



## A Socio Economic Analysis of Coir Workers in Kanyakumari District

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### Abstract

Indian coir industry is an important cottage industry contributing significantly to the economy to the major coconut growing states and Union Territories. Coir industry has to its credit a tradition and heritage of centuries. It is one of the few rural or traditional industries converting the coconut husk, waste, into wealth. This industry is the largest producer of coir, accounting for more than 80 percent of the world's production of coir fibre. The development of this agro-based industry is a condition which should be satisfied for economic prosperity as it has backward and forward linkages. One of the special characteristics of the coir industry is that it provides to agricultural labourers. Over six lakh employers, of whom a majority are from rural area and economically weaker sections of the sociality. Women contribute nearly 85 per cent of the work force and it remains as a pet industry for them. Hence Coir Industry is generally considered a vehicle for the generation of productive employment and income for the rural poor.

The coir industry in Kanyakumari District was pastoral in nature and generated employment to the uneducated people in rural areas. The industry prevents migration of the unemployed in search of greener pastures and offers scope to take up trade individually at chores. Women could attend to their household chores and put to use of leisure time available in spinning fibre or defibering or making ropes with coconut husk, major raw material, which is available in plenty in Kanyakumari District, where coconut is the second major plantation crop next to rubber. There are more than 50,000 coir workers approximate. Since it has a greater sense of wages for what they do, it does not count the time bound engagement in work. This is also an easy task for anyone to have an entry into the coir work. State Government and coir board have clustered together to strengthen the involvement of the works. If this venture goes on the right track, the involvement of the youth might be higher and more wage inflow for the coir workers.

**Key Words:** Coir Industry, Coir workers, Coir Board, Co-Coconut husk, Coir Co-operative Society, Coir Fiber, Rubberized Coir.

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The first coir factory was established in Alleppey in 1859 by James Darrah, an Ireland-born American. It was the first of its kind and the Malabar Coast. Alleppey was known for its port and allied commercial establishment where the chief industrial activity centered on coir weaving. Since the waving of coir-mat and matting had no indigenous tradition on the Malabar Coast a new labour force had to be trained in this unknown art. Europeans gave the training. In Darragh's coir manufacturing a number of Bengali workers trained the local workers. The success of this first unit inspired many and brought more entrepreneurs in to the field and made the entire region as coir-friendly. The coir industries that developed in Kerala from the late nineteenth century. The pioneering firm of James Darnagh & Co. and Darnagh Smail & Company had several workers. The agro-based traditional rural industry, coir is spreading itself a fast tempo in the southern parts of the country. Being strongly export-oriented from the very beginning, it has been fetching foreign currency by offering more than 14 value added products for export. The windfall opportunity offered by the global concern for the environment generated by the heat in the industry as its products are totally bi-degradable and eco-friendly. In the changing scenario, any study on this performing sector would be of immense help from a broader perspective. Coir is a highly labor intensive industry. To study coir workers problems encountered by it. The present study is based on analyzing the socio economic status of coir workers in the Kanyakumari district in Particular and Tamil Nadu in general.

### **2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

India being a land of villages with more than two-thirds of her population living in rural areas, rural industrialization could play a key role in the country as it produces forward and backward linkages in the rural economy. In this context the Rural Small-Scale Enterprises based on local raw materials, skills and technology have been identified as one of the key sectors in the country. Among the rural small - scale industries, coir industry is the oldest agro- based rural industry, which has got the attention of both the enterprising entrepreneurs' and the government alike today. However, in the present globalize scenario, like any other industry, Coir industry is also prone to problems and constraints. Both at the state and at the national levels the problems like inadequate finance to meet the growing cost of production, non-availability of raw material such as coconut husk in the years with scanty rainfalls, obsolete production technology, difficulties in the adoption of modern technology, labor scarcity during the harvesting periods of agricultural crops, absence of an effective marketing system, lack of marketing infrastructure, concentration of markets and demand in selected regions, production in only sunny days, irrational selection and mismanagement of human resources in all its functional areas, environmental problems, unhealthy competition between mechanized units and non- mechanized units and lastly the not - so encouraging government support, apply brakes in the further growth of this sector in the country. The industry is facing hurdles and problems in its functional area. Thus, the researcher has done the socio-economic status of coir workers in Kanyakumari District.

### **3. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this paper are as follows:

- To study the demographic conditions of coir workers in Kanyakumari Districts.

- To study the socio-economic status of coir workers in Kanyakumari Districts.
- To suggest measures to improve the conditions of coir workers in Kanyakumari Districts.

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted among 510 respondents with a structured interview schedule. During the survey eight respondents declined to respond further in half way and four schedules were found incomplete during the screening. Finally 498 samples were taken up for analysis and the details regarding the socio-economic status of coir workers in Kanyakumari District.

#### 5. DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

The details regarding the demographic factors of the respondents namely Age, Gender, Religion, Community, Education, Income, Wages, Savings, Family, Benefits from Coir board and Government etc are presented below:

##### 5.1 Age Wise Classification

**TABLE 1: AGE WISE CLASSIFICATION**

AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
20 Yrs to 30 Yrs	11	2.2
31 to 40	110	22.1
41 to 50	220	44.2
51 to 60	148	29.7
Above 60	9	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

It could be inferred from Table No.1 that majority of the respondents contributing 44.2% are from the the age group of 41 to 50. The respondents under the age group from 51 to 60 make the second major category with 148 respondents which contributes 29.7%. Only 9 respondents (1.8%) are from above 60 age group. It could also be inferred that respondents with age from 36 to 60 contributes almost 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the work force.

##### 5.2 Genderwise Classification

**TABLE 2: GENDER WISE CLASSIFICATION**

GENDER	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Male	137	27.5
Female	361	72.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

The analysis in Table No.2 shows that out of 498 respondents, 137 were male and 361 female contributing to 27.5 percent and 72.5 percent of the total respectively. It is evident from the result that majority of the respondents are women. It could be attributed to the factors like low wages and low skill requirements. This should be seen in an important perspective that the coir industry plays a major role in women empowerment by providing employment to them in huge share.

### 5.3 Religion Wise Classification

TABLE 3: RELIGION

RELIGION	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Hindu	402	80.7
Christian	96	19.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

It is observed from Table No.3 that out of that out of 498 respondents, 402 (80.7%) were Hindus and 96 (19.3%) were Christians.

### 5.4 Community Wise Classification

TABLE 4: COMMUNITY WISE CLASSIFICATION

COMMUNITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Forward Community	12	2.4
Backward Community	384	77.1
Most Backward Community	29	5.8
Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe	73	14.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

It is evident from Table No.4 that the Backward Community with 384 respondents (77.1%) tops the list.73 respondents (14.7%) belong to SC/ST category. It is notable that only 12 respondents (2.4%) are from Forward Community.

### 5.5 Marital Status

TABLE 5: MARITAL STATUS

MARITAL STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Married	470	94.4
Unmarried	28	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

It could be inferred from Table No.5 that 94.4% of the respondents were married and only 5.6% are unmarried.

### 5.6 Educational Qualification

TABLE 6: EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

QUALIFICATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Illiterate	45	9.0
Primary School	39	7.8
Middle School	57	11.4
High School	351	70.5
HSC	4	.8
Above HSC	2	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

The analysis in Table No.6 shows that majority of the respondents contributing 70.5% have High School education, followed by those having studied middle school with 11.4%. It is notable that 45 respondents are illiterate. Those who have crossed HSC is only 6 with 1.2%. It could also be inferred that a huge share with 91 % of the respondents are literates. Another perspective shall be that this industry provides employment to illiterates reasonably.

### 5.7 Type of Family

**TABLE 7: TYPE OF FAMILY**

TYPE OF FAMILY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Nuclear	17	3.4
Joint Family	479	96.2
Single	2	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

It is observed from Table No. 7 that out of 498 respondents a clear majority with 96.2% of the respondents are living in a Joint Family. This could be attributed to the factor that major portion of the industry is located in rural (Panchayat) and transitional (Town panchayat) area.

### 5.8 Size of Family

**TABLE 8: SIZE OF FAMILY**

SIZE OF FAMILY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
1-2	56	11.2
3-4	321	64.5
Above 4	121	24.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

Table No.8 explains that 321 respondents are having 3-4 members in their family followed by 121 respondents having more than 4 members and contributes 64.5% and 24.3% respectively. Similar to type of family, this could also be attributed to the factor that major portion of the industry is located in rural (Panchayat) and transitional (Town panchayat) area.

### 5.9 Local Authority

**TABLE 9: LOCAL AUTHORITY**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Village Panchayat	185	37.1
Town Panchayat	278	55.8
Selection Grade	9	1.8
Municipality	26	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

It could be inferred from Table No.9 that major portion of respondents are from Town Panchayat (55.8 %) followed by Village panchayat (37.1%). Panchayat area is rural in nature whereas Town panchayat is presently under transition from rural to urban. The observation vividly indicates

that 93% of the respondents are from rural background. Thus, the industry gains importance in the aspect of providing rural employment.

### 5.10 Taluk

TABLE 10: TALUK

TALUK	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Agasteeswaram	171	34.3
Thovalai	50	10.0
Vilavancode	123	24.7
Kalkulam	154	30.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

The analysis in Table No.10 shows that the respondents spread out among 3 of 4 taluks namely Agasteeswaram (34%), Vilavancode (24.7%) and Kalkulam (30.9%). Only the Thovalai Taluk lacks its contribution with 10% of the respondents.

### 5.11 Process of Coir Industry

TABLE 11: PROCESS OF COIR INDUSTRY

PROCESS IN THE INDUSTRY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Spinning	167	33.5
Pitch brick	11	2.2
Fibre Extraction	203	40.8
Retting	23	4.6
Rope making	21	4.2
Fibre dying	73	14.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

It is observed from Table No.11 that among 498 respondents 40.8% are working in Pitch bricking followed by Spinning with 33.5% and Fibre dying with 14.7%. All other fields contribute 11% of the total respondents.

### 5.12 Level of Mechanization

TABLE 12: LEVEL OF MECHANIZATION

LEVEL OF MECHANIZATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Fully mechanized	32	6.4
Partially mechanized	157	31.5
Manual	309	62.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

Table No.12 explains that the 62% of respondents are working in Manual process and 31% of respondents are working in Partially mechanized industry. Only 6.4% are working in Fully mechanized environment. It could be observed that the industry still under the transition to mechanization and providing employment to persons only with basic skill sets.

### 5.13 Average Wages Per Day

**TABLE 13: AVERAGE WAGES PER DAY**

AVERAGE WAGES PER DAY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Upto Rs.150	72	14.5
Rs.150 to Rs.250	92	18.5
Rs.250 to Rs.350	151	30.3
Rs.350 to Rs.450	132	26.5
Above Rs.450	51	10.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

It could be inferred from Table No.13 that 30.3% of the respondents are paid Rs.25 to Rs.350 per day as average wages and 26.5% of the respondents are paid with Rs.350 to Rs.450. Only 10.2% of respondents are getting Above Rs.450. It is noteworthy that the most of the respondents are Women, with Rural background and either unskilled or semiskilled.

### 5.14 Distance from Residence

**TABLE 14: DISTANCE FROM RESIDENCE**

DISTANCE FROM RESIDENCE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Within 1 KM	164	32.9
Within 1KM to 2 KM	206	41.4
Within 2 KM to 3 KM	110	22.1
Above 3 KM	18	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

The analysis in Table No.14 shows that 41.4% of respondents reside within 1Km to 2Km from the workplace. 32.9% of respondents travel less than 1 Km to reach their workplace. Only 3.6 % travel more than 3 Km.

### 5.15 Transport Facilities

**TABLE 15: TRANSPORT FACILITIES**

TRANSPORT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Available	23	4.6
Unavailable	475	95.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

It is observed from Table No.15 that only 4.6% of respondents are connected to their workplace by any mode of transport remaining 95.4% of respondents have to reach their workplace on their own.

### 5.16 Factor of Motivation

TABLE 16: FACTOR OF MOTIVATION

FACTOR OF MOTIVATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Nearest to home	220	44.2
Posses the skill	147	29.5
Ancestral work	50	10.0
Lack of other employment	20	4.0
Regular income	61	12.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

Table No.16 explains that 44.2% of respondents preferred this job due to proximity and 29.5% of respondents point out the the skill set matching as the reason to choose this job. The other factors are Regular income (12.2%), Ancestral work (10%) and Lack of other employment (4%).

### 5.17 Nature of Work

TABLE 17: NATURE OF WORK

NATURE OF WORK	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Part time	13	2.6
Full time	485	97.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

It could be inferred from Table No.17 that 97.4% were working in Full time mode and 2.6% of respondents were Part time workers.

### 5.18 Experience

TABLE 18: EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Upto 5 years	18	3.6
6 to 10 Years	100	20.1
11 to 15 Years	217	43.6
16 to 20 Years	144	28.9
Above 20 Years	19	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

The analysis in Table No.18 shows that 43.6% of respondents have 11 to 15 years of experience. 28.9% of respondents have 16 to 20 years of experience. 20.1% of respondents have 6 to 10 years of experience. Only 3.6% of respondents have less than 5 years of experience.



### 5.19 Working Hours

**TABLE 19: WORKING HOURS**

WORKING HOURS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Upto 8 Hrs	35	7.0
8 Hrs to 10 Hrs	431	86.5
Above 10 Hrs	32	6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

It is observed from Table No.19 that 86.5% of respondents have 8 to 10 working hours. 7% of respondents work up to 7 hours per day and 6.4% of respondents have more than 10 working hours daily.

### 5.20 No. of Working Days Per Month

**TABLE 20: NO. OF WORKING DAYS PER MONTH**

NO.OF WORKING DAYS PER MONTH	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Upto 20 days	6	1.2
20 to 25 days	488	98.0
Above 25 days	4	.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

Table No.20 explains that 98% of respondents have 20 to 25 working days per month. Only 1.2% has up to 20 working days and 0.8% have above 25 working days.

### 5.21 Form of Organization

**TABLE 21: FORM OF ORGANIZATION**

FORM OF ORGANIZATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Sole proprietor	465	93.4
Partnership	7	1.4
Cooperative	23	4.6
SHG	3	.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It could be inferred from Table No.21 that 93.4% of respondents are working in firms run by Sole proprietor. The other ownerships are 4.6% by Cooperative, 1.4% by Partnership and 0.6% by SHG.

### 5.22 No. of Members from Each Family

**TABLE 22: NO. OF MEMBERS FROM EACH FAMILY**

NO. OF MEMBERS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
1	179	35.9
2	263	52.8
Above 2	56	11.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

The analysis in Table No.22 shows that 52.8% respondents have two members in their family employed in Coir industry. For 35.9% respondents, only the respondent is working in coir industry. 11.2% of respondents have more than 2 members in their family employed in coir industry.

### 5.23 Acceptance for Other Job

**TABLE 23: ACCEPTANCE FOR OTHER JOB**

ACCEPTANCE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	8	1.6
No	490	98.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

It is observed from Table No. 23 that 98.4% of respondents are not willing to accept other job and only 1.6% are willing to switch over from coir industry.

### 5.24 Type of House

**TABLE 24: TYPE OF HOUSE**

TYPE OF HOUSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Thatched	97	19.5
Tiles	97	19.5
Sheet	154	30.9
Terrace	146	29.3
Others	4	.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

Table No.24 explains that 30.9% of respondents reside in sheet roofed house. 29.3% respondents live in Terraced house. Respondents both live in Thatched house and Tiled house equally contribute to 19.5% each.

### 5.25 Ownership of House

**TABLE 25: OWNERSHIP OF HOUSE**

OWNERSHIP OF HOUSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Own	333	66.9
Rented	156	31.3
Government land	9	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

It could be inferred from Table No.25 that 66.9% of the respondents have own their house and 31.3% live in rented house. Only 1.8% of the respondents occupy the Government land for housing.

### 5.26 Drinking Water Facility

**TABLE 26: DRINKING WATER FACILITY**

DRINKING WATER FACILITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Public Tank	141	28.3
Private Tank	62	12.4
Public wells	236	47.4
Private wells	50	10.0
Public taps	9	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

The analysis in Table No.26 shows that Public wells serve the needs 47.4% of the respondents whereas 28.3% of the respondents depend on Public Tank and 12.4% on Private Tank. Private Wells and Public taps fulfill the needs of 10% and 1.8% respectively.

### 5.27 Medical Facilities

**TABLE 27: MEDICAL FACILITIES**

MEDICAL FACILITIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Government Hospital	309	62.0
Private Hospital	84	16.9
Clinics	67	13.5
ESI Hospital	38	7.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

It is observed from Table No.27 that Government hospital is the major source of medical care for 62% of the respondents. 16.9% of the respondents depend on Private Hospital and 13.5% on Clinics. ESI hospitals serve only 7.6% of the respondents.

### 5.28 Availability of Education Facilities

**TABLE 28: AVAILABILITY OF EDUCATION FACILITIES**

EDUCATION FACILITIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Primary School	480	96.4
Middle School	478	95.9
High School	468	93.9
Higher Secondary School	365	73.3
Higher Education Institutions	12	2.4

Table No.28 explains that 96.4% of respondents have Primary Schools, 95.9% have Middle School, 93.9% have High School, 73.3% have Higher Secondary Schools and only 2.4% respondents have Higher Education Institutions in their area.

### 5.29 Awareness Regarding Benefits

**TABLE 29: AWARENESS REGARDING BENEFITS**

AWARENESS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Coir Board	69	13.9
Government	353	83.3
Employer	347	97.2
Not aware about all the 3	14	2.8

It could be inferred from Table No.29 that 97.2% of respondents are aware about the benefits offered by their employer. 83.3% are aware about the Government benefits. 2.8% of respondents are not at all aware of these schemes.

### 5.30. Employee Benefits and Perks

**TABLE 30: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND PERKS**

BENEFITS AND PERKS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Bonus	87	17.5
Incentive	2	0.4
Loans and Advances	185	37.1
Increment	44	8.8
Leave facility	173	34.7
Insurance	128	25.7
Scholarships to children	20	4.0
Financial assistance	20	4.0
Provident Fund Facility	76	15.3

The analysis in Table No.30 shows that 37.1% of the respondents get loans and advances and 34.7% of respondents are provided with leave facility. 25.7% of respondents receive Insurance benefits. 17.5% respondents are paid bonus. Only 0.4% respondents received incentive.

### 5.31 Bonus

**TABLE 31: BONUS**

BONUS AMOUNT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Up to Rs.3000	21	24.1
Rs.3000 to Rs.6000	28	32.2
Rs.6000 to Rs.9000	8	9.2
Above Rs.9000	30	34.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: primary data*

It is observed from Table No.31 that among 87 respondents who receive bonus, 34.5% of respondents receive Above 9000 as bonus, 32.2% receive bonus of Rs.3000 to Rs.6000, 24.1% receive up to Rs.3000 and only 9.2% receive Rs.6000 to Rs.6000.

### 5.32 Loan/Advance

TABLE 32: LOAN/ADVANCE

LOAN/ADVANCE AMOUNT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Up to Rs.2500	80	43.24
Rs.2500 to Rs.5000	29	15.68
Rs.5000 to Rs.7500	4	2.16
Rs.7500 to Rs.10000	1	0.54
Rs.10000 to Rs.12500	7	3.78
Above Rs.12500	64	34.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: primary data

Table No.32 explains that among the 37.1% of total respondents who receive loans and advances 43.24% receive loans and advances upto Rs.2500, 34.59% receive Rs.12500 and 15.68% receive Rs.2500 to Rs.5000.

### 5.33 Income from Other Sources

TABLE 33: INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES

INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Agriculture	399	80.1
Money lending	6	1.2
Farm housing	4	.8
Rental income	2	.4
Business income	3	.6
No income from other sources	84	16.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

It could be inferred from Table No.33 that apart from salary from coir industry 80.1% of **respondents** have agricultural income and 16.9% of respondents have no income from other sources. It could be interpreted that due to the limited income as salary from coir industry majority of the respondents depend on other income for survival.

### 5.34 No. of Earning Members

TABLE 34: NO. OF EARNING MEMBERS

NO. OF EARNING MEMBERS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
1	122	24.5
2	342	68.7
3	32	6.4
4	2	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary data

The analysis in Table No.34 shows that 68.7% respondents have 2 earning members in the family and 24.5% respondents have only one earning member in their family. Owing to the limited income from coir industry, majority of the respondent's family run on income from two earning members.

### 5.35 Monthly Expenses

**TABLE 35: MONTHLY EXPENSES**

MONTHLY EXPENSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Up to Rs.5000	323	64.9
Rs.5000 to Rs.10000	146	29.3
Rs.10000 to Rs.15000	27	5.4
Above 15000	2	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

It is observed from Table No.35 that 64.9% of the respondents make their monthly budget within Rs.5000 whereas 29.3% respondents have their family expenses within Rs.5000 to Rs.10000. In total nearly 95% of the respondents keep their monthly expenses below Rs.10000.

### 5.36 Monthly Savings

**TABLE 36: MONTHLY SAVINGS**

MONTHLY SAVINGS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Up to Rs.1000	282	56.6
Rs.1000 to Rs.2000	191	38.4
Rs.2000 to Rs.3000	25	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

Table No.36 explains that 56.6% of the respondents have monthly savings up to Rs.1000, 38.4% respondents save Rs.1000 to Rs.2000 only 5% save more than Rs.2000 per month. But it is noteworthy to see the saving habit even with reasonably low income.

### 5.37 Sources of Debt

**TABLE 37: SOURCES OF DEBT**

SOURCES OF DEBT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Bank	108	21.7
Post office	50	10.0
Money lenders	63	12.7
Friends	217	43.6
Relatives	16	3.2
Others	44	8.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

It could be inferred from Table No.37 that 43.6% of respondents depend on friends to meet their emergency needs through debts, 21.7% go to banks for loan, 12.7% of respondents find no way except to go to the money lenders. It is pertinent to note that except Banks and Post offices around 70% of the respondents depend on informal sources of debt.

### 5.38 Salary Payment System

**TABLE 38: SALARY PAYMENT SYSTEM**

SALARY PAYMENT SYSTEM	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Piece rate	238	47.8
Daily basis	59	11.8
Weekly basis	90	18.1
Monthly basis	106	21.3
Others	5	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

The analysis in Table No.38 shows that 47.8% respondents receive their wages in the form of Piece rate system, 21.3% of respondents receive monthly salary and 18.1% receive their wages on weekly basis.

### 5.39 Illness

**TABLE 39: ILLNESS**

Illness	Frequency	Percent
Allergy	70	14.1
Backpain	163	32.7
Cough	88	17.7
Skin diseases	83	16.7
Asthma	32	6.4
Chest pain	14	2.8
Bronchitis	10	2.0
Arthritis	10	2.0
No illness	28	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

Table No.39 explains that back pain is the major illness suffered by 32.7% of the respondents followed by Cough, Skin Diseases and Allergy with 17.7%, 16.7% and 14.1% respondents. It may be understood that except the back pain all other major illness are related to the causes of allergens which are inherent part of coir industry.

#### 5.40 Amenities

**TABLE 40: AMENITIES**

Amenities	Frequency	Percent
Ventilation	425	85.3
Safety dress	395	79.3
Drinking water	420	84.3
Waiting shed	417	83.7
Toiletry facility	415	83.3

*Source: primary data*

It could be inferred from Table No.40 that the almost 80% of workers are provided with basic amenities namely Ventilation, Safety dress, Drinking Water, Waiting Shed and Toiletry facility with 85.3%, 79.3%, 84.3%, 83.7% and 83.3% respectively.

#### 5.41 Overall Satisfaction

**TABLE 41: OVERALL SATISFACTION**

OVERALL SATISFACTION	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Highly Satisfied	63	12.7
Satisfied	106	21.3
Moderately satisfied	160	32.1
Dissatisfied	101	20.3
Highly Dissatisfied	68	13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data*

The analysis in Table No.41 shows that 32.1% of the respondents are moderately satisfied with their job, 21.3% of respondents are satisfied and 20.3% of the respondents are dissatisfied. It is also observed that 13.7% of the respondents are highly dissatisfied and 12.7% respondents are highly satisfied.

### 6. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 6.1 Finding

- A maximum of (44.2 percent) of the coir workers belongs to the age group of 41 – 50 years.
- Coir industry gives a major contribution (72.5 percent) towards women employment.
- Coir workers from backward community take up this work interestingly. It accounts 77 percent.
- Almost all (94.4 percent) of the workers are married.
- A majority of 70.5 percent of the workers have studied up to S.S.L.C.
- Most of the workers (96.2 percent) belong to joint family.



- Workers from Agasteeswaram Taluk constitute 34.3 percent which is more than all other 3 taluks.
- Out of six processes, the process known as fiber extraction accounts a majority of 40.8 percent
- Regarding mechanization only 6.4 percent of the industry is fully mechanized.
- Thirty percent of the workers get a daily wage of Rs.250 to 350.
- A maximum of 97 percent of the workers get employment on full time basis.
- Ninety eight percent of the workers get work of 20 to 25 days in a month.
- Only 7.6 percent of the workers get the medical facilities from ESI hospital.
- Thirty four percent of the workers get an average bonus of Rs.9,000 and more.
- Agriculture income is another source of income for the workers of 80 percent.
- Sixty five percent of the respondent have a monthly expenses of Rs.5, 000 and below and their monthly saving is maximum up to Rs.1,000 that is average 56.6 percent workers.
- Work related illness is common in Coir Industry but a maximum of 32.7 percent of the workers have affected by the back pain.
- Regarding the satisfaction of work only 32.1 percent of them have moderately satisfied with their job.

#### 7. SUGGESTIONS

- More training facilities should be given by the Coir Board at frequent intervals to inculcate the mind of the youth to take up this job.
- The government should come forward to establish a minimum wage for coir related works.
- The only raw material is coconut husk, hence the government should take special care to increase the coconut plantation in Kanyakumari Districts.
- More awareness should be given to the public regarding the benefits of Coir Industry.
- The government should take necessary steps to increase the export potentialities of Coir related works.

#### 8. CONCLUSION

The Coir Industry in Kanyakumari District gives employment opportunities for more than 50,000 people especially women both directly and indirectly. The women working in Coir Industry also feel that the empowerment due to this job. The export potentialities of Coir Industry are also more in Kanyakumari District. Hence, if the government satisfies the above mentioned suggestions, the production also increases, their economic conditions also definitely increase.

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