

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT
Budding Researcher's Award 2009-10

**Study on Backwater and its Implications on Livelihood: A Study
at Talainayar Block of Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu**

Author: Priyanka Batra

Abstract

This study has been framed with the objective to study the implications of backwater on livelihood. The identified livelihoods which are dependent on backwater are marginal agriculture farmers, inland fisher folk and the shrimp farmers.

The benefits that the respondents derived from Adappar backwater were generation of livelihood opportunities like aqua-farming and inland fishing. Due to proximity to backwater ground water has become saline in the study area. Thus drinking water resources were scarce in the study area. There was loss of land for grazing and agriculture practice.

The coping mechanisms adopted by the respondents have been to shift to shrimp farming, practice of inland fishing, to work as wage laborer in agriculture fields and shrimp farms, emptying of shrimp farms for a season. Migration is also a coping mechanism which is adopted by the respondents.

Keywords: backwater; coastal livelihoods; aquaculture; agriculture; inland fishing