



Research article

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Length-Weight Relationship and Condition Factors as Indicators of Fish Population Health in Gollapalli and Jeedipalli Reservoirs, Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh



Rafeeq Ahammed Peddinti, Rajeswari Dasari, Narasimha Prasad GL and Anu Prasanna Vankara*

Department of Zoology, Yogi Vemana University, India

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*Corresponding author: Anu Prasanna Vankara, Department of Zoology, Yogi Vemana University, India

Abstract

The present study investigates the length–weight relationship (LWR) and condition factor (K) of four commercially important freshwater fish species i.e., *Labeo catla, Labeo rohita, Labeo calbasu and Oreochromis niloticus* from two irrigation reservoirs, Gollapalli and Jeedipalli, located in Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh, South India. A total of 256 individuals were collected from local fishermen between March 2022 and April 2025 to assess growth patterns and habitat influence on fish health. The regression exponent (K) values ranged from 2.13 for K. *rohita* to 2.23 for K0. *niloticus*, all below the cube law value (K2) values ranged from 0.763 to 0.921, demonstrating a moderate to strong correlation between length and weight. Mean condition factor (K3) and relative condition factor (K4) values were greater than 1, reflecting the good health and favorable ecological status of fishes in both reservoirs. Comparatively higher 'K3, K4, K5, and K5, where K6 is the species from the reservoirs of Andhra Pradesh, contributing valuable baseline data for FishBase and regional fishery records. The findings emphasize that LWR and K5-factor analyses are reliable bioindicators for evaluating fish growth, health status, and environmental quality, offering essential insights for the sustainable management and conservation of freshwater fish resources in South India.

Keywords: Length-weight relationship; Fulton's condition factor; Gollapalli Reservoir; Jeedipalli Reservoir; Ananthapuramu; Fisheries biology; Growth parameters

Abbreviations: LWR: Length-weight relationship; TL: Total length; g: Gram; cm: Centimeter; r: Correlation coefficient; R2: Coefficient of determination; K: Mean condition factor; Kn: Relative condition factor; 'a' and 'b': regression constants

Introduction

Fish constitute an exceptional source of high-quality protein, omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, and essential minerals, playing a crucial role in human nutrition and food security [1-4]. India ranks third among the world's top fish-producing nations, with the state of Andhra Pradesh emerging as the leading contributor, achieving an impressive production exceeding four million metric tons in 2024 [5]. Owing to its vast inland water resources, skilled aquaculture farmers, and strong governmental support, Andhra Pradesh has earned the distinction of being the "Aqua Hub of India" [6]. The state is endowed with extensive riverine and inland aquatic systems, including rivers, reservoirs, lakes, tanks,

canals, and ponds that sustain a rich freshwater biodiversity [7,8]. Andhra Pradesh is particularly renowned for its premium Pulasa fish from the River Godavari and highly profitable Catla farms yielding up to ₹150,000 per acre annually. The state's fisheries sector is prioritizing the culture of Catla, Tilapia and Murrel, with productivity from a single pond reaching as high as 20 tonnes of fish [6]. Despite this remarkable productivity, the per capita fish consumption in the state remains only 8.07 kg, substantially lower than the World Health Organization's recommended 18 kg [9]. Several studies have been conducted on fish biodiversity in various aquatic systems of Andhra Pradesh [8,10-14]. However, ichthyofaunal data from certain reservoirs and lakes remain

limited or outdated, warranting updated investigations. Gollapalli and Jeedipalli reservoirs are two major irrigation projects located in the arid regions of Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh, constructed to meet the water demands of the region. Assessing the fish population health and growth in such reservoirs is essential for sustainable fishery management. The length-weight relationship (LWR) and condition factor (CF) are indispensable tools in fishery biology, providing critical insights into species growth patterns, stock structure, ecological status, and overall well-being [15-17]. While LWR helps understand morphometric growth and biomass estimation, the CF serves as an indicator of fish health, reproductive status, and environmental conditions, reflecting the influence of food availability, parasitism, and water quality [18-24]. Together, LWR and CF analyses form a powerful framework linking fish morphology, physiology, and ecology, offering a holistic understanding of fish populations in relation to their habitats [17,25-27]. Variations in these parameters mirror the interaction between biotic and abiotic factors and serve as a diagnostic measure of environmental stress [26,28,29]. Therefore, the present study aims to establish baseline data on the LWR and condition factor (K) of four commercially important

freshwater species- *Labeo catla, Labeo rohita, Labeo calbasu,* and Oreochromis niloticus from the Gollapalli and Jeedipalli reservoirs of Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh, South India.

Material and Methods

Study area

The Gollapalli Reservoir (14.1991°N, 77.5831°E) is an irrigation project situated in Gollapalli village of the Penugonda constituency, Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh. It was constructed as part of the Jalayagnam project in 2016 and receives water through the Handri–Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) canal originating from the Srisailam Reservoir (Figure 1). Similarly, the Jeedipalli Reservoir (14.6874°N, 77.2664°E), also an irrigation project under Jalayagnam, was commissioned in 2012 and receives its water supply from the same HNSS canal network. Jeedipalli serves as a balancing reservoir, regulating and distributing Krishna River water to the Penna, Krishna, and Palar basins across the Rayalaseema districts of Ananthapuramu, Chittoor, and Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh. The reservoir further pumps water to the Vedavathi River, a tributary of the Krishna River (Figure 2).

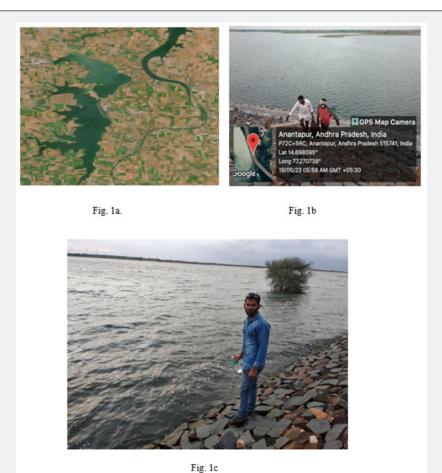


Figure 1a: Google map of Jeedipalli Reservoir, Ananthapuramu (Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeedipalli_Reservoir); 1b: GPS location of the Jeedipalli Reservoir, Ananthapuramu; 1c: Photograph of the Jeedipalli Reservoir, Ananthapuramu.

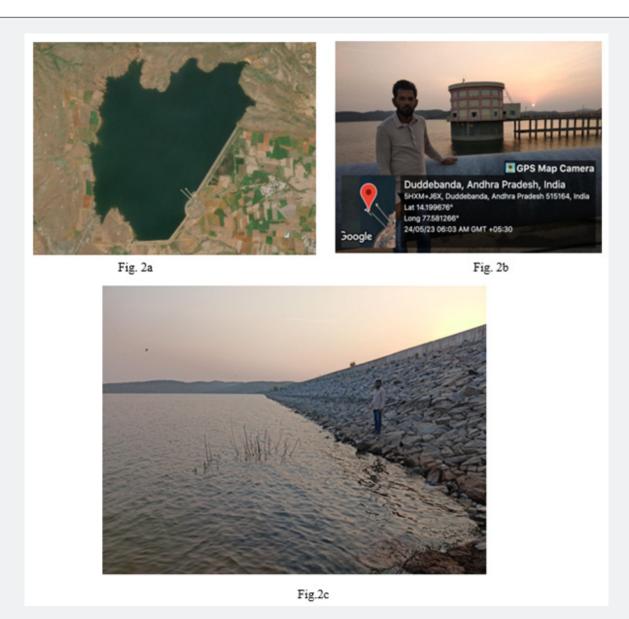


Figure 2a: Google map of Gollapalli Reservoir, Ananthapuramu (Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gollapalli_Reservoir); 2b: GPS location of the Gollapalli Reservoir, Ananthapuramu; 2c: Photograph of the Gollapalli Reservoir, Ananthapuramu.

Fish sampling

A total of 256 fish specimens representing four species were collected monthly between March 2022 and April 2025 from the fish landing centers of Gollapalli and Jeedipalli reservoirs. The studied taxa included three cyprinid species- *Labeo catla* (n = 25; Figure 3a), *Labeo rohita* (n = 39; Figure 3b), *Labeo calbasu* (n = 19; Figure 3c) and one cichlid species, *Oreochromis niloticus* (n = 173; Figure 3d). Fresh specimens were preserved in 10% formalin and transported to the laboratory for morphometric analysis. The total length (TL) of each specimen was measured using a digital vernier caliper (precision: 0.01 cm), and the body weight (W) was recorded to the nearest 0.001 g using a standard analytical

balance (Thermomate, 10 Kg-SF-400A). Species identification followed the taxonomic keys of Jayaram [30], Talwar and Jhingran [31], Froese and Pauly [32].

The length-weight relationship (LWR) was performed following Le Cren [33],

The LWR was converted into logarithmic expression:

Log W = Log a + b Log L

Where 'W' is weight of the fish in grams (g), 'L' is the length in cm. 'Log a' is the intercept of the regression line and 'b' is the slope of the regression line.



Fig. 3a: Labeo catla



Fig. 3b: Labeo rohita



Fig. 3c. Labeo calbasu



Fig. 3d. Oreochromis niloticus

Figure 3: Photographs of the sampled fish of Jeedipalli and GollapalliReservoirs, Ananthapuramu, 3a: Labeo catla; 3b: Labeo rohita; 3c: Labeo calbasu; 3d: Oreochromis niloticus.

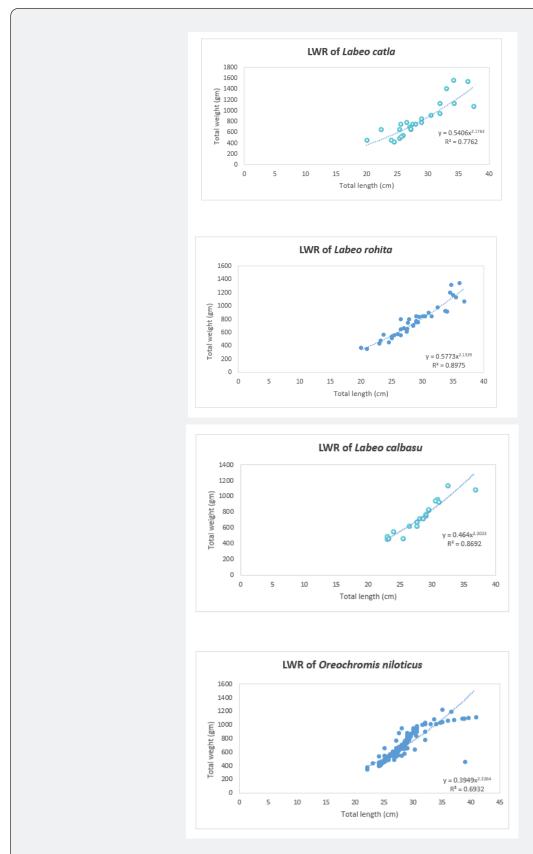
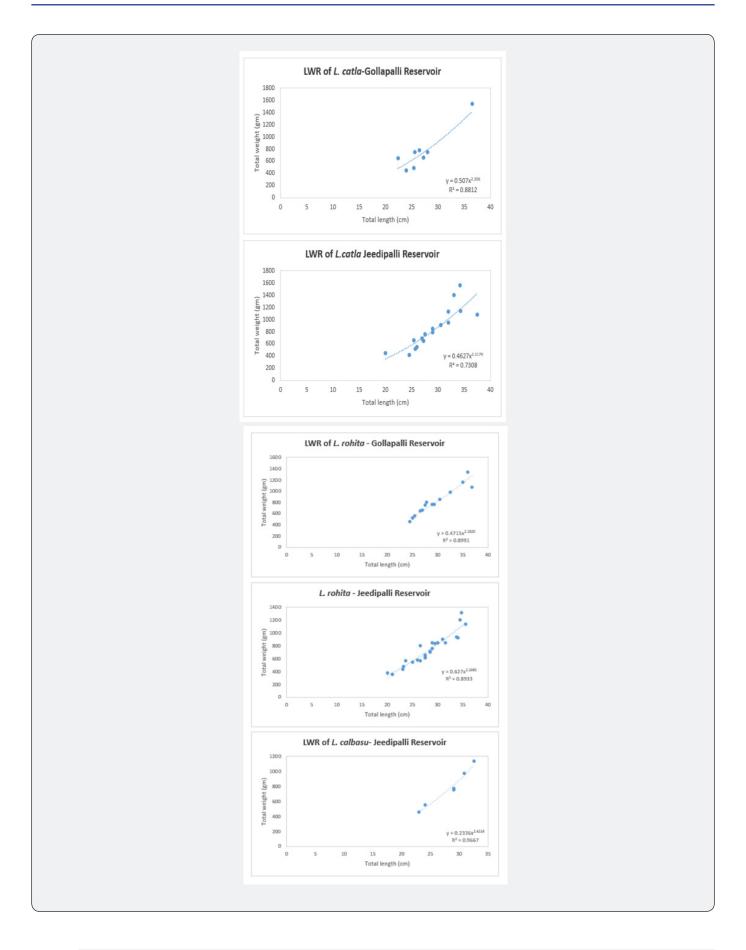
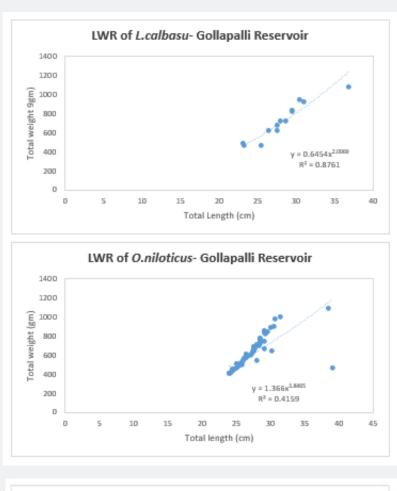


Figure 4: Graphs depicting the length-weight relationships for total four fish species of Gollapalli and Jeedipalli reservoirs. Total length (TW) in g and total length (TL) in cm.





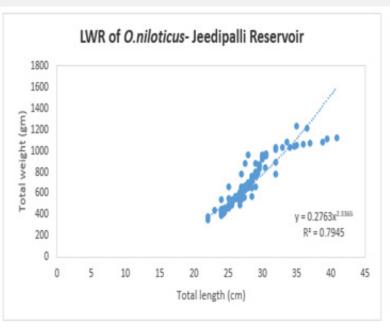


Figure 5: Comparative graphs depicting the length-weight relationships for four fish species of Gollapalli and Jeedipalli reservoirs. Total length (TW) in g and total length (TL) in cm.

The relative condition factor (Kn), indicating the well-being or robustness of fish, was determined using Le Cren's (1951) formula:

 $Kn = W / aL_h$ is the expected weight derived from the LWR

The coefficient of correlation 'r' has to be induced

$$r = N \sum xy - \sum x \sum y / \sqrt{N \left(\sum x_2 - \sum x\right)_2 \left(N \sum y_2 - \sum y_2\right)}$$

Additionally, the Fulton's condition factor (K) or ponderal index was computed following Wooton [34] as:

$$K = 100 \times W/L_2$$

where W is the fish weight (g) and L is the total length (cm). The constant 100 is used to bring the K value near unity. All statistical analyses were performed using Microsoft Excel 2010.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 presents the descriptive statistics and estimated parameters of the length-weight relationships (LWRs)regression constants 'a' and 'b', correlation coefficient (r), coefficient of determination (R2), and condition factor (K)- for four freshwater fish species (Labeo catla, Labeo rohita, Labeo calbasu, and Oreochromis niloticus) collected from Gollapalli and Jeedipalli reservoirs, Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh. In L. catla, total length (TL) ranged from 20.0 to 37.5 cm (28.41 ± 4.37 cm) with body weights of 418-1560 g (823.96 ± 326.78 g). L. rohita showed TL values between 20.0-36.8 cm (28.7 ± 4.20 cm) and body weights between 354-1345 g (764.89 ± 247.81 g). L. calbasu exhibited TL values from 23.0-36.7 cm (28.15 ± 3.52 cm) and weights of 456-1135 g (739.00 ± 208.20 g), whereas O. niloticus recorded TL values of 22.0-40.8 cm (27.82 \pm 3.33 cm) and body weights of 350-1232 g (666.85 ± 197.25 g). The regression exponent 'b' values ranged from 2.132 (L. rohita) to 2.226 (O. niloticus), which are below the ideal cube law value (b = 3.0), indicating negative allometric growth. This implies that fish increase in length faster than in weight. The correlation coefficient (r) ranged between 0.868 and 0.945, indicating a strong positive correlation between total length and body weight. The coefficient of determination (R2) values ranged from 0.763 (O. niloticus) to 0.921 (L. rohita), suggesting that 76-92% of the variation in body weight was explained by total length (Figure 4). Between reservoirs, the 'b' values in Jeedipalli ranged from 2.108 to 2.420 with R² between 0.739 and 0.883, while in Gollapalli, the 'b' values varied from 1.840 to 2.206 with R2 between 0.474 and 0.847 (Table 2). Although both reservoirs exhibited negative

allometric growth (b < 3), Jeedipalli showed higher 'b' and R² values, indicating a stronger length-weight relationship and better environmental conditions (Figure 5). The mean condition factor (K) and relative condition factor (Kn) ranged from 3.06 ± 0.399 (0. niloticus) to 3.54 ± 0.821 (L. catla) and 1.003 ± 0.084 (L. calbasu) to 1.01 ± 0.179 (L.catla) respectively, reflecting the good health and favorable feeding conditions of the fishes in both reservoirs (Table 3). The present findings reveal that all four fish species exhibit negative allometric growth (b < 3), consistent with several studies conducted on Indian freshwater fishes [26,35-47]. Negative allometry indicates that fish gain weight at a slower rate than length, often linked to environmental and biological factors such as food availability, sex, maturity, or parasitic infection [33,48-54]. The relatively higher 'b' and R² values observed in Jeedipalli Reservoir suggest more stable environmental conditions, higher nutrient availability, and lower ecological stress, which may have promoted better somatic growth. Conversely, the lower values recorded in Gollapalli Reservoir could be attributed to environmental stressors such as water quality fluctuations, lower primary productivity, higher parasitic loads, or limited feeding resources, which reduce the weight gain relative to length. The strong correlation coefficients (r > 0.8) and R² values above 0.763 confirm a significant relationship between length and weight in all species, implying that total length can serve as a reliable predictor of biomass in these reservoirs. The unexplained variation (8-24%) may be due to interspecific and intraspecific factors such as breeding cycle, gonadal development, and microhabitat variability, as reported by Bagenal and Tesch [18], Riedel et al. [55], Faradonbeh et al. [56], Basak and Hadiuzzaman [57], Famoofo and Abdul [58]. The mean condition factor (K) values above 3 in all species indicate healthy physiological status and adequate energy reserves [59]. The higher K observed in *L. catla* (3.54 \pm 0.821) suggests a better adaptation and resource utilization efficiency, while O. niloticus (3.06 ± 0.399) with lower K may experience greater ecological or parasitic stress. According to Gonzalez et al. [60], Jisr et al. [61], Ndaiye et al. [62], Baek et al. [63], Seiyaboh et al. [64], Hossain et al. [65], relative condition factor, Kn > 1 reflects good feeding intensity and favorable ecological conditions. Overall, the LWR and K-factor analysis demonstrates that Jeedipalli Reservoir provides a more productive and stable habitat, whereas Gollapalli Reservoir shows signs of moderate environmental constraints. These findings align with previous studies showing that fish growth and condition are highly dependent on water quality, food resources, and ecosystem balance [38,53,66].

Table 1: Estimated parameters of the length-weight relationships for four species of fish from Gollapalli and Jeedipalli Reservoirs, Andhra pradesh. *LC-Least concern.

Family	Species & IUCN status	No. of fish examined	Total length±SD; Range	Total weight±SD; Range	aa	b	R ²	Growth pattern
Cyprinidae	Labeo catla (LC)	Labeo catla (LC) 25 2		823.96±326.78 (418- 1560gm)	0.54	2.176	0.787	Negative allometry
	L. rohita (LC) 39		28.70±4.20 (20- 36.8 cm)	764.89±247.81 (354- 1345gm)	0.577	2.132	0.981	Negative allometry
	L. calbasu (LC)	19	28.15±3.52 (23- 36.7 cm)	739±208.20 (456-1135 gm)	0.463	2.202	0.907	Negative allometry
Cichlidae	O. niloticus (LC)	173	27.82±3.33 (22- 40.8 cm)	666.85±197.25 (350-1232 gm)	0.395	2.226	0.763	Negative allometry
	Total	256						

Table 2: Estimated parameters of the length-weight relationships for four species of fish from Gollapalli and Jeedipalli Reservoirs, Andhra Pradesh.

Family	Species & IUCN status	No. of fish examined	Total length±SD	Total weight±SD	In a	b	\mathbb{R}^2	Growth pattern	
Jeedipalli Reservoir, Andhra Pradesh									
Cyprinidae	Labeo catla (LC)	17	29.1±4.38	853.7±326.57	-0.334	2.21	0.739	Negative allometry	
	L. rohita (LC)	25	28.26±4.27	740.8±246.20	-0.2027	2.108	0.883	Negative allometry	
	L. calbasu (LC)	6	28.05±3.77	772.8±253.12	-0.6315	2.42	0.75	Negative allometry	
Cichlidae	O. niloticus (LC)	112	28.01±3.61	685.27±214.89	-0.558	2.34	0.841	Negative allometry	
Gollapalli Reservoir, Andhra Pradesh									
Cyprinidae	Labeo catla (LC)	8	26.95±4.24	760.6±340.0	-0.294	2.206	0.847	Negative allometry	
	L. rohita (LC)	14	29.48±4.11	807.78±253.98	-0.326	2.192	0.737	Negative allometry	
	L. calbasu (LC)	13	28.2±3.5	723.38±193.62	-0.190	2.097	0.786	Negative allometry	
Cichlidae	O. niloticus (LC)	61	27.48±2.76	633.03±155.92	0.135	1.84	0.474	Negative allometry	

Table 3: Condition factor of fish species in two reservoirs.

Sl. No.	Reservoir	Family	Fish species	К	Kn
1	Jeedipalli Reservoir	Cyprinidae	Labeo catla	3.41±0.74	1.01±0.17
			Labeo rohita	3.26±0.56	1.00±0.10
			Labeo calbasu	3.43±0.35	1.00±0.058
		Cichlidae	Oreochromis niloticus	3.07±0.41	1.17±0.157
2	Gollapalli Reservoir	Cyprinidae	Labeo catla	3.82±0.94	1.01±0.19
			Labeo rohita	3.11±0.41	1.00±0.087
			Labeo calbasu	3.21±0.43	1.00±0.086
		Cichlidae	Oreochromis niloticus	3.04±0.38	1.01±0.141

Conclusion

The study concluded that all four freshwater fish species-Labeo catla, Labeo rohita, Labeo calbasu, and Oreochromis niloticus exhibited negative allometric growth (b < 3) in both reservoirs. The stronger LWR and higher K-values in Jeedipalli indicate better environmental quality, food availability and lower ecological stress compared to Gollapalli. Therefore, variations in growth patterns between reservoirs are likely driven by habitat quality, feeding conditions, and ecological balance. These results confirm that LWR parameters and condition factors can serve as reliable indicators of fish health and habitat productivity in freshwater systems.

Summary

This study assessed the length-weight relationships and condition factors of four freshwater fish species from Jeedipalli and Gollapalli reservoirs in Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh. The results revealed negative allometric growth (b < 3) in all species, indicating that body weight increases more slowly than length. Strong correlations (r = 0.868 - 0.945) and moderate-to-very high $\rm R^2$ values (0.763 - 0.921) demonstrate a clear relationship between length and weight. The higher 'b', $\rm R^2$, and K values in Jeedipalli Reservoir suggest better ecological conditions and fish health compared to Gollapalli. These findings highlight the importance of LWR and K-factor analyses as essential tools for evaluating fish population dynamics, habitat quality and environmental stability in freshwater ecosystems.

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