

Socio Economic Conditions of Coir Workers in Tamilnadu – A Study with Special Reference To Paramathi Velur Taluk of Namakkal District

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Abstract: *In India coir is produced from coconut trees, known as cocosnucifera and sometimes as cocos fibre. Water and salt water can damage the natural fiber due to the high water content of coir fibers. The history of coir in the world indicates that the introduction of coir in the England. From the moment Indian coir produced in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa and Orissa took over European and global markets, the power and dominance of Indian coir was in a success position and it held without retreating. Large corporate firms soon set up coir factories in other areas such as Pollachi, Kanniyakumari, Thanjavur, Salem and Namakkal coir industry was established as the most important hereditary cottage industry and one of the traditional industries in southwest coastal areas such as Kerala, Alleppey, Kanniyakumari. Thanjavur, Pollachi occupy a most important place in Tamilnadu India. The agro-based coir Industry is mainly export oriented and rural based. This traditional industry is notable for its economic importance in terms of income such as foreign exchange and employment. Tamilnadu employment 2.10 lakhs this traditional industry provides employment opportunities in the manufacture of cottage handicrafts and benefits 3 lakhs people. The coir industry in Tamilnadu is the third largest sector as the only sign of non-agricultural employment for the rural poor. Pollachi, Thanjavur and Namakkal are the nerve centers of Tamilnadu for coir production. This paper is a survey of life, socioeconomic status and profile of coir workers in ParamathiVelur taluk, Namakkal District, Tamilnadu.*

Keywords: Coir, Brown Fibre, Socio Economic Conditions, Cottages, Coir Industries, Coir Yarn

INTRODUCTION

Coir is extracted from the fibres of coconuts, which is used as a raw material to make various products like carpets, mats, paint brushes, upholstery stuffing, sofas and beds. Coir, from the pronunciation koy-er, is very thick, high in fiber and resistant to tarnish and salt water, making it an important material in situations where other fibers are damaged. Coconut fiber can be divided into two types. They are brown fibre and white fibre. Brown coconuts are harvested from well-ripened coconuts. It has good thickness, strength and high abrasion resistance. White fibre is harvested from coconut trees before ripening to make white fiber. The history of the coconut industry in the world clearly shows that the introduction and origin of the modern coconut industry in the world was in England. India, Philippines, Dutch East Indies, Ceylon and Malaysia occupy the most important place in the world in production and development of coconut. India is the number one producer of coconut. In Tamilnadu, coconut trees are a tropical conditioner. A large number of people in Tamilnadu depend on the coir industry for their livelihood. This is a clan business that they have been doing for two or three generations. About 5.3 lakh people are working in coir industry in Tamilnadu. Out of this majority 73% women play an important role.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To know the socio-economic status of coconut fiber workers.
2. To find out the problems and opinions of coir workers.
3. To find out the living conditions of coir workers in Velur Taluk.

METHODOLOGY:

The study was carried out on the basis of primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected by direct visits to know the socio-economic profile of coir workers from Paramathi Velur circle of Namakkal district. Namakkal district excels in coir industry in Tamil Nadu. 50 samples from 5 coir companies and 10 samples from each company were collected for the research. The respondents were selected through random sampling method. Interview was collected personally along with primary data and structured questionnaire. These are secondary data collected from various websites, books, studies and journals.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Coir industry is one of the most important traditional cottage industries in Tamil Nadu providing employment opportunities in agriculture. Tamil Nadu ranks third in the production of coir in India. These are important in rural areas. Geographically, coir units are located in 6

districts of Tamil Nadu namely Pollachi, Kanyakumari, Thoothukudi, Thanjavur, Namakkal and Salem. Paramathi Vellore Circle occupies a unique position in its grand scale. The main reason for carrying out this study is that coir production is abundant in Paramathi Vellore. Employability The coir industry in Tamil Nadu is depicted as employing about 5.3 lakh workers, 73% of whom are rural women. Socio-economic problems, trade patterns of coir products and employment, health, opinions, and the most distressing conditions of workers in the coir industry have been observed in previous studies. This clearly makes this study relevant and occupies a unique place in the rural economy of contemporary interest in Tamil Nadu.

TABLE 1.1 Socio economic conditions of coir workers in Paramathi Velur Taluk Namakkal district.

Sex	Percentage %	Asset Position	Percentage %
Male	27%	Yes	70%
Female	73%	No	30%
Total	100%	Total	100%
Marital Status	Percentage %	Vehicles	Percentage %
Married	63%	Two Wheeler	35%
Unmarried	3%	Three Wheeler	5%
Divorce	4%	Four Wheeler	7%
Widows	30%	No vehicle	53%
Total	100%	Total	100%
Housing Status	Percentage %	Debt problem	Percentage %
Permanent House	90%	Yes	77%
Rented house	10%	No	23%
Total	100%	Total	100%
Bonus	Percentage %	Pension	Percentage %
Yes	85%	Yes	82%
No	15%	No	18%
Total	100%	Total	100%
Working Condition	Percentage %	Income	Percentage %
Satisfied	89%	Satisfied	83%
Unsatisfied	11%	Unsatisfied	17%
Total	100%	Total	100%
Working hours	Percentage %	Category	Percentage %
Below 8 hour	18%	APL	41%
8 hour	82%	BPL	59%
Total	100%	Total	100%

Source: Primary Data (Field Survey)

MAJOR FINDINGS:

- ◆ Coir industry is one of the most important and traditional industries of Tamil Nadu.
- ◆ 80% of coir workers are between 31-60 years of age. 17% of them are above 60 years of age.
- ◆ 59% members belong to BPL groups and 41% members belong to APL groups.
- ◆ 94% of the members in coir industry belong to Hindu religion and 6% belong to other religions.
- ◆ 63% of these professionals are married and 3% unmarried, and 30% are widowed and 4% are divorced.
- ◆ Coir industry has 40% educated people below SSLC.
- ◆ 98% respondents depend on coir industry for their entire livelihood.
- ◆ 47% people get their income below 5000. 17% earn more than 7000. 5000-7000 is 39% of people whose income increases.
- ◆ 77% of the workers are heavily indebted as they are unable to take loans from banks and lending families.
- ◆ Coir workers suffer from various health problems, 58% suffer from back pain, and 42% suffer from allergies and asthma.
- ◆ They will not have environmental problems. Coir workers are provided with adequate health facilities and proper rest.
- ◆ 90% people have own house and 10% have rented house and do coir industry.

◆ 83% people said that they are satisfied with their coir industry.

◆ Coir workers receive income on weekly basis and pension facility provided in the industry.

◆ Coir workers get special bonuses and extra benefits for special festivals like Diwali and Pongal.

SUGGESTION:

◆ Initiate small cities and financial programs to improve saving behavior for the benefit of workers.

◆ Tailoring health insurance to coir workers.

◆ The local government should provide financial assistance for the development of coir industry. Establishing adequate basic infrastructure facilities for massive growth of coir industries.

◆ Giving expected pay rise.

◆ Provision of safety gloves, face coverings, raincoats etc, for personal protection to workers in facilities.

◆ Adequate facilities and proper schedule should be prepared for proper working of the workers so that there is no harm to their health.

◆ Provide bank savings facilities to them to solve credit problems.

◆ Government should take appropriate measures to protect coir workers.

◆ To redress the grievances of the coir workers, worker's welfare associations should be set up.

RESULTS:

◆ A socio economic survey of the coir factory workers has revealed the pitiful condition of the workers.

◆ The central and state Government should take appropriate measures and pains to improve the safety and quality of life of coir workers.

CONCLUSION:

Socio-Economic Status of Coir Workers in Tamilnadu with Special Reference to Paramathi Velur Taluk of Namakkal District, this study is one of the most important to explain the coir industry and workers Velur taluk. Focuses on the socio-economic and family life conditions of coir workers. It is the largest traditional cottage industry in India and Tamilnadu. This profession is very useful for middle class people. 35% of the total working population was engaged in the coir industry during the initial phase of the 10th fiscal plan. Today nearly 1-1.1 lakh people rely on coir industry as their hereditary and clan occupation for their livelihood. The majority of workers in the coir industry are women. Women's empowerment leads to greater attachment, passion and a close connection to the coir industry.

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