

# PPRI INSIDE

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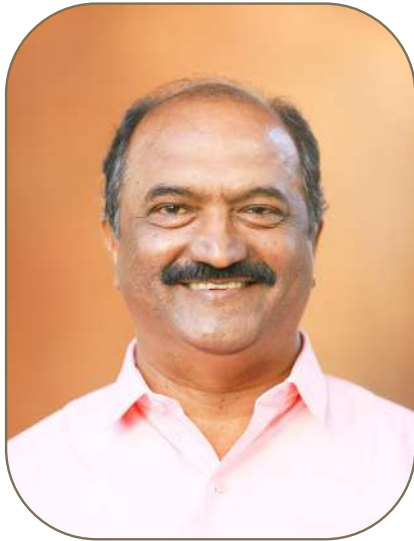
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**Shri. K. N. Balagopal**

Hon'ble Finance Minister,  
Govt. of Kerala

## Minister's Message

Evidence-based research is integral to knowledge production for policymaking. It informs feasible solutions to achieve goals that serve the public interest and the common good. The Kerala Government is committed to transforming the State into a knowledge economy to address issues and challenges in an advanced society, particularly in the social sector. Kerala has introduced several skill development initiatives, including the Additional Skill Acquisition Programmes (ASAP), Skill Development Programmes for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, *Kudumbashree* Skill Training, Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC), and Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission. The R&D budget presented along with Kerala Budget 2024-25 reflects the long-term development perspective of the present government. Public Policy Research Institute is expected to play a key role in translating research into actionable policies and connecting academia with the government. I am pleased to state that public policy research will significantly contribute to Kerala's long-term development goals.

Hon'ble Finance Minister  
Shri. K.N. Balagopal delivering  
the inaugural address in the  
National Seminar on "Crisis of  
Natural Rubber Sector  
in India" at PPRI.





**Prof. R. K. Sharma**

Chairman, PPRI

## Chairman's Message

Public policies have a profound impact on the everyday lives of people, regardless of the identity of individuals. However, the effect varies by social and economic groupings in a globalised world. Public policy has increasingly become complex where every village economy is integrated into the external market and competes for survival. Policymakers, top echelons at the helm of policy implementation and the entire stream of administrative mechanisms have to put their heads together to ensure that the realised outcome of public policies matches with the designed outcome. Framing of policies has become a daunting task for the political leadership in the country with a 1430 million population with extreme diversity, including weather conditions, culture and way of life. Sound empirical base with the least probability of deviation between desired and realised outcome from the envisaged public policy, pilot testing, validation, the mechanism for effective and efficient implementation, monitoring, evaluation by stages and matching up with the phase-wise outcome call for political vision supplemented and corroborated by scientific data with little biasness. The role and relevance of Public Policy Research assume vital significance, and I trust the PPRI has been effectively carrying out its responsibility as a public policy research institute.

6th Governing Board Meeting of  
PPRI (31st May 2024),  
Conference Hall of the Chief  
Secretary, Government Secretariat,  
Thiruvananthapuram.





## Director's Pick

The Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) was announced in the Budget Speech 2012-13 and was established in 2013 by the Department of Finance, Government of Kerala. The Governing Board of the PPRI, comprised eminent scholars of international fame as Dr M.S. Valiyathan, Dr M.S. Swaminathan and Prof. C. Rangarajan (to name a few) was constituted in March 2015. However, the PPRI could not graduate to a full-fledged social science research Institute until the present Government revived the PPRI with infrastructure and finance in 2022. Democratically elected governments need evidence-based research for the formulation of public policies for effective governance. The appointment of the director, faculty members and staff rendered a new lease of life to the Institute.

The PPRI is proud to state that several policy-related studies have already been taken up by the Institute during a short span of less than a year. Alongside, we have conducted four national seminars of contemporary policy relevance including the one related to the issuance of Electoral Bonds in India. The Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) has been generously funding research activities in the Institute and with financial support of the ICSSR, the PPRI conducted a Ten-day Research Methodology course in May 2024 and a Two-day National Seminar

on the 16th Finance Commission and Cooperative Federalism held on 22-23 October 2024. As part of honouring the MoU signed between the School of Development Studies, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, Tirur, Malappuram and PPRI, we conducted a Residential Internship Programme for the post-graduate students of the School of Development Studies in May 2024. The PPRI conducted an Internship Programme for the undergraduate and postgraduate students from different universities in India in 2024. A galaxy of eminent scholars from reputed academic institutions in India, including IITs and renowned professors from foreign universities have joined PPRI as visiting professors.

The PPRI is proud to state that it has established academic collaboration with foreign universities and is jointly conducting research projects. Research studies with wider policy implications have been undertaken with financial support from national-level organisations such as NABARD, ICSSR and others. The PPRI pursues its mandate of producing and disseminating knowledge on India's public policy with special reference to Kerala. This vision has been translated into action by formulating policies at the national and sub-national levels. The PPRI undertakes cutting-edge research on socially relevant public policies, which will culminate in action by the government. A long-term academic plan and strategy have been prepared to align closely with the objectives, vision and mission of the Institute as stated in the Memorandum of Association of the PPRI. The PPRI INSIDE provides a glimpse of activities undertaken by the Institute during the last year. We hope the PPRI will be able to live up to the expectations of the government and the people and we present it for your suggestions and observations which will be our guiding spirit.

**S. Mohanakumar**  
Director, PPRI

Mohankumar S. handing over cheque towards CMDRF to Shri. K. N. Balagopal, Hon'ble Minister for Finance.



# The Central Finance Commission and Local Governments: A Review

Vipin Kumar R.

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments are a landmark in the history of participatory democracy in India. The Articles 234 I and 234 Y mandate that each state government constitutes a State Finance Commission (SFC) every five years to examine the local government's financial standing. Moreover, the Central Finance Commissions (CFCs), which were constituted after the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1992, not only carry out their primary duty of recommending Centre - State resource sharing, but also offer recommendations for strengthening the financial and administrative capabilities of rural and urban local governments. As a result, CFCs and SFCs turned out to be important constitutional bodies that make vital recommendations for strengthening the financial base of institutions that strengthen participatory democracy in the country. There have been differences of opinions across states on the constitution of SFCs and the implementation of recommendations that they made (Government of India, 2020). It highlighted the significance of CFCs as an organisation, particularly in light of the advice they give to local governments and the ways in which those suggestions have been implemented to enhance the grassroots level democracy in the country. This paper critically examines the criteria for fund devolution from CFCs to local governments in various states.

The CFCs have adopted various criteria for the devolution of funds to local governments. The CFCs used population and geographic area as common criteria

for the devolution of funding (Table 1). The 11th, 12th, and 13th CFCs considered additional parameters to address equity and efficiency like per capita income distance between the highest and lowest, indices of deprivation, decentralisation, revenue efforts, and proportion of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the total population, etc. for the devolution of funds to local governments. However, changes in the norms adopted by successive CFCs have been reflected in the relative share of Kerala in the allocation of funds for local governments among states (Graph 1). The 10th and 11th CFCs used 1971 Population Census data. According to 1971 Census, Kerala accounted for 3.89 per cent of total population in India. The population share of Kerala declined to 2.75 per cent in 2011. This left a substantial re-

duction in the relative share of funds devolved to the state of Kerala. Kerala's demographic achievements and subsequent slowdown in population growth negatively impacted on the state's share of devolution by CFCs for local governments. The 13th CFC assigned weights to the proportion of SCs and STs in the total population for the devolution of funds to Local Governments. Since Kerala has only 10.55 per cent of SCs and STs in the total population of the state as compared to 25.27 per cent of the national average, the lower proportion of SCs and STs also impacted the distribution of funds to Local Governments. Graph 1 reveals that whenever CFCs incorporate efficiency parameters in the devolution of funds for local governments, Kerala stands to gain. The formula adopted for the devolution of funds for rural and urban local



*Inaugral address: Dr. Raviraman, Member Kerala State Planning Board, National Seminar on '16th Finance Commission and Cooperative federalism in India: Issues, challenges and concerns'.*

Table 1. The Devolution Criteria for Local Governments under CFCs (%)

Criteria	10th CFC	11th CFC	12th CFC	13th CFC		14th CFC	15th CFC
				Rural	Urban		
Population	100	40	40	50		90	90
Census	1971	1971	2001	2001		2011	2011
Geographical area	-	10	10	10		10	10
Distance from the highest per capita income (State Level)	-	20	20	10	20	-	-
Index of Decentralisation	-	20	-	15		-	-
Index of Deprivation	-	-	10	-		-	-
Revenue Effort	-	10	20	-		-	-
Proportion of SC and ST Community in Population	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Utilisation index of local body on FC Grants	-	-	-	5		-	-

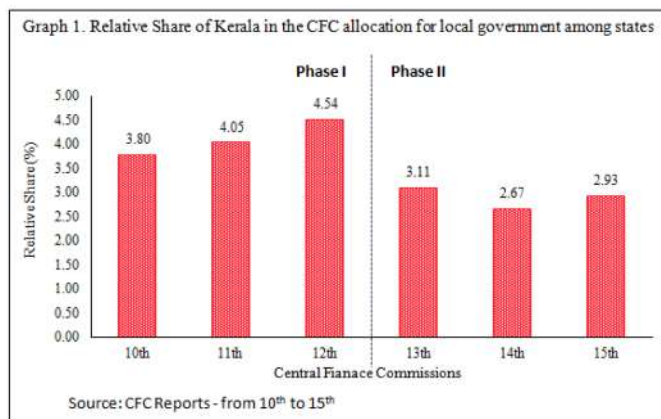
Source: Government of India, 2020.

bodies is based on the proportion of the rural-urban population. The 10th CFC recommended the distribution of funds on the ratio of 80:20 between rural and urban local bodies. The population ratio has been modified in favour of urban local bodies by subsequent CFCs, to adjust for changes in the population size between rural-urban area. The 15th CFC ascertained the fund-sharing ratio between rural-urban local governments as 65:35 in 2025-26. A notable lacuna is that *one-size-fits-all* does not work in this case for the reason that the rural-urban population ratio varies substantially across states in India. The urbanisation process is also not uniform across states in India.

It is important to analyse to see what are the major trends in the allocation of funds by the last five CFCs. The 10th CFC recommended Rs 5381 crore for local governments. This constitutes 1.38 per cent of the divisible pool of funds, which is shared between the Union and the State governments. But the 11th CFC allotted only 0.78 per cent of the divisible pool funds to local governments. However, 12th, 13th and 14th CFCs earmarked 1.24 per cent, 1.93 per cent and 3.06 per cent of the funds under the divisible pool respectively. The 15th CFC recommended 4.31 per cent (2020-21) of the divisible pool to local governments. However, it is also important to analyse the nature of funds devolved to local bodies by CFCs. The 10th CFC has not made any detailed guidelines for the utilisation of funds by the local bodies. The 11th and 12th CFCs proposed certain areas of interest for the utilisation of funds by the local bodies. The 13th CFC spec-

ified six conditions for rural local bodies and nine conditions for urban local bodies for the utilisation of Performance Grant. The 14th CFC divided allocation to local bodies into basic (50 per cent) and performance (50 per cent) grants. The 14th CFC also defined areas of interest for the utilisation of grants for local governments. The 15th CFC modified the allocation ratio between untied and tied funds to 40:60 between rural and urban local bodies. The proportion of conditional grants in CFCs dilutes the financial freedom of local governments and it goes against the very spirit of democratic decentralisation. A close perusal of the trends in the devolution of funds to Kerala from 10th CFC to 15th CFC has two phases (Graph 1). In the first phase from 10th CFC to 12th CFC,

there had been a gradual increase in the proportion of funds devolved to Kerala from 3.06 per cent to 4.54 per cent. Thereafter, there has been a sudden decline in the proportion of funds from 3.11 per cent (13th CFC) to 2.93 per cent (15th CFC).



Graph 1

## Conclusion

Devolution of powers, functions and resources are prerequisites for building up the system of participatory democracy at the grassroots level. The Central and State Finance Commissions as Constitutional bodies have a significant role in strengthening the financial base of local governments in the country. The introduction of the Goods and Service Taxes (GST) has subsumed certain taxes (Octroi, Entertainment and Advertisement taxes) collected by local governments in India. It has reduced the source of own revenues

of local governments (Riyas, 2024). The CFC grants under the divisible pool to local governments have been increased over the years. However, the share of tied funds has also been increased. This is a matter of concern since it would limit local governments as the implementing agents of development projects of the union and state governments. This is against the spirit of democratic decentralisation process. There is a significant difference between the devolution of power and the performance of local government institutions across states in the country. Therefore, it is worthwhile if the guidelines for the utilisation of CFC allocation are formulated at the state level for local bodies. Efforts have to be made to scale down the proportion of tied funds for local governments by CFCs. It is good to have a rational and uniform criterion to be accepted for the horizontal devolution of funds for local bodies at the state level.

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National Seminar on Banana Cultivation in Kerala



# Kerala Tops in Rural Consumption Expenditure

Prem Kumar

National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) published a factsheet on its quinquennial Household's Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 in February 2024 and full report was published in June 2024. The factsheet provides limited data on the value of consumption expenditure without divulging details on the quantity consumed. In this paper, observations drawn from the factsheet are summarised.

Table 1: Compound Annual Growth Rate for MPCE and PFCE

Sr. No.	Description	2004-05 to 2011-12		2011-12 to 2022-23	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1.	MPCE CAGR (Current Prices)	13.8	13.2	9.2	8.5
2.	MPCE CAGR (2011-12 prices)	2.88	3.43	3.13	2.66
3.	PFCE CAGR (Current Prices)	14.9		11.6	
4.	PFCE CAGR (2011-12 prices)	6.17		6.04	

Source: CES 2004-05 and CES 2022-23, NSSO and CSO, MoSPI

Real consumption expenditure grew at an annual rate of 3.13 percent for rural and 2.66 percent for urban households between 2011-12 and 2022-23, while the nominal growth rate for the same was 9.22 percent and 8.51 percent respectively during the reference period (NSSO, 2022-23). The observed slowdown in the growth rate in nominal consumption expenditure during 2011-12 to 2022-23 as compared to 2004-05 to 2011-12 period could be confirmed with the slowdown in the nominal Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) during the period under consideration (Table 1). The annual growth rate in real consumption expenditure for 2011-12 and 2022-23 rounds are not strictly comparable for the differences in concepts and definition. The Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) for rural households recorded a higher annual growth rate compared to the MPCE for households in the urban area for 2011-2022. It is a

deviation favouring rural households because MPCE for the urban households has shown a higher growth rate for the last three decades. Along with the decline in households saving rate to 18.4 percent of GDP in 2022-23 from 23.6 percent in 2011-12 (Economic Survey, 2023-24), decline in MPCE growth rate suggested a slowdown in the income growth in the last decade. This phenomenon occurred due to slowdown in households' income, which subsequently led to observed sluggishness in both consumption and savings in the economy.

## Food Expenditure in India

The consumption expenditure on food items for rural households declined to 46 percent from 52 percent while the same for urban households declined to 39 percent from 42 percent between 2011-12 and 2022-23 periods. It is partly attributable to changes in the methodology for HCES 2022-23, to eliminate the underestimation biases for non-food items. In HCES 2022-23, three separate schedules for (i) food, (ii) non-food consumable and services and (iii) durable goods were used and each sample household was visited thrice consecutively for three months with a single schedule each time in alternative order. Rural households' experienced a relatively higher growth rate in non-food expenditure in comparison with urban households. It is in conformity with the Engel's Law (1857) of income effect, which states a decline in the relative share of food consumption with increase in the real income (Engel, 2021). An increase in the relative share of beverages and processed food, fruits, milk and milk products indicate a shift towards change in the consumption behaviour of people. The shift to high valued food underlines the degree of income effect on consumption. Impressive changes in the relative share of expenditure on conveyance and consumer durables support the theory of income effect. The decline in the relative share of expenditure on fuel and light may be attributable to the free and subsidised electricity provided by certain states for the last few years.

## Decline in Household Expenditure on Education in India

The observed decline in the relative share of monthly per-capita expenditure on education is rather worrisome. Relative share of the monthly per-capita expenditure on education to the total expenditure declined to 3.30 percent in 2022-23 from 3.49 percent in 2011-12 (Table 2). Relative decline in education expenditure is untenable from any standard theoretical proposition. This assertion has been further strengthened by Motkuri & Revathi (2024). They showed that annual per capita expenditure growth rate on public education was 4.3 percent from 2010-11 to 2018-19 and it declined to one percent from 2019-20 to 2022-23. Similarly, the growth rate in expenditure for private education declined to 4.8 percent for 2019-20 to 2022-23. It was 6.8 percent for 2010-11 to 2018-19. This is an alarming situation, which calls for immediate corrective interventions by the policy makers. It is rather disturbing to note that the relative decline in expenditure on education without any significant increase in the public expenditure on education.

Table 2: Consumption Expenditure on Education and Health- 2011-12 and 2022-23

Item	Share in Non-Food Expenditure (%)	
	2011-12	2022-23
Education	7.41	6.15
Medical (Hospitalization)	4.56	4.40
Medical (Non-hospitalization)	9.55	8.90
Medical (Total)	14.12	13.30

Source: CES 2004-05 and CES 2022-23, NSSO and CSO, MoSPI

## NFSA 2013 and Food Consumption

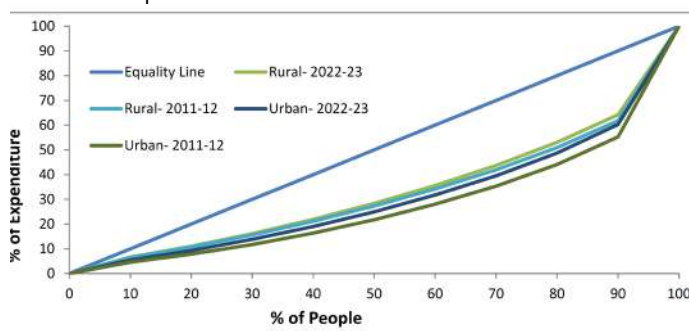
It also imputed the value of the households' consumption for home-grown/ home-produced stock, free collection, donation, gifts and government subsidies. The imputed values of the MPCE for food items were estimated at ₹82 and ₹59 for rural and urban households respectively for 2022-23 and it comes from the cereals and cereals substitutes alone. The same for non-food items was estimated ₹5 and ₹3 for rural and urban households respectively and it comes from the clothing, bedding & footwear and durable items. The difference between the imputed value for cereals and cereals substitutes in rural and

urban area is attributable to the home produced food consumed by the farmers in the rural areas, while a large part of the imputed value of ₹59 for urban area under the cereals and cereals substitutes is linked to the subsidised ration available under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. It shows that the consumption expenditure on subsidised foods under NFSA accounted for 20 to 30 percent of households' expenditure on cereal and cereal substitutes in India.

## Inequality of Consumption Expenditure in India

Inequality in consumption expenditure refers to difference in the consumption expenditure across different social and economic groups. In this context, present analysis compares the inequality in consumption expenditure among economic and social groups between 2011-12 and 2022-23. Figure 1 shows that the degree of inequality for urban households' has narrowed between 2011-12 and 2022-23. There has been a marginal increase in the relative share in consumption expenditure in the bottom 50 percent of rural households' from 27.32 percent to 28.37 percent, while the share of bottom 50 percent of urban households' has increased from 21.77 percent to 24.96 percent during the reference period. Bharti et al., (2024) found that income inequality in India reached a level of colonial era in 2022-23. It is the highest among major economies in the world. The study found that top one percent of the population in India owned 22.6 percent of the total income and 40 percent of the wealth in 2022-23. Conversely, the bottom 50 percent owned only 15 percent of income and 6.4 percent of the wealth in the country (Bharati et al., 2024). The observed income inequality is not reflected in the consumption expenditure and it is attributable partly to the data elicited under quinquennial consumption expenditure survey of NSSO (*The Hindu*, 2024) and in part due to dis-savings as

Figure 1: Lorenz Curve for Rural and Urban Household Expenditure in 2011-12 and 2022-23



Source: HPCE 2011-12 and HPCE 2022-23, NSSO, MoSPI, Gol

people borrow to retain the consumption standard in the short run. In economics theory, it is called ratchet effect.

Table 3 shows the relative MPCE of major states to the national average for 2011-12 and 2022-23. Important

observations from Table 2 are: Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu are the top three states for rural MPCE, while Telangana, Haryana and Karnataka are the top three states for urban MPCE in 2022-23.

Table 3: Comparison of MPCE by Major States for 2011-12 and 2022-23

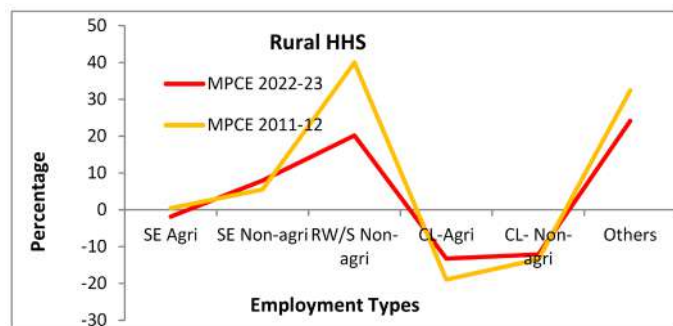
Ratio of State's MPCE to National Average								
Sr. No.	State/UT	Rural			State/UT	Urban		
		2011-12 (Ratio)	2022-23 (Ratio)	Difference (3-2)		2011-12 (Ratio)	2022-23 (Ratio)	Difference (7-6)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Kerala	1.87	1.57	-0.30	Telangana	-	1.26	-
2	Punjab	1.64	1.41	-0.23	Haryana	1.45	1.22	-0.23
3	Haryana	1.52	1.29	-0.23	Kerala	1.30	1.10	-0.20
4	Maharashtra	1.13	1.06	-0.07	Maharashtra	1.21	1.03	-0.18
5	Gujarat	1.07	1.01	-0.07	Punjab	1.06	1.01	-0.05
6	Telangana	-	1.27	-	Tamil Nadu	1.00	1.18	0.18
7	Tamil Nadu	1.18	1.41	0.22	Karnataka	1.15	1.19	0.04
8	Karnataka	1.09	1.17	0.07	Gujarat	0.98	1.03	0.04
9	Andhra Pradesh	1.23	1.29	0.06	Andhra Pradesh	1.02	1.05	0.03
10	Rajasthan	1.12	1.13	0.01	West Bengal	0.99	0.82	-0.17
11	Chhattisgarh	0.72	0.65	-0.06	Chhattisgarh	0.71	0.69	-0.02
12	West Bengal	0.90	0.86	-0.04	Rajasthan	0.93	0.92	-0.01
13	Bihar	0.79	0.90	0.11	Madhya Pradesh	0.78	0.77	-0.01
14	Odisha	0.70	0.78	0.08	Jharkhand	0.77	0.76	-0.01
15	Assam	0.85	0.91	0.06	Bihar	0.57	0.74	0.17
16	Uttar Pradesh	0.81	0.85	0.04	Assam	0.83	0.95	0.12
17	Jharkhand	0.70	0.73	0.03	Odisha	0.74	0.80	0.07
18	Madhya Pradesh	0.81	0.83	0.02	Uttar Pradesh	0.78	0.78	0.00

Source: HPCE 2011-12 and HPCE 2022-23, NSSO, MoSPI, GoI

Among the top MPCE states, Kerala, Haryana, Punjab and Maharashtra suffered a substantial decline in their relative MPCE, while Tamil Nadu registers a substantial increase in its relative MPCE during the reference period. Among the lower MPCE states, Bihar, Odisha and Assam recorded a marked increase in its relative MPCE, while West Bengal and Chhattisgarh registered a significant decline in their relative MPCE during the reference period. A state-wise analysis of consumption expenditure indicates that states with

a high MPCE have reached its saturation point and therefore, started slowing down in the consumption expenditure between 2011-12 and 2022-23. The top ranking states in MPCE are moving to align with the national average. Conversely, states with low consumption expenditure (Bihar, Assam and Odisha) catch up with the national average. However, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have failed to catch up with the national average.

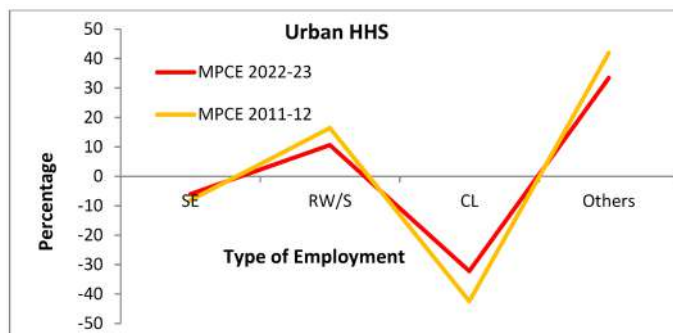
Figure 2: Change in Consumption Expenditure by Types of Employment to Rural MPCE



Note: SE- Self Employed, RW/S- Regular Wage/Salaried, CL- Casual Labour  
Source: HPCE 2011-12 and HPCE 2022-23, NSSO, MoSPI, GoI

The consumption expenditure by types of employment do influence the consumption pattern through income channel. NSSO classified the employment into six categories for rural and four categories for urban households. The consumption expenditure for the regular wage/ salaried employees in rural area is 20 percent higher than the MPCE for rural India in 2022-23. The same was 40 percent higher than the rural MPCE in 2011-12 (Figure 2). The consumption expenditure of casual labour in agriculture was 13 percent less than the rural MPCE in 2022-23, while the same was 19 percent less than rural MPCE in 2011-12. The relative consumption expenditure for self-employed in agriculture and casual labour in non-agriculture to rural MPCE more or less remain constant over the reference period.

Figure 3: Change in Consumption Expenditure by Types of Employment to Urban MPCE



Note: SE- Self Employed, RW/S- Regular Wage/Salaried, CL- Casual Labour  
Source: HPCE 2011-12 and HPCE 2022-23, NSSO, MoSPI, GoI

Figure 3 shows that the monthly per-capita consumption expenditure of casual labour in urban area is 32 percent less than the MPCE for urban India in 2022-23. It was 42 percent less than the MPCE for urban India in 2011-12. The analysis indicates that the inequality in MPCE still persists across different types of employment and further, casual labour are at the bot-

tom. More importantly, the difference between MPCE for casual labour and the MPCE in urban India is the highest. The convergences of the monthly per-capita consumption expenditure for salaried employees with the urban consumption expenditure suggest a fall in real wages, income and consumption expenditure of salaried class in 2022-23 compared to 2011-12.

## Inequality by Social Groups

There exist considerable differences in MPCE across social groups in India. MPCE of a person from the Schedule Tribes (STs) community is only ₹3016, while a person from the general community spent ₹4392 per month in 2022-23. To put it differently, monthly per capita consumption expenditure of STs in rural India is 31 percent less than the amount expended by a person from the general community. In the case of urban population, the MPCE for ST are less by 26 percent as compared to the general category. In the case of Schedule Caste (SCs) population, the MPCE for SCs is 21 percent less than the MPCE of the general population in rural India. In urban India, MPCE of SCs are less by 28 percent as compared to general population.

Table 4: Relative Change in Consumption Expenditure Gap across Social Groups- 2011-12 & 2022-23

Category	Rural (% change*)		Urban (% change*)	
	2011-12	2022-23	2011-12	2022-23
ST and Other	54	45	48	36
SC and Other	36	26	60	39
OBC and Other	19	14	41	19

Note: \*MPCE difference between SC/ST/OBC and others as % of former

Source: 2011-12 and HPCE 2022-23, NSSO, MoSPI, GoI

## Conclusion

The observed changes in the monthly per-capita consumption expenditure of food are attributable to changes in the concepts, definition, and methodology and to the change in income in 2022-23 over 2011-12. There has been a decline in the relative share in education expenditure in India and the observed decline needs to be closely examined for the social and economic consequences. It assumes significance when it is read with a fall in public expenditure on education. The decline in the share of education expenditure without any commensurate increase in

public expenditure on education is a matter of serious concern. Further, the provision for cereals and cereal substitutes under the NFSA-2013 accounted for one-fourth of the total cereal consumption in India. The state-wise analysis of relative change in MPCE suggests that Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have failed to improve their relative position in the MPCE between 2011-12 and 2022-23. Inequality across different types of employment and social categories persists at socially unacceptable scale. The MPCE for casual labour, SCs and STs are much below when compared to non-SCs and non-STs.

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Workshop on Banana Cultivation in Kerala

# Spectacular Hike in Enrolment of Girls for Higher Education in Kerala

Swatilekha Sen

## Introduction

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is an important indicator of development in higher education. The GER is defined as the ratio of students enrolled for higher education to the population in the age group of 18-23 years. UNESCO estimated that a GER of 20 per cent or above in higher education is a key indicator to evaluate the socio-economic development of a region (Chauhan, 2010). A high GER in higher education is indicative of the magnitude of population, which ought to grab better job opportunities and a higher income level. Moreover, a higher GER would have positive impact on social mobility and result in a fall in inequality of the population concerned.

Kerala has witnessed several historic struggles for equality in education especially by teacher-pupil ratio, Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) at primary and secondary level of school education, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education and an appreciable Gender Parity Index have been historically higher for Kerala as compared to other states and the national average. Free education for girls up to higher secondary level, rural road connectivity and availability of water and sanitation facilities are key factors encouraging girl children to higher education. It has reflected in the high rate of female enrolment in Kerala. There exist various narratives describing the lower economic and social backwardness of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Schedule Tribes (STs) in India. Several studies discussed the quantitative aspects of underrepresentation of historically marginalized social groups in higher education (Malish and Ilavarasan, 2016). The educational backwardness of marginalized communities is often explained with the biblical 'Matthew Effect', which explains that an inherently lower economic, and social base breeds further backwardness. Conversely, those who have inherent and systematic advantages climb up the social ladder. Studies on lower enrolment ratio of marginalised communities in higher education argue that caste identities intersect with gender, rural residence and other disabilities, act upon one

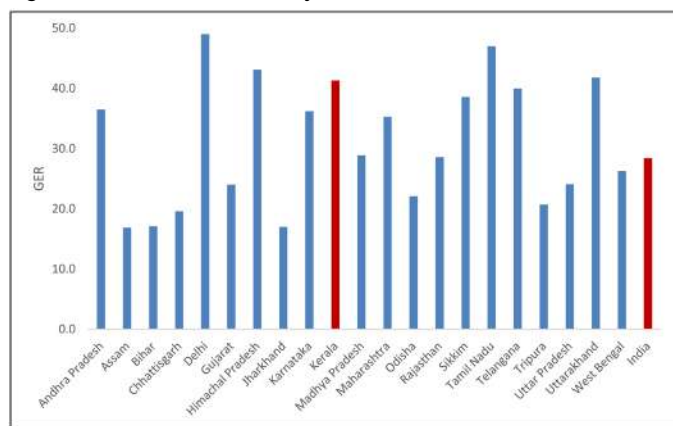
another and add on to the multiple effects emerging from caste-based social and economic vulnerability.

Socially-disadvantaged groups such as SCs and STs experience several barriers to access elite institutions and high value academic subjects, leaving negative impacts on learning outcomes. Higher education scenario of SCs and STs in Kerala is marked by significant under-representation in technical higher education programs (John et al., 2022). Sabharwal (2021) observed that the establishment of higher educational institutions in geographically advantageous location led to regional and social inequalities in accessing higher education in India. Siddappa (2022), found that socio-economic status of parents' influences the academic performance of socially disadvantaged students in higher education especially in cities. Nithya (2013) argued that the SC and ST students are disproportionately low in self-financing professional colleges and it is indicative of exclusionary characteristics of private capital in the education sector. Balagopal and ChackoJose (2020) found that the cultural and societal barriers are basic reasons for the low enrolment of tribal community at the Attapady region of Palakkad district of Kerala. A study by Krishnan (2021) found that the family income is an important variable influencing enrolment of SC students in higher education.

## Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in India

The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) is the official data source in India on education sector. The GER of 28.4 in India for 2021-22 was much lower when compared to the target GER of 50 by 2035 as envisaged under New Education Policy (NEP). Chandigarh reported the highest GER of 64.8 per cent, followed by Puducherry (61.5 per cent) and Delhi with 49 per cent in higher education. Kerala ranked 7th in GER with a score of 41.3 per cent and the state lagged behind Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand (Fig. 1). It is clear from Fig 1 that a significantly higher percentage of people in the age group of 18-23 years enrol for higher education in

Fig 1. Gross Enrolment Ratio by States (2021-22)



Source: AISHE Report, (2021-22)

Kerala (GER) as compared to the national average. The performance of Kerala in the higher education sector has been spectacular as the GER has almost doubled from 2012-13 to 2021-22. However, it needs to be admitted that the position of Kerala from its current 7<sup>th</sup> rank in the GER in higher education has to be improved to catch up with other front runners (Tamilnadu, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Uttarakhand) of higher education in India. There has been only 7 per cent increase in the GER for higher education in India during the same period (Table 1). It underlines the need for a different strategy and perspective for the higher education sector.

### Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Kerala

The GER of higher education in Kerala was 5.9 per cent in 1972-73 and it further declined to 4.5 per cent in 1986-87 (AKHES Report, 2024.p 58). It explains that out of every 100 persons in the age group of 18-23, only 6 persons enrolled for higher education after 12th class. The GER started rising sharply after 2009-10 and touched 35.9 in 2019-2020. There has been an appreciable increase in GER in Kerala in relation to the

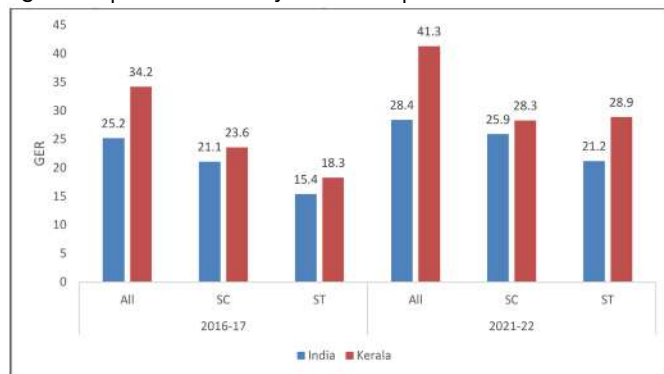
Table 1: Gross Enrolment Ratio in Kerala and India (percentage)

Year	Kerala			India		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2012-13	18.50	25.80	22.10	22.70	20.1	21.5
2016-17	26.4	38.6	32.4	24.3	24.8	24.1
2021-22	34.10	49.0	41.30	28.3	28.5	28.4

Source: All Kerala Higher Education Survey (AKHES) Report, March 2024

national average from 2012-13 to 2021-22 (Table 1).

Fig 2. Comparison of GER by Social Groups: 2016-17 and 2021-22



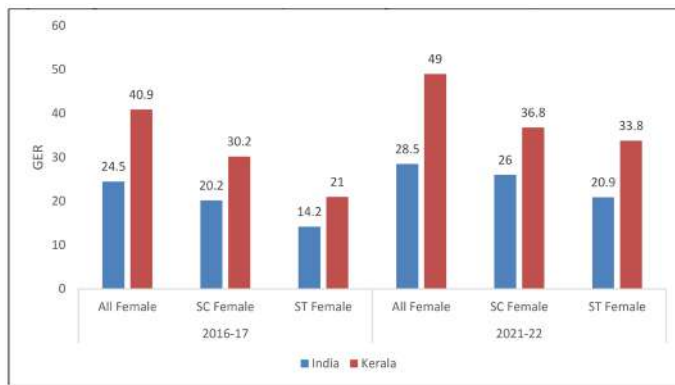
AISHE (2021-22, 2016-17)

The GER of general population and other social groups revealed that the difference in GER across social groups is attributable to a complex battery of factors involving social, political, economic, cultural and geographical etc. In 2021-22, the GER for Scheduled Castes (SCs) was 25.90 per cent in India, while it was 21.2 per cent for Scheduled Tribes (STs) (Fig 2). Barriers for low enrolment of SCs and STs are attributable to factors comprising social, political, economic as well as cultural. It was reported that there were 4.14 crore students enrolled in higher education institutions in India in 2020-21, of which 14.2 per cent belonged to SCs and 5.8 per cent to STs (AISHE Report, 2021-22). The GER of SCs and STs are much lower than the GER of general population in India.

Fig 2 compares the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in India and Kerala for different social groups for 2016-17 and 2021-22. The GER for all categories increased in India and Kerala during 2016-17 to 2021-22. In the case of GER of SCs and STs, Kerala is on a higher side than the national average. The GER of Scheduled Tribes was 28.9 per cent for Kerala while the national average was only 21.20 in 2021-22. Therefore, following observations can be made from Fig 2. (1) The GER in Kerala increased by 7 per cent while the GER at the national level increased only by 3.2 per cent between 2016-17 and 2021-22; (2) In the case of ST, the increase in GER was 10.6 per cent in Kerala while it was only 5.9 per cent at the national level during the same reference period.

It is rather surprising to note that there exists a notable gap in the GER of male and female children from SC community in Kerala. It is quite worrisome and policies and schemes for SCs and STs have to be critically evaluated to ensure that the GER across social groups do catch up.

Fig 3. Comparison of Female GER by Social Groups: India vs Kerala (2016-17 and 2021-22)



Source: AISHE (2021-22, 2016-17)

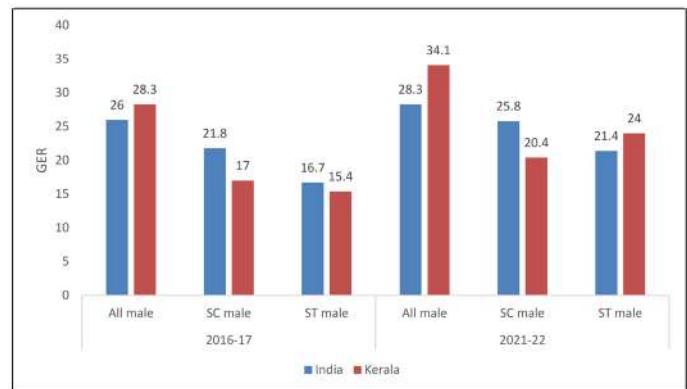
Following observations could be drawn from Fig 3. The GER of female students in India increased from 24.5 in 2016-17 to 28.5 in 2021-22. It indicates a gradual progress in female enrolment in higher education nationwide. In Kerala, the GER for girls rose from 40.9 to 49.0 during the reference period. The significant increase in the GER of girls in Kerala highlights that effective policies and programs for higher education in the state has been successful in promoting girls to higher education in Kerala.

Fig 3 also illustrates a contrast between India and Kerala. Kerala exhibited a commendable performance in the GER across all social groups, which could be attributed to social awareness, gender norms and government initiatives focusing on female education. Although there has been an increase in the GER during the last ten years, the pattern of growth is largely varied.

Fig 4 compares the GER of males by social groups in Kerala with India for 2016-17 to 2021-22. It highlights a positive trend as well as areas of concern in male enrolment scenario. In 2016-17, the GER of ST male students were marginally lower in Kerala than the national average. Kerala improved the position and reported an appreciably higher GER for ST male in 2021-22.

Conversely, enrolment of SC males in Kerala has been consistently lower than the national average since 2011-12. The participation of SC male students in higher education (20.4 in 2021-22) was lower in Kerala than the national average (25.8 in 2021-22). The lower GER of 20.4 per cent for SC male students in Kerala suggests that despite the educational improvement of the state, the SC male students lag behind. A de-

Fig 4. Comparison of Male GER by Social Groups: India vs Kerala (2016-17 and 2021-22)



Source: AISHE (2021-22, 2016-17)

tailed enquiry has to be undertaken to unravel the reasons for a low enrolment of male students from the SC category in Kerala. Alongside, the existing policies and schemes for SCs in the higher education sector need to be critically reviewed.

Analysis of GER of SC male in higher education in Kerala reveals that Kerala lags behind viz. Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka. Why the GER of SC male, despite having better score in other aspects of education remain low in Kerala needs to be looked into from the perception of policies and programs. The pertinent question is: why the male students from SC category fail to catch up with the SC female students in the case of GER in higher education?

## Conclusion

The study on the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education sector in Kerala reveal that the state has made spectacular performance in the GER during the period between 2016-17 and 2021-22. The number of students enrolled for higher education in the age group 18-23 have doubled in Kerala during the reference period and the percentage of boys and girls enrolling in higher education in Kerala is much higher than the national average. However, there are areas of concern as the GER of SCs and STs are significantly lower than the general populations. Further, the proportion of male students enrolling in higher education from SC category in Kerala are lower than the national average and it is a matter of serious concern, demanding detailed enquiry and policy-based intervention.



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# Kerala is the Preferred Destination for Investors: Analysis of Labour Strikes

S. Mohanakumar  
&  
Vipin Kumar R.

Labour strikes and industrial lockout trends reflect the economic situation at the national and sub-national levels. The incidence of labour strikes and working days lost are often compared across states to assess the investment-friendliness that attracts private capital to a regional economy. Union government has been framing policies to compel state governments to compete with one another to lure private capital into their fold. Labour laws have been amended to freeze workers' legitimate rights, including minimum wages, working hours and the right to fire workers. The amended laws and regulations have left the workers hapless before the state-empowered might of the private capital. The collective bargaining strength of workers has been further weakened with the disinvestment of public sector enterprises, which set the benchmark for labour standards in India. Since the onset of neo-liberal economic reforms in the country in the early 1990s, the size of employment in the organised sector has substantially been reduced while in the unorganised private sector, labour rights are violated and workers are unprotected.

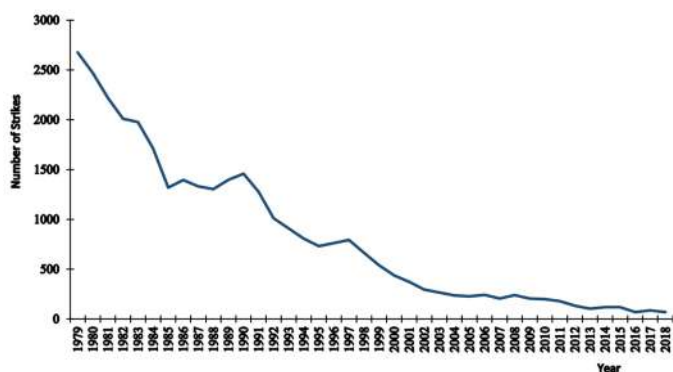
Industrial disputes include labour strikes and industrial lockouts. Lockouts are often a culmination of prolonged labour strikes and are declared by the employer. Trends in labour strikes therefore reflect the emerging industrial scenario in the country. Studies on labour strikes relate the nature of labour protests to economic prosperity. Labour protests are short but frequent during economic prosperity while strikes are less frequent but prolonged during economic recession (Edwar, P.K., 1981). Yet another description explaining the frequency, strike duration and days lost from strikes and lockouts is rooted in the socio-cultural life of workers. In the early stage of industrialisation, workers find it difficult to adjust to the newly evolved culture of mass production, forced adoption of urban life and break away from their rural moorings (Hyman, R. 1975).

Available statistics on different facets of industrial disputes, viz., number of strikes, number of lockouts, workers involved, and man-days lost are published annually by the Indian Labour Bureau. The severity of strikes across states can be compared using different indicators indexed against the number of workers in the industry and state concerned. This is because there exists a positive association between workers' density, trade unionism, and strength in collective bargaining. It is because the frequency of strikes denotes the number of strikes per one thousand workers while others argue that strikes and lockouts are comparable in absolute number because the presence of a large number of workers does not necessarily drive frequent strikes and lockouts. The extent of industrial peace across states in India is comparable with the incidence of labour strikes deflated with average daily employment while the trend in industrial peace in a state can be compared with the number of strikes and lockouts without deflation by employment figures. However, annual statistics on industrial disputes are published with a considerable time lag. The Indian Labour Bureau released the latest statistics on industrial disputes for 2018 in 2023 and the latest figures are yet to be published.

## Labour Strikes in India

Strike frequency captures industrial peace. A nation-wide or a state-wide call for a strike by a political party will involve the majority of workers, and therefore, the severity of strikes is measured in terms of days lost per strike, and need not necessarily reflect the real scenario of industrial peace and environment for investment. The frequency of strikes per one lakh workers in a year could be a better indicator for inter-spatial comparison to understand the trend in labour protests for different states in India. Conversely, the number of strikes over a while is a crude indicator but presents the trend in labour protest in a geographical area or the country.

Fig. 1. Number of strikes in India - 1978-2018



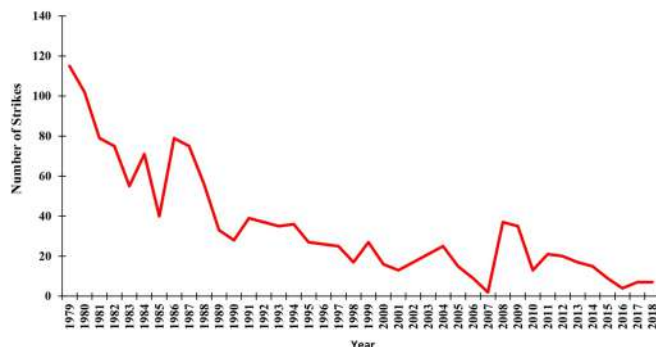
An analysis of the long-term trends in the number of strikes in India broadly indicates two distinct phases (Fig.1). Labour unrest in India was at its peak in the 1960s and 1970s (S. Mohanakumar, 1989). The 1960s and 1970s were a period of turmoil in India due to extreme poverty, famine, consecutive droughts and severe unemployment compounded further by multiple military engagements with neighbouring countries. There were 'plan holidays' during the mid-1960s. By the late 1980s, the number of strikes and labour unrest in India gradually subsided and it has touched its trough by the 2020s. The number of labour strikes was as high as 2676 in 1979 and the strike frequency reduced to 1320 labour strikes in 1985 in the country. The incidence of labour strikes in the country was reduced to 69 in 2018, the latest year in which the Labour Bureau published official data on industrial disputes. Labour strikes in India declined by (-)97 per cent between 1979 and 2018. Man-days lost due to labour strikes declined from 35.64 million to 1.67 million during the period under reference. Six states, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and West Bengal accounted for 76 per cent of labour strikes in 1979 while Gujarat and Tamil Nadu accounted for more than 50 per cent of labour strikes reported in India in 2018.

### Labour Strikes in Kerala

Recently, Kerala was ranked first in Ease of Doing Business Reforms in 2023. The ranking is based on two sets of parameters: (i) citizen-centric, and (ii) business-centric reforms. However, Kerala has often been labelled as a strike-prone state, which turns potential investors away from Kerala. Studies have come out for and against the argument. The number of strikes, lockouts, and man-days lost reported in Kerala as compared to other states in India are taken as indices of labour militancy resulting in industrial backwardness. Conversely, industrial characteristics in Kerala

were heavily dominated by unskilled blue-collar workers in traditional industries, viz., coir, cashew nut, tiles and beedi in the 1960s through 1980s. Blue-collar workers are relatively more prone to strike as compared to white-collar workers and the states with a higher proportion of unskilled, semi-skilled and manual labourers proportionately higher, such states would report more strikes and man-days lost due to industrial disputes. It is because the labour relations and working conditions in traditional industries are deplorable and often workers have to resort to strikes to get even the minimum wages implemented.

Fig. 2. Number of Strikes in Kerala



As the labour strike peaked in the 1960s and 1970s in India at large, Kerala too reported a relatively high rate of labour unrest. It is attributable to the presence of traditional industries with unskilled and semi-skilled workers. Kerala reported 115 labour strikes in 1979 and it was reduced to 40 labour strikes in 1985 and further to 27 in 1995. Labour strikes in Kerala reduced further to seven in 2018 and the percentage decline in labour strikes was as high as 94 per cent between 1979 and 2018. In terms of days lost, 32 lakhs man-days were lost due to labour strike in 1979 and it declined to 2.75 lakhs in 2018. It amounts to a decline in man-days lost to the tune of about 92 per cent. Trends in labour strikes and man-days lost indicate that the labour protest and man-days lost due to labour strikes have always followed the national pattern.

To conclude, Kerala has always followed the national trend and pattern in industrial disputes and labour unrest since the 1960s. When the labour strikes started declining in other states and India by the 1980s, Kerala too followed suit by reporting a faster decline in labour strikes and days lost in the state. Kerala ranks top in ease of doing business and other vital parameters of industrial growth and development in the state during the last decade may be viewed

against the backdrop of substantial improvement in industrial peace in the state. Moreover, Kerala has increasingly been proved as one of the states with the conducive political and economic environment for investment.

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Research scholars of PPRI interacting with women at Vellanad Grama Panchayat as part of the Research Methodology Course, in 2024.



Dr. Viju Krishnan delivering a speech in a national seminar on 'Crisis of Natural Rubber Sectors in India'.

# Job Preferences of Return Migrants from the Middle East: A Case Study of a Gram Panchayat

S. Mohanakumar

Kerala has been historically connected to the outside world for trading activities. Kerala has a truncated history of migration mostly in search of livelihood. Migration has played a pivotal role in shaping the economic and cultural identity of the state. The Kerala Migration Survey of 2018 estimated that 2.1 million Keralites work outside the country. The estimated population living in other countries from Kerala account for 6 per cent of the population of the state and the population working abroad constituted 18 per cent of the total workforce in the state (Sunny, et al, 2020). Out of 195 countries in the world, Keralites have a presence as workers in 182 countries (Government of Kerala, 2023). In terms of income remitted by workers of origin in Kerala from abroad, Kerala stands first, with Punjab in second place and Gujarat the third. The migration from Kerala has the unique feature of directing towards a single destination in the Arabian Peninsula or six Gulf Countries, viz., Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and the UAE. Those Six countries together accounted for 90 per cent of the total emigrants from Kerala (Sunny, et al 2020). In 2001, Zachariah, Nair and Rajan conducted a study on return migrants in Kerala and the present study draws closer to the findings of the 2001 study. (Zacharia Nair G and Rajan S., 2001).

The migration from Kerala experienced a boom to Middle Eastern countries, following the crude oil price boom in the 1970s. Unskilled and semi-skilled workers constituted a major part of the migrating workforce during the 1970s through the early 1990s. Many of them fine-tuned their skill set while working in Gulf countries and returned to Kerala after a stay for 5-20 years, depending on the nature of their work. The type, content and countries of destinations have changed from the Middle East to Western countries, North America, Australia, and other regions with globalisation in the 1990s.

The purpose of migration has also changed from mere

livelihood to better education, employment opportunities and a decent living. There has also been a transformation from semi-skilled to technical and professional migrants to Western countries and other regions. There has also been a change in the type of return migrants from the Middle East, who are mostly unskilled or semi-skilled workers. To rehabilitate the return migrants, the Government of Kerala offers several schemes under the National Overseas Employment and Recruitment Agency (NORKA). The services to return migrants offered by NORKA Roots include training for skill-upgradation, financial assistance for establishing a business or initiating livelihood options of their choice, medical insurance schemes and other programmes.

Against this backdrop, an attempt has been made to study the subscription rate of the services provided by NORKA Roots by return migrants during the last 15 years in Kerala. Primarily, the study aims to locate the reasons why and how the return migrants contact the NORKA Roots for the services provided by the agency and how the services benefit the return migrants. A pilot survey of return migrants from Pallichal Gram Panchayat was selected for the primary survey of return migrants' subscriptions to the NORKA Roots services. Pallichal Gram Panchayat is situated on both sides of National Highway 47 and is 15 KM south of Thiruvananthapuram city. It is a place of traditional weavers and the selection of the Gram Panchayat for the study was influenced by its historical importance. Return migrants since 2006-07 were identified using snowball sampling and were interviewed using printing schedules. The primary survey was conducted in December 2023.

## Who migrates to Gulf countries and what age?

It is important to note that we could not locate a single return migrant from the Scheduled Caste com-

munity at Pallichal Gram Panchayat. There is also no household from the Scheduled Tribe community in the Gram Panchayat. Moreover, 72 per cent of gulf-returnees belonged to the general caste and 28 per cent of respondents were from Other Backward Castes, comprising mostly Ezhavas and Muslims. As mentioned elsewhere, the present study focussed on blue-collar workers and it could be the reason why the land holdings under possession by gulf returnees was less than 10 cents. A little more than 11 per cent of respondents reported that they possessed land above 10 cents. Blue-collar workers such as carpenters, masons, barbers/hairdressers, and drivers migrate between 26 and 30 years of age (62%) and the second largest age group of migrants belonged to 31-35 years (19 %). Below 25 years, less than 8 per cent of the sample population reported to have migrated to the Middle East in search of better employment.

### How long do workers stay in the Middle East as migrant labourers?

On average, an unskilled or semi-skilled casual worker stays in the Middle East for 12 years and more than 25 per cent of migrants work for 6-10 years while 20 per cent continue in the country of destination for 15 to 20 years. It has been reported that 23 per cent of labourers worked for a monthly salary of ₹21000 to ₹30000 while 8 per cent of workers received less than ₹10,000 per month.

### How much does a migrant worker earn in the Middle East?

More than 25 per cent of workers reported that they received more than ₹40000 per month. The low wage was the reason for returning to the place of origin for more than 38 per cent of workers and about 4 per

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cent of the sample households reported that their salary was significantly reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic and reduction in monthly salary was the reason for return. More than 65 per cent of workers reported an education level of 10th standard or below and better living conditions including a modern house in the place of origin pushed 85 per cent of them to the Middle East in search of employment. Saudi Arabia (46%), UAE (31%) and Bahrain (11%) are the most preferred destinations for casual migrant workers from India.

### Norka Roots and Return Migrants in Kerala

One of the avowed objectives of the NORKA Roots is to provide technical assistance to aspirants to work abroad. However, more than half of the gulf returnees reported that they were assisted by relatives and 30 per cent of them sought help from travel agents. It could be the fact that those who had gone to Gulf countries in the 1980s and 1990s knew little about NORKA. Electrician, plumber and construction activities were the three most sought after sectors in which Kerala migrant workers were engaged. On return from the Middle East, more than 76 per cent of returnees reported that they did not contact the NORKA for any type of information or assistance while 23 per cent of workers reported that they had sought help from the NORKA. However, more than 80 per cent of return migrants reported that they had no clue about NORKA ROOTS. An overwhelming majority of more than 88 percent of return migrants reported that they benefitted from their employment in the Gulf country and more than half of the return migrants reported that they received skill training while at work in the place of destination.

### Conclusion

More than 75 per cent of return migrants from Gulf countries do not even contact NORKA ROOTS for any assistance or information. More than 80 per cent of returnees do not avail of any scheme or assistance from the NORKA. More than 50 per cent of workers have acquired special skills or sharpened their skills while at work in migration status while 85 per cent of workers reported to have improved their skill set through better training and experience in migration. A significant portion of workers have not made any monetary gain except constructing a pucca house. The changing demographic profile and a high wage rate for construction-related work and casual labour made the job abroad less attractive for unskilled and semi-skilled workers in the state. They have acquired confidence in leading better living conditions in Kerala. It is concluded that the flow of labour from Kerala (unskilled and semi-skilled) as wage labours will not continue any more. However, those who stay there for a longer period will get into a contractual agreement and will appoint labours to supervise their work. Or else, they may go for a short period to work in a Malayali-run business.

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Research scholars with Bamboo weavers at Vellanad GP

## Research & Policy Studies at PPRI - Ongoing

### ▶ *Status of MSMEs in Kerala: A Post-Covid-19 Analysis funded by NABARD*

The PPRI has undertaken a research project titled "Status of MSMEs in Kerala: A post-COVID-19 Analysis" with funding from NABARD. The present study aims to spot the major bottlenecks of MSMEs and to recommend policy measures for their revival and improved performance in the post-COVID-19 scenario. The preliminary findings show that enterprises face severe financial challenges, with over 60 per cent experiencing a fall in monthly turnover. Macro and Small enterprises are still struggling to recover fully from Covid-19 pandemic.



### ▶ *Price Fall of Natural Rubber and its Impact on Kerala Economy: Study of an NR Dominant Grama Panchayat*

Funded by Kerala State Planning Board

- ▶ *The Central Finance Commission and Local Governments in Kerala*
- ▶ *Trends and Patten of Rural Consumption Expenditure in Kerala*
- ▶ *Enrolment of Girls for Higher Education in Kerala: A Comparative Analysis*
- ▶ *Analysis of Labour Strikes and Lock Outs in Kerala*
- ▶ *Job Preferences of Return Migrants from the Middle East: A Study of a Grama Panchayat in Kerala*

## National Seminar/Conference/Workshops (2023-2024)

### ▶ *16th Finance Commission and Cooperative Federalism in India: Issues, Challenges and Concerns- ICSSR Sponsored*

Date & Venue – October 22-23, 2024

Two day National Seminar on 16th Finance Commission brought to light innovative ideas and general solutions that would shape a progressive and inclusive approach for the 16th FC. Major issues, viz., the constitutionality of FC, devolution criteria for central taxes, concerns in the GST sharing, disaster management initiatives, 'Debt[1]GDP ratio', credit-deposit ratio at the state level.

### ▶ *Electoral Bonds and Cronyism for India: Implications for Democracy*

Date & Venue – March 30, 2024

One-day National Seminar on 'Electoral Bonds and Cronyism for India: Implications for Democracy.' The seminar explored the various dimension on the association between electoral bonds and cronyism in India and its implication on the democracy. Various questions such as why corporate liberally donate to political parties, how do donor prefers a specific party for donation, why donor need identity protection from public and the process of cronyism works to the advantages of corporate.



### ► **Crisis of Natural Rubber Sector in India**

Date & Venue - September 07-08, 2023

Collaborative organisation - P. Sundarayya Memorial Trust, New Delhi

Two-day National Seminar on crisis of Natural Rubber sector explored the trends in NR prices and production in India under liberalisation period. It also discusses the role of various government schemes such as 'Price Incentive Schemes' of Government of Kerala and its impact on the market. Fluctuations in the prices and crisis of small farmers were also discussed in detail.

### ► **Research Methodology Course for PhD / PDF Scholars in Social Sciences, Sponsored by ICSSR New Delhi**

June 19 to June 29, 2024

Ten-Day Research Methodology Course (RMC) on 'Essential of Methods in Social Science Enquiry' had imparted training to 30 research scholars at different stages of their research work/PhD. The participants from 15 different universities across 10 states along with 40 percent of women scholars and 30 percent of the scholars from marginalised communities, showed a rich diversity of the participants in the workshop. The methodology course covered the process of research by stages in formulating research questions, writing a researchable proposal with a critical review of existing pool of thoughts on the area of research, collection of primary and secondary data, data tabulation, quantitative and qualitative tools of analysis, and detailed modules on writing research articles for publications.



PPRI Library

**National Seminar**  
**ELECTORAL BONDS AND CRONYISM IN INDIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR DEMOCRACY**  
Inaugural Address  
Public Policy Research Institute  
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala  
**Dr. V. Sivadasan**  
M.P., Rajya Sabha

**Invited Speakers**

- Dr. Arvind Mayaram** - Former Finance Secretary (Govt. of India)
- Prof. K.L. Sharma** - Jorhatal Bihru University
- Prof. Raju J Das** - York University
- Prof. T. Sastry** - IIT, Bengaluru
- Prof. R. Gupta** - Kaushik University
- Prof. Mohanakumar, S.** - Director, PPRI

**DATE**: 30 March, 2024  
**TIME**: 09:30 AM - 6:00 PM  
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**ഇലക്ടറൽ ബോണ്ട് ജനാധിപത്യത്തെ കോർപറേറ്റ് ഭരണത്തിലേക്ക് നയിക്കുന്നു**

**സ്വന്തം ലേഖിക**  
**നിമഗ്നബാണപ്പുര**

“ഇന്ത്യയിലെ ഇലക്ടറൽ ബോണ്ട് സ്വതന്ത്ര-പക്ഷപാതരഹിതമായ വിധത്തിൽ പണയിൽ പോലീസ് നിരസിച്ചു ഇൻ്റർ്വ്യൂ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചു ശേഷം സെൻ്ററൽ ബോർഡ് ശിപ്തവാസൻ്റെ എംപി ഊർജ്വദാനം ചെയ്തു. ഇലക്ടറൽ ബോണ്ട് സമ്പ്രദായം ഇന്ത്യൻ ജനാധിപത്യത്തെ കോർപറേറ്റ് ഭരണത്തിലേക്ക് നയിക്കുകയാണെന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞു.

ഇന്ത്യയിലെ 12 പക്ഷപാതരഹിതമായ നാമമാത്ര ഹൈക്കോർട് വേദി കർഷകരുടെ ഉപജീവനങ്ങൾക്കും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനേക്കും പ്രതിസന്ധിയിലാണ്. അതി കമ്പനികൾക്കെത്ര സർക്കിൾ ഇലക്ടറൽ ബോണ്ടുകളിലൂടെ പണം നൽകി വിവരം രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽനിന്ന് കൂടുതൽ വില്പന രബാർ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യാനും ഇറക്കുമതി നിരച്ചു കയ്യാക്കുന്നു.

ഇന്ത്യയിലെ ഇലക്ടറൽ ബോണ്ട് സ്വതന്ത്ര-പക്ഷപാതരഹിതമായ വിധത്തിൽ പണയിൽ പോലീസ് നിരസിച്ചു ഇൻ്റർ്വ്യൂ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചു ശേഷം സെൻ്ററൽ ബോർഡ് ശിപ്തവാസൻ്റെ എംപി ഊർജ്വദാനം ചെയ്തു.

ഇന്ത്യയിലെ ഇലക്ടറൽ ബോണ്ട് സ്വതന്ത്ര-പക്ഷപാതരഹിതമായ വിധത്തിൽ പണയിൽ പോലീസ് നിരസിച്ചു ഇൻ്റർ്വ്യൂ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചു ശേഷം സെൻ്ററൽ ബോർഡ് ശിപ്തവാസൻ്റെ എംപി ഊർജ്വദാനം ചെയ്തു.

ഇന്ത്യയിലെ ഇലക്ടറൽ ബോണ്ട് സ്വതന്ത്ര-പക്ഷപാതരഹിതമായ വിധത്തിൽ പണയിൽ പോലീസ് നിരസിച്ചു ഇൻ്റർ്വ്യൂ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചു ശേഷം സെൻ്ററൽ ബോർഡ് ശിപ്തവാസൻ്റെ എംപി ഊർജ്വദാനം ചെയ്തു.

## ▶ *Challenges and Prospectus of Banana Cultivation in Kerala*

October 28, 2023

The workshop discussed the challenges faced by banana farmers in Kerala. The deliberations in the consultative workshop would help to evolve a state policy for banana and other plantains cultivators in Kerala.

## Academic Collaborations

### ▶ *Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, Canada*

**Collaborative Project:** Neoliberal Industrialization, the Rural Periphery, and Uneven Development in India (2016-2025).

**Funding Agency:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada)

**Prof. Raju Das** from York University is the Principal Investigator in the project and **Prof. S. Mohanakumar** from PPRI and **Prof. Deepak Mishra** from JNU, New Delhi are collaborator in the project.

### ▶ *MoU Signed - Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, Malappuram, Kerala*

An MoU has been signed between the PPRI Thiruvananthapuram and Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, Malappuram, Kerala for collaboration for conducting academic activities such as Seminar, Conference, Workshop, Internship, and students and teachers Exchange Programme.

## Summer Internship Programme

### ▶ *Summer Internship Programme, 2024*

Seven students from different universities completed the summer internship programme in May-June 2024. Interns went through a comprehensive training programme which includes introduction to research, research tools and technique, schedule preparation, pilot survey, data feeding and cleaning in SPSS, data visualisation in SPSS, preparation and presentation of research report.

**Co-ordinator:** Mr. Prem Kumar

### ▶ *Summer Internship Programme, 2019*

A group of seven students of Department of Economics, C.M.S. College, Kottayam

**Duration** - May 13 to May 29, 2019

**Topic** - Livelihood of Marine Fishermen Community in Kerala with a Special Reference to Vettucaud Fishing Village in Thiruvananthapuram District

**Coordinator** - Dr. Vipin Kumar R.

### ▶ *Summer Internship Programme, 2018*

Mr. Sachin Thomas, Department of Economics, University of Madras

**Duration** - May 14 to May 31, 2018.

**Topic** - Decentralisation and Finances of Local Self Government Institutions: Special Reference to Kerala

**Coordinator** - Dr. Ananth S. Panth.

# ഈറ്റ മുറിക്കാൻ ബാംബൂ കോർപ്പറേഷൻ അനുമതി; ആശ്വാസത്തിൽ തൊഴിലാളികൾ

**സ്വന്തം സുരക്ഷിതത്വം**  
തിരുവനന്തപുരം

വളർച്ചയെത്തിയ ഈറ്റകൾ മുറിക്കാനായി ബാംബൂ ഡെവലപ്മെന്റ് കോർപ്പറേഷൻ വനംവകുപ്പിന്റെ അനുമതി. 2020-ലെ ഈറ്റയുടെ വളർച്ചയെത്തിയതിനാൽ മുറിക്കാൻ അനുമതി നൽകി. ഈറ്റകൾ മുറിക്കാൻ പദ്ധതികൾ തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ബാംബൂ കോർപ്പറേഷൻ വനംവകുപ്പിന് ഈറ്റകൾ മുറിക്കാൻ അനുമതി നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈറ്റകൾ മുറിക്കാൻ അനുമതി നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

എന്നങ്ങളോടെ മുറിക്കാൻ അനുമതി ലഭിച്ചത്. 54 തുപുക്ക് ലഭിക്കുന്ന 15 കമ്പളം മുറിക്കാൻ ഈറ്റയിൽ ആറ് പായ നിർമ്മിക്കാം. ഒരു പായക്ക് 69 രൂപ ബാംബൂ കോർപ്പറേഷൻ ലഭിക്കും. തിരുവനന്തപുരം പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ച് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിന്റെ പഠനത്തിൽ തൊഴിലാളികളിൽ ഭൂരിഭാഗവും അനുമതി മുറിക്കാൻ പ്രാപ്തമുള്ളവരാണ്. വളരെ നേരം കൃഷിയിലാണ് ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനാൽ നടുവേദന, കൈകളിൽ നീരുവീക്കം, കാൽ മുട്ട് വേദന കൂടാതെ മൂർച്ഛിത നേർത്ത ചീളുകളാൽ മാറ്റി നോൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന പൊടി

# ബർ ഉൽപ്പാദനക്ഷമതയിലും കൂപ്പുകുത്തി ഇന്ത്യ

ബർ ഉൽപ്പാദനക്ഷമതയിലും കൂപ്പുകുത്തി ഇന്ത്യ. ബർ ഉൽപ്പാദനക്ഷമതയിലും കൂപ്പുകുത്തി ഇന്ത്യ. ബർ ഉൽപ്പാദനക്ഷമതയിലും കൂപ്പുകുത്തി ഇന്ത്യ.



ബർ ഉൽപ്പാദനക്ഷമതയിലും കൂപ്പുകുത്തി ഇന്ത്യ.

Sat, 06 July 2024  
<https://epaper.deshabhimani.com/c/7538558>

# Study sheds light on crisis faced by bamboo workers

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A research study has shed light on livelihood crisis faced by bamboo workers in Kerala. Nearly one lakh workers eke out their living from weaving bamboo products.

The study, done by 30 researchers from different universities as part of a course on 'Essentials of Research Methods in Social Sciences' conducted by the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI), Thiruvananthapuram, urges the government to make

necessary interventions at the earliest possible to mitigate the hardships of the workers.

Velland panchayat in Thiruvananthapuram, where many bamboo workers live, was selected for the study, which was funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, Department of Education, Government of India.

The workers complained that the Bamboo Development Corporation has not distributed bamboo to the workers for the last many months. Workers used to receive a dearness allowance of ₹48 for every square meter of mat sold to the Corporation.

As the permanent employees of the Bamboo Development Corporation have not paid for the last year, several sub-depots have become non-functional, the study found.

Bamboo workers are mostly elderly women suffering from various chronic illnesses caused by weaving bamboo by squatting on the floor for longer hours. They do not have money to buy even essential medicines.

# ടയർ ലോബിയെ സഹായിച്ച് കേന്ദ്രം

**സ്വന്തം സുരക്ഷിതത്വം**  
തിരുവനന്തപുരം

ബർ ഉൽപ്പാദനക്ഷമതയിലും കൂപ്പുകുത്തി ഇന്ത്യ. ബർ ഉൽപ്പാദനക്ഷമതയിലും കൂപ്പുകുത്തി ഇന്ത്യ.

സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാരിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ച് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിന്റെ (പി.പി.ആർ.ഐ) ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ സാമൂഹികശാസ്ത്ര വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ ഗവേഷണം നടത്തുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് പ്രത്യേക ഗവേഷണരീതിശാസ്ത്ര കോഴ്സ് ആരംഭിച്ചു.

ഇന്ത്യൻ കൗൺസിൽ ഓഫ് സോഷ്യൽ സയൻസസ് റിസർച്ചിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തിക സഹായത്തോടുകൂടിയാണ് കോഴ്സ് നടത്തുക. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തെ സെന്റർ ഫോർ ഡെവലപ്മെന്റ് സ്റ്റഡീസ് ഡയറക്ടർ പ്രൊഫ. സി വിമരണി കോഴ്സ് ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു. ഇന്ത്യയിലെ വിവിധ സർവകലാശാലകളിൽ സാമൂഹികശാസ്ത്ര വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ ഗവേഷണം നടത്തുന്ന മുപ്പത് പേർക്കാണ് പ്രതിശീലനം നൽകുന്നത്. കോ

തിരുവനന്തപുരം സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ വയനാട് തലമുറയെ മാനത്തിന് ഈ മിടുമെന്റ് മന്ത്രി വിയാസ്. നിയമസഭാ മന്ദിര ചർച്ചകൾക്ക് കയായിരുന്നു അപദ്ധതിയിൽ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളിക്കുന്ന ആനക്കൊള്ളിക്കൂടി - മേപ്പാ ഈ വർഷം നിർമ്മിക്കും. ടെണ്ടർ വിജ്ഞാപനം പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കാൻ സാധ്യമാണ്. കോങ്കൺ പ്ലാനേഷൻ നിർമ്മിപ്പാത സംസ്ഥാനത്തുവെക്കുന്ന വികസന പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്ക് സഹായകമായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

# Bamboo workers in serious financial crisis, says study

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

**Thiruvananthapuram:** A group of students from various universities across the country who studied the issues faced by bamboo workers in the state have found that the workers are facing a serious crisis in this sector.

The study conducted under the aegis of the public policy research institute, an autonomous body under the state govt, found that the main issue faced by them is that they are unable to source raw material from the state bamboo corporation and have not received their wages for months. The students had chosen Velland grama panchayat in the state capital for the study where the bamboo workers are living in abundance. Most of the labourers are women above the age of 50 years. The bamboo is sup-

plied to them by the forests and wildlife department through the bamboo corporation.

One bunch of bamboo is offered for Rs 54, out of which six mats can be spun. The workers have to spin for three days to create mats which is then procured by the bamboo corporation for Rs 69 per mat. However, in the last few months, the wages are not given to them.

## Random Glimpses of Field Surveys & Seminars



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