

The Socio-Economic Standard of Paduvankarai-Eravur Divisional Secretariat

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Abstract

This research paper is based on socio-economic situation of Paduvankarai - Eravur divisional secretariat. According to the central bank report, the level of poverty was 6.7% in Batticaloa, 2015. In fact, Paduvankarai-Eravur socio-economic situation seems to be effected by poverty or under the poverty line; here socioeconomic standard of the people is very low comparatively with other districts. Especially this research paper has been written in order to reconsider the Paduvankarai area which comes under Eravur divisional secretariat. This research paper is based on primary and secondary data. The data collected through questionnaire for the research, translated into software files and graph through SPSS 16.0 and converted the collected information in to tables through Microsoft 2007. This area has been identified as one of the areas that is under the poverty line, and its socioeconomic condition has been analyzed with the help of the collected data. In this area, people have faced number of challenges and problems such as unemployment, discrimination in the

daily wages, poor condition of the houses and lack of sanitary conditions. These are some of the socioeconomic problems, they have been facing above mentioned problems due to various economic and social ignorance. 70% of the people live in their own houses and rest of them live in the thatched (huts) and rental houses. People don't have proper access to drinking water, and enough toilets. 52% of the people get water from common wells, and only 53% people have electricity in their houses. 88% of the people uses government transport system, and 63% of the people have access to Tele-phone connection. Most of them are day-to-day laborers (Cooley works) and fishermen. There is a big disparity between the earning and spending. They don't have enough income to meet their day-to-day needs like health, education and food. 27% of the people earn between Rs. 2000 to 5000, 42% of the people earn between Rs.5000 to 8000, 16% of the people earn between Rs. 8000 to 10000, 9% of the people earn Rs.10000 to 15000 and only 6% of the people earn Rs.15000 and more then Rs.15000. It is very much visible that people are under

poverty line due to lack of income to face their basic needs. In fact, government and NGOs are helping these people to face the challenges and to bear the cost of living. Even though, there are numbers of programs scheduled to help these poor people to improve their (life standard) socioeconomic condition, still they find it difficult to cope with the present cost of living.

Key Words: Socio-economic, Income, Paduvankarai

01. Introduction

According the EUP poor are who can't fulfill their basic needs: food, clothing, drinking water and shelter these are the elements that determine living standard of people. If people are not able to have access to their basic needs, then they are considered to be under poverty line. In the world, there are 47% of poor countries, 38% of developing countries and 15% of developed countries. Comparatively most of the people live under the poverty line in developing countries than developed countries. Most of the people live under poverty line are found in Asia, Africa and Latin America respectively.

Sri Lanka is really under poverty line than other developing countries in south Asia.

6.7% - poverty in Sri Lanka was marked by statistics. According to the district level statistics, Mulaitheevu, Monaraglaia, Mannar, Perunthotam (Tea estate) are the district effected by poverty respectively. 4.3% of poverty is recorded in eastern province. Batticaloa is situated in eastern province, and we can devied Eravur secretariat into Eluvankari and Paduvankari. In paduvankari area, education, transport, communication and hygienic seem to be (a poor condition) neglected and people find it difficult to manage their day-to-day life. People who live in this area had been displaced several times due to the civil war. Vigaiakumar (2000) has identified that civil war is the one of the reason for the poor economic standard in this area. In his research, he has analyzed the economic states of this area.

2. Research area

In Batticaloa district, there 14 Divisional Secretariats, Eravur is one of them. Total area of Eravur secretariat is 631.16 square kilometer: 591.51- land and 18.61 square kilometers are covered with waters. This area consists of 39 GS divisions and 162 villages.

4. Purpose of the research

The main purpose of this study is identify the socioeconomic status of the Paduvankarai areain Batticaloa district.

5. Literature evaluation

According to Sobali Fernando (1996), "poverty can be eradicated by improving the self-employment of the poor people. Thus, Samoorthi is one of the new methods that realize the condition of the poor people and help them to come out of poverty and to establish a stable income to face the basic needs and to cope with the cost of living.

According to Vjiaikumar (2000), he identified that the main reason for poverty in Muthoor secretariat is the poor socioeconomic situation. He did his research under the theme of "the problems that cause poverty in Muthoor District." In order to eradicate poverty, we have to improve the socioeconomic- standard of the people in this area.

Varathrasa. K (2002) is able to understand the problems that people face in order to manage the cost of living under the

circumstance of poverty. He has done the research under the theme of "The status of poverty and cost of living. 75% of people are living in poverty. The reason for their poverty is insufficient income. They spend 78% of their income for food.

According to Pretheeban. T (2005-2006), the poor people, in this area (Aravur), were pushed in to poverty again by natural disaster (Tsunami). Fortunately, the government and NGOs helped them to rebuild their life and to fix the imbalance in the social status but at present there is no stable socioeconomic standard, and inter displacement is increased suddenly due to poverty. He has done his research under the title of "The socioeconomic standard and poverty in the villages of Muthoor province.

6. Methodology

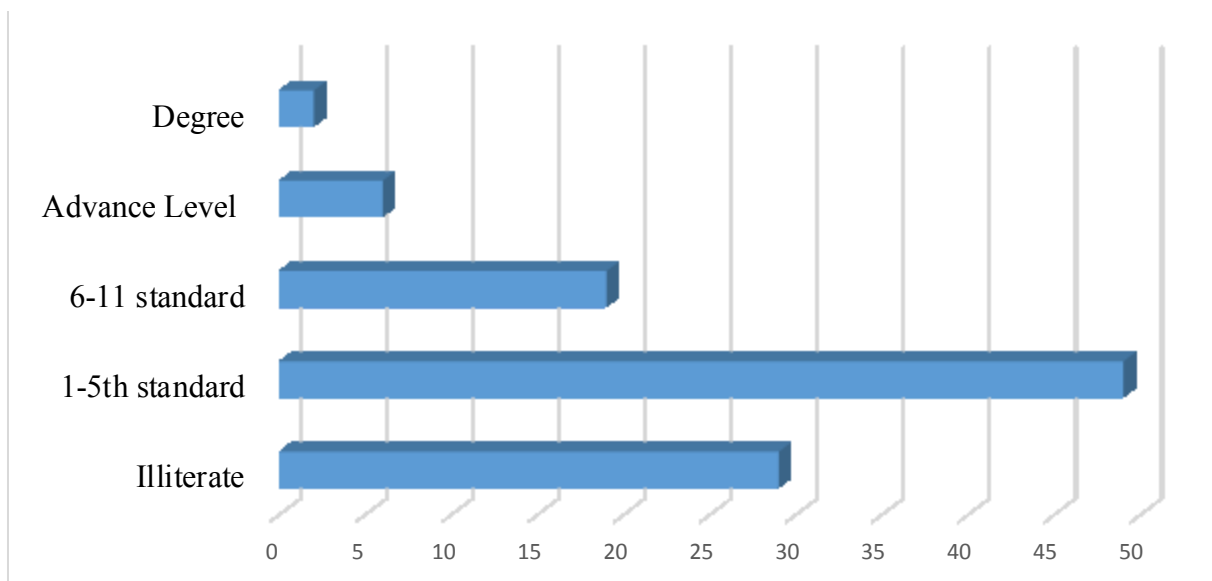
The study was conducted by using primary data. The study utilized combination of both random sampling technique and convenient sampling technique. Random sampling technique was used to select eight Girama Niladari Division of Batticaloa district. The study area comprises 1000 amount of population (Divisional secretariat, 2016) in which eighty/Hundred households were selected to gather data. For that, convenient

sampling technique was used to select household among the total population. The data were gathered via structure questionnaire. Collected data were analyzed by graph via the SPSS 16.0 computer package.

7. Graph analysis and results

Educational standard

Figure7.1 Educational standard in percent



Source: Author's Computation, 2016

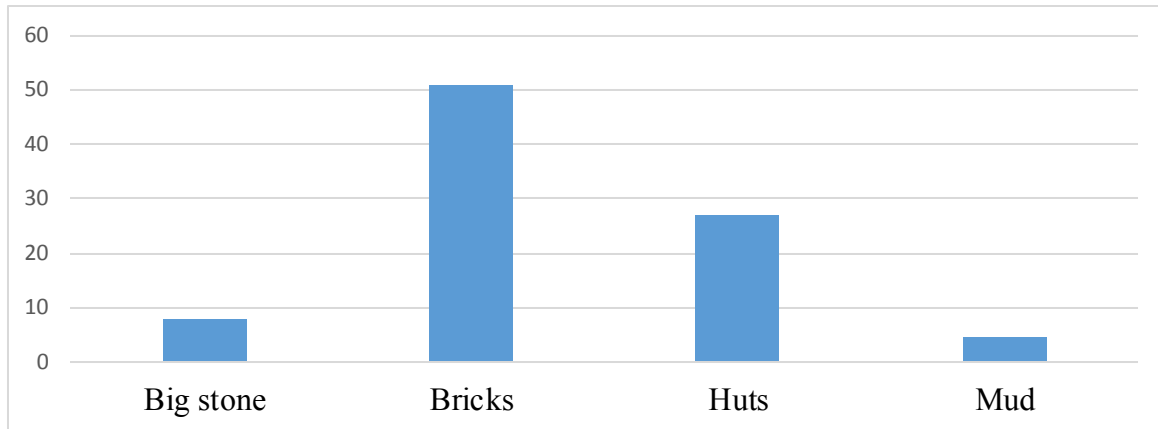
Status and ownership of Houses

Status of the Houses: 27% of the people live in huts, 14% of people live in mud houses, 51% of brick hoses and 8% of people live in

24% of the people never had basic education (didn't go to school at all), 49% of the people have studied up to 1-5th standard, 19% of the people have studied up to 6-11 standard, 6% of the people have studied up to A/L and 2% of the people have done their degree studies (Bachelors).

standard houses. Ownership of the hoses: 70% live in own-houses, 8% of people in rent houses and 22% of the people live in temporary houses.

Figure 7.2 Ownership of the houses



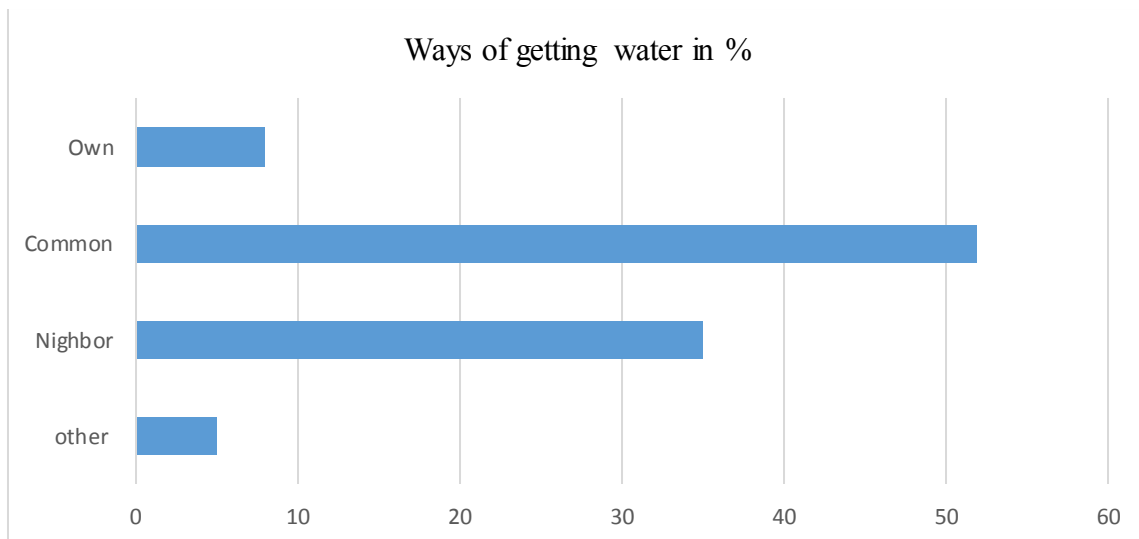
Source: Author's Computation, 2016

Accesses for Drinking water

8% of the people take water from their own well, 52% of the people take water from common well, and 35% of the people take

water from neighbors' well and rest of the people take water from pounds and pipe lines. The results of water facility were reported in the figure 7.3

Figure 7.3: Accesses for Drinking water

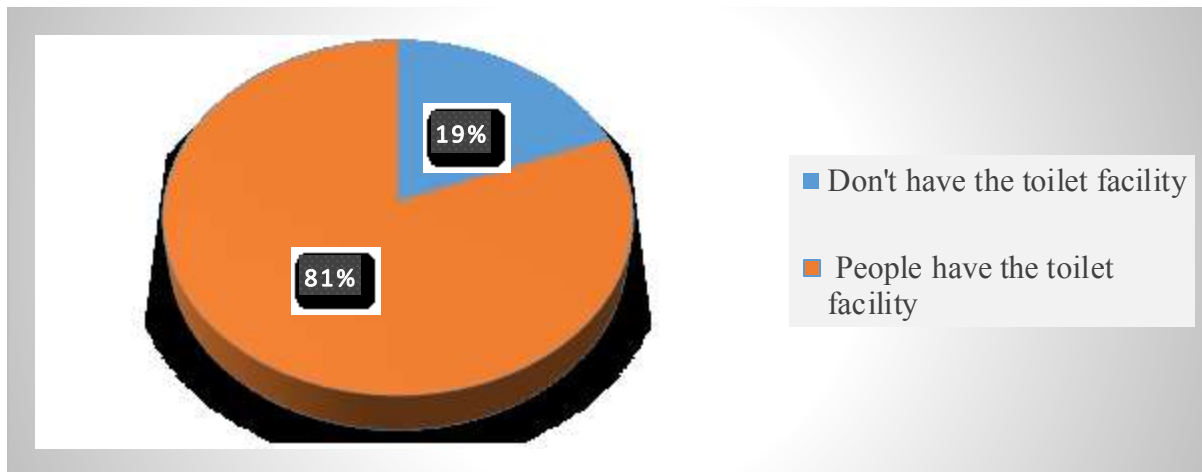


Source: Author's Computation, 2016

Sanitary facility

81% of the people have the toilet facility and only 19% of the people, live in huts and mud

Figure 7.3: Sanitary facility



Source: Author's Computation, 2016

Access for Electricity and communication.

53% of the people have got the electricity and 47% of the people live without electricity. Most of the people who don't have access to electricity use oil lamps. Like that, 14% of the people have access to radio, 16% of the people have got television, and 28% of the people have got cell phones and rest of the 5% of people use all three form of communication, namely radio, television and cell phones.

Transportation

houses, don't have the toilet facility. The following figure show the results of sanitary facility.

88% of the People who use the public transportation and 12% of the people use their own vehicles for their personal needs.

Health and hygienic-facility

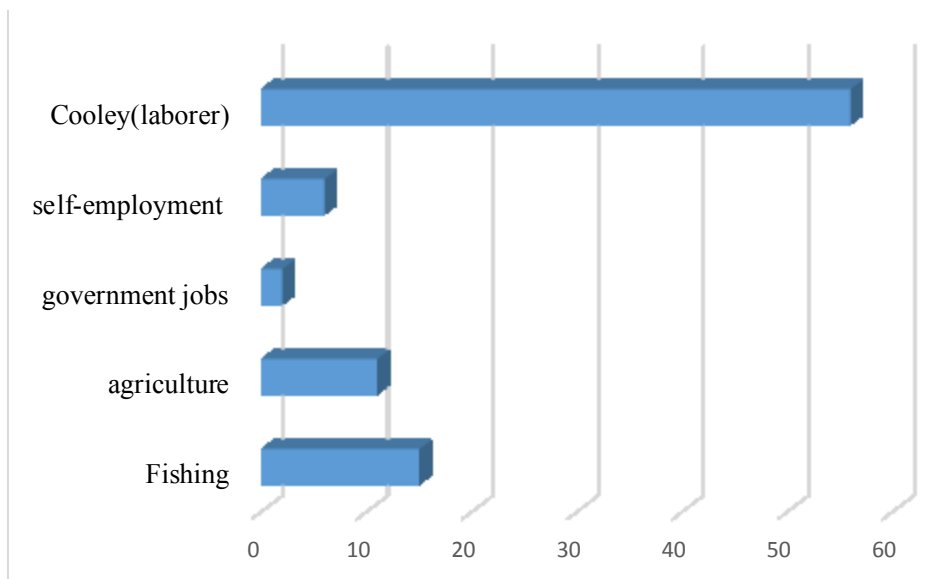
35% of the People answered 'yes' to the question, do you have hospitals and health care providers?', and 65% of the people answered 'no' for the above question. Among

the people who answered 'yes', 85% of the people go to the government hospitals and 15% of the people go to private hospitals and clinics.

Employment

15% of the people go for Fishing, 11% of the people do agriculture, and 2% of the people
 Figure 7.4: Type of employment

have the government jobs, 6% of the people involved in self-employment and 56% of the people work as Cooley(laborer). According to the research, most of them are Cooley-workers and fishermen. The following figure depicts the results of type of employment.



Source: Author's Computation, 2016

Income

The income of the people determines by their economy and the type of work they do, according to that 27% of the people earn, Rs. 2000-5000, 42% of the people earn Rs. 8000-10000/=, 9% of the people earn Rs. 10000-15000 and 6% of the people earn Rs. 15000 and above. In brief, 56% of the people said

that they cannot fulfill their basic needs. 8% of the people said their income is sufficient, 36% of the people said that they can manage with their income.

Further, the following results also calculated based on the particular survey. According to the inquiry made about charitable works done by the government and NGOs, 73% of the

people said that they have been receiving relief aid from the government and 27% of the people said they haven't received anything yet. The People who said that they have received relief aid from the government, have been receiving it from Samoorthi. 84% of the people said that they have been receiving relief aid from NGOs and 16% of the people said they haven't received anything yet from NGOs. The People who said that they have received relief aid. They receive relief aid in the form of loan, basic needs-house, wells and Toilets. Adding to that the government and NGOs have been helping them to do agriculture and farming to boost their income.

In spite of all these help, why do people still under poverty line? The reasons are: 72 % of the people said income is insufficient, family members are more in numbers, less investment, loans and etc. In a nutshell, the reasons for the low-level standard of living in this area are poor income, no proper employment, and poor transportation, lack of hospitals and health care centers, and poor electricity service.

Conclusion

Based on the research done, we have identified the worse socioeconomic condition

in this area. 24% of the parents are illiterate. There is no standard Education for girls thus they find it difficult to get decent jobs to support their families so they are forced to work as Laborers or Cooley. 70% of the people have got own houses and rest of them live in huts and temporary houses. Access to the drinking water is limited or not available, and toilet-facilities are not up to the mark. 52% of the people get water from common well, and 19% the people do not have sanitary (toilet) facility. 53% of the people have got access to electricity, and 88% of the people use the government transportation. 63% of the people have (telephone) communication facilities. Since most of the people are fishermen and Cooley workers in this area, they find it difficult to face the cost of living, and there is remarkable discrepancy between income and expenditure. Majority of the people's income is insufficient to meet the day-to-day life or basic needs of their families.

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causes for poverty, in the Aravur secretariat, are: poor income, unemployment, and poor transport-system, lack of hospitals and health care centers and poor electricity service.

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