

# **SURVEY ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME GENERATING AMONG HOUSEHOLDS IN ERAVUR PATTU D.S DIVISION, BATTICALOA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Development of a country depends on the livelihood development of households. Income is inevitable to such livelihood development. The villages in Batticaloa District have been affected due to ethnic war. Household in Eravur Pattu D.S Division are traditionally depend on agriculture and fishing. It has been very difficult for the people in these areas to get income from these sources due to war situation. This situation leads another problem such as conflicts over the use of natural resource, problems in making plans for development and difficulties in the general utilization of local resources. Therefore, the objective of this survey is to find out the alternative income generating source available.

In order for this survey, physical resources, financial resources and human resources are used as variables.

Data for this study is collected through the survey by using questionnaire from the sample of 100 households. The UNDP statistical report is also used to get the basic data like employment, unemployment, social structure and population (gender, age, ethnicity, religion).

The results of the survey indicate that though there are plenty of resources available in these areas some are fully utilized and some are partially used. Survey shows that the agriculture, home gardening, and livestock management are main source for income generation. But at the same time, there are more resources which partially utilized and the households are not aware of the full potential of sources such as sewing/weaving, pottery making, cane production, coir works, laundry jobs, reed production, cashew processing and food processing. The reason for underutilization of resources is that the households are not having adequate knowledge of using the resource and financial support and at the same time use of the resources are restricted. If actions are taken to achieve the full potential of the underutilized resources, the Eravur Pattu Divisional Secretariat would get more income, increase employment opportunities, enhancing livelihood and life standard.

**Key words:** Alternative income, partially utilized, generating income, plenty of resources

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Eravur Pattu DS Division occupies the part of the Batticaloa District. It covers total areas of approximately 634.16 Km<sup>2</sup>. The Division Accounts for 24.08% of the District total land area. (Source: Eravur Pattu Divisional Secretariat Statistical Hand Book 2006/2007.) Eravur Pattu DS Divisional is mainly depending on agriculture and fishing as their livelihood. Due to the war situation, only very few of resources are identified and used for livelihood of Eravur Pattu Divisional Secretariat households. By finding out the existing but not fully utilized income generating sources can help this society to enhance their life and lead to employment opportunities.

## **2. PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Numbers of resources to generate income are available in Eravur Pattu DS Division. But few of them mainly identified as income generating sources and the households are not aware of the rest of the resources. Therefore, the main purpose of the study is to find the alternative sources other than the main sources of generating income.

## **3. OBJECTIVE**

To find out the alternative sources available for the generation of income. In the survey area, significant number of people depends on few of income generating sources. Therefore, the survey aims to search for

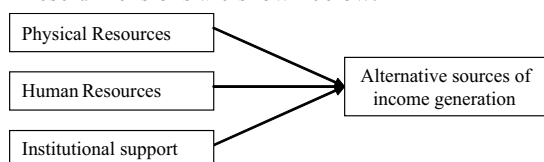
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income generating sources which has not been fully utilized but have the opportunity for income generation.

#### 4. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Conceptual framework is developed using three variables in order to find out the alternative income generating sources.

These dimensions are shown below.



(Source: Developed for this study purpose)

#### 5. RESEARCH DESIGN

This study design was devised in a more traditional fashion, specifying namely, sampling criteria and size of sample, measure for all variables, data collection methods, and data analyzes techniques.

##### 5.1 Sampling

Eravu Pattu Divisional Secretariat (DS) Division is consisting of 39 Girama Niladari Divisions. Among 39 GN divisions, for this purpose, 100 households are identified. Sample selection is based on the basis of taking in to consideration of the population of each GN division. Based on the proportion of the proportion of each GN division, sampling is made. For this purpose, random sampling is used.

GS Division	Population	Sample	Percentage (%)
	78365	100	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>78365</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(Source: Eravur Pattu Divisional Secretariat Statistical Hand Book 2006/2007)

**Table 1: Eravur Pattu Farmer's Organizations**

Coconut & Palmyra Co-op Society	Agriculture Co-op Society	Diary Farmers Co-OP Society	Other Co-Op Society
02	-	1	02

**Table 2: Gender wise contribution in Agriculture**

Gender wise contribution in Agriculture			
Gender	Male	Female	Total
Number	5148	653	5801
Percentage	88.74%	11.26%	100%

(Source: Eravur Pattu Divisional Secretariat Statistical Hand Book 2006/2007).

#### 5.2 DATA COLLECTION

This study is carried out based on primary data; Primary data collected through, a structured questionnaire. 100 questionnaires directly issued to the respondents based on the proportion developed under sampling. Prior to enter the field scales were developed for the selected indicators to operationalize the variables.

#### 5.3 DATA ANALYSIS

This is the process of data processing and of converting raw data in to meaningful statement. To analyze the collected data study uses the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS— 14.0). Descriptive statistics is used to obtain the results.

#### 6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

##### 6.1 Main Employment

###### 6.1.1 Agriculture

90% of the people residing in the areas are engaged in agriculture (paddy cultivation, highland cultivation, livestock farming, goat rearing and fishing etc.). Nearly 5801 of families depend on agriculture sector.

##### 1. Eravur Pattu

The above mentioned Farmer's organizations provided Seeds, Fertilizers, Fuels are granted in concessionary price at the same time advisory services, and training are provided to the farmers who has been engaged in respective agricultural activities. Majority of the Kumaraveliyar Kiramam, Chenkalady, Kommathurai

(North, East, South & west) Farmers are cultivating at Chenai kudi yruppu, Kodu wama du, Palama du, Mailavedduwan, Koomancholai and Thoddacholai areas.

Major problem faced by farmers are;

1. It could be observed that most of the farmers are presently unable to survive in their agriculture sector. Because, increasing trend of livelihood expenditure and high price of raw materials, work related expenditures are reasoned for their low level of income.
2. Due to the security problems, most of the farmers are unable to cultivate their paddy lands which are located beyond the Black Bridge.
3. Farmers residing in Palachcholai, Mawadivembu, Kaluwankerny, Sittandy mostly depend on Unnichchai, Urugamam irrigation tanks and some other ponds. But due to the damages of the ponds people face difficulties to get water during the Yala season. Therefore, it should be necessary to renovate those ponds to ensure continuous paddy cultivation. People from the above villages have to purchase the seeds from Trincomalee and Pollannaruwa. But these towns are so far from these villages. They have to travel about more than 70 km. Main reason is, there are no any paddy storage in this region therefore they have to pay more for seeds.
4. Farmers residing in Rajapuram, Marapalam, and Koppaveli are facing problems regarding the fence for their land and lack of water pump facilities.
5. A common problem faced by the farmers in this DS division is not having financial facilities.

#### **6.1.2. Home garden**

Most of the village people have engaged in home garden which is routine livelihood activities because they mainly depend on home garden for daily needs of foods. Residing people in Mavadivempu, Palachcholai, Kaluwankerny, Sittandy and Kiralakulam has mostly engaged in vegetable cultivation. And also Gingelly, Black Gram and fruit production are making. As there is more demand for Gingelly, they are interested in Gingelly production. But it is severely affected by flood and improper drainage system.

### **6.1.3 Livestock Management**

#### **6.1.3.1 Poultry Rearing**

The people residing in this division are involved in poultry rearing. It is reared for meat as well as egg. This is done by them for business as well as their own consumption. Now they have faced many challenges when they are involving in poultry rearing. Mainly;

- i) Due to the disease the Broiler production is reduced.
- ii) Due to the lack of availability and high price of and medicine, they have faced other barrier to the poultry grower mash

#### **6.1.3.2 Livestock rearing**

About 85% - 95% of people have involved in livestock rearing such as goats and cows. Particularly in Thalavai, some of people have driven of goat. Most of the people involve in cows rearing for the purpose of receiving the milk. Further, bulls have been sold for the purpose of meat by people. In addition to the personal consumption milk is supplied to milk board and co-operative society. And the milk which is acquired by these societies are then transferred to factories which are located in Polanaruwa and Ampewala.

Problems faced in livestock rearing are;

1. The distance of the milk buyers is far from the livestock bearing places.
2. Inadequate price is determined by the milk collectors.

#### **6.1.4 Fishing**

In this division Fishing takes second places. The people are involved in two kinds of fishing those are sea fishing and fresh water fishing (lagoon and tank). The Eravur Pattu DS division has 11,127 total fishing populations in which 740 fishermen are involved in fresh water fishing and 2029 fishermen are involved in sea fishing. In totally, 2769 active fishermen are in this division. The problems faced in fishing are;

1. Boundaries of fishing are restricted and limited.
2. Cooler facilities are not available to keep fish for longer period.

### **6.2 Other Employment**

#### **6.2.1 Sewing/ weaving**

About 20 – 30 % of the females involve in this process. Weaving centers which were in Rameshpram, Sittandy have been closed now, due to the unavailability of

modern machinery to carry out the work. If it runs with modern machinery facility, that will be more beneficial to the women specially youths who are now unemployed.

### 6.2.2 Pottery making

Approximately 50% of the women residing at Eravur 5, Eravur 6, and Iyankerny are involved in pot making. The following problems are identified related with this pot making

- i) When they try to take enough clay from out side of the villages they face not only some difficulties but also more expenses.
- ii) There are some security problems to take the clay to the place that they have to get special permission from security forces.

### 6.2.3 Cane production

The Thannamunai, Savukkady, Rajapuram, Illupaiadychenai, Koduwamadu, and thalawai areas have the cane resource. People of Orumulaichcholai, Thannamunai, and Maiyalampaveli village have more interest to involve cane production. Most of the people of these villages now actively involve. The main productions are making winnowing fan, carrying basket and other decorating things from cane. Even though the marketing opportunity is in high level, these people are unable to get actual amount of profit or basic income. Due to the security barriers and the awareness regarding the balance of nature, there is difficult to get the required raw materials

### 6.2.4 Business

Small and medium size businesses are located in Chenkalady – 1, Chenkalady – 2, Eravur – 4, Eravur – 5, Kommathurai, Kumaraveliyarkiramam. Following businesses such as subsidiary products, textiles shop, bricks sales, grocery business, hardware shop, Saloon and other business are occupied in this Division. The problems faced in business are;

1. Increasing costs of inputs
2. Inadequate and fluctuating demand for these businesses.

### 6.2.5 Coir works

Areas of Kumaraveliyarkiramam, Ramashpuram and Arumahathankudiyirupu have been engaged in coir production such as coir weaving. But at present, coir works have been drop down.

### 6.2.6 Laundry jobs.

The people of Kommathurai and Eravur- 5 are engaged in this work. About 25%- 30% of total population are involved in this work.

### 6.2.7 Reed production

About 200-230 people of Thannamunai and Mayilampavalay are engaged in reed production. In nearby places to river and smash land of Koppavalay, Savukady, Palacholai, Mavadiwempu, Kaluwankeney and Sittandy, reeds are cultivated.

The main productions are basket, mat and decorating items. Even though 15% - 20% of people of Palacholai, Mavadiwempu, Kaluwankeney and Sittandy had been trained in reed production, they are unable to engage in work because.

1. They have difficulties to get reed because they have to go to other villages.
2. Security restrictions.
3. Less marketing opportunity because plastic mat are available in less price.
4. Lack of store facilities to store produced items.
5. There is no facilities for keeping long period
6. Interests on this work are declining.

### 6.2.8 Cashew processing

It indicates selling of cashew fruit, unbroken nuts and fruit drink.

Cashew production has been made in Orumulaicholai, Kommathurai, Chenkalady, Mayilampavalay, eravur 4 & 5, Marapalam and Rajakiramam.

### Details of Cashew Cultivation

**Table 3: Details of Cashew cultivation**

Immature acres	Mature acres
615	674

(Source: Batticaloa Cashew corporation Data collection 2002)

Cashew fruit and unbroken nut taken from above villages are sold at lower prices to wholesale Muslims businessmen of Eravur. Due to lack of technology and training for cashew production, nuts have to be sold without breaking; here they lose profit. 1 kg broken cashew can be taken from 5Kg unbroken nuts. 1Kg unbroken cashew is Rs, 100 but 1Kg broken cashew is Rs, 1000. Ultimately, these people have to lose Rs, 500 of additional profit in cashew production.

### 6.2.9 Food processing

15%- 20% of people of Chenkalady, Kommathurai, Eravur 4 & Eravur 5 have been engaged in mixture and snacks production. 2% - 5% of women of Palacholai, Mavadiwempu, Kaluwankeny, Sittandy and Kirankulam have engaged in this type of business/production. Most of people of Urugamam, Eluppayaichenai, Karadiyanaru, Koduwamadu, Pankudawaly, Kayankudah, Thalavai, Koppavaly, Periyapullumalai, Marapalam, Rajapuram and Kithul grind rice and Kurakkan packet and sell the flour. Nearly more than 30% of the women in the above stated villages have been engaged in this field. The problems faced here are;

1. Lack of marketing opportunities.
2. Unable to compete in the market due to products from the Kattankudy and Oddamavadi.

### 6.2.10 Decoration Items

Flower basket and other decorated things are produced by using Palmyra in Sittandy, Mavadiwempu, Kaluwankeny, Kalacholai and Thannamunai. The Palmyra mostly seems in Thannamunai, Sittandy, Iyankeny and Kaluwankeny. The problem related with Palmyra production

1. Getting marketing opportunity and knowledge related with marketing are less.
2. They always depend on Muslims businessmen.
3. Lack of technical knowledge and training in decoration production.

### 6.2.11 Labour

Labour means carpenter, mason, fire wood cutting and stone loading. More than 20% of people of Chenkalady, Eravur 4 & 5 and Thannamunai have been engaged in carpentry works. Even though enough marketing opportunity is in local and outside of villages for carpentry work, there is no suitable equipment for carpentry. People of Palacholai, Mavadiwempu, Kaluwankeny and Sittandy have engaged in full time and part time job. The people of Marapalam, Karadiyanaru, Eluppayaichenai, Koduwamadu, Thalavai, Kithul and Rajakiramam have engaged in paddy cultivation, harvesting, and mason works. This can be estimated nearly 40% - 50% of people.

### 6.2.12 Bricks production

Bricks productions are made in Rameshpuram, Chenkalady, Sittandy, Orumulaicholai and Eluppayaichenai. The clay is taken from Mavadiwempu and Vantharumoolai.

The main problems are,

1. There are difficulties in getting clay
2. More money has to be given for necessary equipment.
3. The profit of bricks production is not affordable for production cost.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Eravur Pattu Divisional Secretariat was affected by war for last few decades. People in this D.S Division were mainly dependent on the traditional sources for generating income like paddy cultivation, fishing and livestock management. This particular survey has identified a large number of alternative sources other than the traditional ones. The survey reveals the sources as alternative to traditional ones are sewing/weaving, pottery making, cane production, coir works, laundry jobs, reed production, cashew processing and food processing. Even though the marketing opportunities are available for these above products, they have to offer to lower prices which lead to losses and poor working capital. Rather depending on the traditional ones, people in this survey area can opt for the alternative sources in order to enhance their livelihood in terms of employment and alternative earnings.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 8.1 Agriculture

The people face difficulties in irrigation at period of April and August. Because the main reason is, ponds are destroyed by war. These ponds must be renovated. People engaged in paddy cultivation have faced marketing problems. Harvested paddy has to be sold to whole sale businessmen in Eravur, Oddamavadi, and Valaichenai particularly at lower prices. Due to this situation, people did not receive real value of money of output for their entrepreneurships. This situation can be avoided to get benefit by providing marketing opportunity for this people. Therefore, paddy store centre, paddy marketing centre and rice mill are needed. Closed paddy store centre in Vantharumoolai and rice mill in Thevapuram (Murakkoddanchenai) must be restarted again. These are closed due to lack of demand during the war situation and the competition from rice mills located in other areas. Therefore, it is vital that the arrangement to rebuild these facilities has to be done immediately.

### 8.2 Home gardening/ Fruits cultivation

Though 40% - 45% of people are interesting in cultivating vegetable and black gram as home gardening, they are

unable to produce due to there is no water pump facilities, improper drainage system and lack of marketing facilities. Even though land and human resources are available for this home garden, due to above barriers these village people are unable to earn enough income. Effective advices should be provided by specialist with regard to cost effective methods of home gardening. And the arrangements should be made available to sell their products in the markets with the expected return.

### **8.3 Cashew cultivation**

People of Urugamam, Rajakiramam, Koppavaly, Kithul, Marapalam, Thannamunai and Mayilampavaly have engaged in cashew cultivation at small scale level. But these people did not market cashew in a proper way. They use cashew only for their own consumption. Sometimes it may be wasted. Thus, by giving awareness to these people or through an organization/ centre, arrangements have to be made to purchase cashew fruits and unprocessed cashew nuts to undertake further processing to sell at reasonable price. People of Urugamam and Koppavaly village have the interest in engaging in the cashew seeds for cashew nuts. But they need necessary training and technology.

### **8.4 Livestock Rearing**

As this milk is provided directly to milk collecting centre, they can not only get more income but they have no sufficient assistance/ supports to make sub productions. If the industry is formulated, milk packets, curd production, yogurt production and milk toffee productions can be made.

### **8.5 Bricks production / Tile production.**

The clay is available in the areas of Eravur, Kommathurai and Chenkalady and also the people of those villages have engaged in bricks production. Though the people have interest in engaging productions, due to the lack of unavailability of equipments and basic needs for productions, they are unable to make their productions. So that, tile productions can be motivated as raw material and trained human resources are available. But, if the initial stage assistance is provided as motivation, people can get work.

### **8.6 Cane Products**

As there are difficulties in getting the cane resources, this job is unable to be progressed continuously. Though Cane resources can be got from Kithul and Rajakiramam, it is not used for any works. If give training to this people, about 25 – 30 person can involve in this work.

### **8.7 Handicrafts / Self Employment Efforts**

It is noted the marketing opportunity for handicrafts are available in local and outside of villages. People expect some training so, the training must be provided. As there are handicrafts from other places coming to the market, training should be provided by special trainers to produce attractive and competitive products in order to beat the competition.

### **8.8 Tailoring / Weaving**

60% - 70% of women of this DS division have trained formally or informally in tailoring. But most of them are unable to do that job because of the lack of support to purchase a sewing machine. Government or NGOs should assist them to receive a sewing machine.

### **8.9 Stone Breaking**

Though this job has been abandoned due to the war, 12-15 numbers of people of those villages are engaging in this job in Welikantha and Kathuruwela. So, they have to compete with more transport expenses and life expenses. They have already received the special permission with the approval of government to involve in this job. But, here necessary equipments, medicine and Explosive (Boom) should be provided.

### **8.10 Skill Labourer**

People have been trained as mechanics, carpenters, welding and plumbing. Due to the lack of financial assistance and necessary equipments, they are unable to start their efforts in their own field. Thus, they asked this type of support for their livelihood.

### **8.11. Footwear production.**

The people of Urugamam, Koppavaly and Marapalam specially youths show their interest towards footwear production training. They are willing to work together under a one roof, if anybody provides training for them.

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