

Minor Research Project - **MRP UGC F. No. 41-1414/2012**

**ANALYSING THE SANITATION AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THE COASTAL
AREAS OF VIZHINJAM PANCHAYATH- KERALA**

Duration of the Project 1-7 -2012 to 30-6-2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

The major significance of the study is to know the status of coastal sanitation and health care system in the coastal areas of Kerala. The total coastline area of Kerala state is 590 kms in which case study area Vizhinjam panchayath has occupied with 78 kms ie., for about 13% of the total coastline of the state. For the convenient of the analysis the study area was divided in to three distinguished zones like ZONE-A: ZONE –B and ZONE-C.

The general methodology adopted for this study is Field observation method, conducting interview with coastal residence, visit of community health centers and discussion with Asha workers. A detailed study was conducted in Vizhinjam coastal area for understanding social hygiene conditions especially related to unsafe disposal of human waste and compare the zonal status of the same. Questionnaire survey was conducted in the selected random wards during November and December 2012 in order to analyzing sanitation problems of the coast.

As per the Field survey records the tracts of Dengue fever 1245 cases, Cholera 37 cases, Malaria 280 cases, Diarrhea 1879 cases, Typhoid 3529

cases, Viral hepatitis 256 cases were reported in the study area during time.. In spite of this in the coastal fishing areas have reported with Asthma, Diarrhea and fever with regular intervals especially in monsoon. Poor environmental condition, lack of drainage, high water table, nature of beach soil, polluted sewage system are the major factors of influence.

The demographic profile of the coastal community is unique in nature. In Kerala around 11.20 lakhs of fishermen population lives in 222 fishing villages with poor health condition. Awareness level of people related to health care and sanitation measures are below 20% in Zone –A, 22% in Zone –B and 26% in Zone –C. The selected criteria are hand wash before food, conditions of health centers, vaccination and preventive medicines, counseling and awareness etc...

The present study revealed that proper sanitation is surely a way of life and access these facilities have definitely an impact on the better health status. Absence of good drinking water supply leads to high occurrence of water born diseases especially among children. As per the field observation it is clear that there is no proper way to access potable drinking water in the study area and women carries water from distant places. Some of them purchase drinking water from lorry tankers.

The present investigation has strongly recommended to implementing a comprehensive drinking water scheme and health care measures. To ensure social infrastructure, shelter, hundred percentages of sanitation facilities, livelihood opportunities of the coastal inhabitants without any restrictions.

The most important challenges to be addressed are Health education and training, proper counseling, Desalination plant for water availability, sector planning for maintaining health and hygiene can be adopted with the help of Trained Health Squads.

Local administration should take care of unscientific drainage system and health issues in the entire coastal villages. To avoid regular outbreak of epidemics during monsoon due to waste water flow.

Immediate preventive measures to be adopted for skin diseases, diarrhea and tuberculosis. Better disposal of human waste programmes will be helped to minimize the ill-effects of unhygienic conditions of the coastal inhabitants. Lack of public health facilities (PHC and CHC) in government sectors are to be developed by better health care planning.

A major share of the population are disposing human waste carelessly using open sea shore which caused over spread of various kinds of epidemics and its outbreaks. An effective mechanism for solid waste management can be adopted with the help of governmental and non-governmental activities. It is also noted that there is a need to improve socio-economic condition of the coastal inhabitants due to their backwardness under poverty and exploitation. Lack of livelihood opportunities, illiteracy, awareness, entertainment facilities are influencing addictions of alcohol and drugs among the youths. These groups are highly marginalized from health care system in the study area.

