



# A Study On Problems And Prospects Of Saltpan Industries In Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper examine to understand the problems faced by the saltpan industries in the selected areas of Thoothukudi District of Tamil Nadu. It also identifies the growth of the saltpan industries in the selected area of the study. Most of the workers facing some harmful disease while production process, the Producers and the Government should take necessary steps to control and overcome the problems faced by the saltpan workers in the study area. The workers are must get awareness about the diseases facing in the field of salt processing.

**Keywords:** Saltpan, Salt, Cultivation, Iodine, etc.

## INTRODUCTION

Salt is an important physiological necessity of life. With an enormous and growing population, the demand for salt is of vital importance. Salt can be consumed by rich poor only to the limited and irrespective of the price or health Salt is not found in nature. It is available in abundant qualities in sea water. Salt is used several purposes. It is used for cooking as table cooking as table salt and as a perspective in the preparation of condiments, pickles and stuffs. It is also used to a limited extent in agriculture as an insecticide, wood killer and for stock feeding. It finds use in curing fish, meat packing, dairying and other industries to prevent deterioration. It is used in several industries such as glass, leather, soap, oil, purification, dyestuffs, textiles, ceramics, refrigeration etc. Its largest use in the manufacture of sodium components visa. soda ash, caustic soda, sodium sulphate etc.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Salt is the important sources of income to the people of Thoothukudi district. It consists of large number of salt pan industry; it also creates maximum number of employment opportunities to the people who are living in the area or outside. Even though it gave lots of employment opportunities, it faces some health hazards to the workers of salt pan industry. Hence, in this study is to examine to find out the various problems faced by the salt pan workers in Thoothukudi district.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the objectives of the study. They are

- To identify the socio-economic status of the salt pan workers in Thoothukudi district.
- To find out the problems faced by the salt pan workers in the study area.
- To offer suitable suggestions to improve the quality of salt pan workers.

## METHODOLOGY

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected through well-structured questionnaire from the sample respondents of 120 in the Thoothukudi District of Tamil Nadu. The samples are selected by way of adopting opportunistic sampling technique. The required secondary data were collected from journals, books, magazines which are highly relevant to the topic of the study.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study was subject to the following limitations:

1. The study is confined only to Thoothukudi district.
2. Due to time constraints, the sample size is restricted only with 120.

### Gender wise classification of Respondents

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	92	76.67%
Female	28	23.33%
Total	120	100%

Source: Primary Data

From the above table shows that 76.67% of the respondents are belongs to the male category and 23.33% of the respondents are female category.

### Age wise classification of the Respondents

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Upto 30 years	18	15%
30 to 35 years	66	55%
36 to 40 years	24	20%
Above 40 years	12	10%
Total	120	100%

Source: Primary Data

From the table depicts that out of 120 respondents, 55% respondents are belonged to the age category of 30 -35 years, 20% are belonged to the age category of 36 to 40 years, 15% of customer belonged to the age category of upto 30 years and the rest of 10% pertaining to the age category of above 40 years.

### Education wise classification of the Respondents

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	72	60%
Upto Primary Education	30	25%
Up to HSC	18	15%
Total	120	100%

Source: Primary Data

From the table, it can be inferred that 60% of the respondents are belonged to the category of illiterate, 25% of the respondents are completed up to primary level education and the rest were completed up to HSC.

### Marital Status of the Respondents

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Married	90	75%
Unmarried	30	25%
Total	120	100%

Source: Primary Data

From the table we came to know that 75% of the respondents were married and the rest were unmarried. It was noted that majority of the respondents are married taken into the study.

### Monthly Income of the Respondents

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Upto Rs.5,000	44	37%
Rs.5,000 to Rs.8,000	42	35%
Rs.8,000 to Rs.10,000	22	18%
More than Rs.10,000	12	10%
Total	120	100%

Source: Primary Data

From the table portrays that out of 120 respondents, 37 respondents are belonged to the income group of upto Rs.5,000, 35 respondents belonged to the category of Rs.5,000 to Rs.8,000, 18 respondents belonged to the category of Rs.8,000 to Rs.10,000 and 10 respondents are belonged to the category of more than Rs.10,000.

### Nature of Work

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Watering	32	27%
Removing	41	34%
Scarping	25	21%
Others	22	18%
Total	120	100%

Source: Primary Data

From the table it was inferred that out of 120 sample respondents, majority of the respondents occupied removing process, followed by 27% were occupied watering, 21% were occupied scarping and only 18% were occupied other work such as, load man, etc.

### Hours working per Day

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
6 Hours	33	27%
8 Hours	62	52%
More than 8 hours	25	21%
Total	120	100%

Source: Primary Data

From the above clearly shows the working hours per day, it was noted from the table majority of the workers spend 8 hours per day, followed by 21% of the workers spend more than 8 hours and only 18% of the workers spent below six workers per day.

### Years of experience

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Below 5 years	16	13%
5 to 8 years	26	22%
8 to 12 years	38	32%
More than 12 years	40	33%
Total	120	100%

Source: Primary Data

From the above table it was inferred that out of 120 workers 33% of the workers having more than 12 years' experience, followed by 32% of the respondents having 8 to 12 years' experience and only 13% of the workers are having below 5 years' experience.

### Suffer occupational diseases

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	105	88%
No	15	12%
Total	120	100%

Source: Primary Data

From the table it shows the suffer occupational diseases, it was observed from the table majority (88%) of the workers suffered occupational diseases and the rest were not suffer such occupational diseases

#### Problems faced by the workers

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Heavy work	32	27%
No safeguard	41	34%
Health issues	25	21%
Minimum remuneration	22	18%
Total	120	100%

Source: Primary Data

From the table clearly shows the problems faced by the workers during their work, it was observed from the table, out of 120 sample respondents 34 respondents opined that their main problem is no safeguard measures given to the industry, followed by 27 respondents opined that heavy work, 21 respondents opined that faced health issues and 18 respondents are opined that minimum remuneration given to the industry.

#### SUGGESTIONS

- The salt pan industry provides proper safeguard measures like Gloves, Footwear etc. to their workers for the welfare of receiving workers morale.
- The state government should regulate the minimum remuneration is fixed by way of amending the law.
- The salt pan industry should also make provision to compensate these workers against natural disasters like heavy rains, floods, cyclone and fires, etc.
- Employers should be encouraged to give adequate monthly advances to the workers. Such advance should bear no interest.

#### REFERENCES

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