

SAND MINING AND RURAL ECONOMY: AN ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF LABOURERS ENGAGED IN SAND MINING IN THE RIVER CHALIYAR OF KERALA

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ABSTRACT

The present study is carried on to identify, analyze and evaluate social and economic impacts of sand mining on the labourers engaged in river sand mining. The study of socio-economic impact on the labourers engaged in river sand mining has been a subject of frequent discussions. In the discussions planners, academicians, policy makers, politicians etc. actively participate. Sand mining is an important economic activity in the rural area. It enhances the overall economic transactions in the rural economy. Mining is an important contributor to economic growth, employment, income and wealth generation, government revenues, and exports for developed and less-developed countries alike. The study was conducted by using structured Interview Schedule. The sample used is 200 registered labourers engaged in sand mining. Several statistical tools are used to analyze the changes in socio-economic conditions of labourers engaged in sand mining. The present study utilizes independent samples t-test, Chi-square test of independence and test for proportions. The survey results show that river sand mining has become the vital reason for the upliftment of the labourers engaged in sand mining in various ways. It has led to the improvement in the socio-economic status of the labourers. The improvement in the socio-economic status of sand mining labourers has become an important reason for the acceleration of growth in the rural economy.

KEY WORDS: Sand Mining, socio-economic status, public goods, rural economy