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**A STUDY ON SEASHELL PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN
KINNIYA DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT OF
TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

A study on seashell processing industry in Kinniya Divisional Secretariat of Trincomalee district was carried out during the months of April and May, 2014. Using the random sampling procedure, a sample of 90 seashell processors were selected and a structured interview schedule was used to collect the information through personal interview. Data were analyzed using the SPSS package.

Personal and socio-economic characteristics of seashell processors revealed that all (100%) seashell processors were males, young and middle age categories were same (40%), majority of the respondents (96.7%) were married, 80% were under primary level of education and majority (68.9%) of the respondents were depended mainly on seashell industry. Majority of respondents (62.2%) do not have any farm land, more than half (54.5 %) of the seashell processors belonged to medium income group, while 53.3% of respondents obtained low income from other sources, and 44.4% of respondents obtained low income from seashell industry because most of them (87.8%) engaged as the part time workers. Majority (85.6%) of respondents had 5 to 10 years working experience with seashell industry, majority of respondents (84.4%) had medium household size (4 to 6 members), only 11.1% respondents had membership with social organization because only the mill owners had the membership and other processors (88.9%) were not have any membership. The study indicated that seashell processors (100%) were not receiving any extension services since there was no extension activities carried out by the Government or Nongovernmental organizations.

All the respondents (100%) indicated that seashell collection was the most difficult work in seashell processing. Among the people who were involved in seashell collection, most of them obtained medium income of Rs.1000-Rs.1500 per day from seashell collection.

Among the people who were involved in seashell grinding most of them obtained high income from seashell grinding per day. All (100%) of the respondents reported that grinding is not a difficult work and all the respondents (100%) reported that the deposits shells were the highly ground shells in the mills and it has high demand since it is used for poultry feed making.

Majority (91.1%) of the respondents involved in this industry were rural people. All the respondents (100%) viewed that the overall business condition of their industry was good. All (100%) of respondents said that the availability of labourers for collecting, grinding, loading and transporting are sufficient. Majority (54.5%) of the respondents were poor before working in this seashell industry and majority (61.1%) of the respondents were in the upper middle class after working in this seashell industry.

The employment rate, income, living standard and socio-economic status of people were low before the establishment of this seashell industry in the particular villages, but after the establishment of this seashell industry those conditions improved. Because of these improvements the poverty level of the people in particular villages was reduced. Chi-square analysis between seashell processor type and selected socio-economic characteristics indicated that there is a significant association between different type of seashell processors and their age, monthly income received, experience in seashell processing, type of work and membership in social organizations.

Seashell deposits are valuable natural resources. All the natural resources should be sustained for future usage. Depletion of these types of valuable natural resources leads to environmental hazards. Therefore, it is very important to monitor the seashell mining activities to maintain its level in a sustainable manner.

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