

## A STUDY ON INCOME PATTERN OF RUBBER TAPPERS IN KALKULAM TALUK, KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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## INTRODUCTION

India is the third largest producer of natural rubber with an annual production of 640,000 tones per annum. In the Indian production, Kerala contributes to 85 per cent and Tamil Nadu 4 per cent followed by Tripura<sup>1</sup>. Tappers are engaged to harvest the natural rubber (latex) and to process it into concentrated rubber latex (Cenex) and rubber sheets of different grades. The other major activities of rubber industries are seed collection, nursery development, sale of rubber trees, regeneration of rubber plantations, field management system, field Supervision, protection and conservation of plantation, employment generation, and factory processing of natural rubber sales. Under Section 12(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 0.5 man day per hectare per day is fixed as a norm. Accordingly every tapper has to tap 270 to 350 rubber trees per day. The norms followed by the Government of Tamil Nadu wherever the duties and responsibilities of the categories in both Government and Corporation are equal.

## IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

**Income** is money that a person or a business receives in return for working, providing a product or service, or investing capital. A person's income may also derive from a pension, a government benefit, or a gift. A **wage** is the distribution from an employer to an employee., a wage is paid to the employee on the employee's invested assets (time, labour, and thought). Compensatory payments such as *minimum wage*, *prevailing wage*, and *yearly bonuses*, and remunerative payments to the employee in honor of his Service.

## Rubber Tapping In Kalkulam Taluk

Kanniyakumari district is blessed with geographical features more suitable for rubber cultivation. It has the required soil, climate and topographic factors suitable for the cultivation of rubber trees.

Kalkulam taluk is located in Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu, India. Kalkulam taluk had a population of 603,918 with 303,913 males and 300,005 females. The literacy rate was 84.77. There are seven types of soils available in the taluk. They are Typic Dystropets, Aquic Hapludalfo, Udic Ehodudalfo, Udic Hapludalfe, Lithic Udorthents, Fluventic Dystripepte and Typic Udipsaments. Standard quality of rubber is available in in this taluk.

## Industrial Acts on tappers of rubber industries

There are number of labour acts<sup>4</sup> covered to the rubber tappers. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951, The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, The Employees Provident Fund

and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, The Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1972, The Industrial Establishment (Conferment of permanent status to workmen) Act, 1981, The Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Act, 1958, The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. These acts are strictly followed in Arasu rubber corporation which is a Government organization.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Natural rubber is an important raw material for a number of industries.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

**The present study followed both primary and secondary methodology**

##### **Primary Data**

Under primary method survey method was followed. There were 30 rubber tapping workers were selected from Kalkulam taluk of Kanniyakumari District. From Kalkulam Taluk there are six areas were taken as sample(Thirunanthikarai, Ponmanai, Chithrancode, Surulode , Manalodai, Perunchani,). Each area taken FIVE sample respondents. Total 30 respondents . Simple random Sampling method was followed.

**Secondary Data**

Under secondary data, we collect data from the Social Change and Development magazine, Kanniyakumari District Statistical Hand book, ENews paper- Daily Thanthi, and Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited official website.

**INCOME PATTERN OF RUBBER TAPPERS****GENDER WISE DISTRIBUTION**

The gender wise distribution of sample respondents is given in the following table.

**TABLE .1****GENDER WISE CLASSIFICATION OF SAMPLE RESPONDENTS**

Sl. No	Gender	No. of the Respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	23	76.67
2.	Female	7	23.33
3.	Transgender	Nil	Nil
	Total	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

The above table expresses that 76.67 percent of the sample respondents are male, hence male members are able to travel from their residence to long distance through their own vehicles in early morning. 23.33 percent of the respondents are female, since estates located at forest area, they fear about the attacks of the wild animals.

## EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

Education is the significant variable which determines the deciding power of the sample respondents. The educational qualification of the sample respondents is given in the table 4.3.

**TABLE 4.2**

### EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Sl. No	Educational Qualification	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Primary Education	10	33.33
2.	SSLC	7	23.33
3.	HSC	5	16.66
4.	Graduate/Diploma	5	16.67
5.	Post Graduation	3	10.00
	Others	-	-
	Total	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

From the above table 4.2 states that 33.33 per cent of the respondents having primary education due to the poor economic conditions of their family they involved in rubber tapping work. 23.33 per cent of the respondents are having SSLC qualification they are interested in rubber tapping work after completion of their education. 16.66 per

cent of the respondents are having HSC and Degree/Diploma, they are following the work of their forefathers.

## OCCUPATIONAL STATUS

Occupational status is a fundamental measure of social standing that reflects the distribution of power, privilege and prestige associated with positions in the occupational hierarchy and key measure of socio economic status. The following table 4.5 shows that occupational status of the sample respondents.

**TABLE 4.3**

### OCCUPATIONAL STATUS WISE DISTRIBUTION

Sl. No	Occupational status	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Permanent Laborers Arasu Rubber	6	20.00
2.	Temporary Arasu Rubber Workers	3	10.00
3.	Private Estate Workers	18	60.00
4.	Private Workers/ owner cum worker	3	10.00
	Total	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

From the above table shows that 60 percent of the respondents are working in Private estates, hence they are getting higher wages from the private estates, private estates gives Rs. 580 per day as wage, so they are preferring the job. 20 per cent of the respondents working in the Arasu Rubber corporation as permanent workers, due to their job security and regular income they are preferred the job.

## 7 MONTHLY INCOME

Income is the most important factor to satisfy human needs. It helps us to lead a life in a society. The following table 4.6 shows the monthly income of the respondents.

**TABLE 4.4**

### MONTHLY INCOME WISE DISTRIBUTION

Sl. No	Monthly income	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Rs. 1,000 – 10,000	6	20
2.	Rs.10000 – 20000	12	40
3.	Rs.21000 – 30000	9	30
4.	Rs.30001 – 40000	3	10
	Total	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

From the above table 4.4 discloses that 40 percent of the respondents are working in Arasu Rubber Corporation and private estates by earning Rs. 10,000 to 20,000 in a month by tapping 350 trees per day by an average amount of Rs. 483 per day and 450

trees per day by an average amount of Rs. 580 per day respectively through overtime. 30 per cent of the respondents were belongings to the Private owners cum workers. Since, they are tapping 450 trees per day wage of Rupees 900 per day. 20 per cent of the respondents working under private owners due to their old age and female respondents tapping and collecting the latex respectively.10 per cent of the respondents earning Rs. 30001 to 40,000. Since, they are working under different private individual owners on the basis of fifty fifty percent equal distribution of yield.

### TYPE OF FAMILY

Family is the group of people who share common ancestors. The following table 4.7 shows the family type of the respondents.

**TABLE 4.5**

### TYPE OF FAMILY

Sl. No	Type of family	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Nuclear family	22	73.34
2.	Joint family	8	26.66
	Total	<b>30</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Primary data

Table 4.5 shows that 55 percent of the sample respondents are nuclear family and 45 percent of the sample respondents are joint family. Most of the respondents are nuclear family.



**BONUS AND BATA****BONUS AND BATA AVAILED BY THE RESPONDENTS****TABLE 4.6**

Sl. No	Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Up to 10,000	3	10
2.	Rs. 10,001 to 15,000	9	30
3.	Rs. 15,001 to 20,000	18	60
4.	Rs. 20,001 to 25,000	-	-
	Total	30	100

Source: Primary data

From the above table 4.6 reveals that 60 percent of the respondents earning Rupees 15,001 to 20,000 for a month from the Arasu Rubber Corporation on the basis of number of working days worked by the workers for encouraging the working habits. 30 per cent of the respondents earned Rs. 10,001 to 15,000 , hence they did not worked full in the Arasu Rubber Corporation.

**ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INCOME**

After completing the daily work perform certain jobs for additional income in the leisure time. The jobs include conducting petty shops, agricultural works at home, sale of tapioca which is an important food stuff in the District.

Table 4.7

### Additional Source of Income earned by the respondents in Kalkulam Taluk

Serial No	Additional Income	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Banana tree grower/ worker	13	43.33
2	Bee Keeping	5	16.67
3	Daily Paper Distribution work	2	6.67
4	Petty Shop	4	13.33
5	Others	6	20.00
	Total	30	100

Source: primary Data

The above table 4.7 shows that 43.33 percent of the respondents earning additional income through banana growing during the leisure time. 16.67 percent of the respondents earning additional income through bee keeping work, hence it is easy to the respondents during the leisure time. 13.33 per cent of the respondents earning income through their petty shop as additional income, they responded that it was their time pass.

## FINDINGS AND SUGGESSTIONS OF THE STUDY

### FINDINGS

76.67 percent of the sample respondents are male, hence male members are able to travel from their residence to long distance through their own vehicles in early morning.

33.33 per cent of the respondents having primary education due to the poor economic conditions of their family they involved in rubber tapping work.

60 percent of the respondents are working in Private estates, hence they are getting higher wages from the private estates

40 percent of the respondents are working in Arasu Rubber Corporation and private estates by earning Rs. 10,000 to 20,000 per month.

55 percent of the sample respondents are nuclear family

60 percent of the respondents were earned from Rs. 15,001 to 20,000 for a month from the Arasu Rubber Corporation.

43.33 percent of the respondents earned additional income through banana growing during the leisure time.

### SUGGESSTIONS

It is suggested that the private estates can given quarters facility to their workers. Hence, they are travelled for away from their residence.

The Arasu Rubber Corporation may arrange Bus facility to the workers from their residence to the working area. It will encourage the working habits as well as health of the workers.

Health insurance facility may be arranged by the private estates for the betterment of the workers.

It should take initiative to give job security to the workers of the private estates.

## CONCLUSION

Kanniyakumari district is blessed with geographical features more suitable for rubber cultivation. Natural rubber is an important raw material for a number of industries. There are number of Acts governed the rubber tappers. 60 percent of the respondents income came through Arasu Rubber Corporation from Rs. 15,001 to 20,000 per month. In this study shows that private rubber tappers not only involved in rubber tapping but also worked in the additional works of banana growing during the leisure time due to inadequate income to run their family.

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