



## **Education and Employment Status of Dalit women**

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### **Abstract**

The present study conducted in the Nagapattinam District of Mayiladuthurai Block, Ananthathandavapuram and keelamaruthandanallur villages, Education and Employment status of the Dalit Women (Education and Employment status). The study is based on a Simple random sample of 120 respondents (14-Mason, 20-Business, 59-Agriculture, 7-MGNREGA, 20-salary workers) household drawn based wealth and impact Education and Employment after socio-economic conditions of the block in the District. It has been found that significant changes have taken place in the socio-economic variables like annual percapita income, monthly percapita food expenditure and annual per child expenditure on education, percapita savings condition of the dwelling houses, access to health care facility and possession of other assets or luxury items and Change the life style for those households which are regularly working Dalit Women.

**Keywords: Dalit women, Employment, Nagapattinam**

### **Status of Dalit Women in India**

The word “Dalit” is Sanskrit in origin and means “Oppressed” or broken people. The term “Dalit” as it is used today, is rather recent. Various terms untouchables “the Fitter born”, “Exterior classes”, “Out castes” and “Classes” were used to refer to those who are today identified as Dalit. The experience violence, discrimination, and social exclusion on a daily basis. Dalit women are one of the largest socially segregated groups anywhere in the world. They are discriminated against three times over: they are poor, they are women, and they are Dalits.

Women work two-thirds of the world’s working hours, earn 10 percent of the world’s income and own one percent of the world’s property. The twelve states that have the highest percentage of scheduled caste population in India. According to 2011 census Scheduled Castes comprises 33.1 crore of the total population of India. Almost every socio-economic indicator

shows that the position of scheduled caste families is awful, 35.4 percent of the SC population is below poverty line. Most of the Dalit women suffered extremely relate to low literacy and education levels, heavy dependence on wage labour, discrimination in employment and wages, heavy concentration in unskilled, low-paid and hazardous manual jobs, violence and sexual exploitation being the victims of various forms of superstitions (Problems of Dalit in India, 2012).

In almost all the villages, Dalit women engage as the agricultural women labourer have been assigned to specific tasks like weeding, threshing and winnowing. And also they have been paid lesser than other labourers. The Dalit women work as the casual labourers on construction sites and also in rock mines. The sweeping of non-dalit houses and courtyards, plastering walls and floors, cleaning cattle shed, collecting cow-dung and making cakes etc.

Dalits represent not only a socio-cultural group, but often represent an economic group as well. The share of rural females in agriculture was around 83 per cent in 2004-05 as compared to 67% among rural men, showing the importance of women in agriculture in rural areas. Percentage of women among marginal farmers (38.7%) is higher than the large farmers (34.5%) in 2004-05. These proportions have increased over time.

In India 75 per cent of the Dalit population living in vulnerable conditions so the Government of India implemented various livelihood schemes. This study is an attempt to study the employment status of Dalit women in Mayiladuthurai Block, in Nagapattinam District.

### **Research Issues**

1. What are the types of Employment exist of Dalit-women in Mayiladuthurai Block of Nagapattinam District ?.
2. Is there any alternative Employment available in the study area ?.
3. Is Dalit – women is contributing their income to their family in terms of assets and employment ?.
4. Are there any problems in availing Employment ?.

## Objectives

1. To explore which type of employment provide Dalit women a better access to income and assets creation.
2. To explore whether the Dalit women facing any constraints in accessing and pursuing employment in the study area.

## Methodology

The present study is undertaken in Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District. From Mayiladuthurai block two Village Panchayats namely, Anandhadhandavapuram and Keelamarudhandhanallur villages have been selected for the study.

This study is survey based and analytical type of research. To collect information is pertaining to Education and Employment status of Dalit women processing women workers and their problems in earnings in the study area.

In the each village 2425 women are involved in different employment activities. From both villages each 60 women worker was selected as sample respondents totally 120 women workers were selected using simple random sampling method and they have been interviewed.

**Table 1 Nagapattinam Population Census: 2011**

Parameter	ANANTHANDAVAPURAM			KEELAMARUTHANTHANALLUR		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Population</b>	1735	1852	3587	996	985	1981
<b>Literates</b>	925	895	1820	417	386	803
<b>Illiterates</b>	810	957	1767	579	599	1178
<b>Workers</b>	1600	1695	3295	785	730	1515
<b>Non-Workers</b>	135	157	292	211	255	466

**Table 2 Educational Details of the Sample Respondents**

Details	HOUSEHOLD OCCUPATION					
	Mason (n=14)	Business (n=20)	Agriculture (n=59)	MGNREGA (n=7)	Salary (n=20)	Overall (N=120)
<b>Illiterate</b>	1 (7.1)	10 (50.0)	36 (61.0)	1 (14.3)	-- --	48 (40.0)
<b>Primary</b>	9 (64.3)	7 (35.0)	10 (17.0)	-- --	2 (10.0)	28 (23.3)
<b>Middle</b>	2 (14.3)	-- --	5 (8.5)	2 (28.6)	1 (5.0)	10 (8.3)
<b>High school</b>	2 (14.3)	3 (15.0)	7 (11.9)	3 (42.9)	2 (10.0)	17 (14.2)
<b>Higher. Secondary</b>	-- --	-- --	1 (1.6)	1 (14.3)	5 (25.0)	7 (5.8)
<b>Collegiate and above</b>	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	10 (50.0)	10 (8.3)
<b>Total</b>	14	20	59	7	20	120

**Source:** Computed from Primary Data.

The table-2 reveals that in mason category, 64% of the respondents belong to primary school; only meager (7%) respondents are illiterate. In business category half of the respondents (50%) are illiterate, only 15% of the respondents belong to the High school. In agriculture, 61% of the respondents are illiterate, only very few (2%) are from higher secondary school. In MGNREGA, less than half of the respondents (43%) are of high school, 14% are illiterate and higher secondary. In salaried category two fourth of the respondents (50%) are from collegiate and above, only 5% of the respondents are of middle school. And overall, less than 50% half of the respondents are illiterate only 65% of the people belong to higher secondary school. Hence, it is inferred that the majority respondents are illiterate. The majority of the respondents belong to the higher secondary school.

**Table 3 Details of Household Annual Income Status of the Sample Respondents**

Details	HOUSEHOLD OCCUPATION					
	Mason (n=14)	Business (n=20)	Agriculture (n=59)	MGNREGA (n=7)	Salary (n=20)	Overall (N=120)
<b>Income of the Respondent</b>						
Minimum	30000	10000	10000	8850	24000	8850
Maximum	108000	36000	60000	25000	300000	300000
<b>Mean</b>	<b>53500</b>	<b>18350</b>	<b>26666</b>	<b>11551</b>	<b>63650</b>	<b>33693</b>
<b>Income of other Sources</b>						
Minimum	1500	2000	1500	2000	2000	1500
Maximum	6000	15000	24000	5000	3000	24000
<b>Mean</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>5800</b>	<b>3970</b>	<b>3300</b>	<b>2500</b>	<b>4246</b>
<b>Income of other family Members</b>						
Minimum	8000	30000	12000	12000	25000	8000
Maximum	214000	400000	240000	200000	240000	400000
<b>Mean</b>	<b>88323</b>	<b>75888</b>	<b>70960</b>	<b>102428</b>	<b>100750</b>	<b>80964</b>
<b>Total Income</b>						
Minimum	61000	15000	26000	23000	61000	15000
Maximum	244000	414000	267000	213850	380000	414000
<b>Mean</b>	<b>11.4861</b>	<b>90905</b>	<b>93807</b>	<b>1.1577</b>	<b>1.6495</b>	<b>1.1286</b>

**Source:** Computed from Primary Data.

The **table-3** shows that the mason category the maximum amount of come from the respondents (Rs. 10,8000) the minimum amount is from other sources (Rs. 1500) the mean value is more (Rs. 88,323) from the income of other family members, the mean value is less (Rs. 3600) in income of other sources. In Business category the maximum income of Rs. 30,000 is from income of other family members, the minimum income of Rs. 2000 is from income of other sources, the mean value is more (Rs. 15,888) from the income of other family members the mean value is less (Rs. 5800) from the income of other sources. In agriculture category, the maximum income of 2, 40,000 from other family members, the minimum income of Rs. 1500 from the other sources, the mean value is more (Rs. 70,960) from the income of other family members the mean value is less (Rs. 3970) from the income of other sources. In MGNREGA, the maximum (Rs. 20, 00,000) from the income of other family members, the minimum (Rs. 2000) from the other sources, the mean value is more (RS. 1, 02,428) from the income of other family members.

The mean value is less (Rs. 3300) from the income of other sources. In salaried category, the maximum income of Rs. 3,00,000 from the income of the respondent the minimum income of family members mean value low (Rs. 300) from the other sources income of Rs. 2000 from the income of other sources mean value is more (Rs.10 2428) from other and the overall maximum income (Rs. 4,00,000) from the other family members, the overall minimum income (Rs. 1500) from the income of other sources, the overall mean value is more (Rs. 80,964) from the other family members the mean value is less (Rs. 4296) from the income of other sources.

**Table 4 Details of Earners Dependents Ratio of the Sample Respondents**

Details	HOUSEHOLD OCCUPATION					
	Mason (n=14)	Business (n=20)	Agriculture (n=59)	MGNREGA (n=7)	Salary (n=20)	Overall (N=120)
<b>Earners</b>						
One	6 (42.8)	11 (55.0)	41 (69.4)	4 (57.1)	7 (35.0)	69 (57.5)
Two	4 (28.6)	8 (40.0)	14 (23.8)	2 (28.6)	7 (35.0)	35 (29.2)
Three	2 (14.3)	-- (0.0)	(3.4)	1 (14.3)	4 (20.0)	9 (7.5)
Four	2 (14.3)	1 (5.0)	2 (3.4)	-- (0.0)	2 (10.0)	7 (5.8)
<b>Dependents</b>						
Zero	4 (28.6)	4 (20.0)	12 (20.0)	-- (0.0)	6 (30.0)	26 (21.7)
One	1 (7.1)	6 (30.0)	13 (22.0)	1 (14.3)	4 (20.0)	25 (20.8)
Two	2 (14.3)	9 (45.0)	13 (22.0)	3 (42.9)	6 (30.0)	33 (27.5)
Three	5 (35.7)	1 (5.0)	17 (28.8)	2 (28.6)	4 (20.0)	29 (24.2)
Four	2 (14.3)	-- (0.0)	4 (6.9)	1 (14.2)	-- (0.0)	7 (5.8)
<b>E/D Ratio</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>

**Source:** Computed from Primary Data.

**The table-4** shows that mason category maximum (43%) belong to the have only one earner, there and four earners are the least is the category. In business more than half of the respondents (55%) are have only one earner, 5% of the respondents are four earners. In agriculture, 70% of the respondents belong to one earner category, 3% of the respondents belong

to three and four number of earners. In MGNREGA, more than half of the respondents are of one earner category there are no four number of earners. In salaried, 35% of the respondents from one and two earners category, 10% of the respondents are of four earners category. And overall, more than half of the respondents belong to the one earner category. It is inferred that one earner plays the major role in the entire five categories. The number of dependent in mason category are three persons (36%) of the respondents, 7% are all one dependent in business category 45% of the respondents are two dependents that are no four dependents in this category. In agriculture, 43% of the respondents are two dependents; there is no one dependent in the category. In MGNREGA, less than half of the respondents (43%) are two dependent there are no respondents in the four dependents. And overall 27.5% of the respondents are of two dependents, 6% of the respondents are of four dependants' category. It is inferred that, two dependents are more and four dependents are less in these categories.

**Table 5 Details of Working sector of the Sample Respondents**

Nature of Employment	Occupation					
	Mason (n=14)	Business (n=20)	Agriculture (n=59)	MGNREGA (n=7)	Salary (n=20)	Overall (N=120)
<b>Government</b>	-- --	-- --	-- --	7 (100.0)	6 (30.0)	13 (10.8)
<b>Private</b>	14 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	59 (100.0)	-- --	14 (70.0)	107 (89.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>20</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>59</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>7</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>20</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>120</b> <b>(100.0)</b>

**Source:** Computed from Primary Data.

The **table-5** describes the respondents who work in government or private sector. In mason category, 100% of the respondents are in private sector. In Business category 100% of the respondents 100% of the respondents work in private sector. In agriculture sector, 100% of the respondents work in the private sector, in MGNREGA, 100% of the respondents work in the

govt. sector. In salaried category, three fourth (70%) of the respondents work in private sector, one- fourth (30%) of respondents work in government sector and maximum (89%) overall respondents work for private sector and minimum (11%) of the respondents work in government sector. It is inferred that maximum number of respondents works in private sector than in government sector.

**Table 6 Details of Working Environment of the Sample Respondent's**

Details	Mason (n=14)	Business (n=20)	Agriculture (n=59)	MGNREGA (n=7)	Salary (n=20)	Overall (N=120)
<b>Bad</b>	1 (7.1)	-- --	5 (8.5)	1 (14.3)	3 (15.0)	10 (8.3)
<b>Good</b>	-- --	-- --	40 (67.8)	5 (71.4)	5 (25.0)	50 (41.7)
<b>Satisfaction</b>	1 (7.1)	10 (50.0)	6 (10.2)	-- --	6 (30.0)	23 (19.2)
<b>Dissatisfaction</b>	12 (85.8)	10 (50.0)	8 (13.5)	1 (14.3)	6 (30.0)	37 (30.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>20</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>59</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>7</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>20</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>120</b> <b>(100.0)</b>

**Source:** Computed from Primary Data.

The **table-6** analyses that in mason category 86% of the respondents are dissatisfied with the working environment, there are no respondents who feel good for their working environment. In business category, half of the respondents are satisfied. Remaining half (50%) of the respondents are dissatisfied. In agriculture category, 68% of the respondents feel good for their environment, 9% of the respondents feel bad for their working environment. In MGNREGA category, three fourth of the respondents (71%) feel good for working environment, 14% of the respondents feel both and dissatisfied. In salaried category, 30% of the respondents are satisfied as well as dissatisfied, 15% of the respondents feel bad for their working environment. And overall maximum respondents (42%) feel good for their working environment, 8% of the respondents feel bad for their environment. Hence, it is inferred that maximum number of respondents feel good for their environment, only very few the respondents feel bad for their working environment.



## Household Wealth Status

The **table-7** describes the household wealth of the respondents in that the mason category the average value of the building is the highest (Rs. 3,00,000), the average value of the durables is the lowest (Rs. 600). In building, the average value of the gold is the more (Rs. 1,40,000), the average value of the livestock is less (Rs. 1000), In agriculture, the average assets value is more in building (Rs. 8,00,000), the average asset is low in livestock (Rs. 300). In MGNREGA, the average value of the average asset is low in durables (Rs. 1000). In salaried category, the average, of maximum value is in building (Rs. 8,00,000), the average of minimum value is in livestock (Rs. 1000). And overall, the value of the building is maximum (Rs. 8,00,000), the value of the durable asset is minimum (Rs. 500).It is inferred that the maximum value of the asset is building the vice-versa is durable.

**Table 7 Details of Household Wealth Status of the Sample Respondents**

Details Household Wealth	HOUSEHOLD OCCUPATION					
	Mason (n=14)	Business (n=20)	Agriculture (n=59)	MGNREG A (n=7)	Salary (n=20)	Overall (N=120)
<b>Land</b>						
Minimum	8000	16000	16000	16000	40000	8000
Maximum	50000	40000	100000	36000	100000	100000
<b>Mean</b>	<b>31200</b>	<b>22285</b>	<b>48909</b>	<b>26000</b>	<b>72000</b>	<b>43032</b>
<b>Building</b>						
Minimum	10000	10000	20000	40000	7000	7000
Maximum	300000	80000	800000	200000	800000	800000
<b>Mean</b>	<b>90357</b>	<b>50000</b>	<b>64830</b>	<b>102857</b>	<b>96350</b>	<b>72808</b>
<b>Livestock</b>						
Minimum	1000	1000	300	3000	1000	300
Maximum	7000	20000	200000	50000	23000	200000
<b>Mean</b>	<b>4225</b>	<b>5636</b>	<b>13084</b>	<b>13416</b>	<b>5909</b>	<b>9705</b>
<b>Gold</b>						
Minimum	15000	20000	2000	16000	20000	2000
Maximum	145000	140000	200000	150000	500000	500000
<b>Mean</b>	<b>51500</b>	<b>52500</b>	<b>47491</b>	<b>66571</b>	<b>119000</b>	<b>61983</b>
<b>Durables</b>						
Minimum	600	2000	500	1000	2000	500
Maximum	16100	30000	80000	100000	80000	100000
<b>Mean</b>	<b>5907</b>	<b>5277</b>	<b>10728</b>	<b>28142</b>	<b>14800</b>	<b>11048</b>

**Source:** Computed from Primary Data.

## **Summary and conclusion**

The respondents belong to the age group of 31-50 years, plays the major role in earning activities, the young age group people (18-30 years) plays next to the middle aged and some of them are being dependents of the earnings of the earlier. More number of married women are in all category except salaried. Whereas unmarried women plays major role in the salaried category. Single earner plays the major role in all the five categories such as mason, business, agriculture, MGNREGA, salaried employee. The majority of the respondents are illiterate. Very few of them studied up to the higher secondary school level. Half of the family members are illiterate and very few of the family members studied up to the collegiate and above. Regarding their wealth status, majority of the respondents spent their money on building. Lowest amount is spent on durable goods. In all the five categories, respondents spent their money on food and less amount of money on cooking fuel. The more amounts is spent on education and less amount on cosmetics. Maximum number of respondents works in private sector than in government sector. Majority of the respondents are satisfied on their because of their familiarity with their job. In all the occupational category women constitute equal numbers to men in the study villages.

## **Suggestions**

1. Dalit women should be encouraged to work as a salaried employee. They should be given proper training to develop their skills.
2. Free education must be accessible to the Dalit women to increase the literacy level.
3. Awareness should be given on the importance of higher education to increase their overall educational level.
4. Awareness should be given to the Dalit women on various rural development programmes.
5. SHG's to be strengthened the lending capacity for the benefits of the Dalit women to avoid the dependency on the middle men.

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