AN OVERVIEW OF SOCIO - ECONOMIC CONDITION OF PANIYA COMMUNITY IN ARALAM FARM OF KANNUR DISTRICT, KERALA

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ABSTRACT

Tribals, the original inhabitants of India have contributed much to the nation's culture, history and heritage. Under the constitutional provisions of Directive Principles, the States' major concern for tribes has been their welfare and development. It is ironical that despite a large number of well-meaning constitutional provisions aimed at protecting and safeguarding the welfare and interest of the tribal communities, the process of marginalization of the tribal's has gone unabated. In this context, the paper has made an overview on the socio-economic conditions of tribals belonging to the Paniyas (Paniyas), which has the lowest standard of living, even though being the bulk of the tribal populace in Kerala.

KEYWORDS: - *Socio economic conditions, Paniya, Kudumb, Original inhabitants*

INTRODUCTION

Tribal population is identified as the original inhabitants of our country. Broadly speaking the tribes may be geographically located in four groups:

- North Eastern India - Assam, Manipur, Nagaland
- Eastern India - West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa
- Central and Western India - Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan
- Southern India - Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh

The socio-economic condition of the tribal's – a primary survey including 270 paniya tribal's households from pulpally and mullankolly villages of Sulthan Bethery. The mainly five major tribal communities have their origin in wayanad and Kannur. The paniya tribe was largest among them. They are the largest ST of Kerala. The majority of the paniya tribal population (71.95%) is in Wayanad.

PANIYAS

The etymological meaning of the term "paniya" indicates that they earn their livelihood from labour as the term "pani" in Malayalam means "labour" or "worker".

PHYSICAL APPERANCE

The colour of the paniyas varies from dark to dark brown. They speak a debased form of Malayalam mixed with tamil words. Thurston observes that they are dark skinned tribe, short in stature, with broad noses and wavy hair.

SUBDIVISIONS

The Paniyas have two sub divisions according to the dwelling pattern. Paniyas of the plain land have contact with only their own tribal people living in their forests. The latter group is mainly found in Nilambur forests of Malappuram district.

DRESS

Normally the paniya settlements (paddies) may be a cluster of few huts (Pire or chala).The dress of paniya is simple and different from other tribal groups. The males wear a cloth which is wrapped around the waist and small mundu

on the shoulders covering the body. The paniya women (panichi) wear a long cloth and a smaller one above the bosom through the ampits.

FOOD
Traditionally paniya's were food gathers enjoying the freedom and self sufficiency of nomadic life in the inferior forests. They use edible roots, leaves etc . The major food items include tapioca, vegetables, animal flesh, fish etc . Besides drinking tea or coffee, they are addicted to drinking toddy and some varieties of alcoholic beverages.

RELIGION
Kuttichathan, Kuliyan, Kattubhagavathi or kali , mariyamma and ayyappan are the chief god of paniyas. Paniyas give offering s to their gods during rituals and festive occasions. They observe a number of festivals in different seasons. Some of these festivals are exclusively their own and some others spread regionally throughout the state.

OCCUPATION
Paniyas are primarily agricultural laboures but very few families possess land holding. A paniya male get Rs 85 per day as wage where as paniya female get Rs 50 as wage in the 1970-80. Traditionally they were engaged in bounded labour (Kundal pani). Now a days the economy of paniyas is well –knit, with that of the non –tribal settlers to control the occupational pattern and economic conditions.

FUNERAL RITES
The place of burial of Paniyas is usually near their paddy. Mourning is observed by the members of the family for seven days. The mourner in the house is supposed to perform the rituals on the seventh day.

MARRIAGE CUSTOMS
The most common form of marriage among the Paniya is marriage by negotiation. Marriage by negotiation is always accompanied by the payment of bride price by the bride groom. It is a custom among the Paniya community that the husband has to make an annual subscription known as Thalapattam to his wife parents on the annual festival day.

SOCIAL CUSTOMS
Ear- boring ceremony is usually performed when the child attains the age of three. A mixture of ginger oil and turmeric paste is used for heeling the wound.

INDEBTNESS
Often debts are incurred for meeting the expenses of marriage ceremonies, death rites etc. In other words, Money borrowing is the major factor behind land alienation.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM
The tribals, the original inhabitants of India have contributed much to the nation's culture, history and heritage. The principles entailed development, along the lines of their own genius respect of tribals rights in land and forest, training and building up a team of their own people to do the work of administration and development, to their social and cultural institutions. It is ironical that despite a large number of well-meaning constitutional provisions aimed at protecting and safeguarding the welfare and interest of the tribal communities, the process of marginalization of the tribals has gone unabated. In this context the researcher has made an attempt to examine the socio-economic conditions of tribals belonging to the Paniya community with special reference to Aralam farm of Kannur district.

OBJECTIVES
- To analyze the socio-economic conditions of Paniya community.
- To identify the role of the government in the Paniya tribal development.
- To give suggestion to improve efficacy of government programmes.

METHODOLOGY
This study is based on the both primary and secondary data. Primary data collected from Aaralam farm through personal interviews and surveys. Source of secondary data include books, journals, newspaper etc.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

P S Lenin, Research scholar, Bharathiar University, "Empowerment of tribal children of attapady, Kerala" This is a study of the need of addressing the educational constraints and empowers the tribal children of Attapady, Kerala. This research is aim to find out the various educational availability of Tribal children, to analyze the educational problems, to find out need of counseling and guidance, to assess the method of conducting programmes for tribal children and thus empower the children belongs to scheduled tribes.

M S Sreerekha, "Challenges before Kerala's land less: the story of Aralam farm", Whether from a class perspective or from a community identity perspective, it is undeniably the biggest failure that decades after the land reforms, A good majority of the dalits and Adivasis in Kerala remain fully landless. The author is grateful to M G Geethandhan for inspiration and help. The Kerala government bought Aralam farm from the central government as a part of a post –muthanga agreement in 2004.

Kempson et al (2000) identified the range of physical and geographical barriers to financial inclusion factors that can contribute to financial exclusion for different products and individuals under certain circumstances. There are a number of "dimensions " or "forms" of financial exclusion that have been identified.

Leeladhar V (2005) Opined in his lecture that a holistic approach on the part of the banks in creating awareness about financial products, education, and advice on money management, debt counseling, savings and credit will be addressing financial exclusion.

Aditya P (2007) pointed out that HDFC bank has a deeply felt commitment to financial inclusion and has been the pioneer in using the business correspondent model to achieve this purpose.

ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY DATA

A sample survey has been conducted and data were collected through questionnaire method from 40 households on the basis of the socio – economic condition of Paniya community in Aralam farm. The collected data were analyzed in this chapter by using various tables and diagrams.

1. INCOME WISE CLASSIFICATION

The respondents were also classified on the basis of their income; the following table shows the income wise classification.
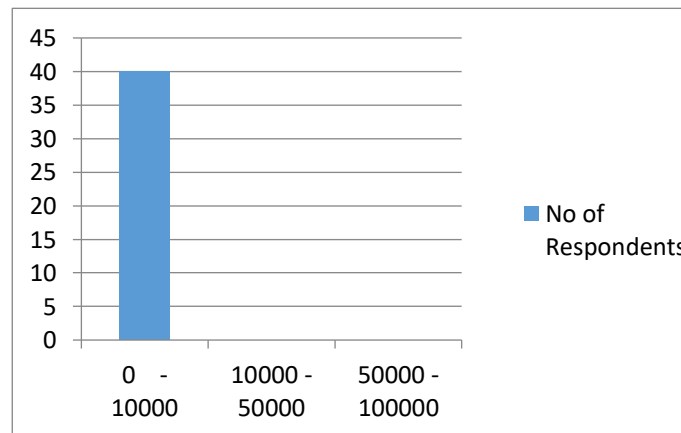
Table – 1
Income Wise Classification

Sl. No	Income	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	0 - 10000	40	100%
2	10000 – 50000	0	0
3	50000 – 100000	0	0

Primary Data

In the above table, Among the 40 Respondents 100% has below 10000 incomes.

Diagram -1
Income Wise Classification

2. CASTE WISE CLASSIFICATION

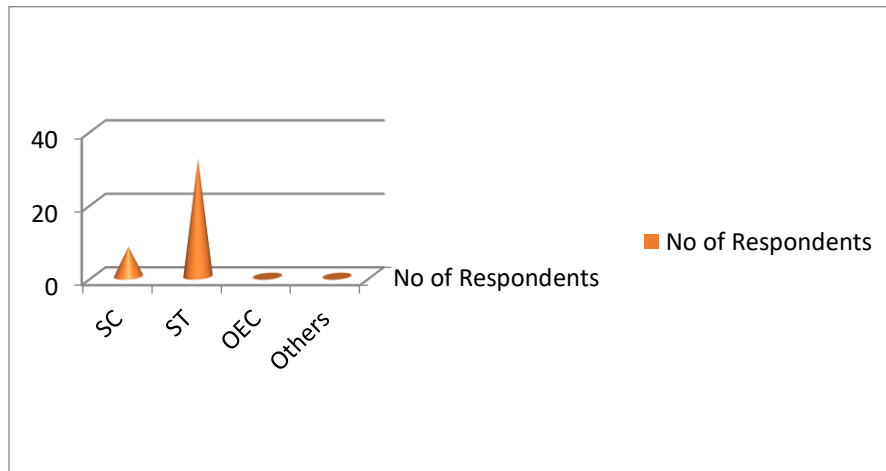The respondents were also classified on the basis of their caste, in the following table.

Table – 2
Caste Wise Classification

Sl .No	Castes	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	SC	8	20%
2	ST	32	80%
3	OEC	0	0
4	Others	0	0

Primary Data

The table 2 shows that 32 percentages of the sample respondents are under the Scheduled Tribe and 20 percentages under Scheduled Cast.

Diagram – 2
Caste wise classification

3. CLASSIFICATION BASED ON THE OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

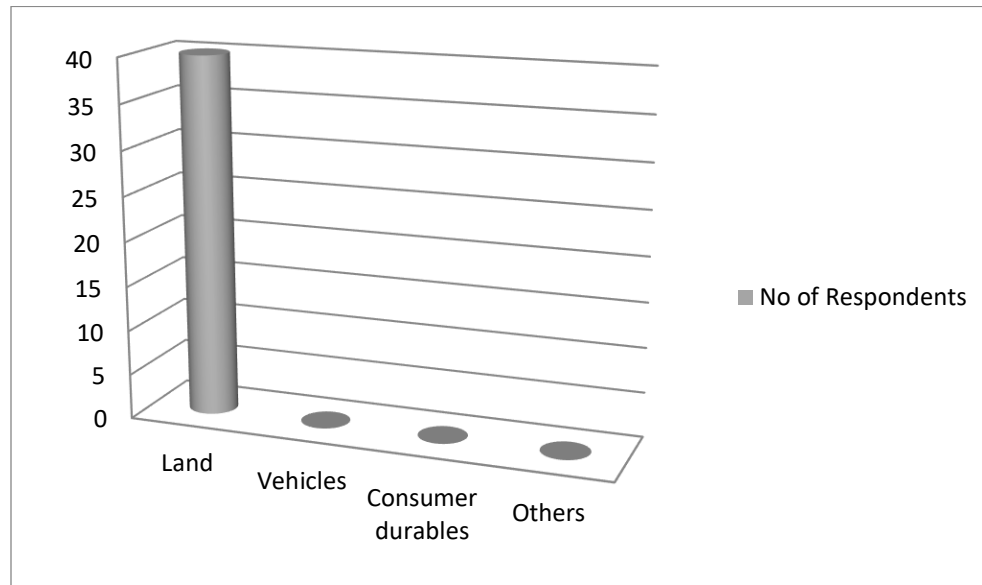Classification based on the other sources of income is shown in the given table.

Table - 3
Classification based on the other sources of income

Sl .NO	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Land	40	100%
2	Vehicles	0	0
3	Consumer durables	0	0
4	Others	0	0

Primary Data

From the 40 respondents, 100% are using Land for various income purposes.

Diagram -3
Classification based on the other sources of income

4.   SATISFACTION OF EXISTING WAGE RATE
The wage rate of the households is very poor. Under the satisfaction of existing wage rate are shown in the given table.
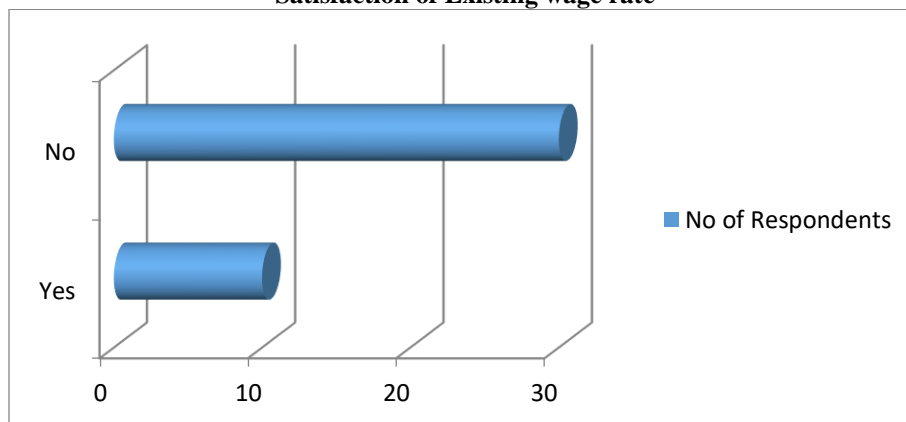
Table – 4
Satisfaction of Existing wage rate

Sl . No	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	10	25%
2	No	30	75%

Primary Data

From the above table 25% of households satisfied existing wage rate and 75% are not satisfied.

Diagram – 4
Satisfaction of Existing wage rate

5.   CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION
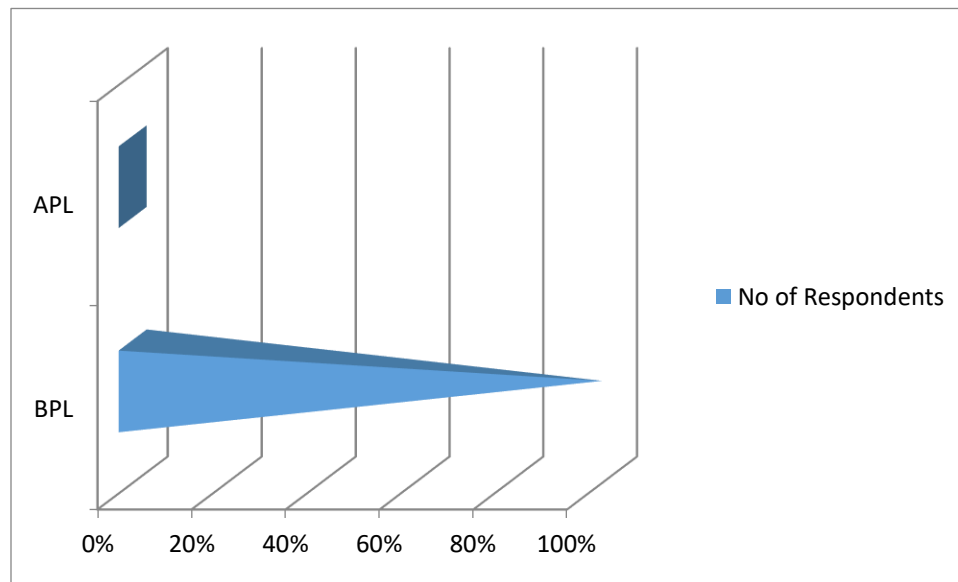The 40 respondents are classified on the basis of category shows following table.

Table – 5
Category classification

Sl .No	Category	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	BPL	40	100%
2	APL	0	0

Primary Data

Here 100% of households are under the BPL category.

Diagram – 5
Category classification

6.   CLASSIFICATION OF BANK ACCOUNT
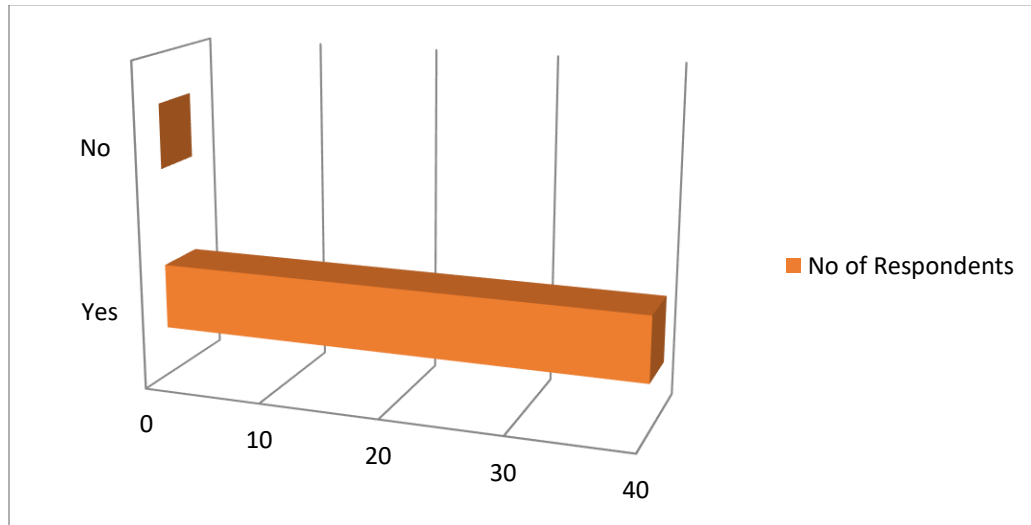Classification based on the bank account is given in the table

Table – 6
Classification of Bank Account

Sl . No	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	40	100%
2	No	0	0

Primary Data

In the above table 100% of households having bank account.

Diagram – 6
Classification of Bank Account

7. CLASSIFICATION OF NATURE OF HOUSE

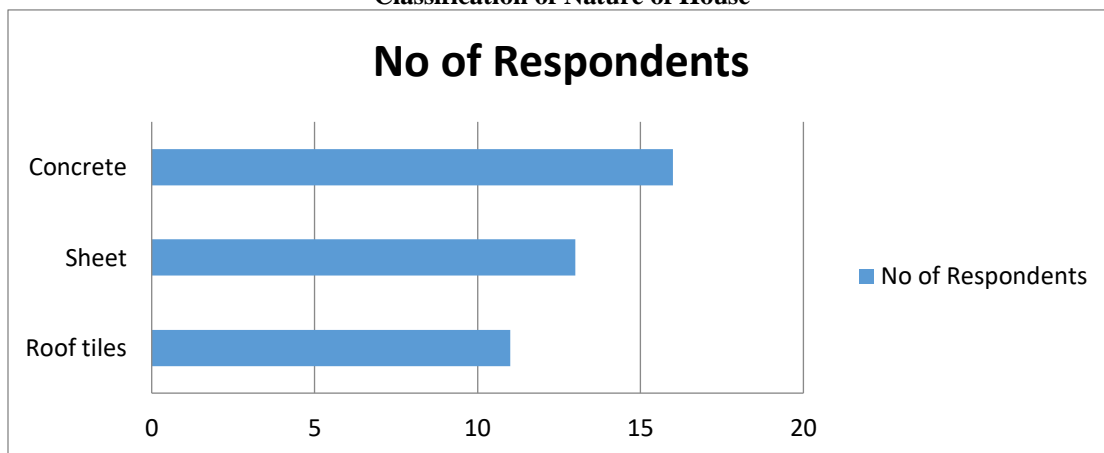The nature of house is shown in the below table.

Table No – 7
Classification of Nature of House

Sl. No	Nature	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Roof tiles	11	28%
2	Sheet	13	32%
3	Concrete	16	40%

Primary Data

Among the 40 respondents 28% having nature of house is roof tiles, 32% having Sheet and 40% having Concrete.

Diagram – 7
Classification of Nature of House

8.   OPINION ABOUT SANITATION FACILITY
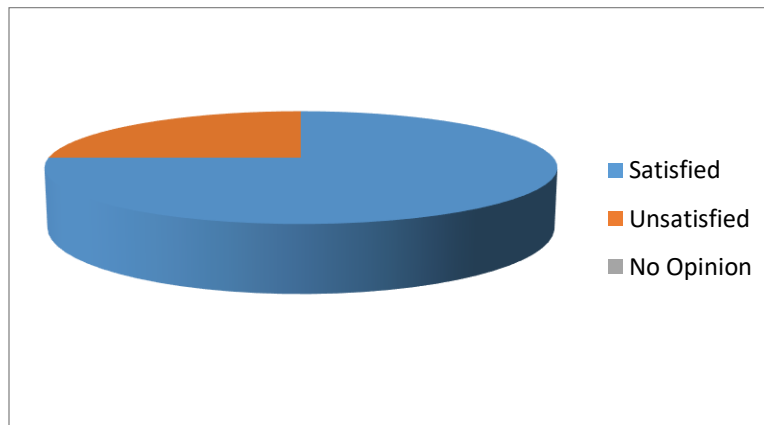The sanitation facility is very poor. Under the opinion about sanitation facility are shown in the given table.

Table – 8
Opinion About Sanitation Facility

Sl. No	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Satisfied	30	75%
2	Unsatisfied	10	25%
3	No Opinion	0	0

Primary Data

Among the 40 respondents 75% having satisfied the sanitation facility and 25% having unsatisfied the sanitation facility.

Diagram – 8
Opinion about Sanitation Facility

9.   OPINION ABOUT GOOD WATER FACILITIES
The water facilities available to the respondents are satisfied on the basis of those the opinion of respondents about water facilities is shown in the table below.
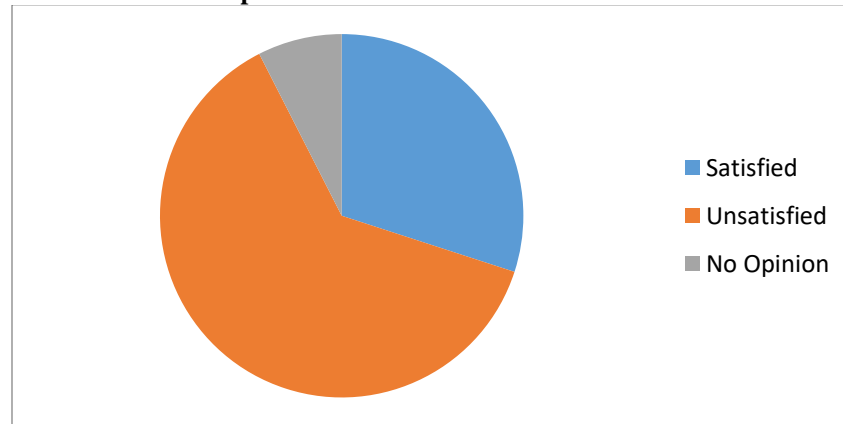
Table No – 9
Opinion About Good Water Facilities

Sl. No	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Satisfied	12	30%
2	Unsatisfied	25	62%
3	No Opinion	3	8%

Primary Data

 From the above table 30% have satisfied, 62% have unsatisfied and 8% have no opinion.

Diagram – 9
Opinion About Good Water Facilities

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS
FINDINGS
The research findings of the study are based on the Socio – Economic Condition of Paniya Community in Aralam Farm.

- The Majority of the people in study are BPL families.
- The major source of income in the study area is Land.
- Most of the households are Agricultural labours concentrating on their farms.
- Total annual income of the 100% of households is below 10000.
- In the case of sanitation facilities 75% has satisfied and 25% has unsatisfied.
- The Opinion about good water facilities is 30% has satisfied 62% has unsatisfied and 8% has No opinion.

SUGGESTIONS
Based on the findings of the study the following suggestions can improve the Socio- Economic condition of Paniya community in Aralam Farm.

- ❖ Authorities may take necessary steps to include financial power (JAN DHAN YOJANA, MGNREGP etc..) in households.
- ❖ Aralam farm to provide more employment programmes and to improve the wage rate.
- ❖ Central government and local government should provide welfare schemes related to work.
- ❖ To promote bonus and allowances to the tribal people.
- ❖ To implement health facilities in the study area.

CONCLUSION
The study attempts to analyze the Socio –Economic Condition of Paniya community in Aralam Farm. The study was based on a sample survey using sample size of 40 households. After analyzing data, the researcher can state that the socio – economic condition of Paniya community in Aralam farm is not satisfactory. On the basis of this study, the researcher wants to suggest that urgent attention should be given in the growth by local governments. Which is essential for a good social and economic life in the area.

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