

THE DAY OF THE MEETING

Ah! Everyone is here. Shall we begin?

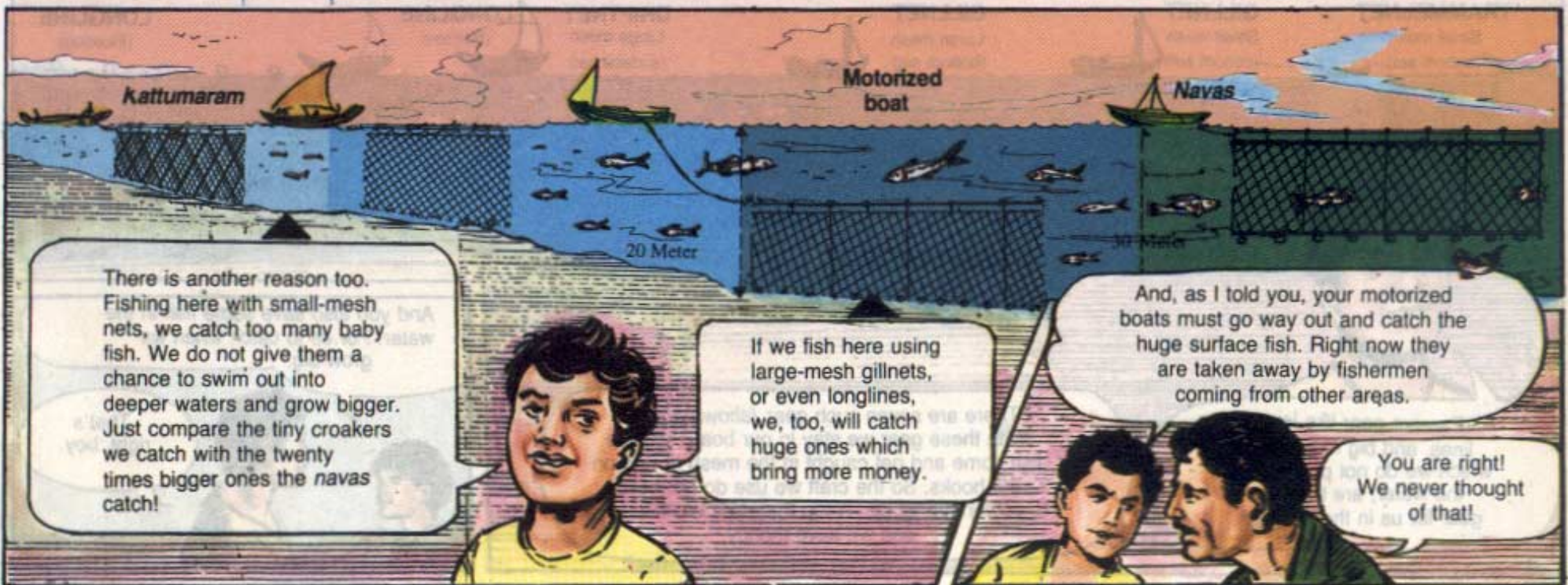
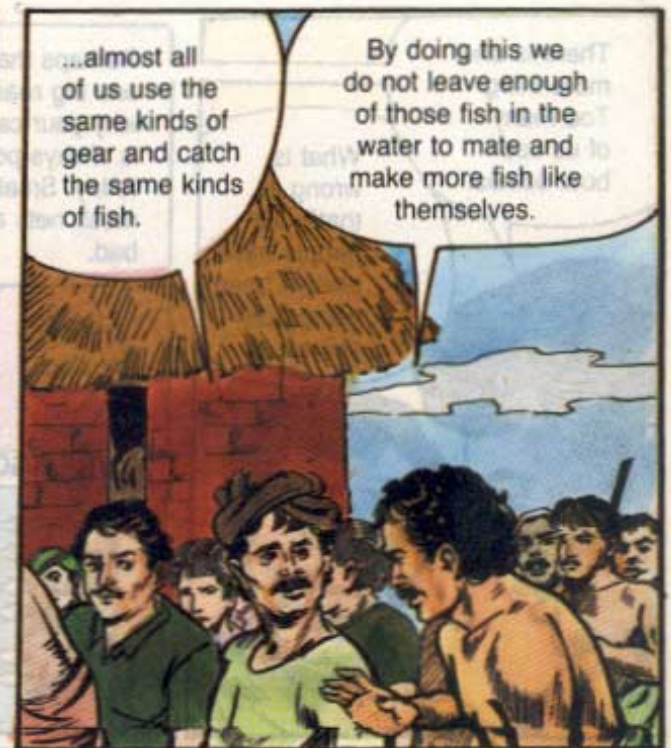
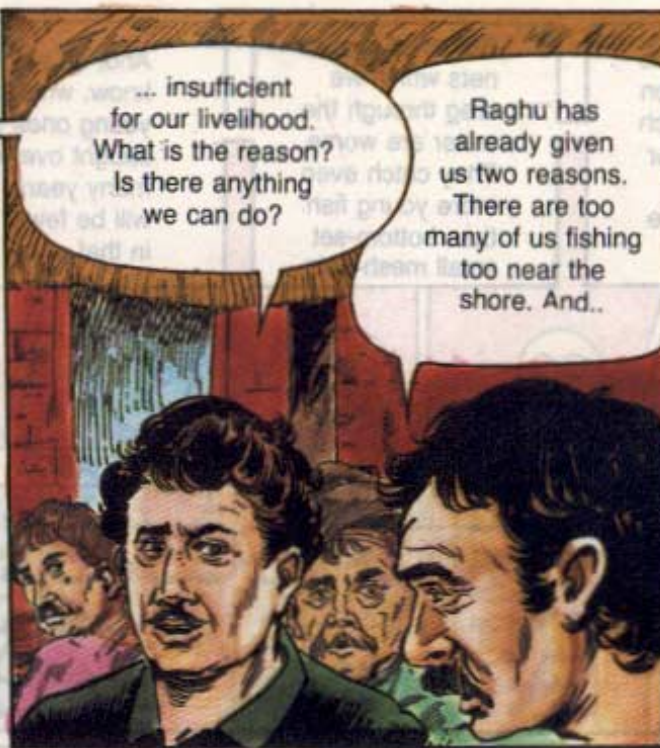
Day by day our catch is becoming...

... insufficient for our livelihood. What is the reason? Is there anything we can do?

Raghu has already given us two reasons. There are too many of us fishing too near the shore. And..

...almost all of us use the same kinds of gear and catch the same kinds of fish.

By doing this we do not leave enough of those fish in the water to mate and make more fish like themselves.

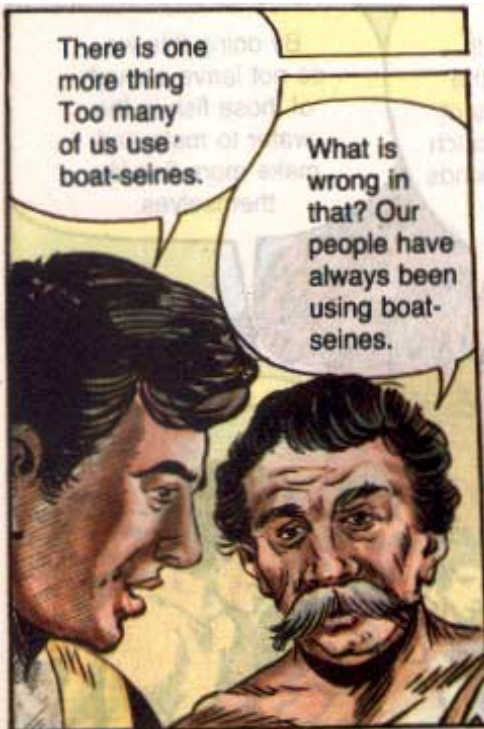


There is another reason too. Fishing here with small-mesh nets, we catch too many baby fish. We do not give them a chance to swim out into deeper waters and grow bigger. Just compare the tiny croakers we catch with the twenty times bigger ones the *navas* catch!

If we fish here using large-mesh gillnets, or even longlines, we, too, will catch huge ones which bring more money.

And, as I told you, your motorized boats must go way out and catch the huge surface fish. Right now they are taken away by fishermen coming from other areas.

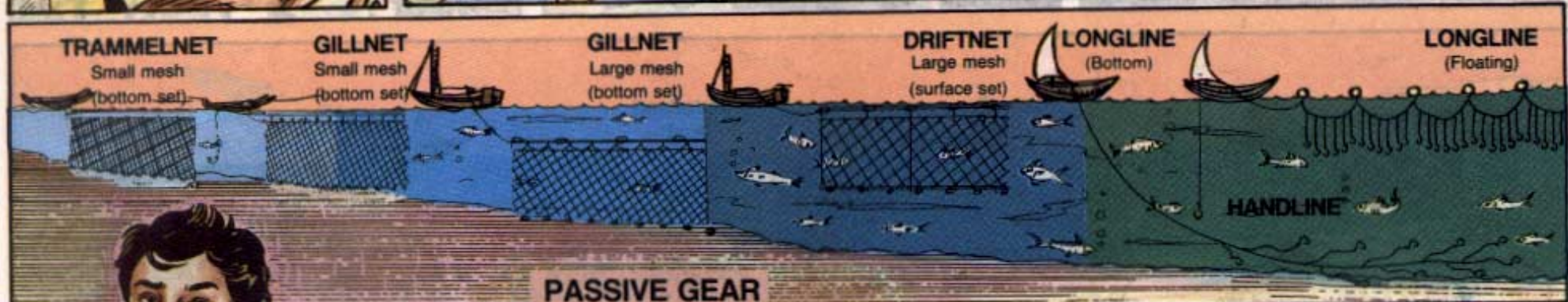
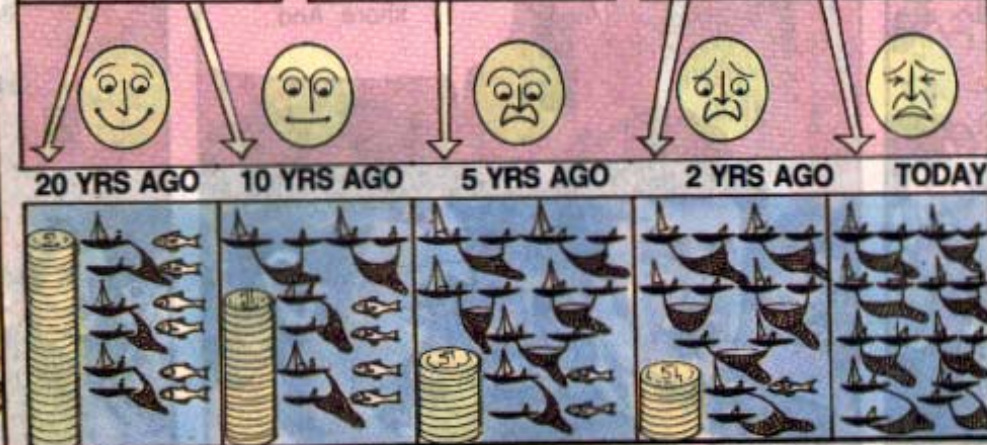
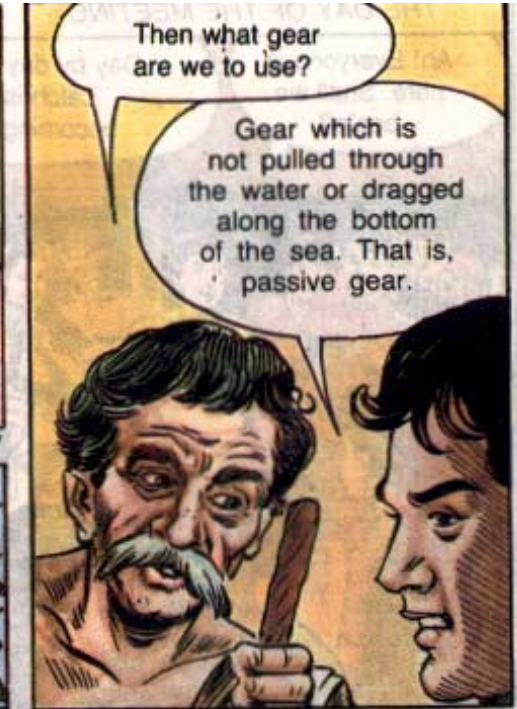
You are right! We never thought of that!



Perhaps that is one big reason why your catch is always poor today. Small mesh nets are bad.

But small mesh nets which we drag through the water are worse. They catch even more young fish than bottom-set small mesh nets.

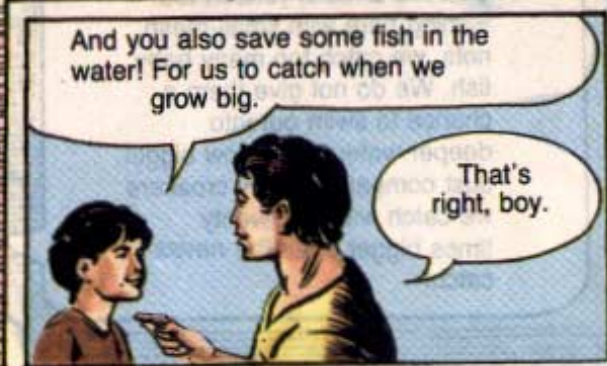
And, as you now know, when too many young ones are caught over many, many years, there will be fewer fish in that area.



PASSIVE GEAR

Passive gear like long-lines, and big mesh gear which we do not pull through the water, are the best gear for us in the long run.

There are seven such gear (shown above). With these gear we stay in our boats and the fish come and get caught in the mesh or bite on the hooks. So the craft we use do not need powerful engines. A trip therefore costs less and we save money.



THESE GEAR ARE BAD

ACTIVE GEAR

PURSE-SEINE

DRAGNET

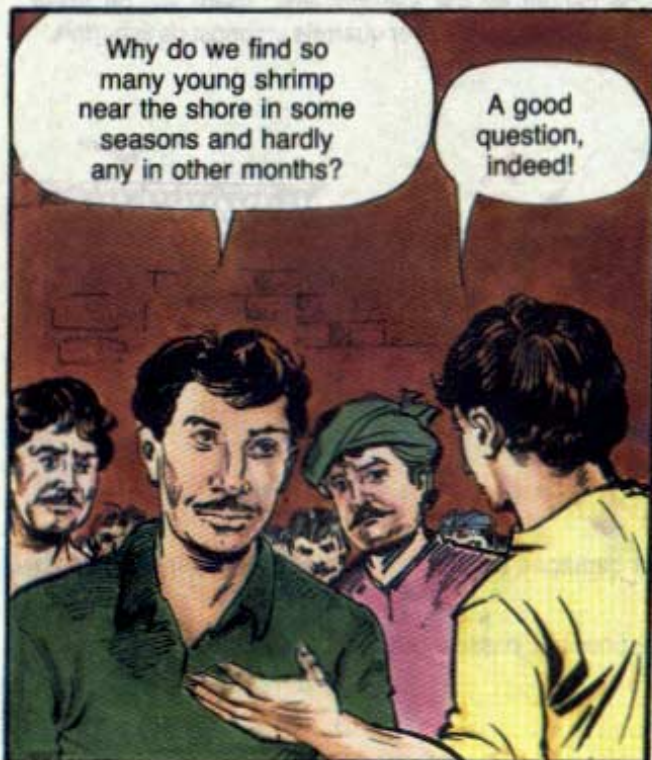
BOAT-SEINE

TRAWLNET



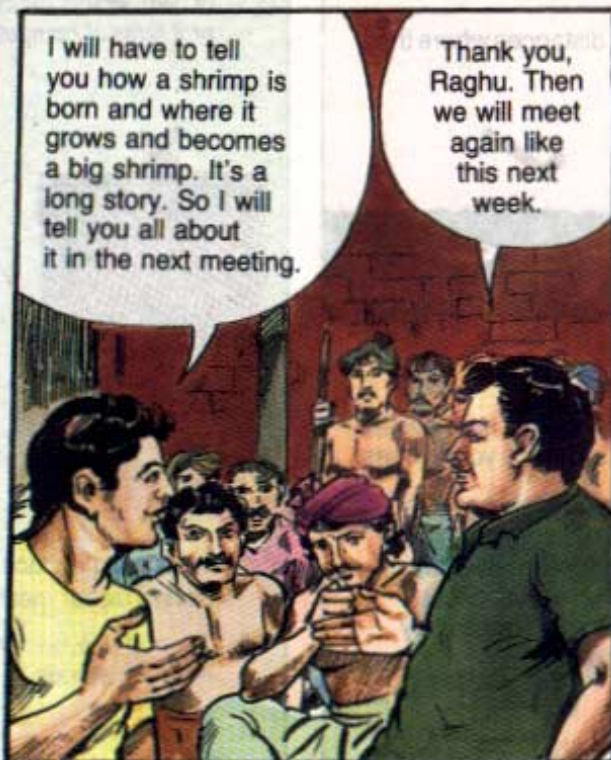
Active fishing methods, that is, using gear which we or our craft pull through the water, are bad for us. Too many young ones, especially of shrimp, get caught. Not enough are left in the water to grow big, mate and produce more of their kind for us.

Besides, for some active fishing methods, we have to move the craft and pull the net full of fish through the water. Our craft need very powerful engines to do this and a lot of fuel. So a trip becomes too costly



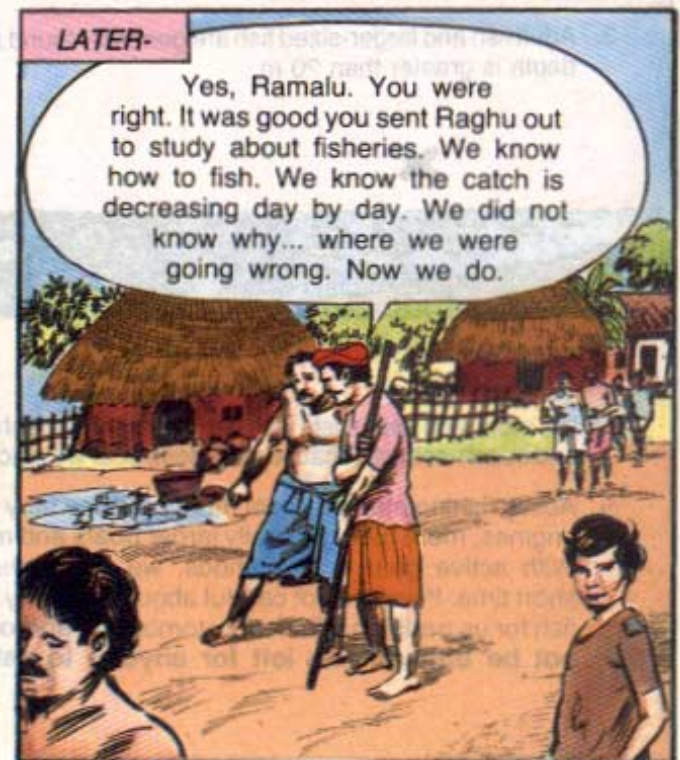
Why do we find so many young shrimp near the shore in some seasons and hardly any in other months?

A good question, indeed!



I will have to tell you how a shrimp is born and where it grows and becomes a big shrimp. It's a long story. So I will tell you all about it in the next meeting.

Thank you, Raghu. Then we will meet again like this next week.



LATER-

Yes, Ramalu. You were right. It was good you sent Raghu out to study about fisheries. We know how to fish. We know the catch is decreasing day by day. We did not know why... where we were going wrong. Now we do.