

# **Loyola College (Autonomous)**

## **Department of Visual Communication (Shift II)**

### Guest lecture on Fisherman - Their life and Struggles

The Department of Visual Communication (Shift II) organized a webinar on 'Development Communication' for the students on 01 October 2021. The session began with a short video depicting the plight of fishermen community. Fr Irudayaraj, the head of the Department welcomed and introduced the speaker. Mr Mahesh, a fisherman was the speaker and he started by sharing the difficulties and hardships that fishermen have to endure on day-to-day basis. The lives of fishermen are full of uncertainties. They are not sure whether they will get a good catch of fish. Even if they could get a good catch, the middle men get the lion's share leaving very little amount to the fishermen. The life of fishermen is indeed a battle. They have to fight for their life on the sea. They are very assertive in nature as they constantly encounter life and death situations in life. This assertiveness in life makes them appearance a bit rough.

There are some admiring qualities found in fishermen. The fishermen community still upholds the communitarian aspect of life. One tenth of their income is given for the welfare of the village. The village administration is controlled by the panchayat system where the people are obedient to the panjayat leader they elect.

There are other problems faced by fishermen. Casteism is a predominant problem among fishermen. There are frequent communal clashes between villages. People's lack of social awareness makes them vulnerable to oppression. Due to lack of proper education, there

are many dropouts from school and they engage themselves in fishing. The fishermen are not able to meet their daily ends meet as the middle men swindle their labour because fishermen have no storage facilities. Resorts occupy the beach areas that are used for fishing. Shrimp cultivation, though provides a certain amount of income, spoils fishing resources. The policies of the government are either sometimes oppressive or the people are ignored many a times.

Mr. Mahesh beautifully shared his own experiences of being a fisherman himself. It was an interactive session with active participation from the students. The session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by John.