



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

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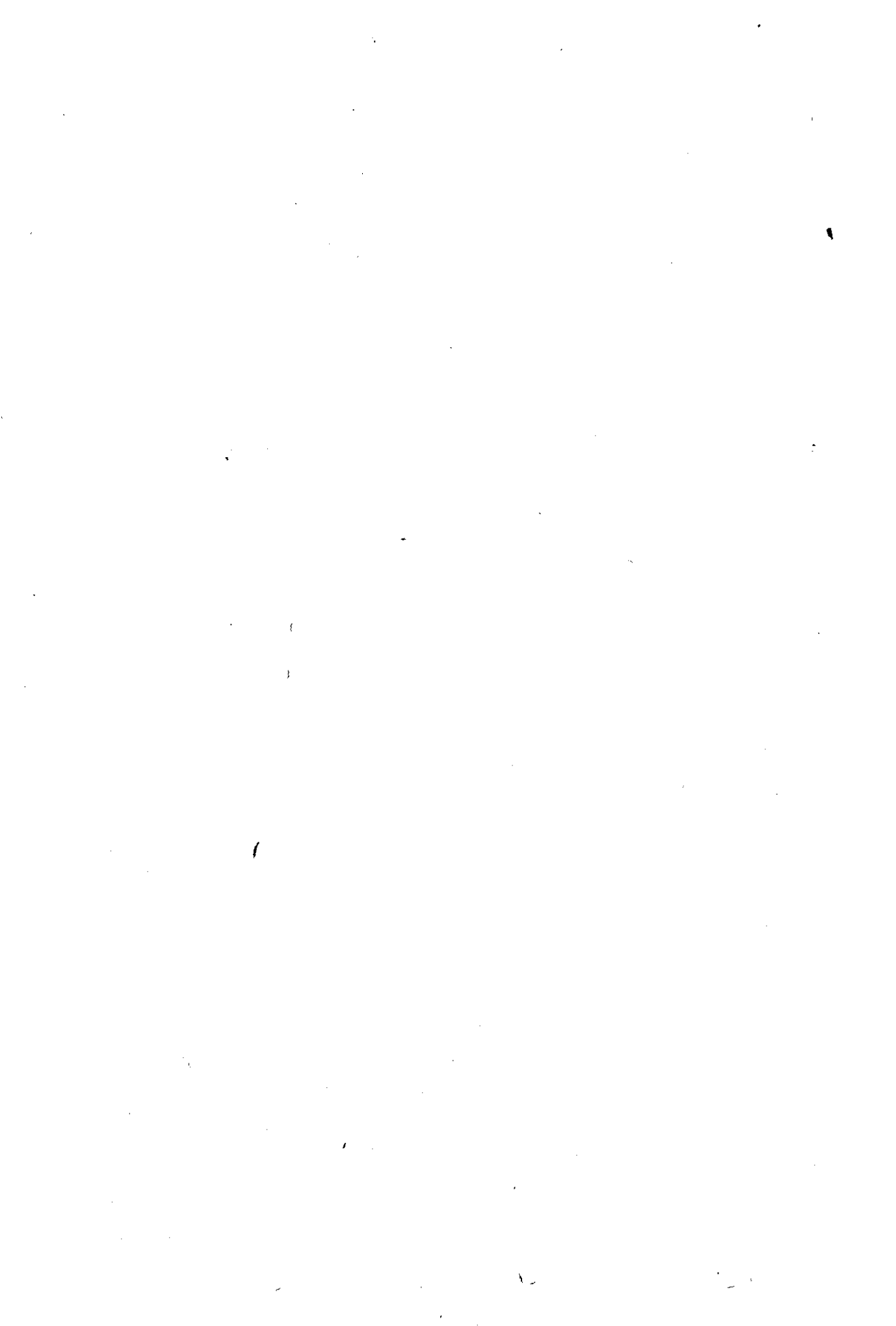
**STUDY ON  
THE ACTIVITIES OF  
FISHERMEN TRAINING CENTRES  
AND UTILISATION OF  
TRAINED FISHERMEN  
IN KERALA**

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## P R E F A C E

Mechanisation of fishing craft was found essential for the exploitation of the marine fishing resources. Centres have been established in different places to impart training to the fishermen. Smt. Lilly Bai, Manpower Officer, Fisheries Department has attempted to analyse the problems and prospects of the fishermen already trained from Vizhinjam and Neendakara Centres. It is hoped that this study will be useful to the Planners for chalking out future programmes in this field.

Trivandrum, /

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STUDY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF FISHERMEN TRAINING CENTRES  
AND UTILISATION OF TRAINED FISHERMEN

1.1. Introduction:

Fisheries Sector occupy an important place in the economy of Kerala. It is one of the most important sectors in the plan for the socio-economic development of the State. The fishery industry has enormous employment and export potential. In a deficit State, especially in food grains, like Kerala, increased fish production will help to improve the precarious food position. Also fish being rich in protein can supplement the protein deficient diet of the people.

1.2. Kerala State has a coast line of 590 km. Though Kerala State has only 10% of the total coastal line of India, marine fish landings in Kerala accounts for 23% of the total annual marine fish landings in India. The annual average landings of marine fish during the 80's have been 350939 tonnes. The total fishermen population in Kerala is nearly 8 lakhs of whom the active fishermen form about 1.62 lakhs. The contribution of the fisheries sector to the net domestic product of Kerala State (at current prices) form about 4% of the total. The average percapita consumption of fish in the State is 11.5 kg. per year. Also fish provides 70-80% of the animal protein intake in Kerala.

The first two five year plans have touched only the fringe of the problem of fishery development. With the implementation of the third plan the fishing industry of the State received great boost. The development of new fisheries operations that are economically viable. Exploitation of rich high sea fisheries in the off-shore waters, extensive prawn fisheries in the inshore belt and the realisation of the large potential in the processing and export fields of marine products and the achievements of the third plan.

Fishermen Training Programme

The mechanisation of fishing craft has been the most important single factor responsible for the development of marine fisheries in the State. Introduction of mechanised craft capable of doing fishing operations in the offshore regions was therefore found essential for the exploitation of the marine fishery resources. Foreign technical assistance has played a significant role

in the introduction and popularisation of power fishing in the State.

The Indo Norwegian Project, which was first started at Neendakara in Kerala, has been the chief agency which made the most notable contribution to the mechanisation of fishing in the State. The project started functioning in Kerala consequent on a tripartite agreement signed between the Government of Norway and India and the U.N. in October 1952. The project aimed at helping India in her economic development in the field of fisheries. For achieving the object, it was envisaged to increase production by improving the method of fishing. The programme of mechanisation in fishing industry has brought about certain special types of problems in its wake. The supply of technically trained man power capable of operating mechanised boats was the most important of them requiring immediate attention. It was therefore considered necessary to introduce a regular programme for training fishermen with a view to ensuring steady supply of trained crew to man the mechanised craft.

The fishermen training programme was conceived, designed and originated along with the mechanisation programme itself. It is a part of the larger programme of modernisation of fisheries sector in the country. Hence it exists not only in Kerala but in all maritime states of India except West Bengal. These centres started functioning first in Gujarat and Maharashtra in 1955 followed by Tamil Nadu and Kerala in 1956, with Orissa being the last in 1967.

Under the programme, F.A.O. experts were assigned to the State for organising fishermen training. Special mention may be made in this context of the services of the expert Mr. Lusyan who organised the fishermen training centre at Ernakulam which is one of the five fishermen training centres functioning in the State at present. Necessary equipments for the training were also supplied by the F.A.O. The comprehensive programme of fisheries development initiated by the Indo Norwegian Project also included the starting of a fishermen training centre at Neendakara along with a boat building yard and workshop, an Ice factory and Cold Storage and a health centre. The other three training centres are functioning at Vizhinjam, Beypore and Cannanore.

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The intention of this programme is to impart training to traditional fishermen in the following subjects.

- 1) Fishing methods and gear technology.
- 2) Fishing biology and processing technology.

3) Maintenance of marine diesel engines, principles of oceanography, Navigation and seamanship. In addition to these theoretical classes, practical classes on boat building, fishing gear, fishing crafts are also being conducted during the course of 38 weeks training. The trainees are selected by the Regional Advisory Committee concerned from among the traditional fishermen of the locality in the age group of 18 to 40. The trainees are paid stipend at the rate of Rs.125/- p.m. A sea going allowance of Rs.15/- p.m. is also paid in addition to the regular stipend when practical training is conducted. The stipend is being paid on the condition that if anybody discontinues the course he should refund the amount received as stipend. The total no. of fishermen trained, under the programme in the State, till 1-1-84 is 4586. Of the five training centres, the centres at Ernakulam and Beypore, being the oldest, have trained the largest number of successful trainees, i.e. 1193 and 1112 respectively. The centre wise percentage distribution of the trainees shows that Ernakulam and Beypore Centres have to their credit 26% and 24% of the total respectively. The year of start, total number of fishermen trained and percentage distribution are presented in the table given below.

TABLE - I

FISHERMEN TRAINING CENTRES IN KERALA

Name of Centre	Year of start	Trainees admitted	Trainees completed the course	% of distribution in each centre
Vizhinjam	1961	990	989	21.65
Neondakara	1967	601	568	12.45
Ernakulam	1956	1398	1193	26.00
Beypore	1956	1144	1112	24.10
Cannanore	1963	767	724	15.80
<b>Total</b>		<b>4900</b>	<b>4586</b>	<b>100</b>

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There appears to have been a distorted priority in the development of the training programme in the state. Neendakara which is one of the largest mechanised fishing centres was the last to have the facilities of a training centre whereas the less important mechanised fishing centre at Vizhinjom has had the centre started much earlier.

The incidence of drop out in the training programme is quite insignificant. Out of the total number of 4900 trainees admitted to the course, 4586 have successfully completed the training. The cases of drop out reported are maximum in the training centre at Ernakulam and minimum in the Vizhinjom Centre.

The centre-wise details of drop out are furnished in table II.

TABLE - II  
DETAILS OF DROP OUT OF TRAINEES

Name of centre	Trainees admitted upto 26-6-84	Trainees completed the Course No.	Drop out
Vizhinjom	990	989	1
Neendakara	601	568	33
Ernakulam	1398	1193	205
Boypore	1144	1112	32
Cannanore	767	724	43
Total	4900	4586	314

#### ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE TRAINING CENTRES

The main aim of all activities of the training centres is focussed on the economic uplift of traditional fishermen who are educationally, socially and economically backward. For the successful implementation of the training programme, the posts of one Deputy Director and one Assistant Director have been sanctioned by the Government. The administration of the five training centres is vested with the Deputy Director (Training) whose office is situated at Ernakulam.

##### 2.1.1 Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study are

- 1) To find out how far this course of training is beneficial



to them either in their profession or for seeking better employment.

2. To ascertain employment portion of the trainees who have completed the course successfully.

### 2.2. Methodology and coverage.

Out of the five fishermen training centres working at Vizhinjam, Neendakara, Ernakulam, Beypore and Cannanore, two neighbouring centres viz. Vizhinjam and Neendakara were purposively selected for conducting this study as a pilot study. 361 trainees of last five batches (ie. from 15-12-77 to 23-6-82) in the fishermen training centre Vizhinjam and Neendakara were contacted through mailed questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed according to the objectives of the study (copy given in appendix).

### 2.3. Period of study

Eventhough the study was proposed in 1983, the actual data collection could be done only in 1984 due to administrative reasons. The collection of Data was completed by the end of October 1984.

### 2.4. Limitations.

The main limitation of this study is that the findings are based on the analysis of the data obtained from only about 63% of the selected persons. The study was confined to the persons who have undergone training during the period December 77 to June 82 at two centres, viz. Vizhinjam and Neendakara, out of the five centres.

### 2.5. Field response

Out of 361 trained persons contacted, only 226 persons (63%) returned the duly filled-in questionnaire.

### 3.0. Fishermen Training Centre, Vizhinjam

The Fishermen Training Centre, Vizhinjam was established in 1961 with an intake capacity of 40 students, with the intention to impart training to fishermen youth in various subjects concerned with fishing by mechanised boats and the maintenance and repair of such crafts. Altogether there had been 26 batches of trainees till date and the training of the 27th batch is going on. The duration of the course is 38 weeks and at the end of the cours

there will be an examination both in theory and practice. From this centre 989 trainees have satisfactorily completed their training till now. The centre is functioning under the supervision of a Superintendent. The staff pattern of Vizhinjam Fishermen Training Centre is as follows:

STAFF PATTERN OF VIZHINJAM FISHERMEN TRAINING CENTRE

Category	No. of post	Scale of pay
Superintendent	1	650-1150
Technical Assistant	2	470-830
Mechanical Instructor, Grade I	1	390-685
Mechanical Instructor, Grade II	1	370-600
L.D. Clerk	1	330-515
Tindal	1	290-425
Watchman	1	280-400
Laskar	1	-do-
Peon	1	-do-
P.T. Sweeper	1	Rs. 140/-

Fishermen Training Centre, Neendakara

The fishermen training centre, Neendakara started functioning with the aid of the Indo Norwegian Project during 1967 with an intake capacity of 40 students in one batch. Training of 17 batches has been completed. There were only 18 trainees in the 18th batch. 568 trainees have completed the course till 1983. Since the staff pattern of all the training centres is more or less the same, the details of staff in this centre has not been given separately.

Result of the study

During the period under reference 194 fishermen from Vizhinjam Centre and 167 fishermen from Neendakara centre have successfully completed their course of Training. All these persons were contacted through mailed questionnaire but only 226 fishermen—110 fishermen from Vizhinjam and 116 fishermen from Neendakara responded by returning the questionnaire duly filled up.



The religion wise brake up of the fishermen are given in Table III.

Table - III

Distribution of Fishermen according to Religion

Religion	Vizhinjam		Noendakara		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Hindu	40	36.36	80	68.97	120	53.10
Xian	58	52.73	33	28.45	91	40.26
Muslim	12	10.91	3	2.58	15	6.64
Total	110	100.00	116	100.00	226	100.00

The above table reveals that more than 53% of the fishermen responded are Hindus, 40% Xians and about 7% Muslims. The percentage of xians are comparatively higher in respect of Vizhinjam centre.

The main objectives of this study are to assess the usefulness of this training programme in their profession and to secure employment for earning their bread.

The following tables give the distribution of the fishermen according to religion & the status of Employment.

Table - IV

Distribution of Employed fishermen according to Religion

Religion	Employed			
	Vizhinjam	Noendakara	Total	Percentage
Hindus	15	36	51	59.30
Xians	21	12	33	38.37
Muslims	2	-	2	2.33
Total	38	48	86	100.00

The above table reveals that only 86 persons out of 226 persons (38.05%) could secure employment. Among the employed 51 persons are Hindus 33 Christians and 2 Muslims.

An attempt has also been made to analyse the status of employed persons.

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Table - V

Status of Employed Persons

Status	Vizhinjam		Neendakara		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Employer	-	-	-	-	-	-
Self employed	2	5.26	5	10.42	7	8.14
Employee	36	94.74	43	89.58	79	91.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It can be seen from the above table that no trained fishermen was able to provide employment to others as an employer. Only 7 persons are seen self employed. Remaining 79 persons are working as employees. Among the employees 7 persons are seen employed in Government and quasi Government Institutions and the remaining 72 under private employers. Only 14 out of 86 fishermen has reported that they could secure employment in the basis of training.

Age wise distributions of trained fishermen who have reported as unemployed are given in the following table.

Table - VI

Age wise distribution of trained fishermen

Age Group	Vizhinjam			Neendakara			Total		
	Total	Unemployed	Percentage	Total	Unemployed	Percentage	Total	Unemployed	Percentage
/ 19	2	2	100.00	2	2	100.00	4	4	100.00
20 - 24	34	24	70.59	26	18	69.23	60	42	70.00
25 - 29	65	41	63.08	67	36	53.73	132	77	58.34
30 - 34	5	3	60.00	18	11	61.11	23	14	60.37
35 - 39	4	2	50.00	3	1	33.33	7	3	42.86
40 & above									
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>65.45</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>58.62</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>61.95</b>

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The above table shows that nearly 62% of the fishermen could not secure any employment even after their successful completion of the training courses. Unemployment is higher in respect of Vizhinjam Centre when compared to that of Neendakara Centre. The table also shows that chances of employment are better to older people. This may be due to their wide experience in this field. Since the percentage of unemployment is very high among the trained fishermen, there will be less interest among the people to undergo this training. In order to create interest among the local people in this programme, special efforts by way of financial and other technical assistance will have to be given to those persons who have already completed the training course, since many of them have stated that there are self employment opportunities in their profession and they are not in a position to start their own ventures due to their weak financial position.

#### Suggestions and conclusion

Large number of fishermen trained from Vizhinjam Centre have reported that there is much hindrance in the smooth functioning of the training programme due to the presence of C.R.P. men in the same building.

Many of them have suggested that the duration of the training programme should be a minimum period of one year so that the trainees will get sufficient theoretical and practical knowledge. Some of them have reported that they could not obtain sufficient practical training in the Engine mechanism, trolling at sea, Navigation etc.

It is hoped that a re-orientation of the present programme with necessary facilities for self and other employment opportunities may make the programme a success.



**തൊഴിലാളി പരിശീലനകേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ പരിശീലനം അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നവരുടെ തൊഴിൽ നിലവെക്കുറിപ്പ് ഒരു പുറം.**

ചോദ്യവലി

1. പേര് :
2. വയസ്സ് :
3. താൾ :
4. പട്ടികജാതി/പട്ടികവർഗ്ഗം അല്ലെങ്കിൽ എൻ :
5. ഉപേക്ഷിച്ച് തൊഴിൽനില : തൊഴിലുടൻ്റ്/തൊഴിലില്ല
6. തൊഴിലുടൻ്റുടെ കീഴിൽ പരിശീലനം തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള തീരുമാനത്തിലാണോ തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയത് : തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയത്/അല്ല
7. തൊഴിലിന്റെ സ്വഭാവം : കൃഷി/സ്വയംസഹായ
8. തൊഴിലുടൻ്റെ : ഗവൺമെൻ്റ് കോർപ്പറേഷൻ/സഹായ സംഘം/സ്വയംസഹായസമിതി
9. പരിശീലനം തൊഴിൽ നേടുന്നതിനു ഉപകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ? : ഉണ്ട്/ഇല്ല
- 9a) പരിശീലനം ക്ലാസ്സും കൂട്ടായ്മയും ഉപകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ? : ഉണ്ട്/ഇല്ല
10. തൊഴിൽ നേടാൻ മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഉള്ള പരിശീലനം ഉപകരിക്കാൻ തയ്യാറാണോ? : ഉണ്ട്/ഇല്ല
11. തൊഴിലില്ലാത്തതിൽ സ്വയം തൊഴിൽ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കാൻ തയ്യാറാണോ? : തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയത്/അല്ല
12. തൊഴിൽ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന സ്വയംസഹായസമിതിയുടെ സ്വഭാവം : തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയത്/അല്ല
13. പരിശീലനം സ്വയംതൊഴിൽ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കാൻ തയ്യാറാണോ? : ഉണ്ട്/ഇല്ല
14. പരിശീലനത്തിൽ എൻ്റെ കഴിവും തയ്യാറെടുപ്പും : ഉണ്ട്/ഇല്ല
15. ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന പരിശീലനം നന്നാക്കാൻ തയ്യാറാണോ :
  - 1.
  - 2.
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  - 4.
  - 5.

സ്ഥലം:  
തീയതി:







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