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A STUDY ON PROBLEMS OF WORKERS IN COIR INDUSTRIES OF KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The Indian Coir Industry has been fortunate to get another boost in the form of the ever-increasing awareness about eco protection. Coir, being a natural fibre that is environment friendly in the strictest sense of the term, is now seen as the fibre of the future. The eco-friendly quality of coir will help it to hold its ground even as it battles competition from synthetic fibres. The Indian Coir Industry is now on the comeback trail, after the sluggishness over the past three decades. The export figures have moved up from Rs. 250 crores in 1997 to Rs 605.17 crores during 2006-07. Those figures may not look awesome in value terms, but the real significance lies in the fact that the industry employs a staggering 6 lakhs people directly or indirectly. Equally significant is the fact that most of these people are from the economically disadvantaged classes, and as much as 80 % of the workers are women. Tamilnadu is the second largest producer of Coir fibre in the country. In the brown coir fibre sector, Tamil nadu occupies the first place as being the single largest producer of brown fibre contributing to about 65% of total production in India. By using coir fibre, coir yarn, coir rope, coir mattings, curled coir and rubberised coir mattresses, pillows etc. are being manufactured. The important objectives of the present study were, to study the socio-economic conditions of workers of coir industries in Kanyakumari District, to explore the working conditions of workers of coir industries in Kanyakumari District, to analyse the problems faced by the coir workers in Kanyakumari District.

KEYWORDS

Coir, Fibre, Industry, Workers, Coconut husk.

INTRODUCTION

Coir is the only natural fibre that does not get cultivated solely to extract the coir whereas jute and sisal are grown only to produce the fibres and in turn, the spun and Woven Products. Fibres like jute, sisal and cotton are derived from short cropping plants whereas coir originates from the near perennial coconut palm. This is perhaps the only tree. This has a systematic recorded history dating back to nearly 3000 years before the birth of Christ. There are several legends associated with the origin of this wonder palm in many Countries. The origin of Coir Industry dates back to pre-historic times. But it is only during the 19th century the coir products were increasingly introduced. According to the Indian Coconut Committee's "History and Home of Coconut" published in September 1954, the Coconuts palm originated in Sri-Lanka. In another view, the coconuts drifted in the sea from Polynesia and found new homes in many parts of the world. Macropolo's celebrated travelogue of the 12th century mentioned on the uses to which Coir Fibre and mats were put in use in the Sailing Vessels of Arabs. He later saw the lands were Arabs brought their Coir and recorded how it was made out of the fibre from the Coconut husk.

During the 13th Century there was evidence of Coir5 yarn being used in building ships in the Persian Gulf. When Portuguese Admiral Vasco da Gama sailed into Kerala, in the late 15th Century he must have seen this multipurpose fibre. Somewhere in the historical archives in Lisbon, there should be reference to Coir. Coir is used to caulking, for sealing the space between the plants and for making ropes for sails and hawsers to tie ships and hold them during the tidal waves.

The Coir Industry in India has a strong position in the export orientation since the early days, when trade was dominated by European companies. At the beginning of the independence of the local trade in the hands came a turning point in the history of the coconut industry in India. Structure of production and relations has changed significantly. The pattern of exports and product mix has changed very much drastically. With the level of fiber and yarn exports, India is an exporter of goods with added value. This in turn led to a significant change in total volume and value of exports. During the year 1950 the average export volume dropped to 73,200 tonnes per year and then in the year 1960 the export volume decreased to 62 300 tonnes per year. It was back to 45 700 tonnes per year in the 1970's and 26 700 tonnes in 1980. From an average annual export realization of Rs.80 million in 1950 of Rs.120 million in 1960, Rs.210- Rs.300 million in 1970 and 1980. Until the mid-90's it was Rs.1,710 million in sales to Rs. 3,400 million in 2003.

India is a major exporter of coir and coir products. Latest statistics released for financial year 2009-10 reveal that coir exports grew by 47 percent in volume terms and 26% in Rupee value terms, over the year-ago level. India exported coir and coir products worth Rs. 804 Crore in 2009-10 Fiscal. In the 2010-11 Fiscal, the country's total exports amounted to \$247.4 Billion, while coir exports amounted to Rs.807.07 Crore. Indian Coir Industry employs more than 1.5 lakh weavers and 4 lakh spinners. The industry has been going through a bit of rough patch because of the lack of modernisation and marketing effort. Indian Coir industry is second to agriculture as a source of employment in Kerala, providing employment to 3.83 lakh persons, of whom 3.25 lakh are women. At present, coir and its products are exported to more than 80 countries, with US being the biggest market with a share of more than 40 percent in the total export. European countries together share more than 41 % of the exports.

Kerala is the home of Indian coir industry where white fibre, accounting for 61 percent of coconut production and over 85 percent of coir products are from women. With 10.05 lakh hectares having coconut cultivation in Kerala, which accounts for 45 percent of the net cropped area. The coconut out put is estimated at 5759 million nuts annually

COIR INDUSTRIES IN TAMILNADU

Tamilnadu is one of the major Coir producing states in the Country. Coir Industry is concentrated in the Districts of Kanyakumari, Thanjavur, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Theni, Dindugul, Salem, Dharmapuri and Vellore with regard to fibre production. Tamilnadu states second occupies place next to Kerala, but in the production of brown fibre the state stands first in our country.

Coir industry is very important to Tamilnadu as it contributes much to its rural economy, besides providing employment to the rural people, particularly women. At present there are 271 registered coir industries in Tamilnadu.

COIR INDUSTRIES IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

In Kanyakumari District coconuts cultivated approximately in 23451 hectares with and estimated production of 2757 lakh nuts. There are 61 fibre extraction units 20 yarn spinning units and 7 units producing other coir products, out of 76 units come under industrial Co-Operatives, besides there are 748 units under tiny household sector engaged in yarn and rope spinning either as a family unit or as tiny units. The total quantity of coir fibre produced in this District per year is estimated to be 13147 tones. Out of fibre produced in this 5712 tonnes account for coir yarn 227 tonnes at and matting and 110 tones Curled coir and 55 tones other coir products.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Coir work is very popular in Kanyakumari District, because the natural conditions are much suitable for its existence. In spite of its predominance in villages agasteeswaram, eethamozhil, Mondaikadu, Colachel, Vilavancode, Thakalay, Kulasegaram. The conditions of the workers are not still improved. The workers are ailing from a number of diseases. Their conditions are very poor. Their day today problems are innumerable so the researcher is intended to analyse what are the factors causing these problems and find out the solutions for the above problems.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the important objectives of the present study.

- To study the socio-economic conditions of workers in coir industries of Kanyakumari District.
- To explore the working conditions of workers in coir industries of Kanyakumari District.
- To analyse the problems faced by the coir workers in Kanyakumari District.
- To offer the suggestions to overcome the problems of coir workers.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The following are the hypotheses of the study

H1 = There is no significant difference between age of the respondents and level of satisfaction.

H2 = There is no significant difference between educational qualification of the respondents and level of satisfaction.

H3 = There is no significant difference between Marital status of the respondents and level of satisfaction.

METHODOLOGY

The data for the present study was collected both from the primary and secondary sources. The secondary data were collected from reports, documents, published thesis and websites. The primary data were collected by conducting personal interview with coir workers in Kanyakumari District with the help of the interview schedule.

Random sampling method was adopted for collecting primary data for this study. The total sample size was fixed as 120. Data were obtained from 120 coir workers selected at random scattered over through Kanyakumari District.

FRAMEWORK OF ANALYSIS

For the purpose of fulfilling the objectives of the study the researcher use various tools such as tables, averages, percentage analysis, Likert Scaling Technique, Garrett Ranking Technique and Chi-square analysis.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

In this part the researcher analyse the problems faced by the coir workers in Kanyakumari District.

AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS

Age composition plays an important role in determining the child labour. The age wise classification of sample respondents is given in Table 1.

TABLE 1: AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS

SL.NO.	AGE	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Below 18	10	08.30
2	18-25	25	20.85
3	25-35	40	33.35
4	35-45	30	25.00
5	Above 45	15	12.50
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 1 that, 40 workers (33.35 percent) are in between the 25 – 35 age group, 30 workers (25 percent) are in between 35 – 45 age group, 25 respondents (20.85 percent) are in between 18 – 25 age group, 15 respondents (12.50 percent) are above 45 age group. It is note worth none of the sample respondents belong to the age group of below 18 years.

It shows majority of coir workers belong to the age group of 25 to 35 years.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Education is the basic necessity to human development if the people in a society are well educated, there will be prosperity and growth. People give respect to the educated people. The Table 2 indicates the educational status of the sample coir workers in Kanyakumari District.

TABLE 2: EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

SL.NO.	EDUCATIONAL LEVEL	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Illiterates	15	12.50
2	Primary	30	25.00
3	Middle school	55	45.85
4	High school	20	16.65
5	Degree	Nil	-----
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 2 that, 55 workers (45.85 percent) have middle school education, 30 workers (25 percent) have primary education, 20 workers (16.65) have high school education and only 15 workers (12.50 percent) are illiterate. From the sample respondents there is no degree holder.

It shows majority of workers have educational qualification of middle school.

SEX-WISE CLASSIFICATION

In coir industry more number of women are working compared with men. The sex-wise distribution of the sample respondents is given in Table 3.

TABLE 3: SEX-WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

SL.NO.	SEX	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Male	40	33.35
2	Female	80	66.65
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 3 that, 80 respondents (66.65 percent) are female and 40 respondents (33.35 percent) are male.

It shows majority of coir industry workers are female.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Marital status of the selected respondents is one of the indicators of the social conditions of the coir industry workers. The marital status of the sample respondents is given in Table 4.

TABLE 4: MARITAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

SL.NO.	MARITAL STATUS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Married	35	29.15
2	Un-Married	85	70.85
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 4 that, 85 workers (70.85 percent) are un-married and 35 respondents (29.15 percent) are married. It shows majority of coir industry workers are un-married.

FAMILY SYSTEM

There are two types of family system. They are nuclear and joint family system. Nature of family of coir industry worker is indicated in Table 5.

TABLE 5: FAMILY SYSTEM OF THE RESPONDENTS

SL.NO.	FAMILY SYSTEM	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Nuclear family	85	70.85
2	Joint family	35	29.15
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 5 that, 85 workers (70.85 percent) belong to the nuclear family and only 35 workers (29.15 percent) belong to the joint family. It shows majority of coir industry workers belong to the nuclear family.

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT

Distribution of the sample coir industry workers according to their nature of employment is given in Table 6.

TABLE 6: NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT

SL.NO.	NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Permanent	115	95.85
2	Temporary	005	04.15
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 6 that, 115 workers (95.85 percent) are permanent worker and only five workers (4.15 percent) are temporary worker. It shows majority of coir industry workers are permanent.

WORKING EXPERIENCE

Experience makes a perception of work. Working experience of the coir industry workers are indicated in the Table 7.

TABLE 7: WORKING EXPERIENCE

SL.NO.	EXPERIENCE	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Less than 5 years	18	15.00
2	5 to 10 years	30	25.00
3	10 to 15 years	40	33.35
4	15 to 20 years	20	16.65
5	More than 20 years	12	10.00
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 7 that, 40 respondents (33.35 percent) have been working in coir industries for the period of 10 to 15 years, 30 respondents (25 percent) have been working in coir industry for the period of 5 to 10 years, 20 respondents (16.65 percent) have been working in coir industry for the period of 15 to 20 years, 18 respondents (15 percent) have been working in coir industry for the period of less than five years and only 12 respondents (10 percent) have been working in the industry for the period of more than 20 years.

It shows that majority of coir industry workers have been working for the period of 10 to 15 years.

TYPES OF WORK

The various type of work performed by the sample respondents are presented in the Table 8.

TABLE 8: TYPES OF WORK

SL.NO.	TYPES OF WORK	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Collection of Fibre	15	12.50
2	Coir Making	80	66.65
3	Coir Sales	10	08.35
4	Fibre Bonthu	15	12.50
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 8 that, 80 respondents (66.65 percent) are directly engaged in coir making, 15 respondents (12.50 percent) are engaging in collection of fibre, another 15 respondents (12.50 percent) are engaging fibre bonthu work and only 10 respondents (8.35 percent) are engaging coir sales work.

It shows majority of coir industry workers are engaging coir making works.

DAILY WAGES OF COIR INDUSTRY WORKERS

Daily wages refers to the wage obtained for the daily work in the industry. The daily wage to the sample respondents in coir industry is given in the Table 9.

TABLE 9: DAILY WAGES OF COIR INDUSTRY WORKERS

SL.NO.	WAGES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Below Rs.100	10	08.35
2	Rs.100 to Rs.150	85	70.85
3	Rs.150 to Rs.200	20	16.65
4	Above Rs.200	05	04.15
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 9 that, 85 respondents (70.85 percent) have the daily wages between Rs.100 to Rs.150, 20 respondents (16.65 percent) have the daily wages between Rs.150 to Rs.200, 10 respondents (8.35 percent) have the daily wages below Rs.100 and only five respondents (4.15 percent) have the daily wages above Rs.200.

It shows majority of the respondents have the daily wages between Rs.100 to Rs.150.

MONTHLY INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

Income includes wages from the job, agricultural income, business income and other family income of the sample respondents. The income level of the sample respondents is given in the Table 10.

TABLE 10: MONTHLY INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

SL.NO.	MONTHLY INCOME	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Less than Rs.2000	25	20.85
2	Rs.2000 to Rs.4000	80	66.65
3	Rs.4000 to Rs.6000	10	08.35
4	Rs.6000 to Rs.8000	05	04.15
5	Above Rs.8000	Nil	----
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 10 that, 80 respondents (66.65 percent) have monthly income waving between Rs.2000 to Rs.4000, 25 respondents (20.85 percent) have monthly income at the range of less than Rs.2000, 10 respondents (8.35 percent) have monthly income at the range of Rs.4000 to Rs.6000 and only five respondents (4.15 percent) have monthly income at the range of Rs.6000 to Rs.8000.

It shows majority of the coir industry workers have monthly income at the range of Rs.2000 to Rs.4000.

MONTHLY EXPENDITURE PATTERN

A study on the expenditure pattern of coir industry workers will throw light on their living conditions. The pattern of consumption expenditure determines the economic status of the people. The monthly expenditure pattern of the sample coir industry workers are given in the Table 11.

TABLE 11: MONTHLY EXPENDITURE PATTERN

Sl. No.	Item of Expenditure	Total	Average	Percentage
1	Food	330000	2750	64.30
2	Cloths	60000	500	11.70
3	Medicine	36000	300	07.00
4	Education	42000	350	08.25
5	Electrical	12500	125	02.90
6	Others	30000	250	05.85
Total		510500	4275	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 11 that, the monthly expenditure pattern of coir industry workers. A large portion (64.30 percent) of the income is spent for food, 11.70 percent of the income spent for cloths, 8.25 percent of the income spent for education, seven percent of the income spent for medicine and only 2.90 percent income spent for electrical.

It shows a large portion of income spent for food.

DISEASE AFFECTED

The coir industry workers are being affected by various diseases. The classification of sample respondents on the basis of various diseases affected is given in Table 12.

TABLE 12: DISEASE AFFECTED

Sl.No.	Types of Disease	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Asthma	05	04.20
2	Anemia	02	01.65
3	T.B	08	06.65
4	Skin Disease	15	12.50
5	Bone Disease	21	17.50
6	Free from disease	69	57.50
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 12 that, 69 respondents (57.50 percent) are free from disease, 21 respondents (17.50 percent) are affected by bone disease, 15 respondents (12.50 percent) are affected by skin disease, eight respondents (6.65 percent) are affected by T.B, five respondents (4.20 percent) are affected by asthma and only two respondents (1.65 percent) are affected by Asthma.

It is clear that the majority of respondents are not affected by any disease.

PROBLEMS FACED BY COIR INDUSTRY WORKERS

The coir industry workers face lot of problems. It is analysed with the help of Garrett Ranking Technique.

TABLE 13: PROBLEMS FACED BY COIR INDUSTRY WORKERS

Sl. No.	Problems	Average (Garrett Mean Score)	Rank
1	Very Low Wages	52.85	I
2	Long Working Hours	51.24	II
3	Low Entertainment	45.20	VI
4	Poor Living Conditions	47.11	V
5	No Government Support	49.25	III
6	Poor Working Conditions	47.58	IV

Source: Primary and Calculated data

It is clear from Table 13 that, majority of coir industry workers (Avg. Score 52.85) faced the problem of very low wages it attained first rank, second rank (Avg. Score 51.24) has been attained by long working hours, third rank (Avg. Score 49.25) has been attained by no Government support, fourth rank (Avg. Score 47.58) has been attained by poor working condition, fifth rank (Avg. Score 47.11) has been attained by poor living condition and last rank (Avg. Score 45.20) has been attained by low entertainment.

It is clear that majority of coir industry workers faced the problem of very low wages.

OPINION ABOUT WORKING CONDITIONS OF WORKERS

The working conditions of coir industry workers are analysed with the help of Likert Scaling Technique,

TABLE 14: OPINION ABOUT WORKING CONDITIONS

Working Condition	Very Good		Good		Moderate		Low		Very Low		Total		Rank
	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	
Canteen	00	000	05	020	15	030	50	100	50	050	120	200	IV
Water	30	150	50	200	30	090	10	020	00	000	120	460	I
Toilet	00	000	00	000	50	150	50	100	20	020	120	270	II
Medical	00	000	00	000	00	000	30	060	90	090	120	150	V
Accidental Insurance	00	000	00	000	00	000	90	180	30	030	120	210	III
Labour Welfare Measures	00	000	00	000	00	000	00	000	120	120	120	120	VI

Source: Primary data

(Points to be allotted to very good = 5, good = 4, moderate = 3, low = 2, very low = 1)

It is clear from Table 14 that, almost all the coir industry workers are highly dis-satisfied with their working conditions. Even though this study reveals majority of respondents are satisfied with water facilities it has been attained by first rank (460 points), second rank (270 points) has been attained by toilet facilities, third rank (210 points) has been attained by accidental insurance, fourth rank (200 points) has been attained by canteen facilities and last rank (120 points) has been attained by labour welfare measures.

LEVEL OF SATISFACTION

The coir industry worker satisfaction depends on a working conditions and wages. The level of satisfaction of coir industry workers are presented in the Table 15.

TABLE 15: LEVEL OF SATISFACTION

SL. NO	LEVEL OF SATISFACTION	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Highly Satisfied	02	01.65
2	Satisfied	18	15.00
3	Moderate	70	58.35
4	Low Level	20	16.65
5	Very Low Level	10	08.35
Total		120	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table 15 that, 70 respondents (58.35 percent) level of satisfaction is moderate, 20 respondents (16.65 percent) level of satisfaction is low, 18 respondents (15 percent) level of satisfaction is satisfied, 10 respondents (8.35 percent) level of satisfaction is very low and only 2 respondents (1.65 percent) level of satisfaction is high.

It is clear that majority of coir industry workers are satisfied with their work.

ANALYSIS OF HYPOTHESES

The primary data were collected from the respondents tabulated for analysis and interpretation. The data analysed and interpreted are tested by using the chi-square test.

The chi-square test is applied in statistics to test the goodness of fitness to verify the distribution of observed data with assumed theoretical distribution. It is defined as

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum(O-E)^2}{E}$$

Where

O= Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

In the present study the researchers frame three hypotheses to test the goodness of fitness. In this regard the following hypotheses are framed:

H1 = There is no significant difference between age of the respondents and level of satisfaction.

H2 = There is no significant difference between educational qualification of the respondents and level of satisfaction.

H3 = There is no significant difference between Marital status of the respondents and level of satisfaction.

I. H1 = There is no significant difference between age of the respondents and level of satisfaction.

The age and Level of satisfaction are analyzed with the help of chi-square (χ^2) test which is represented as follows.

Age (Years)	Level of satisfaction			Total
	High	Medium	Low	
Below 25	08	10	17	35
25-35	10	20	10	40
Above 35	02	40	03	45
Total	20	70	30	120

COMPUTATION OF CHI-SQUARE VALUE

O	E	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	$\frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$
08	05.83	02.17	04.70	0.8061
10	06.65	03.35	11.22	1.6872
02	07.50	-05.50	30.25	4.0333
10	20.40	10.40	108.16	5.3019
20	23.30	03.30	10.89	0.4670
40	26.25	13.75	189.06	7.2442
17	08.75	08.25	68.06	7.7782
10	10.00	00.00	00.00	0.0000
03	11.25	-08.25	68.06	6.0497
Total				28.5959

Calculated value = 28.5959
 D.F. = (c-1) (r-1)
 = (3-1) (3-1)
 = 2 * 2
 = 4

Table value of chi-square at 5% level of significance (4 d.f) = 9.49

RESULT

The calculated value is greater than the table value, so we reject the null hypothesis. Thus there is significant difference between age of the coir industry workers and level of satisfaction.

II. H2 = There is no significant difference between educational qualification of the respondents and level of satisfaction.

The educational qualification and Level of satisfaction are analyzed with the help of chi-square (χ^2) test which is represented as follows.

Educational Qualification	Level of satisfaction			Total
	High	Medium	Low	
Illiterate	04	08	03	15
Primary/Middle	11	55	19	85
High School	05	07	08	20
Total	20	70	30	120

COMPUTATION OF CHI-SQUARE VALUE

O	E	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	$\frac{\sum(O-E)^2}{E}$
04	02.50	01.50	02.25	00.9000
11	14.16	-03.16	09.98	00.7048
05	03.33	01.67	02.78	00.8348
08	08.75	-00.75	00.56	00.0640
55	49.58	05.42	29.37	00.5923
07	11.66	-04.66	21.71	01.8619
03	03.75	-00.75	00.56	00.1493
19	21.25	-02.25	05.06	00.2381
08	05.00	03.00	09.00	01.8000
Total				7.1379

Calculated value = 7.1379
 D.F. = (c-1) (r-1)
 = (3-1) (3-1)
 = 2 * 2
 = 4

Table value of chi-square at 5% level of significance (4 d.f) = 9.49

RESULT

The calculated value is less than the table value, so we accept the null hypothesis. Thus there is no significant difference between educational qualification of the coir industry workers and level of satisfaction.

III. H3 = There is no significant difference between Marital status of the respondents and level of satisfaction.

The Marital Status and Level of satisfaction are analyzed with the help of chi-square (χ^2) test which is represented as follows.

Marital Status	Level of satisfaction			Total
	High	Medium	Low	
Married	06	14	15	35
Un-Married	14	56	15	85
Total	20	70	30	120

COMPUTATION OF CHI-SQUARE VALUE

O	E	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	$\frac{\sum(O-E)^2}{E}$
06	05.83	00.17	00.028	00.0048
14	14.16	-00.16	00.025	00.0017
14	20.41	-06.41	41.088	02.0131
56	49.58	06.42	41.216	00.8313
15	08.75	06.25	39.062	04.4642
15	21.25	-06.25	39.062	01.8382
Total				9.1533

Calculated value = 9.1533
 D.F. = (c-1) (r-1)
 = (2-1) (3-1)
 = 1 * 2
 = 2

Table value (at 5% level) = 5.99

RESULT

The calculated value is greater than the table value, so we reject the null hypothesis. Thus there is significant difference between marital status of the coir industry workers and level of satisfaction.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

After analysing the data regarding the problems of coir industry workers in Kanyakumari District the researcher gives the following important findings. The study reveals majority of the coir industry workers are in the age group of 25 – 35. Majority of workers are women, majority of workers have the educational qualification of middle school. It is found that majority of workers belong to the nuclear family. The study reveals majority of sample respondents are permanent. It is found that majority of coir industry workers have been working for a period of 10 to 15 years. Majority of workers are engaged direct coir making. Majority of workers have daily wages between Rs.100 to Rs.150. It is found that majority of respondents have monthly income at the range of Rs.2000 to Rs.4000. The expenditure pattern of the sample respondents shows that more than 64 percent spent for food. The study found that majority of respondents affected by bone disease. The study reveals that no medical facility is given to the coir workers. The study point out that the majority of the coir workers face the problem of very low wages and long working hours. Coco-hush-pith arises from their coir making process cause large number of diseases like asthma, anemia and T.B. the workers are working under open sunlight and as a result workers got often get tired. There is no provident fund and pension facility for coir industry

workers. There is no works for coir workers during the rainy season. There is no leave facility for coir workers. The result of hypotheses analysis reveals that, there is significant difference between age of the coir industry workers and level of satisfaction, there is no significant difference between educational qualification of the coir industry workers and level of satisfaction, there is significant difference between marital status of the coir industry workers and level of satisfaction.

SUGGESTIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study reveals about the problems of coir industry workers in Kanyakumari District. The researcher grasped up various problems of the respondents and summed up-them.

The study reveals that coir workers have longer working hours. So the working hours of the coir workers may be regulated by the Government. Holidays are not given even on important national and religious festival days. The national holidays may be declared as paid holidays to the coir workers. The government may enforce labour welfare measures such as provident fund and medical facilities for coir workers. The Government may establish a separate department to safeguard the welfare of the coir industry workers. The Government must take the effort to increase the wages of coir industry workers. Generally the coir workers do the work perpetually in the open surface. The workers are directly exposed to the sunlight to steps may be taken to provide them shady roofs for coir industry workers. Minimum and Maximum age limit may be fixed by the Government it should be strictly implemented to avoid the employment of children and old age group. Accident benefit may be given by the government to the coir industry workers. The government may include all the coir workers in the welfare in board of the workers. Welfare schemes may be implemented to the workers of coir industry and their children. The government may provide minimum amount of pension to the coir industry workers when they are unable to do the work or at their old age.

CONCLUSION

Coir doormats have shown bigger growth than other products. Why there is a new demand for doormats. Among the coir products the door mats occupy unique position because of its brushing quality which most of its competing substitutes do not have. Coir products are natural, 100 percent biodegradable, environment friendly and cost effective. The environment friendly consciousness is emerging on a high scale which definitely makes the coir products more acceptable. The concerted efforts of the Coir Board to strengthen the export markets by way of increased participation in foreign fairs, conducted of market study, sponsoring of delegation/market missions, participation in catalogue shows & product promotion programmes, undertaking generic publicity promotional efforts through various embassies etc. have helped the coir products to expand its global market. Because of its inherent quality of keeping warm in winter, coir products are widely used in all countries where cold climate prevail.

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