn. During full moon and no moon day water flow or kadal seetram will be high that time we used to go to little bit to this side and catch the prawn. Interchangeably (mathi mathi) will do that.

Question: in which season you will get more prawn?

R1: During rainy season only, because during the time of rainy season, chillness in the water will increase. When atmosphere is changed in the habitat of prawns they used to come out. That time growth of prawns will be good so we also earn much in rainy seasons.

Question: how much is the life span of prawn? Prawns starting their life in Mangroves in small size and after they went out to sea they will grow larger in size. So totally how long it will take to grow?

R1: we can't tell like that because we won't check the prawns like that. We can't tell the growth of prawns.

Question: For instance you are going to river and saw that the prawns were little in size so you decided that after two months you want to catch it like that am asking?

R1: we won't decide like that! Whether the prawns are small or larger in size or whether we are getting prawns or not getting it. All doesn't matter; in that day our turn to go to that particular Padu we have to go that is it, because next day another person have to go there to catch the prawns.

Question: in which month you people will get well grown prawns in the river?

R1: In the month of November. In November and December month prawns will be in well grown.

Question: in which month you will get little size prawns?

R1: we can't tell exactly like that, but after the November and December the growth of prawn is less.

Question: So in November and December you will get well grown prawns!?

R1: until January we used to get well grown prawns after that prawns growth will be less and we used to get minimum income too.

Question: At which period you used to get very less prawns?

R1: During the months of February and March.

Question: What about in the month of May?

R1: Normal amount of prawns we used to get.

Question: what about the difference between summer and monsoon periods, does it affects the growth of Prawns?

R1: That is not a problem. Wind is important for the growth of Prawn. Based on season wind flow will change. For instance this two months only kacha wind will flow after that wind flow will change. vadakathu will come. During vadakathu will get less prawn.

Question: So during kachan kathu you will get more prawn than in other season?

R1: yeah.

Question: You told just before that during monsoon water flow in the river is high so we could not able to catch the prawns in the river, so they will leave to sea right?

R1: in that time we used to catch prawn in the river too. But we can't catch much prawn in that time because we can't use this net in all the places. i told earlier right we use adaippu valai in those places not this suthu valai. It will take away by water flow can’t stand against the water flow. So in this gap we can only catch the possible amount of prawns. Remaining prawns will go to sea.

Question: So you used catch prawns in sea too?

R1: That is different net. We won't go to sea. We used to go to only river.

Question: So in general you only go to river to catch the prawn not to the sea right?

R1: yeah, that is my Traditional occupation. One or three persons are here; they used to go not all other used to go to the sea for catch the Prawns.

Question: Anna as you told what kind of prawns you know?

R1: Kotra (Karuppu era, Vellai era, samakka era, valicha era that is all.

Question: Can you explain how each kind of prawn looks like?

R1: Karuppu era is in black colour with lines. vellai era is white colour and bigger in size. valicha era is uyir fasta irukkum; samukka era is very small in size.

Question: All these prawns are produced here only or they came from some other places to here?

R1: prawns are produced in our area, if they produced in some other place means, may they come via Pazhaverkadu i think. Prawns used to come from there but not that much level.

Question: What i heard was during the monsoon time, from Andhra side used to migrate to here?

R1: Not like that, In Anthrapradesh they have Prawn farms form there prawns used to come here. There is no chance that prawns from river they won't come here but they catched them by thaduppu.

Question: So you are catching the prawn from Kosasthalaiyar not in Ennore river?

R1: Ennore River only from Pazhaverkadu to this area.

Question: which prawn kind is bigger in size?

R1: Kotra (black prawn) that is bigger one and the price is 500 INR Per kilogram; White prawn is 300 INR per kilogram. samkka prawn will goes 150 INR in demand season, or it will go 70INR per kilo in non-demand season. Valicha prawn is 200 to 250 INR per kilo.

Question: So as per you kotra is the good price selling prawn right?

R1: But that Kotra (Karuppu prawn only get two to three kilograms in Normal season. But in Monsoon time 10 to 15 kilo you may get, we won't depend on one particular kotra. we need all other three kinds of prawn will give the income of that kotra so that is enough for us.

Question: So you are not going for fishing just for kotra but for Vellai prawn and Valicha prawn you are depending regularly?

R1: yeah, we won't get Kotra prawn regularly, if we got kotra it may around one or maximum 2 kilogram that is all.

Question: Are you telling this on this particular season or earlier days?

R1: Am telling about all days.

Question: You told the price, is that price is for Elam or selling price to the people?

R1: In Elam price and selling price are different.

Question: What prawns feeding on?

R1: insects and worms in the soil.

Question: is there any particular worms you know?

R1: Veyil nakkupoochi. it will be inside the soil, that worm used to come up to water to eat that time prawns used to eat them.

Question: So generally Prawns are eating the worms and insects?

R1: yeah,

Question: which species are feed on the prawns?

R1: Prawns are eaten by keluthi, fish and snakes are used to eat the prawns.

Question: what kind of snakes are there in?

R1: Puli pambu, sena pambu are used to eat the prawns. keluthi used to eat lot of the prawns.

Question: what kind of fishes are more in the habitat of the prawns?

R1: Keluthi and madavai. Madavai fish mouth is very small so they can't catch the prawns.

Question: So big moth fishes used to eat the prawns most right, is there any other fish which used to eat prawns?

'R1: Snake and keluthi used to feed much on prawns.

Question: So as you said prawns are only live more in the Mangroves and muddy places or manal places?

R1: In Manal places only valich era will be there. They won't live much in Muddy places.

Question: Then what kind of prawns used to live in Muddy places?

R1: Vellai era, samukka era and kotra in Muddy places.

Question: So does this prawns are live in Mangroves or live near anyother plants?

R1: hmm, There are many plants are here. we used to call kanda sedi and etc. Prawns used to choose and live in shade places.

Question: So doesn't these prawns are used live in sunny places?

R1: They used live in sunny places in the water but not in the sunny places of surface. Prawns used to choose the shade places there they will reproduce, lay eggs and hatching eggs then spread to muddy places.

Question: so prawns used to live near to lay eggs right?

R1: yeah.

Question: Do we can see the Prawn egg?

R1: we can't see now, Prawns eggs look like jelly fish. inside that egg prawn fry will be there.

Question: Some people told that Prawns used to come only is night time, so at what time prawns used to come out and hide themselves, like during full moon and no moon day?

R1: During the time sun set, prawns used to come out, since from that time to until 3 to 3:30 am we can catch the prawns.

Question: So Nacha thanni and vellai thanni and all no problem?

R1: No issue, in all time after the sun rise we can't the prawn.

Question: So prawns used to come outside only in the dark time?

R1: yeah.

Question: Does these Prawns used to migrate from one place to another?

R1: Yeah.

Question: From which place to which place it will go?

R1: From Pazaverkadu to this Ennore area Prawns used to migrate.

Questions: Why Prawns used to Migrate from Pazaverkadu to Ennore? Do they migrate along with river flow to sea?

R1: Prawns won't go that side, this side water flow so this only they will come. Prawns won't migrate beyond the Pazaverkadu.

Question: so Prawns used migrate along the river water flow?

R1: yeah.

Question: Is there any impact on prawn availability and growth in crescent moon and waning moon days or full moon and no moon days?

R1: During the time of Full moon and no moon day’s water flow will be high because wind flow will vary in those days that time prawn availability changes.

Question: Anna you told that only in night time you used to catch the prawn but not in sunny time?

R1: during noon time we won't get prawn, for instance in night if we get 1000 rupees of income in noon time we only get 100 rupees of income. For that 1000 income we have to spend 300 rupees but if we got only 100 rupees means it is loss for us right!

Question: Are you going to catch the prawns by boat?

R1: yeah.

Question: Is there any other alternative method to catch Prawns?

R1: By kattumaram people used to catch prawns by Visiru valai and also people who used to catch the prawns from river bank.

Question: Which area people are they?

R1: Sivanpadai veedhi area people used to catch prawns from the shore.

Question: oh! Then SivanPadai veedhi people won't come in boat to catch the Prawns? they only use visiru valai?

R1: We won't give them Padu. Since from the beginning we it was like that.

Question: if they don't have padu, can they catch fish anywhere, at any time?

R1; they can catch anywhere and at any time.

Question: Padu means, in a specified place and specified time you people are fishing, but sivanpadai veedu people don't have padu?

R1: They can go anywhere and at any time to catch prawn. They will only catch in river bank not inside the river.

Question: so padu means inside area of River not the bank?

R1: yeah. Padu means the inside place where we used to put our net.

Question: so those who using the Visiru valai catching the prawns in river bank and there is no specific time and place for them right?

R1: They can catch wherever they want.

Question: why that is like that for Sivanpadai veedhi people?

R1: There are totally six villages here but only two villages Kattukuppam and Mugathuvara kuppam only have Padu since earlier times it was arranged like that. we won't touch the sea water. Whatever the issue arise in the river we both villages used to manage it. we had managed many issues here, so we both villages fought for these Padu earlier.

Question: Do you know when this fight was happened?

R1: it was happened in my grandfather time.

Question: Did you hear anything about that fight?

R1: This people asked the padu, in those times Uppalam was here, people paid fee to that Uppalam. So they asked like we paid fee and all in those days and all other people agreed that we don't want Padu

Question: Why they paid the fee to uppalam?

R1: From upplam contractors were taken salt and selling it out, one time contractors banned the fishing for that we paid the fee to get the fishing place.

Question: so through this river sea water used to go to uppalam, so in this situation contractors were stopped the fishermen, so you people paid the fee for fishing?

R1: That time river was very clean enough to take salt.

Question: So ungalukku ninaivu therinja apdi irunthirukku?

R1: yeah. it was clean

Question: can you tell little bit about the clean river like how was its look like?

R1: the river was very pure and clean. if you put one rupee coin in the river you can see it clearly. Now industries came, bridge was constructed so river is become seru and sagathi and black in colour. There is huge difference in soil those days and now.

Question: when the river was clean did you went to river for playing and all?

R1: yeah, we used to go to river to take bath in summer season of my school days. we won't take bath in the sea because river was so clean in those days.

Question: How you used to go to river with all your friends?

R1: i used to go as group with all my friends.

Question: were you go by boat to river?

R1: No! We used to take bath in river bank, we all know swimming. At the age of 7 or 8 we used to learn how to swim.

Question: Is there any swimming competition in river conducted here?

R1: Yearly once. During the Pongal we used to conduct swimming, boating and kabadi and other sports events we used to conduct.

Question: So what are the rules and conditions for the boating competition?

R1: Boating means not in big boat, earlier we used to conduct the competition in country boat but now we don't have any of that. now we are using kattumaram for the completion. only three persons are allowed in each boat, two persons for rowing the boat one person is to have to hold the Rudder or sukkan to navigate the boat in straight. around some 10 boats will be there. it's depends on how many boats are participating.

Question: Did this year boat competition happened?

R1: yeah.

Question: where it was held?

R1: in Ramathulli.

Question: From this side of the river to that side?

R1: From that side to this side boats have to come. then only we can see them from here to see who is coming first. if the boats going from this side to that side we can't able to see them there right.

Question: Do they going by paddling from here to there in straight?

R1: Straight they will come from there to here.

Question: By paddling means they will reach here by within five minutes right?

R1: five to ten minutes they used to reach,

Question: but usually boating competition took longer distance ride?

R1: we don't have that much facility. from the river to bank is only 100 meter distance only they will reach within five minutes.

Question: Did you participate in the boating competition?

R1: yeah, even this year i was participated in the competition but i got fourth prize only.

Question: How many times you won as first?

R1: when we used the country boat in the competition, i won first prize. in country boat we six to seven people used to go like three person for each side and one person for corner. But now the boat is small in size so only three persons.

Question: That boat is fibre boat right?

R1: yeah.

Question: Can you tell us story about the winning in the boating competition?

R1: Early once it is happening, if we won we will get prize. and that moment we used to be happy for winning prize among all other boats. up to one year people used to tell that this guy boat won the prize. After that if next year someone win the first price, people used to talk boastfully about the winner.

Question: is there any competition you won with much struggle?

R1: Kabaddi and cricket i participated and won in swimming competition.

Question: What prize you got for winning in the swimming competition?

'R1: Here Tiffin box and hot box like that they used to give. we can't expect Trophy kind of prize here. it is simple in village.

Question: Swimming competition means from where to where have to swim?

R1: From here to that building is the limit, we usually held like that but we won't get time.

Question: So that competition conducted across the river?

R1: yeah, then only people can see the swimming event.

Question: so along the river competition used held?

R1: Mid of the river where depth is up to 10 feet have to there otherwise participants used to get hurt while swimming, so swimming competition used to occur in the depth place.

Question: so participants used to swim from boat?

R1: No, participants used to taken by boat and drop them in a place. They stand in after the whistle all will dive and swim.

Question: Did children also participate in the competition?

R1: Small children participated a lot.

Question: Anna you told about Padu, where is beginning and end of the Padu now and what the beginning and end of the padu earlier around 30 years before?

R1: Even 30 years before the padu was same as like now.

Question: So do you still fishing in the same padus?

R1: yeah, in all padus we are fishing now.

Question: Did you fishing beyond the kattukuppam?

R1: Yeah, kattukuppam beyond there is Ettiyas or ETPS there we used to catch fish, but now that place is not good completely become muddy (seru agiduchi), if one person went in the water up to his thigh full of seru. we can't do fishing there.

Question: At last which year you people did fishing there?

R1: before 15 years we did fishing there.

Question: So you were fishing there 15 years before but now tottally abandoned the place right?

R1: yeah.

Question: Anna the Prawns catched by you, how you will sell it, Does it sold by yourself in the market or you used to sell to sellers?

R1: We have the rule and auction for our Village ooru. For instance if we sixty persons gone for fishing each one will give a share to Village Basket (ooru koodai), remaining prawns are taken for auction usually for 1000 rupees to 1500 rupees they will bidding in auction. around some 30 to 50 women used to participate in auction and they know the worth of the Prawns. if anyone giving more prise to the prawn in the auction like some fifty rupees extra from1000 to 1050 they will get the prawn and they used it sell it at extra 50 rupees in the market. Almost 70 % used be sold. Already i gave my share to that ooru koodai right! same kind if from fifty persons they gave share to that ooru all that ooru kodai share will collectively sold in auction and that money taken for ooru.

Question: So after you people return from padu all people belongs to that padu shared the prawns and then you will take your koodai to the auction?

R1: i used take it separately the prawns i catched.

Question: But going to fishing in padu means you people go as in group of five of six people right?

R1: No, i used go alone with one helper. i usually share the prawns into three shares; one share for me, one share for boat owner and one share for helper. if we got 1000 rupee, 100 rupees goes to expenditure, 300 rupees for me, 300 will go to boat owner and 300 will go to helper.

Question: So after you came from fishing, you used to sell to those ladies who sell it in the basket market right?

R1: yeah, they sell it in the market or some women used to selling the prawns by taking the basket in their head.

Question: so after you came from fishing you kept the prawn here, then women used to take it in Auction from you right?

R1: No, i have to arrange the auction, they will participate in it.

Question: Do other whole sellers are used to participate in auction?

R1: I didn't understand.

Question: Like some whole sales used to buy all the prawns from people and sell it in the market, like that am asking?

R1: That is called is kuthu, they used to give money to ooru karar and all the prawns have to sold to them only but that kind of system is not prevailed here. Earlier in auction also only particular quantity is we can sell it in auction. if suppose we catched more prawns here buyers won't available so we take it to Kasimedu fish market, there we used to sell it per kilogram.

Question: so if you got more Prawn you won't sell it here?

R1: yeah, directly to the kasimedu fish market.

Question: Do you catch fish by using prawn?

R1: yeah, we used to catch fish by using prawn in fishing hook as bait in the sea.

Question: Did you catched fish by fishing hook?

R1: That time was gone, you can't fish and there is no fish and fish growth in the river also.

Question: Did you give that fish to someone to eat?

R1: we used eat the catched fish and i used to give it to friends and relatives too.

Question: Did you take some quantity for your own consumption daily after you fishing?

R1: yeah.

Question: Is there any difference between the prawns you ate and the prawns you eating now a days?

R1: There are so many differences, in those days prawns were in good in taste. Now a days not that much taste. even fish also we are not eating the river fish now a days. earlier we desired to eat the river fish. That much taste the river fish, now a days we are not eating them.

Question: Can you tell about the how the Prawns taste now a days? what am asking is earlier there may be good taste and now a days chemical smell may come from prawns like that?

R11 & 2: In prawn we can't find the smell, there is no such smell. but in fish we will get compulsory smell. in Prawns there is no such smell. only thing is the taste is less. In those days people used to cook little Prawns curry with Avarakkai and Murungaikkai that curry won't be left anything that much taste it is. but now a days there is no such taste. Kadavul than vandhu aramba padi indha ottumotha campaigh oda aramba padi over than. i will take the Prawns photos for you. you people told that you don't know the kinds of prawn, so you people come Tomorrow i will show them.

Question: It was told that Ennore region become polluted much, as you said that earlier if you put coin in the river we can see it through water that much clean, can you tell about the condition of fish catching places you are going?

R1: River depth is some 100- 150 meter in earlier now it is 50 meter only.

Question: so according to you the river is become smaller and also effluents and waste water also released into the river, so because of these factors is there any impact on the growth of the Prawns?

R1: There are lot impacts prevailing, This oil water, waste water released into the water, we used to catch Prawns infront of my village but now a days we can't catch and even to see Prawns here. in front of our boat we used to put net and catched Prawns in earlier days. Now this water is mixing with sea here and that is route also so there is no Prawns production at all.

Question: So according to you there is no Prawns production in the estuary, it is vanished right. so as per your opinion what you mean by Prawns growth in terms of growth or number of shrimps?

R1: Growth and all same but Prawns population is reduced. we didn't got the income and Prawns now compared to earlier.

Question: Do you think the prawns we are catching in these places where waste water released into it in that water prawns have to grow so, does it have any impacts?

R1: definitely it will affect.

Question what kind of effects it will be?

R1: We are not catching the Prawns here now a days, so i can't able to tell anything. when we were catched Prawns here earlier nobody bought fish and Prawns from my area because prawns and fish were catched in the river at night they get skin diseases after eating it. After that we didn’t fishing here. we left this place and we went to other places for fishing.

Question: So in other places don't you people have any issues?

R1: There also problems are prevailing; there also chemicals are mixing into the water.

Question: So this Ash mixed into the water, do prawns can live in this water?

R1: Prawns won’t survive there they will dead and float in the water.

Question: So if there is toxic in the ash Prawns won't live there and die right?

R1: There won't be good Prawns production and even if there is Prawns is there they will die.

Question: So in that Toxic ash contaminated water is there any species live there?

R1: species are there but only 15% of 100 % used to be there.

Question: Are there any changes in the behaviour or Attributes of prawns?

R1: There is no speed in the shrimp.

Question: Speed means?

R1: After we took them in the boat Prawns will be active but now if we put them in the boat they toiiinuu paduthura vindiyathan. andha positive kammi agiduchi.

Question: so earlier times shrimps will be thudippa irukkum aana ippa ila?

R1: Andha thudippu adhigama irukkum. andha thannila adhvuaev namma sethae poidalam nu vandhu mattikum ippa irukkura condition la.

Question: so there is no speed and agile found among the shrimps?

R1: yeah.

Question: when you catch shrimps is there ash found inside the shrimp?

R1: We can't see inside but we know that that ash is exist in the shrimp.

Question: So you are telling that Ash and chemical will be inside the shrimp right?

R1: i told that Shrimps are feed on the river bed insects and worms, if there is any species in the ash then shrimp can survive there.

Question: so you are strongly believe that ash chemical will present in the shrimp body!

Question: You told that people are not bought the shrimp in this area, so at that time (five years before) what is your response against the people! Did you compromise them and how you adopted to the situation!

R1: we didn't go for fishing that time. We are protested much the support of Nithyanand to stop the effluent let off into the river, To some extent somehow we controlled effluent release into water. But we can't remove the already constructed bridges. we controlled the effluent up to not mixing into the river water.

Question: So you people controlled the effluent by protests to keep your income from shrimp catching? is there any story regarding the Prawns like earlier times of Prawns catching?

R1: In earlier days we not only catch the Prawns in the river also used to catch the Prawns in Buckingham canal too. There also good flow of water in Buckingham canal if we put two to three nets we can catch equal amount of Prawns of river. Now Buckingham canal is closed. Income from Prawns catching in Buckingham canal also high and in the river also high both are equal. Now we only catching Prawns in river that also bridge was constructed and our income is reduced very less.

Question: Do you think this bridge will stop the Prawns?

R1: after bridge construction there is no space for put our nets.

Question: which bridge you are talking about!

R1: For the transport in 1857 it was constructed.

Question: To oppose the Army in that big ground!?

R1: Totally six bridge was constructed.

Question: So because of this bridge construction your Prawns catching places were got affected?

R1: All are Thaduppu Valai only.

Question: Five years before you people were stopped the fishing that time what was the issue?

R1: We stopped and got stay order and all but govt was quashing the stay order and started the work.

Question: Which one it is?'

R1: That Pokkuvarathu Bridge used to call VMC bridge.

Question: So in earlier days you people were catched Prawns in Buckingham canal? do you know at which year you was catched the Prawns in Buckingham canal?

R1: Thirty years before we were catched shrimp in Buckingham canal. Until they start in the January we have catched the Prawns there only.

Question: So after the starting of Thermal power station you people can't catch shrimp in Buckingham canal?

R1: Because they started to seal or block it.

Question: why they were started to block or seal the Buckingham canal?

R1: To construct the bridge. So because of the bridge construction we can't able to protect the places where we used to fishing. When we go for fishing plant, trees are disturb for us so we used to clean it and put our net there. Now there is no facility to go there, so we can't able to monitor it.

Question: So after the construction of those bridges you people can't able to go Buckingham canal for fishing right?

R1: yeah. Fully blocked and now there is no Buckingham canal.

We will continue the interview next time. Thank you!