**REIMAGINING THE GOOD CITY FROM ENNORE CREEK**

Summary Notes

**Interview Information**

Interviewers: Gajendran V., Raju K., Durga M. and Saravanan K

Place of interview: Mugadwarakuppam, Kattukuppam, Senganimedu

Date of interview: 01 April 2023

**1. Interviewee Information**

Interviewers: Gajendran V.

Place of interview: Mugadwarakuppam

Notes by: GV

Names:

Pseudonyms: Prawn catchers 1

Had interviewed Prawn Catcher 1 from Mugadwarakuppam, Ennore to interview reading the Toxicity. We were able to complete only Prawns’ part as the respondent had to leave for ‘Paadu’ (fishing). Planned to continue in the coming days. Saravanan was able to remember the pages of a 1990's book shared by the Mugadwarakuppam community earlier and got the pictures of those pages. Community has confirmed that the book can be found and shared with us.

Later visited the Kattukuppam to meet fisherwomen for the toxicity interview. It was a kind of focus group discussion on Toxicity with the 5 women who fish (catch prawn with net) in the river; 2 women are fishing in the river currently and 3 women were fishing in the past (Prawn catchers 2 – 6). Note: according to Durga below, there were only four respondents.

Finally met women and men prawn pickers from Senganimedu and had the toxicity interview. This meeting was also a focus group discussion with 5 women and 4 men. (Prawn catchers 7 – 15). They pick prawns in the floodplains/saltpans called ‘uppangali’ next to their village. Might be a good place for story gathering as they are working in farm fields, have worked in salt pans and also pick prawns for their livelihood. Visited the ‘uppangali’ to witness the floodplain that has fair ecological value with least impacts due to industrialisation relative to other parts of the Ennore wetland.

2. Interviewers: Gajendran V., Durga M.

Place of interview: Kattukuppam

Place of interview: Mugadwarakuppam

Notes by: Durga Moorthy

Key notes from the interview.

1. Women engage in fishing of prawns- go to Paadu along with their life partner.

2. Prawn fisher 2 before 10 years would get into water and tie nets- Paadu. Prawn catcher 4 knows the engine of the boat. Women also do fish netting. Prawn catcher 3 goes to Kasimedu with her partner to sell the catch.

3. After finishing lunch they start to their Paadu and by 5 pm the kol(stick) placing and net tying will be started. Women be in the boat and watch if prawns paayum and based on the direction of the Paichal the man in the river tie the nets. When paichal happens, it gives a sound "chattuchattu" when it touches the tied net. Fishes' sound are described "bothubothu" comparatively stronger than Prawns.

4. When man harvests (valai kelaipardhu) prawns, woman removes it from the net, segregates according to type (costlier are put together), cleans it. They do this again and again. They resting between for a while. They return by 3- 4 am so that they reach Kasimedu by 4- 5 am to sell them.

5. The Kaaka azhi issue at karukkumaram paadu was mentioned prominently. The access is obstructed. Prawn catcher 4 would have fallen while trying to cross the day before yesterday.

6. Pollution- from Gulf, sewage from Central, basin bridge. The healthy nature of sediment has deteriorated- tuned black, smelly.

7. When asked if they would go alone to Paadu- karpagam (in a fun note) said "apo thaniyapaadu kekkanum".

8. Employment for both women and men was the prime need. Aaru is needed back too.