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SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TSUNAMI SURVIVORS IN KOTTUCHERRYMEDU, KARAİKAL DISTRICT - A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Kottucherrymedu is one of the fisher folk in karaikal district. Fishing is the main occupation of the people. But after the tsunami (Dec 26th 2004) fisher folk in this district was worstly affected in terms of lives, assets, vessels etc. This paper highlights whether the socio economic profile of tsunami survivors are developed or not after the tsunami.

KEYWORDS

Fisher folk, Demographic factors, Socio- economic status.

INTRODUCTION

Socioeconomic status (SES) is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education, and occupation. When analyzing a family's SES, the household income, earners' education, and occupation are examined, as well as combined income, versus with an individual, when their own attributes are assessed. No one theory has a monopoly on the meaning of SES or class. Socio-economic status refers to the position of individuals, families, households, or other aggregates on one or more dimensions of stratification. These dimensions include income, education, prestige, wealth, or other aspects of standing that members of society deem salient. There are different ideas about what class is, but it is defined relationally, referring to groups of people who share a similar position such as the relationship to the means of production. All too often SES and class are ambiguous terms that serve as shorthand expressions to refer to social and economic characteristics that are believed to be important, but the rationale or meaning of which is not always made clear. There are nearly as many concepts of socioeconomic status and class as there are authors writing on them. However, distancing ourselves from the particulars of each work, it is possible to discern two broad approaches. The first sees class or SES as essentially a unitary concept. From this perspective, a fundamental dimension underlies class (or SES), and it is this dimension that is the primary driving force of some class analyses. The second viewpoint focuses on the components of SES or class and treats them as having distinct effects. This conceptualization disputes the unidimensionality of class or SES. It highlights the separate dimensions of stratification and predicts that different dimensions can have different consequences.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Karaikal is on the east coast about 140 kms south of Pondicherry and 300 kms south of Chennai. The total geographical rural area of the district is 14305.56 hectares. Karaikal has a population of 170640 and it is a good fishing centre with the following 10 marine fishing villages namely, Mandabathur, Kallikuppam, Akkampettai, Kottucherrymedu, Kasakudymedu, Kilinjalmedu, Karaikalmedu, T.R. Pattinam, Karukalachurri and Vanjore. Kottucherrymedu has a population of 956 and it constitutes about 0.55% of the total population the main occupation of this fisher folk is fishing. It is to be noted that a demographic factors of fishermen in general displays a picture of education, occupation, income and various chances for economic, political, social development studies indicated that social & economic condition of the family has the deep impact on their children education. The education level of people was found that it was moderately good.

A village namely kottucherrymedu was selected purposively for the study. The study area is familiar with researcher with respect to its area, people, officials etc. The sample size for the present study comprises of 100 fishermen drawn by random sampling from a selected village of kottucherrymedu of karaikal district. Head of the family (either man or women) was selected as a respondent. A pretested interview was developed for collection of data and analyzed after calculating percentage and Chi- Square test. Socio economic status of respondents was calculated on the basis of age, educational level, caste, family type, size, assets holding, housing pattern, occupation, annual income & social participation.

HYPOTHESIS FOR TESTING SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS

1. H_0 - There is no significant relationship between Income and Socio – Economic Status of respondents.
2. H_0 - There is no significant relationship between Social Participation and Socio – Economic Status of respondents.

DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

Data was collected through personal interview method about the demographic factors like occupation, education, caste, income etc. then socio economic status was classified as low, medium and high after quantifying the factors as well as calculating percentage.

AGE COMPOSITION

Age refers to chronological age of the respondent in the years at the time of interview

TABLE NO. 1: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO AGE COMPOSITION

Sl. No	Age of Respondents	No of respondents (%)
1	Up to 25 (Young)	22
2	26-50 (Middle)	73
3	51 & above (Old)	05
	Total	100

Source: Primary data

Minimum-20 years, maximum-65 years

It is evident from table no. 1 that the majority of respondents (73%) were observed in the middle age group [(i.e) 26 years to 50 years] where as 22% were observed in young age group ranges up to 25 years and old age (51 & above) were 05% only

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Education refers to the level of formal education obtained by the respondents.

TABLE NO. 2: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Sl. No	Educational level	No of respondents (%)
1	Illiterate	12
2	Primary	54
3	Secondary	18
4	UG	08
5	PG	04
6	Others	04
	Total	100

Source: Primary data

It is evident from the table no. 2, 54% of respondents are having primary level education, 18% of them are having secondary level, only 08% of the respondents are having UG level education and 04% of the respondents are having PG level and other type of education.

FAMILY TYPE

The members of house who live together under one roof and one man guidance constitute family. There are two types of family (a) single or nuclear family (b) Joint family.

TABLE NO. 3: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO FAMILY TYPE

Sl. No	Type of family	No of respondents (%)
1	Single family	64
2	Joint family	36
	Total	100

Source: Primary data

The above table no. 3 depicts that 64% respondents are belonging to single family, while 36% respondents belongs to joint family.

OCCUPATION

The main occupation of the families to which the respondents belonged was their family occupation and few of them are doing others also.

TABLE NO. 4: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION

Sl. No	Type of occupation	No of respondents (%)
1	Fishing	60
2	Govt .employment	09
3	Private employment	11
6	Others	20
	Total	100

Source: Primary data

The above table no. 4 depicts the occupation the main and subsidiary. It was found that 60% families have fishing as main occupation and 11% of them are private employees 09% of them are govt. employee and remaining 20% are doing type of work such as auto driving TATA ACE, commission based fish marketing etc.

HOUSING PATTERN

It refers to the habitation, the villagers get constructed house by the government, after tsunami, few of them are living in their own houses also.

TABLE NO. 5: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO HOUSING PATTERN

Sl. No	Housing Pattern	No of respondents (%)
1	Hut	10
2	Pacca (Tsunami house)	75
3	Mixed	05
4	Tiled house	10
	Total	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from the above Table no:5 relevant to the type of house possession that 75% respondents were found that they are living in Tsunami (pacca) house which was constructed by the government after Tsunami, 10% of the respondents are living in hut and 10% are living in tiled house and only 05% are living in mixed house (combination of tiled and roof)

ANNUAL INCOME

It refers to total income in rupees as earned by respondents from all sources in a particular year.

TABLE NO. 6: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO INCOME

Sl. No	Income categories	No of respondents (%)
1	Up to Rs.25000 (Low)	20
2	Rs.25001 to Rs.50000 (Middle)	49
3	Rs.50001 & Above (high)	31
	Total	100

Source: Primary data

It is obvious that table No.6 49% of the respondent's annual income was found in the category of Middle level income (i.e. Rs 25001 to Rs 50000), 31% are in the high level Income and 20% of them are in low income level.

Calculated value of Chi-Square is 5.84 is less than the table value at 5% level is 9.488. Hence we accept the null hypothesis.

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

It refers to the degree of participation of individuals in the social organization as a member or office holder.

TABLE NO. 7: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Sl. No	Participation	No of respondents (%)
1	No Participation	Nil
2	Participation in one organization	70
3	Participation in two organization	25
4	Participation in more than two organization	05
	Total	100

Source: Primary data

It is observed that majority of the respondents (i.e) 70% of them are member in one social organization 25% of them are member in two organization and only 5% of them are member in more than 2 organizations.

HOUSEHOLD MATERIALS, COMMUNICATION MEDIA

It refers to materials used in house, audio visual and print materials for getting information.

TABLE NO. 8: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO HOUSEHOLD MATERIALS, COMMUNICATION MEDIA

Sl. No	Household materials & communication media	No of respondents (%)
1	Two wheeler	85
2	Four wheeler	15
3	Mobile	100
4	LCD television	15
5	Sewing Machine	10
6	Washing machine	25
7	Air condition	20
8	Laptop	18
9	vessels	70

Source: primary data

More than one item were reported by the fisherman. Hence, the total percentage would be more than 100.

The above Table No: 8 reveal that majority of respondent's possessed Two wheelers (85%) Mobile (100%) Vessels (70%) Washing machine (20%) Air conditioner (20%) Laptop (18%) Sewing machine (10%) respectively.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TSUNAMI SURVIVORS (FISHERMEN)

It is the Profile of Socio-Economic components that refer to the status of individual, group, Society of organization. This paper or study refers to the Socio-economic status, the respondent possess.

TABLE NO. 9: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TSUNAMI SURVIVORS (FISHERMEN)

Sl. No	Socio-Economic status	No of respondents (%)
1	Low	16
2	Medium	65
3	High	19
	Total	100

Source: Primary data

It reveals that majority of the respondents belonged to medium category of Socio Economic status followed by low (16%) & high (19%) categories of Socio Economic status.

Calculated value of Chi-Square is 12.953 is more than the table value at 5% level of 12.592. Hence we reject the null hypothesis, we accept the alternate hypothesis (i.e) there is significant association between social participation and socio-economic status of the respondents.

RESULTS

- 73% of the respondents are middle age group (26years- 50 years)
- 54% of the respondents are having Primary level education
- 64% of the responds are having single family
- 60% of the respondents are doing fishing as main occupation.
- 75% of the respondents are living in Tsunami house which was provided by Government after Tsunami.
- 49% of the respondents are having middle income (Rs.25,000- Rs. 50,000)
- 70% of the respondents are having the membership in social organizations.
- Majority of the respondents are having Two-wheelers, Mobiles, Vessels.
- 65% of the respondents are having middle socio-economic status.

CONCLUSION

From the above study we can conclude that the peoples living in Kottucherry medu belongs to Hindu religion, Most-Backward class, their main occupation is fishing, having middle income and their socio-economic status is also middle.

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