

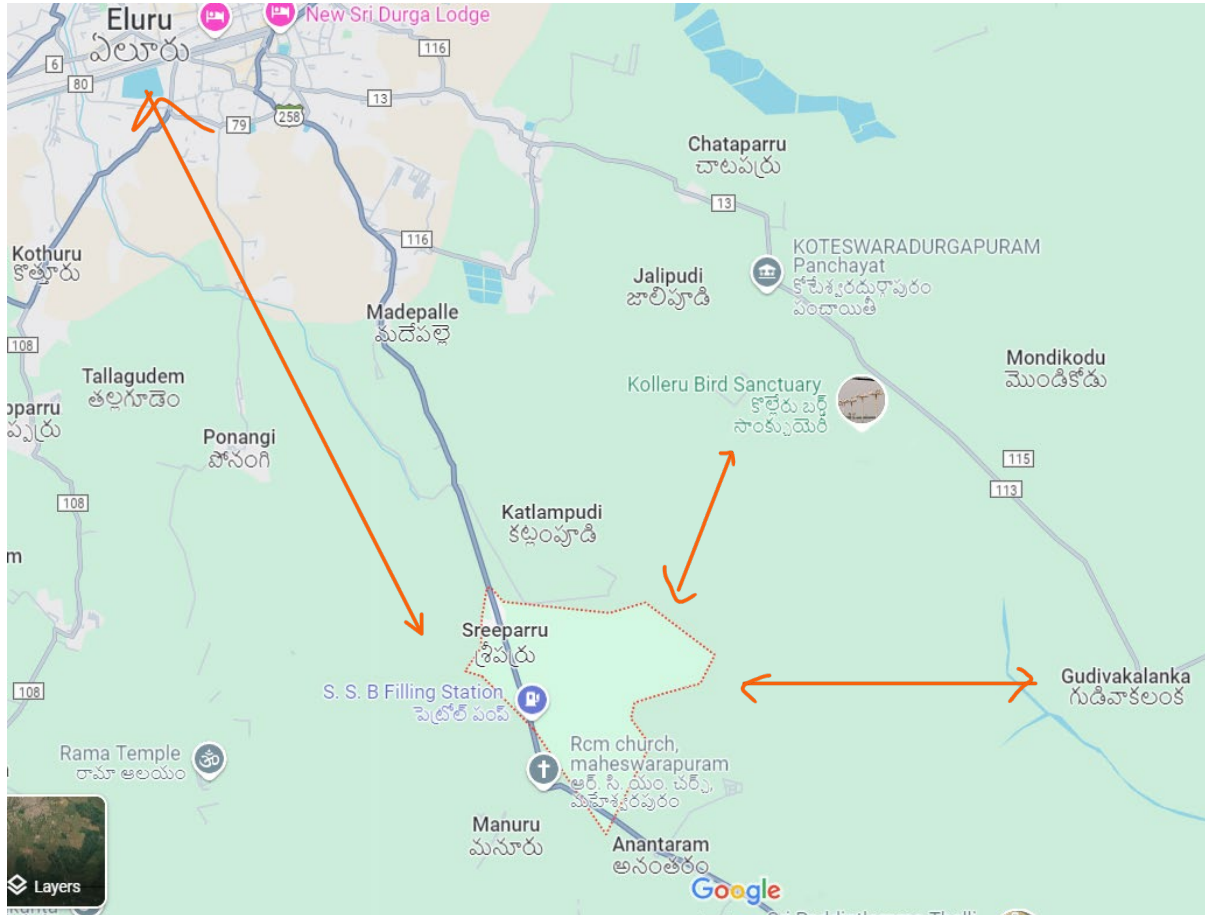
The Struggles and Resilience of Artisanal Fish Sellers

Story of Sriparru Village

by

Siva Sankara Rao Mallavarapu and Bala Raju Nikku

Sriparru is a vibrant village in the Eluru Mandal of Eluru District, Andhra Pradesh, India. Approximately 7 km from Eluru, the district headquarters, Sriparru, is accessible via the Eluru-Kaikaluru Road. The village covers an area of 2,600 hectares. It is home to 800 families with a population of



3000, with a history of young people and families moving out, searching for jobs. The community includes members from various backgrounds and caste groups with about 40 families from Scheduled Castes (SC) and 3 families from Scheduled Tribes (ST). The village is connected to Katlampudi (3 KM) , Jayapuram (6 KM) , Jalipudi (6 KM) , Ponangi (6 KM) , and Gudivakalanka (7 KM), which are the nearby Villages to Sriparru.

Sriparru's proximity to Eluru and the bustling market areas add to its significance as a rural hub. The town also maintains the traditional lifestyle and agricultural practices typical of the region. Sriparru village is a vital peri-urban settlement (village turning into a town) in Kolleru Lake, a vast freshwater lake in Andhra Pradesh. It is renowned for its ecological and cultural significance. Kolleru is a Ramsar wetland vital in supporting biodiversity, including various migratory and resident bird species. The lake sustains local communities through fishing and agriculture.

Located near Kolleru, Sriparru is part of a landscape deeply influenced by this critical water body. Over the years, Kolleru Lake has faced significant environmental challenges, including encroachments and pollution. These issues have impacted not only on the Lake's ecosystem but also the livelihoods of nearby villages like Sriparru. The launch of initiatives like Operation Kolleru underscores the urgent need to restore the lake's natural state and preserve its ecological balance.

Nestled near the expansive freshwater Kolleru Lake in Andhra Pradesh, the village of Sriparru is part of a region rich in ecological and cultural heritage. Recognized as a Ramsar wetland, Kolleru is a sanctuary for various migratory and resident birds and a cornerstone of the local ecosystem.

The lake has been a lifeline for surrounding communities, providing sustenance through fishing and agriculture.

Sriparru's proximity to Lake Kolleru (it is a belt village) makes it intrinsically linked to the lake's health. Over the years, Kolleru has faced significant environmental pressures, including encroachment and pollution, which have adversely affected its ecosystem and the livelihoods of communities like Sriparru. Initiatives such as "Operation Kolleru" have been undertaken to counteract these challenges and restore the lake's natural balance. Moreover, Sriparru's unique position in the surrounding rural landscape is further underscored by its proximity to Peddavur, a nearby locality from Eluru to Kaikaluru, situated around 7 km from Eluru. This geographical context highlights Sriparru's pivotal role in the region.

The story of Gamdikota Pavani:

Pavani is a determined woman from a small habitat which is part of the main village Sriparru, near Kolleru, Kaikaluru Road, is a testament to the village's resilience and the challenges faced by its inhabitants. Married to Srinu, Pavani has three children, a daughter in the 10th class, a younger daughter who stopped her education after the 7th class, and a son in the 5th class. Despite her illiteracy and lack of formal education, Pavani's determination to secure a better future for her children is unwavering.

Pavani belongs to the Savara community (ST), where women play an essential role in the local economy by selling fish. In this community, it's common for women to carry baskets, or "tabaras," filled with fish on their heads as they walk through their neighborhoods, selling their goods door-to-door. Approximately 50 families in Pavani's community rely on this practice as their primary

source of income. For Pavani, this livelihood involves more than just selling fish. She purchases fresh fish daily from the local market in Eluru. She cleans and brushes the fish for customers who want them ready to cook. Some fish she sells include varieties like **Korameenu**, **Palaparagi**, and **Rupchand**, which are highly sought after in the area. Every morning, Pavani wakes up early, heads to the market, and buys between 5 and 7 kilograms of fish to sell in nearby localities like Ashok Nagar, Kottapet, Shaniwarapet, and Chattaparru in Eluru.



Though this work keeps her busy, Pavani hopes to earn a profit of ₹500 to ₹700 each day. However, her earnings fluctuate with the seasons. During the month of Kartik, the local religious festivals and puja ceremonies create high demand for fish, but at the same time, competition from other sellers increases, and prices are often lower. Despite her hard work in such months, her daily profits might be as low as ₹300 to ₹400. Pavani's primary source of income comes from selling fish. Still, the income is often insufficient to meet the needs of her family, especially with the rising cost of living. To bridge the gap, Pavani is a member of a self-help group called **Dwakra**. It offers

microfinance loans to help women like her manage their monthly expenses. However, the absence of steady sales, particularly during the lean months, makes it difficult for her to save or invest in improving her business.



Pavani has no formal understanding of the subjects taught in school, but she values her children's education deeply. Despite her own illiteracy, she is determined that they will receive an education, up to at least in the 10th class. She hopes that their schooling will give them the opportunities she never had. Her children are her hope for a brighter future, one where they will not have to rely on the complex, backbreaking labor of fish selling.

In the face of these hardships, Pavani's spirit remains unbroken. She works tirelessly, juggling the demands of her daily life with the dream of a better future for her children. However, with the current constraints and the difficulty of sustaining her livelihood from fish sales alone, life remains a constant struggle. Yet, her determination continues to fuel her, as she confronts each day with resilience and hope.

During this visit, we also learned about pollution and how chicken and mutton waste from Shops in Eluru and other towns end up in fishponds nearby Sriparru and other villages. We also came to know about the drowning deaths of women and others from this village.



Wednesday, May 14 2025 | Time 23:26 Hrs(IST)

[Home](#) [News](#) [Photo](#) [Hindi](#) [Urdu](#) [f](#) [Twitter](#) [About UNI](#) [Contact us](#) [JOBS](#) [CIRP of UNI](#) [PRESS](#)

[India](#) [World](#) [Sports](#) [Business & Economy](#) [Entertainment](#) [States](#) [Parliament](#)

States »

South

Posted at: Nov 1 2022 9:26PM

2 women drowned as boat capsized in Kolleru Lake

Eluru Nov 1 (UNI) Two women were drowned when a boat capsized in the Kolleru Lake at Sriparru village on Tuesday in the district in Andhra Pradesh.

Police said that some women went to work at a fishing unit located in the Kolleru lake. Six persons, including four women and two men boarded a boat to go to their village.

The boat capsized while at Sriparru village while sailing toward the village. Two women Pinninti Paiditali (42) and Kadagalla Gouramma (52) drowned when the boat capsized while two women and two men swam ashore safely. The bodies were fished out from the lake.

Tags: #2 women drowned as boat capsized in Kolleru Lake [Please log in to get detailed story.](#)

Andhra Pradesh

Chicken, mutton waste finds its way to fish ponds in West Godavari

Aqua farmers resort to the harmful practice as it comes at a meagre price of H5 per kg.



Illegally transported chicken and mutton waste kept ready at an aqua pond in Sriparru village of West Godavari district to feed fish | Express

From our online archive

ELURU: Due to the negligence of officials, chicken and mutton waste is finding its way to fish ponds in Kolleru area in West Godavari district, polluting surrounding areas and directly affecting consumers.

Fish pond owners in Kolleru area of Sriparru, Manuru, Kalakurru, Gudivakalanka and other villages used to feed fish in the ponds in natural way or purchase the aquafeed in the market. Ever since the feed has become costly, the aqua farmers are now finding other ways to feed fish, one of them being using chicken and mutton waste from hotels.

Some pond owners who breed the banned catfish or fungus fish, are using the chicken and mutton waste available in hotels. Now, the owners are using the waste as well as stale biryani to raise other fish species like Korameenu, Tella Chepa, etc. The chicken and mutton waste are being illegally transported in trucks to fish ponds in Kolleru in the early hours or at night to avoid checking.

How to cite this work:

Mallavarapu, S.S & Nikku, B.R (2025) The Struggles and Resilience of Artisanal Fish Sellers Story of Sriparru Village, Lake Kolleru, Andhra Pradesh, India, accessed from <https://resilientfutures.trubox.ca/>, Thompson Rivers University.

Acknowledgments:

This photo essay is the second in the Stories of Resilience of Small-Scale Fishers in Andhra Pradesh series. This initiative is part of the Disaster Resilient Futures research project (<https://resilientfutures.trubox.ca/>) funded through the New Frontiers Research Fund Research (NFRF), led by **Dr. Bala Nikku**, Associate Professor at Thompson Rivers University. Dr. Nikku is a Co-investigator of the V2V global partnership (<https://www.v2vglobalpartnership.org/>)
Email: Bala Nikku bnikku@tru.ca

Siva Sankararao Mallavarapu, PhD is a research consultant and leads the Coastal Resilient Futures India Network. Email: Siva Sankararao ssankararao@gmail.com