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**Socio-Economic and Health Status of Women Involved in Coir Retting in Rathgama Division, Galle District**

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Coir retting yards are highly located along the southern coastal line and specially women folk, who find this work as the source of their principle income for the fisher's family in off season of the fishing. However, traditional conventional method of retting has adverse impacts on the ecosystem and human beings. The study was conducted to study the impact of coir retting on the Socio-Economic Status (SES) and health status of women involved in coir retting. The study was conducted in the Rathgama division of Galle district. A total of 35 families of coir retting were randomly selected and interviewed using a pre-tested structured questionnaires. Data obtained was statistically analyzed by using SPSS Soft-ware. Water quality parameters, such as pH, Temperature, BOD, COD, NO<sub>3</sub>N and conductivity were analyzed in coir retting yards. All the water quality parameters were not in permissible ranges. Literacy level in the study population was relatively low; 66 % showed primary education; < 18% and 5 % showed secondary and tertiary education respectively. The average household size and daily net income of the coir retting family involved in the industry were 4.8 and Rs. 275.00 respectively. They earn low income due to lack of proper marketing facilities. Field survey results proved that 90 % suffer from job oriented diseases like skin disease, blindness, headache, backbone pains and respiratory disease. Retted husk release more organic pollutants and they are highly affected for the water quality parameters. Therefore, it is a difficult task to protect these women from these occupational hazards. Finally the majority of the families fall within the low SES with deepening poverty background depicted by low educational achievement and occupational status. The results of this study will help to design new technique as well as providing a good market for these products to improve income level of the target group.