

## **Abstract**

'Inclusiveness' is a law of nature. Nature provides its resources to everyone without discrimination. But the distribution of man-made resources like 'financial products and services' discriminate the rich and the poor, small- ticket and big-ticket customers. High-Net-Worth Individuals are provided personalised services while the low and irregular income groups are denied even basic banking services. Financial inclusion is a universal agenda, a noble initiative to share the benefits of formal financial products and services with the less privileged ones of our society. Marine fisher households are characterised by low and seasonal income and low assets. Therefore they cannot be treated like general customers. Financial inclusion of marine fisher households and their level of financial literacy is a matter of concern. A decade of resolute financial inclusion efforts under the aegis of RBI, Central and State Governments have succeeded in connecting marine fisher households with commercial banks, but the extent of financial inclusion measured is less than the National average. Marine fisher households' financial needs are primarily met by commission agents and money lenders. The analysis reveals that unsuitability of the financial services offered by commercial banks and the low financial literacy of the fisher households as the causes identified for low penetration of financial services. A visionary approach, inclusive attitude and relationship based functioning of commercial banks backed by financial education, close supervision and accompaniment in their financial management practices would lead to meaningful financial inclusion of marine fisher households.

**Keywords:** Financial Inclusion, Financial Inclusion Index, Financial Literacy and Marine Fisher Households