

STATUS OF THE EMPLOYEES IN TOURIST INDUSTRY IN SOUTHERN COASTAL ZONE AFTER THE TSUNAMI DISASTER

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism is a high income-generating sector, in our economy providing more and more employment opportunities year by year, both direct and indirect means. The development of the tourism sector due to cease-fire and the peace dividend created more job opportunities for vast range of people in the society. Total employment in tourist sector in Sri Lanka was 115,000 in 2003. After the tsunami struck, the tourism sector in Sri Lanka got completely disturbed. Many people in tourist industry lost their occupations. This study reveals the effect of the status of the direct employers in hotel sector with statistics.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Hikkaduwa and Unawatuna coastal areas from Galle district and Yala from Hambantota districts were selected as the study area. Interviewed coastal hotels and motels (n=71) from two districts randomly. Prepared a questioner and pre-tested. Conducted a survey to obtain primary data, by directly contact of the people who are in the hotel sector. Secondary data obtained from central bank reports, records from Censes and Statistics Department, statistics of Tourist Board and statistics of Jet Wing Hotels also used for analysis. Data were analyzed using Microsoft Excel package.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Out of total hotels in the southern coastal zone, 48.8% are more than 15 years old and 38.6% are more than 10 years old. Only 13.6% are established after year 2000.

Total direct employees in the tourist sector in southern coastal zone were 1328 (in hotel sector). Out of them 11% are executives, who are directors, managers, housekeeping managers. Remaining 89% comprised with 9.5% chefs, 7% permanent room boys and 72.5% were other direct employees (Such as labors, drivers, casual room boys, watchers, waiters, receptionists from the NAB, and hotel school trainees).

Salary scale of the employees are shown in the Table (Other than the basic salary employees get 10% of service charge which was about Rs. 6000/= per month in the last year.).