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SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OF FARMERS USING THIRUMANIMUTTAR RIVER FOR AGRICULTURAL PROCESS IN SALEM DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

        This Study was conducted to identify the Socio-Economic status of farmers living in Salem district especially Ayothiyapattinam and veerapandi block who using thirnumanimuttar river for agriculture activities. Sample selected from simple random sampling technique and a structural quietionarise was prepared for collecting the data. This study revealed that sex ratio, community status, family size was high in Ayothiyapattinam block but age wise classification, income and educational status were high percentage in veerapandi block. Recycling process of thirnumanimuttar river reduce the   impacts faced by farmers life especially veerapandi block.

KEYWORDS: *Farmers, Socio-economic, Sampling technique, Recycling process, Thirumanimuttar river.*

1.   INTRODUCTION

        India is essentially an agricultural country, as about seventy percent of the population live in villages. Majority of the Indian rural workers are agriculture dependent, in which the share of agricultural laborers is quite high. Agricultural laborers contribute enormously towards the rural economy and also to the national economy. Historically, they were the working class and the chief reason for the development of the society and economy (3). Water shortages have become an increasingly serious problem in India, especially in the arid and semi-arid regions of the country due to vagaries of monsoon and scarcity of surface water. Over the few decades, competition for economic development, associated with rapid growth in population and urbanization, has brought in significant changes in land use, resulting in more demand of water for agriculture, domestic and industrial activities. In India, groundwater constitutes about 53% of the total irrigation potential of the country (4) and about 50% of the total irrigated area is dependent on groundwater irrigation (5). The phenomena of underemployment, under-development and surplus population are simultaneously manifested in the daily lives and living of the agricultural labourers. They usually get low wages, conditions of work put an excessive burden on them, and the employment which they get is extremely irregular. Agricultural workers constitute the most neglected class in the Indian rural structure. Since, they possess no skill or training, they have no alternative employment opportunities either (6). So the present study focus the socio-economic status of farmers who using thirumanimuttar river for agricultural activities.

2. METHODOLOGY

        The present study is an attempt to examine the socio-economic status of farmers living in Ayothiyapattinam block and Veerapandi block of Salem district. The secondary data collected from the Taluk

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office and agricultural district office. The primary information gathered a well designed interview schedule was drafted and used in the field survey

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
a)Sex ratio

This paper reveals examines some of the social economics status of farmers. The table 4.1 showed the classification of farmers by sex.

TABLE 3.1: CLASSIFICATION OF SELECTED FARMERS BY SEX

S.NO	BLOCK	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	Ayothiapattinam	89	47	136
2	Veerapandi	131	63	194
TOTAL		220	110	330

Source : Field data

It explained that respondent of Ayothiyapattinam block is 89 male and 47 female ; 131 male and 63 female in veerapanidi block were out of 330 members from farmers.

b) Community of the farmers

TABLE 3.2 : COMMUNITY OF THE FARMER RESPONDENTS

COMMUNITY BLOCK	COMMUNITY OF THE FARMER RESPONDENTS			
	BC	MBC	SC	TOTAL
Ayothiapattinam	57	64	52	172
Veerapandi	43	55	59	158
TOTAL	100	119	111	330

Source : Field data

The table 3.2 showed the community of farmers in selected two blocks of salem district. The Most Backward community was high in ayothiyapattinam block as well as scheduled caste people was high in veerapandi block. It is very happy to note that almost equal representation is provided to all the groups of the society including the weaker sections and un awareness greatly influence the using of water for irrigation process.

c) Age wise classification

TABLE 3.3: Age wise classification of selected farmers

Age Group	Ayothiapattinam	Veerapandi	TOTAL
Below 30	23	38	61
31-40	42	79	121
41-50	39	40	79
51-60	19	28	47
Above60	13	09	22
Total	136	194	330

Source : Field data

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The table 3.3 illustrate that (23 Ayothiapattinam block, 38 Veerapandi block) who are bleow the age group of 30. Above 60 of age in ayothiyapattinam block   was 13 and 09 in veerapandi block. The remaining persons were between the age group of 31-60. Most of the farmers highly involved in the agriculture activity between the age group of 31-40.

d) Family size of the respondents

TABLE 3.4: Family size of the respondents

Particulars	Ayothiapattinam	Veerapandi
Nuclear family	103(75%)	121(62%)
Joint family	33(24%)	73 (37%)
Total	136 (100)	144 (100)

Source : Field data

The result of Table 3.4 indicated that Ayothiyapattinam block showed 75% of family nuclear family which could be high compared then veerapandi block (61%). The information on size of the family showed that majority of the farmers had nuclear family. This shows that the concept of Joint family approach is slowly eroding in the villages; instead people started become independent due to fragmentation.

e) Income growth

TABLE 3.5: Distribution of Respondents by Income Growth Selected Block

Particulars	Ayothiapattinam	Veerapandi
Below 25000	36 (26)	40 (21)
25001-50000	61 (45)	79(41)
50001-75000	17 (13)	31(15)
75001-Above	22 (16)	24(12)
Total	136(100)	194(100)

Source : Field data

It is evident from the (Table 3.5) that all the 330 respondents were following agriculture as their main occupation for their lively hood. Above 75,000.00 was earned from ayothiyapatinam farmers. It is needless to say that farmers had Agriculture as the major occupation since ages. Further, it is also true that the farmers major bread earning is only through Agriculture by cultivating field (7)

f) Educational status

TABLE 3.6: Educational Status of the Sample Respondents

Particulars	Ayothiapattinam	Veerapandi
Professional Degree	4(3%)	13(7%)
Post Graduate	15(3%)	24(12%)
Degree	27(20%)	37(19%)
H.s.c	39(29%)	43 (22%)
S.S.L.C	29(21%)	49(25%)
Primary	27(20%)	19(10%)
Illiterate	05(3%)	09 (5%)
Total	136(100)	194(100)

Source : Field data

The table 3.6 was observed that more than professional degree was high in veeerapandi block 7% and educational status were high in veerapandi block of farmers compared than ayothiyapatinam farmers.

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Illiterates were noticed to the extent of 5% percent. This indicated that more educated farmers visualize the problems of scientific Agriculture and the scope of practicing organic farming which revealed that more number of farmers were educated up to high school level (8).

CONCLUSION

This study concluded that veerpandi block farmers high in educational status, high agriculture activities, high income from agriculture activities compared than Ayothiyapattinam block farmers but the polluted thirumanimuttar river is the only source for agriculture process is a big tragedy. So the only solution is to take necessary action for Recycling process of thirnumanimuttar river to reduce the impacts faced by farmers lock in Salem district.

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