STATE POVERTY ERADICATION PLAN

KERALA
**BASIC DATA:**

- Location: North latitude between 8° 18' and 12° 48' East longitude between 74° 52' and 77° 22'
- Area: 38,863 sq.km.
- Literacy: 93.91% Men 96.02% Women 91.98%

**Administrative units**

- No. of Districts: 14
- No. of Taluks: 63
- No. of District Panchayats: 14
- No. of Block Panchayaths: 152
- No. of Grama Panchayaths: 941
- No. of Outgrowths: 16
- No. of Census Towns: 461
- No. of Urban Agglomerations: 19
## Kerala - Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population as per Census</th>
<th>1961</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total (in 000s)</td>
<td>16903.72</td>
<td>33406.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males -do</td>
<td>8361.93</td>
<td>16027.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females -do</td>
<td>8541.89</td>
<td>17378.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural -do</td>
<td>14351</td>
<td>17471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban -do</td>
<td>2552</td>
<td>15935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Castes -do</td>
<td>1422</td>
<td>3040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Tribes -do</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density of Population</td>
<td>Per Sq.Km.</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Rate</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>55.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>Females per 1000 males</td>
<td>1022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Demographic, Socio-economic and Health profile of Kerala compared to India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
<th>India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population (In crore) (Census 2011)</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>121.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decadal Growth (%) (Census 2001)</td>
<td>4.86</td>
<td>17.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality rate (SRS 2011)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Mortality Rate (SRS 2007-09)</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fertility Rate (SRS 2011)</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude Birth Rate (SRS 2011)</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>21.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude Death Rate (SRS 2011)</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Growth Rate (SRS 2011)</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio (Census 2011)</td>
<td>1084</td>
<td>940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sex Ratio (Census 2011)</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>914</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STATE STATISTICS

- Drinking Water availability
  - HH depends on Well- 62.1%
  - HH depends on Tap water- 29.3%
  - HH depends on Tube wells- 4.2%
  - HH depends on other sources-4.4%
STATE STATISTICS

- HOUSE HOLDS COVERED WITH IHHL- 97%
- HOUSE HOLDS WITH LPG GAS CONNECTION- 32%
- COVERAGE WITH BLACK TOPPED ROADS - 78%
- HH WITH AVAILABILITY OF DRINKING WATER WITHIN PREMISES- 72.9%
Kerala which had over 40% poverty around independence has done a remarkable job in turning poverty around.

Today the Planning Commission pegs poverty in Kerala at around 10%.

The most important strategies which have made this turnaround possible have been land reforms, universalisation of education following the lead of social reform movements, community health and social security interventions for the poor including occupational categories in agriculture and traditional occupations, universal public distribution system, migration of skilled labour to the gulf etc.

Social security in Kerala has concentrated on the provision of economic and social safety nets that enable human beings to subsist with dignity, to have a habitat and other minimum facilities for leading a life without fear.

Kerala has been a pioneer in the introduction of Social Insurance and Social Assistance.
Rural Poverty Context in the state- VULNERABILITY MAPPING

Vulnerability mapping entails identifying vulnerable groups using appropriate tools and understanding the degree of vulnerability.

- Special focus and targeted interventions would be required for enabling access and control over resources and opportunities.
- The vulnerability indicators adopted can be broadly divided into three – Social, Economic and Geographic
  - Social: There are categories that have been marginalized for years on the basis of caste, community, livelihood, illness, old age, gender issues etc.
  - Economic: Categories that have been on the fringe due to landlessness, illiteracy, unemployment, insecure and unorganized occupations, and so on.
  - Geographic: Victims of natural calamities, environmental pollution
- The State government has placed around 30-35% of the population as subject to relative deprivation qualifying them as poor, or at risk of poverty.
- The percentage of SC population is 9.8%, and of STs is 1.14% of the total population. Unlike other states, major portion of the scheduled caste population resides in the mainstream with other people.
i. Scheduled Tribes

The percentage of scheduled tribes to the total population is lower in Kerala as compared to the rest of India.

The scheduled Tribes of Kerala are not only geographically concentrated, but are also overwhelmingly rural.

They live mostly in high ranges or deep monsoon forests which make them alienated from the general population.

There is also a great language divide among Kerala tribes as their own unwritten languages are highly related to Kannada, Tulu and Tamil, which creates language barriers for education and development.

The highest concentration of tribals are seen in Wayanad (37.36%) followed by Idukki (14%) and Palakkad (10.89%); and they together account for 60% of Tribals in the state.

The coastal district of Alappuzha has the lowest percentage of tribal population in Kerala.
ii. Scheduled Castes

The Scheduled Castes are overwhelmingly rural with 81.9 percent residing in rural areas.

Among the districts, Palakkad has the highest proportion of SCs (16.5 per cent) followed by Idukki (14.1 per cent), Pathanamthitta (13.1 per cent) and Kollam (12.5 per cent). Kannur, has the lowest percentage of SC population (4.1 per cent), preceded by Wayanad (4.3 per cent) and Kozhikode (7 per cent).
iii. Coastal communities

Kerala had received worldwide attention for its unique achievements in social sector developments, but it was often noted that certain section of communities like marine fisher folk remained marginalized, making development lopsided.

Therefore, their relative position in terms of employment, educational attainment, health status, drinking water and income are at risk and vulnerable.

Deprivation among fisher folk is measured along the following lines:

• Quality of housing

• Deprivation in access to water • Deprivation of good sanitation • Deprivation of electricity for lighting • Negligence of the old age in terms of health, food, recreation and care • Poor economic and housing conditions of the women in distress among the fisher folk • Deprivation of education and medical care Along with the nutritional status of the community, the quality of housing conditions, availability of drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene are health indicators and absence of these lead to ill health.
Empirical studies prove that the prevalence of diseases is observed as highest in coastal villages of Kerala.

Non availability of drinking water has been highlighted as an unresolved problem of the fisher folk.

Due to congested housing conditions and soil conditions, creating own sanitary toilet facilities become difficult along the coastal village.

Waste disposal is another problem due to lack of land, and about 94% of population are facing mosquito menace.

The coastal fishing populations also experience acute financial distress, especially during the off season.

Their existing vulnerability has been complicated by the high population density and ensuing squalor, and vested interests which have created severe dependency and indebtedness among these groups.
The share of active fishermen and the allied activities associated with fishing constitute around 92 to 99% of the total occupied across Indian states.

The participation of people in other sectors than fishing is only in the range of 1.5 to 8 percent of the total occupied.

If we take into account of the fishermen population of Kerala, 53% are occupied; among which 62% are active fishermen, 32% engaged in allied activities and 6% employed in other activities than fishing.
iv. Destitutes

The State has attempted to identify the poorest of the poor through a programme for their identification and rehabilitation called ‘Asraya’.

An estimated 3% of the population would fit in this category.

A two stage index for identification of extremely vulnerable families has been used by the community network to identify its most vulnerable population.

Risk factors • No Land /Less than 10 cents of Land • No house/Dilapidated House
• No Sanitary Latrine • No access to safe drinking water within 300 meters
• Women headed house hold/ Presence of a widow, divorcee / abandoned lady / unwed mother
• No regularly employed person in the family
• Socially Disadvantaged Groups (SC/ST) • Presence of Mentally or physically challenged person / Chronically ill member in the family
• Presence of at least one illiterate member in the family

Over and above these indices, the presence of at least one of special risk factors is necessary for the family to be identified as a destitute family under Asraya.
v. Other Disadvantaged Groups

The disadvantaged groups which are categorized as special groups that require care and protection of the state include.

• Persons with disabilities, viz., locomotor, visual, hearing, speech and mental disabilities

• Social deviants who come into conflict with law viz., juvenile delinquents/vagrants, drug addicts, alcoholics, sex workers, beggars etc. The social deviants include alcoholics and other substance abusers, adult and child sex workers. On the periphery of this group are some sections of street children who very often resort to petty criminal activities for their sustenance

• Other disadvantaged viz., the aged, children in distress such as street children, orphaned/abandoned children etc.
The per capita Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) was Rs.39,815 in 2008-09, increasing from the 2006-07 level of Rs.33,373, registering a 19% increase during the two years.

National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) data shows that Kerala has the highest level of Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (MPCE) of Rs.1055.60. (The MPCE for a household is the total consumer expenditure over all items divided by its size and expressed on a 30-day monthly basis).

Break-up of the MPCE figure indicates that on average, 44% of this is spent on food and 56% of non-food items. Nationally, the ratio of food to non-food expenditure is 53:47. Data also shows that consumption levels have been increasing in Kerala over the past several years, with the State moving from the 8th position in all-India ranking on MPCE in 1972-73 to the first position in 1999-2000. The other interesting aspect is that difference in consumption levels between rural and urban sectors in Kerala is not as significant as it is nationally.
Statistics from the Employment Exchanges in Kerala show that there were 45.22 lakhs unemployed persons in the State as of June 2009.

Of these, nearly 25 lakhs (55%) were women.

The registration figures increased from 36.7 lakhs in 2005 to 45.22 lakhs in 2009, indicating an increase of 23% in 4 years.

It is noteworthy that the number of unemployed decreased by about 17% between 2001 and 2005 before the current increase in the number of unemployed.
Panchayati Raj for poverty alleviation

The state of Kerala had, in the wake of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments gone for a big-bang approach to decentralised governance and provided local self governments a huge mandate for poverty reduction, which included not only the rechannelising of existing poverty schemes through the panchayati raj institutions, but also creation of the people’s plan, a novel strategy to deepen democracy by engaging people in negotiating governance at the local level in the form of planning through grama sabhas.

This form of decentralized governance has been more or less institutionalized in the state with successive governments taking proactive steps for strengthening local self governments (LSGs).

The transfer of institutions responsible for service delivery to the poor such as anganwadis, public health centres, government schools, krishi bhavans and veterinary clinics, and of personnel like the village extension officer, the SC and ST extension officers to the panchayats provided an opportunity to integrate and converge the service delivery effort to the poor.

Anti poverty sub plans, women’s component plans, the SCPs and TSPs, and special plan provisions for the disabled, the elderly and children ensured that the focus on the poor and the vulnerable sections of society was not lost.
Policies for poverty reduction followed by successive governments in Kerala explicitly recognize multiple sources of deprivation.

Government policies have taken care of the chronic poor who carry the highest burden of deprivation and exclusion and the transient poor who fall into poverty seasonally or due to passing through life cycle situations, natural, social and sporadic factors.

Chronic poverty in Kerala is now largely associated with groups which face declining incomes/ livelihood from a shrinking natural resource base and/or market.

The challenge is two-fold: to enhance the productivity of these resources (including the value added component) and to diversify the income/employment/livelihood base of such households.

Several efforts are already being made in these directions and these need to be further strengthened.
State policies for Poverty Reduction

The strategies followed are given below:

• Proper identification of the poor and organizing the poor

• Stimulating rapid pro-poor growth in identified employment intensive sectors of the economy; this may include several service sectors in the economy, which are frequently more employment intensive in view of Kerala’s limited opportunities in competitive manufacturing production

• Enhanced credit flow to the production sectors and to the rural/urban poor

• Creating enabling environment through physical infrastructure investments and social infrastructure investments directly and exclusively benefitting the poor

• Creating an governance and institutional framework for poverty reduction enhancing access, quality and quantity of services of pro-poor institutions

• Monitoring and enhancing incomes of the chronically poor, dependent upon traditional sources of livelihood and natural resources
State policies for Poverty Reduction

• Social security for immigrant workers

• Social security programmes for the poor including nutrition, food security through subsidized access to PDS, pension schemes, accident and maternity benefits etc. • Vocational training/skill formation among poor youth

• Care of the elderly, particularly women and widows who are particularly vulnerable in the Changed context increased longevity and altered epidemiology

• Care of the HIV/AIDS affected population, which threaten to be significant in the state in the years to come • Care of the marginalized sections

• Deepening decentralization and improving quality of local governance

• Demand –led and convergent antipoverty sub plan and anti destitution plan
Towards Anti Poverty Sub Plan

Since decentralized governance is effective in delivery of social development goods and services, and in forging convergence of different development sectors and resources benefiting the poor, there is need to institutionalize the process. This involves combination of macro as well as micro strategies.

The Anti-Poverty Sub-Plan is prepared by bottom up approach with the local governments constituting the critical building blocks to be integrated with State provisions for the poor. Special importance is given to the poorest groups like tribals, scheduled castes, traditional fishermen and marginalized artisans.
Five-fold approach to poverty reduction

Firstly employment opportunities of a permanent nature needs to be made available to the poor both by macro strategies aimed at labour intensive growth and micro strategies to develop the capabilities of the poor to enable them to attain the skill requirements of the formed and semi-formal sectors.

Secondly, self-employment through micro enterprises can be promoted through a package consisting of credit subsidy, skill development, product development and marketing.

Thirdly with local government and State government support the minimum basic needs infrastructure related to housing, sanitation, water supply, electricity and connectivity has to be provided to a predetermined standard.

Fourthly the access of the poor of quality health and educational facilities needs to be provided which again calls for improving the services now available through hospitals and schools.

Finally, the most vulnerable groups need to be identified through a transparent index. For them a robust social security system has to be set up with much higher level of support than at present.
“We can create a poverty free world if we redesign our system to take out its gross flaws which create poverty. We can create a world in which the only place you would be able to see poverty is in poverty museums.” – Muhammad Yunus

THANK YOU