Socio-economic and cultural aspects of the child-fishers in the village of Ankiembe, Toliara Madagascar

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A study on the children of fishermen in the village of Ankiembe was conducted for two months in order to understand the structure and functioning of their socio-cultural activities as well as their interventions and their role in the operation of traditional maritime fishing. Surveys were conducted at 133 households with child fishers. During this period, landing survey of pirogue with at least one child during the fishing day was also conducted for six weeks in order to understand the fishing gear and technics used. Like the people living on the coast, the children of Ankiembe participate in the fisheries sector: netting, gleaning and other children, accompany their families at sea to learn both the pirogue and the fishing proper. Beyond 14 years old, the boys become professional and devote entirely to the fishing activities. In the southern region, pregnancies and marriages of young girls are very early (up to 13 years old), which forces girls to leave school. Five types of fishing gear were found and the participation of children during the landing survey have been seen: beach seine, gill net, spear, line and mosquito net. The harpoon is the most used by children and girls thanks to its simple use and in relation to the fishing zones. Daily monitoring of the landings site has shown that on average, 90 child-fishers do fishing daily. Outside the fishery itself, child-fishers also help their parents to transport the fishing gear in their respective huts, take care of the maintenance of the equipment and sell the fishery products. From this study, it was highlighted that the marine tradition is observed among the vezo fishermen, the fishing is transmitted from generation to generation. It is therefore obvious that the attachment of vezo fishermen to their trade is indisputable.