

ABSTRACT

Gulf of Mannar is considered as the world's richest marine biodiversity reserve. With the intervention of GEF (Global Environmental Facility) and UNDP, it has been converted into a Reserve in 1999. This has led to a ban on species bearing economic value such as pearls, seaweeds, sea grasses, coral reefs, sea cucumber, etc. and has adverse implications on the indigenous population of 25 odd villages directly dependent on them for their livelihood and nutritional needs. This includes more than 5000 women fish workers.

The aim of the study is to reflect on the intergenerational equity and trade-offs if any with intra – generational equity. The concern for intergenerational equity lies in preserving the biodiversity for future generations while intra-generational concerns arise from the need to focus on livelihoods of people, particularly women, may be affected while the conservation measures are put in place. Due to inadequate quantitative data available from secondary sources the study is review of various project reports and policy documents available on this area supported with literature that discusses the institutional arrangements dealing with such concerns.

It can be seen that there's a very fine trade-off between intergenerational and intra-generational equity. The solution it appears lies in the formation of a system of formal and informal institutions that need to be synchronized to be in synergy and increase overall institutional effectiveness and efficiency.