

F-17: Socio economic status of fishing families in the Manmunai-North Division, Batticaloa District

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Fishing is an important livelihood in the Batticaloa district. A survey was carried out to study the socio-economic status of lagoon fishermen in the Manmunai-North division, of Batticaloa district, to obtain data which could be useful in development work. The study was conducted by means of questionnaires; 10% of fishermen were randomly selected and interviewed. Scores were given to housing condition and educational level; other data collected included income, ownership of boats etc. Data is presented at the level of Grama Sevaka divisions.

Income ranged from Rs 26 to 68 per day among the different GSO divisions. Housing condition (score scale 0-10) ranged from 1.3 (Thiraimadu GSO division) to 6.9 (Kallady Uppodai/Nochchmunai GSO division. Educational level (score scale 0-15) ranged from 2.9 (Sethukudah GSO division) to 5.8 (Kallady Vellore/Kallady Muhathuvaram). 24.7% of households had latrines. The ownership of lagoon thornies was 57.2%. Families contributing to the pension scheme was 57.8%. The main method of marketing was by sale to traders (68.1%).

Eventhough the GSO divisions in the above study were in the vicinity of Batticaloa town there was considerable variation in the indexes of socio-economic status. Thus there was an urgent need to rectify inequalities among these fishing villages.

Financial assistance by Mandru is acknowledged.