

# Compendium of Research Studies



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## **Compendium of Research Studies**

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## **PREFACE**

The State Resource Centre Kerala has conducted a good number of studies on various issues relating to literacy, continuing education and also some Social issues touching day today life of human beings and the drastic changes that occur in the social scenario of the State.

This document gives a glimpse on important studies conducted during the last few years. I submit this for your perusal and welcoming your valuable opinions and suggestions, if any.

**Dr.T.Sundaresan Nair**  
Director

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The State Resource Centre Kerala has given much priority in conducting research studies on a number of crucial issues, specially relating to Continuing Education and Literacy. The aims and objectives of the study and methodology used for each of them and its findings in brief are given below:

### **1. READING INTEREST OF NEO-LITERATES IN KERALA (1998-99)**

**Dr.B.Pushpakumari**

The TLC in the state has produced 12 lakhs neo-literates and their interest in learning have to sustain and upgrade and acquire literacy skills for the improvement of their living conditions. Most of the studies on this topic revealed the fact that adults would prefer topics relating to their life. The linking was mostly for pleasure oriented books.

#### **Objectives of the study**

1. To identify total number of NL books read by them.
2. To find out barriers experienced by NL in reading books.
3. To determine the type of reading materials preferred by LMS
4. To determine factors contributing to readability of NL books preferred by them.
5. Compare reading habit scores of male and female NLs.
6. To determine levels of reading interest of NL.

#### **Methodology**

Survey method - sample for the study constituted 375 NL.

#### **Tools**

Interview schedule & Reading habits inventory.

Personal interaction

Visit of PL / CE Centres.

#### **Major Findings**

1. Non-availability of books in time, low level of reading ability, lack of leisure, time etc. are barriers experience NLs in reading books.
2. Stories and religious books are most preferred by NLs.
3. Factors like content, style, presentation, illustration layout number of words in a sentence, number of sentences a paragraph, total number of words in a paragraph a factors contributing to the readability of NL book.
4. Female NLs have better reading habits than their male counterparts.

## **Suggestions**

1. Adequate publicity may be given to NL books through electronic medias.
2. NL book jackets may be displayed in public offices like Post office, Co-operative Banks and Grama Panchayats.
3. Reading clubs should be organised in every village to meet the needs involving life-long learning for NLs.
4. Book exhibitions may be held in every village.
5. Efficient distribution system, to facilitate the easy flow of publications at all levels particularly in village level.
6. Editors of News papers may be approached to allot a column or two for publishing news items of adult interest and stories in the daily news papers and periodicals in 20 pt types.
7. Separate newspapers for NL which includes their needs, problems, interests.
8. Public libraries may be encouraged to increase consumption of reading.
9. SRC and Universities may take up suitable researches, studies on readability of reading materials published by different agencies for neo-literates.

## **2. A STUDY OF OCCUPATIONAL NEEDS OF NEO-LITERATES IN KERALA. (1998-99)**

**Dr.B.Pushpakumari**

Adult and continuing education emphasize the importance of household art in neo-literates. They are an integral segment of labour force in agriculture, cottage industries, trade and commerce. Activities for ensuring economic and social protection for neo-literates in specific life spheres are very necessary. The economic and productive role of NL need enough support. Failure to strengthen the economic and productive role of NL leads to the erosion of their economic opportunities, increased unemployment and poverty. NL engaged in agriculture work need to be given training pertaining to agriculture vocational education directly benefits the individual the type of vocation should be determined by local needs. Very little has been done to probe into the occupations of NL and understand their occupational needs.

### **Objectives**

1. To identify different types of occupations in which NL are engaged.
2. To find out different occupational needs of neo-literates with respect to sex.
3. Compare occupational needs of NL with respect to sex. Suggest suitable measures for improving their occupational status.

## **Methodology**

Survey method was adopted.  
Sampling number – 300 – 4 districts.  
Personal interview-cum-interview schedule.

## **Major Findings**

1. Majority of NL engaged in agriculture.
2. Research expressed by NL for taking up their present occupation was non-availability of other occupations.
3. 25 % of NL are satisfied with present occupation. It shows that skill development programme should be organised for NL.
4. Majority of NL are sincere in their occupation and keep favourable attitude forwards their occupation.

Following factors reveal their attitude.

1. Desire to additional training and skill development.
2. Willingness to work long hours.
3. Majority of NL expect better terms and conditions of work.
4. Majority of NL believe that engaging in other work would facilitate attaining high status in society.
5. Majority of NL are in need of orientation especially female NLs.
6. Majority of NLs need 7 types of experience hand skills needed handicraft, housekeeping skills, vocational, technical, managerial, public relations and supervision.
7. Comparison of both sexes of NL on the type of experience required showed that both groups are not identical.
8. There are seven pre-vocational subjects in which NL are interested in get lending practical knowledge- agriculture, rural technology, cooking/catering, garment making, food processing and preservation, printing, compassing and proof reading, cloth dyeing and printing.
9. Only small percent of NLs are willing to start new jobs or self employment programme.
10. Four major problems are envisaged by NLs for starting self-employment programmes – Lack of money, shortage of raw materials, lack of entrepreneurial skills and scarcity of technical manpower.

## **Suggestions**

1. Vocational and counselling services should be made available to NL.
2. Organizing different orientation programmes for NL is very necessary for skill development. They need proper exposure to different loan extending agencies

3. Seek the Co-operation and help of the concerned developmental agencies and thereby assist NLs by imparting knowledge and information on resources, availability of funds, modes of securing assistance and credit facilities etc.
4. SRC should develop itself as a resource and networking centre for social workers and grass root organisations.
5. Due to lack of proper extension and education services by DWCRA officials, the women are unaware of these programmes. Formation of DWCRA group is very necessary for bringing up a sense of belongingness to women. A collective work culture should be made familiar to NL.

### **3. A STUDY ON THE PROFILE AND CAPABILITIES OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN KERALA. (1999-2000)**

**J.Jayasree  
D.Kalamony**

As far the Kerala State is concerned the educated unemployment is very crucial. No Government can provide even a marginal relief to this unemployed army. The latest census shows that the women overrides men and unemployment amongst women is also scaling up year after year. A good number of financial, social, and welfare agencies are in the fray to extent their helping hand to give financial backing for commencing entrepreneurial ventures of their own. But the dreadful reality is that lion share of these ventures are not flourishing satisfactorily.

The SRC has taken this problem for an analysis and suggesting means to overcome the hurdles faced by such ventures.

#### **Objectives**

1. To understand the profile of the group.
2. To identify their capabilities and weaknesses.
3. To study the activity or trade in which they are engaged.
4. To understand their difficulties and limitations as women entrepreneurs.
5. To identify the problems of atrocities against women and to design publicity & research work depicting themes of violence against women.

#### **Methodology**

Survey method – Sampling – interview schedule – interviews – observation.

#### **Conclusions**

- Majority of women entrepreneurs belong to the age group of 35-45.
- Married women and their husbands encourage them for undertaking the venture.
- Educational qualification of the entrepreneurs ranges from 5th std. to M.S.W degree holders.
- Majority of women entrepreneurs possess technical qualification in their area of activity- have secured sufficient training.
- Majority of women entrepreneurs are engaged in garment making, food products and embroidery works.
- Women entrepreneurs are engaged in more than 50 different kinds of enterprises.
- Number of employees in the enterprises ranged from 2 to 25 and majority of employees are women.
- Generation of additional income and unemployment are the factors that motivated the women to start the venture.
- Financial problems, lack of perfection of goods, marketing, labour problems and management problems are the anticipated causes for the failure of similar enterprises.
- Majority of women entrepreneurs are unaware of the financial institution which provides necessary financial backing.
- A slight percentage of women entrepreneurs faced atrocities in carrying on the enterprises.

### **Suggestions**

1. Women entrepreneurs have to be given training properly aiming at the prospects of entrepreneurship.
2. Women entrepreneurs have to be accorded high status in society so that many educated unemployed women may be attracted to the venture.
3. Entrepreneurial awareness should be developed among the female students especially of technical institution.
4. Information on financial, marketing and related aspects are to be supplied through Continuing Education Centres.
5. Knowledge about agencies supplying raw materials and providing marketing facilities are of immense help to women.

6. Banks and such financial institutions may relax the rules and conditions of loan facilities to women entrepreneurs.
7. Entrepreneur Development Programme may be organised by SRC CECs.

#### **4. TRIBAL LITERACY MOVEMENT IN KERALA AND THE PROBLEMS OF UNMARRIED TRIBAL MOTHERS IN THIRUNELLI PANCHAYAT**

**Dr.P.Madhusoodanan Pillai  
B.Chandrabhanu**

##### **Wayanadu district – A case study.(2000-2001)**

Another study undertaken by SRC was on Tribal literacy movement in Kerala and the problem of unmarried tribal mothers in Thirunelli Panchayat , Waynad district.

##### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To undertake a Socio-economic and literacy survey of the sample selected with a view to design and implement need based components of CE like equivalency, income generating quality of life and individual interest promotion programme with a participatory perspective.
2. To identify minimum learning skill (MLS) required for the skills for their survival strategy.
3. To develop a conscientisation strategy linked with CEP for the prevention of unmarried motherhood.
4. To develop a participatory resource endowment programme through CE for making the tribals "Self supportive" in resource management and income generating activities.

##### **Methodology**

Both qualitative and quantitative methods – sampling  
Two phases of study – Primary survey through field investigators and selected households.

Qualitative data of unmarried motherhood and related issues were collected through focus group discussions, informal interviews.

##### **Major Findings**

1. Tribals Adiyas, Kurichis and Ooralis are infavour of alternative education facilities – Vocationalising income generating programme and CE programmes to be extended.
2. Training programme on pregnancy and the childbirth care to be given to untrained tribals.
3. Conscientisation and awareness creation among them develop the skill of leadership.
4. Review of meetings of officials and monthly monitoring projects functioning may be done. SRC may take active role in supplying training inputs and Co-ordinating services of various agencies of Govt. department in achieving the target of CEP.
5. There is the need for conducting a Baseline Assessment study identify the needs and constraints on implementing CEP.
6. Unmarried mothershood among tribals can be prevented by proper education for generating income for a decent social living.
7. Education on collective consciousness or a feeling of oneness among the tribals should be given enabling them to get out of exploitation.

### **Suggestions**

1. Alternative education – equivalency or income generating and quality of life improvement – need to be given much priority.
2. Self Help Groups are to be formed soon.
3. Training in modern agriculture techniques and high yielding varieties of seeds, are to be given to the clients land based resource mapping for planning human resource development is required.
4. Empowerment of tribal women is an essential requirement.
5. There is the need for providing high priority to community health programmes through training modules of SRC.

### **5. INTEREST OF CIVIC BODIES IN CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (2000-01)**

**B.Chandrabhanu**

Continuing Education Programme in the State has been launched three years ago. Unlike in other states, the Kerala has taken an adventerous step

to entrust the responsibility of commencing and running the CE centres to Grama Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporations. These civic bodies are very new to this venture and hence intensive orientations to civic authorities were extended to them by SRC. Hence the commencement of CE centres was of little bit later than expected by the state level authorities.

With the intention to assess the interest of civic bodies in the CE programme the study was conducted in selected districts and the hypothesis arrived at were given below.

**Objectives of the study:**

1. To assess the capability of civic bodies to take charge of CEC and its multifarious programmes.
2. To assess the interest of the civic authorities in running the CECs.
3. To develop a common platform for development activities.

**Methodology**

Quantitative and qualitative methods were used for the study. Personal interviews, collection of reports from civic authorities; their attitudes, interest of Panchayat members; Personal contact with public, Social activists, and above all officials at Panchayat level; competency of Preraks, Ward members in which the centre is situated etc.

**Major Findings**

1. A good number of civic authorities are having wide perspective on CEP.
2. State authorities must be very cautious in issuing necessary guidelines to the civic authorities in a time bound manner.
3. Socially committed preraks are to be selected to CE centres.
4. Continuous rapport among Preraks and District level authorities.
5. Honorarium of Preraks to be distributed through village Education Committees.
6. Adequate reservation is to be extended to the preraks in the entry of Public Services.
7. Vocational trainings are to be conducted regularly, depending on the availability of resources.
8. Continuous awareness programmes through centres may be helpful to attract people in CE centres.

## **6. PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF INCOME GENERATING PROGRAMMES (2001-02)**

**Dr.B.Vijayakumar**

### **Significance of the Study**

The NLM recommended the need for identifying the problem of educationally deprived sections in the society. In Continuing Education Programme the Policy is the Promotion of agro-industries and promote skill among village people on various spheres. Income Generating Programmes has been identified as one of the major components of CEP with a view to impart skill to the needy people.

In order to make a hair split analysis of the constraints of the commencement of income generating programmes and also its future prospects a study has been made during the year 2002.

### **Objectives**

To identify the various types of skills imparted and income-generating programmes launched in Thiruvananthapuram Dist.

1. To make a profile to IGP beneficiaries.
2. To identify the problems and prospects of IGPs.
3. To make policy suggestions.

### **Methodology**

Data collection from both primary and secondary sources.  
Identification of IGP and various skills, by using secondary information  
Personal interview  
Structural analysis

### **Summary and Suggestions**

The programme as a whole is well received by the public

Majority of the participants in the IGP are dropouts and are from marginalized sections.

Training imparted them is inadequate enabling to acquire the necessary skill.

Financial Assistance given is adequate for giving proper training.

It may be observed that the IGP is a stepping-stone for launching more meaningful programmes viable steps may be taken to make CECs more

dynamic. Most of the beneficiaries could not find employment immediately after completing the course of work.

Continuation of practical training will be an added asset, to create confidence among them. Poor financial background of majority of beneficiaries in CECs does not permit them to invest in tools and implements.

Possession of sufficient infrastructure facility will strengthen the capacity of the CECs.

It is the matter to be noted that this study has been acclaimed as the best research study of the year 2001-2002 from among the various studies conducted by other SRCs in India. The award has been instituted by International Institution of Adult Education, New Delhi.

## **7. EXTENT OF EQUIVALENCY PROGRAMME AND LEVEL OF STANDARD OF ENROLLED LEARNERS (2001-2002)**

**S.Nityanandan**

### **Introduction**

The study on Equivalency programme was focused on evaluating the level of standard of enrolled, adult learners of IV standard of Equivalency project initiated in Kerala with sample from the district of Kollam.

### **Methodology**

Quantitative data on infrastructural facilities of centres having equivalency programme was collected from sample population by using "Data Capture format Evaluation Pattern designed with questionnaire type evaluation sheet grading of responses in terms of AB& C.

### **Objectives**

1. Highlight the problems and extent of equivalency programme.
2. Extent of utility of prunes used for the purpose.
3. Identify the factors affecting the gap between enrolment and retention.
4. To evolve suitable and location specific intervention strategies for planning and implementation of participatory learning process.
5. Identify the constraints, including the state policy for the effective implementation of project by providing creative recommendations and suggestions.

## Summary

The study findings focus on the need for comprehensive. Reconstruction mechanism and machinery with visa for improving the content and quality of equivalency programme

1. The Preraks need to be properly trained and ad equality remunerated.
2. The pedagogical components of polyvalence, folk school concept can be adopted according to the felt needs of marginalized groups of working class.
3. Local committees need to be re constituted and transform to peoples movement.
4. The causes of "Dawning syndiome" among the enrolled learners need to be studied on location specific basis.
5. Planning of curriculum content for income-generating activities need to be based upon the type of labour force and availability of demand for service sector.
6. Tourism Area Development Projects with focus on backwater tourism and eco-tourism need to be launched.
7. Existing policy of the state a CEC need to be reviewed. A "Community participation Act" in line with Andhrapradesh community participation Act 1998, is found to be much successful.

## 8. PROBLEMS OF HANDICAPPED AND POSSIBILITIES OF REHABILITATION THROUGH CECs(2001-02)

### Christian Agency for Rural Development Agency (CARD)

The handicapped are always touching the social life of the society in several respects. As per the statistics, 10% of the World Population is handicapped physically or mentally. The size of the handicapped is approximately to 58,000 in Kerala (1991 census)

Kerala has been foremost in planning and implementing social welfare programme with vision of designing to create consciousness among the general population on the current and urgent social issues.

With a view to make a thorough understanding of the actual problems faced by these groups the SRC thought of conducting a study of the problems faced by them and also possible steps to rehabilitation through CECs.

### **Methodology**

Personal interview, (Structured and unstructured), focus group discussion; records perusal.

### **Summary of the study**

#### **Major Issues**

- Social isolation and resultants intervention
- Emotional problems results from the sense of dependency.
- Rejection by the family and the community and resultant emotional trainee.
- Exploitation by General public
- Weak family bounds and broken families.
- In availability to avail loans from banks
- Non availability of resources to promote entrepreneurship
- Lack of effective information, disseminations system regarding welfare programme of Govt.
- Lack of forum to discuss issues of the handicapped
- Lack of security feeling.

#### **Suggestions: for effective implementation of equivalency programme**

- Community based tuition centers
- Training in English language.
- Social education programme through CECs
- Capital for income Generation
- Distribution of mechanical mobility aids thus enabling them to participation in Income Generating activities.
- Lack of involvement in Social discussion making.
- Establishment of counseling centres CECs.

## **9. EFFECTIVENESS OF TRAINING GIVEN BY SRC & OTHER AGENCIES TO VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF FUNCTIONARIES OF CE PROGRAMME (2002-2003)**

**Dr.S.Vinodkumar**

Kerala has been the State well known for its tremendous advancement in the field of education Non-formal/adult education and has become an integral part of the development of society. The functionaries of the non-formal system should take sufficiently trained for the success of the programme.

Continuing education centres have proved to be a permanent body through which adult education programmes are carried out. The success of the programme is allied with the level of excellence in the work of the functionaries, which highlights the importance of their training. Hence we thought of making a post mortems analysis of the training to various categories of functionaries involved in CE Programme.

### **Objectives**

To assess the effectiveness of training given by SRC and other agencies to various categories of functionaries of CE programme.

The district of Idukki has taken as base for the study preraks of Nodal continuing Education centres and continuing education centres formed the target groups for the present study.

### **Other objectives are**

- To prepare a profile of various training programmes given to the functionaries of CEP
- To assess the various techniques based in the training programme
- To ascertain the efficiency of training as perceived by the beneficiaries
- To evaluation the overall input gained by the beneficiaries
- To find out the specific need of the beneficiaries.

### **Methodology**

Personal interviews mailed questionnaires, focus group discussions, and observations. Perusal of records etc.

### **Executive Summary**

1. All NCEC Preraks and lianshare of CEC Prerak and Assistant prerakes had attended training programmes after they were posted in the current job.
2. The content and topic of the training programme were found good.

3. Physical facilities provided during the training period were almost satisfaction.
4. Techniques used in training programme were found satisfactory.
5. Most of the functionaries received only minimum training.
6. Lecture method followed mostly in training programme.
7. SRC has been chosen as the best agency to organise training programmes.
8. Frequency of training to be increases

## **10. TRAINED BENEFICIARIES OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTRES AND LEVEL OF THEIR SETTLEMENT – A CASE STUDY (2002-03)**

**K.G.Pradeepkumar**

### **Introduction**

Kerala's developmental experiences have been acclaimed by all states for its achievement in social, health and education sectors. The reasons of high literacy rate and universal primary education can be traced back to fundamental changes occurred in the economy and society.

The present scheme of continuing education programme has been formulated to open avenues of employment generation. This improving the economic conditions and general well being as well as improvement of productivity by organizing short duration training programme. With this end in view SRC, thought of conducting study and the output of trained beneficiaries and their placement level. Malayattoor in Ernakulam district has need selected as the venue for the study, for which a large number of beneficiaries have need able to secure a settlement for their means of livelihood.

### **Objectives**

1. Assess the level of settlement of trained beneficiaries.
2. Assess socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries.
3. Review the plans for the training and settlement of beneficiaries of CEP, evolve area specific strategies.
4. Assess the quality and relevance of training on the basis of applicability of skills to local conditions and situations.

### **Methodology**

Micro level study combines both quantitative as well as quantitative approach.

Socio-economic survey of the trained beneficiaries

Interview with functionaries civic authorities, public activities and social workers.

Focus group discussions

Interview.

### **Executive Summary**

The study set out to understand the extent of settlement of trained beneficiaries in CECs. Navodayapuram in Malayattoor area has a long tradition of bamboo, mat weaving and basket making. With the financial support from the SRC and their resource support the primary training given to the beneficiaries was found most encouraging. District panchayat has also come forward with financial support to continue the training and also helping than to dun a permanent means of livelihood. It is a fact that; some dropouts were reported, but lionshare of them have been able to complete the training programme. The Govt. has responded to the people's initiative positively by establishing a unit of Bamboo Corporation to ensure the supply of raw material and collecting furnished products.

### **11. IMPACT OF READABLE MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN CECs SUPPLIED BY VARIOUS AGENCIES AMONG BENEFICIARIES (2002-03)**

**G.V.Hari**

#### **Introduction**

The readable materials constitute an inseparable part of any system of education. In a developing country like India the ability to provide a highly technical variety of teaching learning materials continue to enjoy their rightful place. In the context of information technology the significant and relevant readable materials are of highly imperative. A good readable material always ensuring intellectual rapproadment of people so that they can coordinate activities and achieve crucial intellectual growth.

#### **Objectives**

1. To assess the impact of readable materials available in CECs.
2. To study the relevance of readable materials available in CECs supplied by various agencies.
3. To assess the utilization and opinion of the readable materials.
4. To analyses the content of the readable materials available CECs.

#### **Methodology**

1. Evaluating the present condition of the readable materials.
2. Data collection from both primary and secondary sources.
3. Interview with beneficiaries.
4. Content analysis.

### **Major Findings**

The assessment on the impact of readable materials available in CECs supplied by various agencies among the beneficiaries research the following facts.

1. The readable materials supplied by various agency to the CECs like proper and expected impact among its beneficiaries.
2. The lack of sufficient readable materials, which suits the needs of the beneficiaries of continuing education in the major reason behind this.
3. The lack of proper distribution system in CECs is one of the reason for the low in part of readable materials.
4. Non availability of interesting and simple readable materials led to the disinterested of readers and beneficiaries.
5. The readable materials available now in CECs were not competent enough to improve the reading habits of the beneficiaries.
6. The books preferred by the beneficiaries' proved simple in their content, language and style.

### **Recommendations**

1. The readable materials should be made more simple in content and language.
2. The SRC staff should conduct the field study and assess the requirements of the neo-literates and beneficiaries of continuing education for easy comprehension and the same should be documented and finalized.
3. The readable materials should be prepared with a view to develop the critical thinking ability of the beneficiaries and of the neo literates.
4. Readable materials should provide more scientific knowledge.
5. While preparing tooks the content should not include the problem and solution for there problems. Proper illustration should also be given.

6. The materials should be conversational nature. Colorful illustrations, relevant pictures should be added.
7. Avoid Jargon and technical term, which are being used unnecessary in readable materials.

## **12. FORMATION OF SELF HELP GROUPS ON CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTRES AND ITS PROSECTS- A CASE STUDY(2003-04)**

**Dr.V.Gireesan**

The globalization and subsequent inflow of capitalist economy compulsorily necessitate high disparity among such poor and deprived sections of society economically, socially culturally and politically. The SHGs formed in the CE centers and the production units functioning with the support of financial institutions are giving a sigh of relief to educated youths involved in CE programme. Poverty and illiteracy are interrelated with one another and fighting one without the other does not lead to a possible solution.

### **Objectives of the study**

1. To study the role of CEs in promoting SHGs
2. To examine the operationalisation of SHGs.
3. To access the impact of SHGs on the beneficiaries.
4. To analyse the strength, weaknesses and opportunities and threats during the operationalisation of SHGs.
5. To make policy suggestions.

### **Methodology**

Action Research  
Field study  
Multi stage sampling

### **Policy Suggestions**

Since SHG is a group based activity, group formation is a significant aspect for the success of the operation. While forming the groups, Preraks should ensure the followings:- Groups of uniform socio - economic standards, avoid relatives in the same group, each other should know members of the group for a considerable period and finally discourage tendency to form group hurriedly to meet the target.

**Neighbourhood Bank** for meeting small needs without any additional burden.

### **Training to members of the group**

Selection of economic activity.

Marketing the products

Development of harmonious relationship

Training to Preraks

Role of Panchayats/Municipal authorities to take active role in every step during the growth and development of SHGs.

The local authorities are to carryout the activities like to organise awareness classes for members of SHGs and conduct vocation-oriented activities for members.

Banks are to simplify the procedure regarding SHG activities and may start single window system to clear the project proposals, disbursement of assistance etc.

### **13. ISSUES AND PROSPECTS OF GULF RETURNEES IN KERALA AND ITS IMPACT IN THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE.(2003-04)**

**Dr.V.Girija Devi  
Dr.S.Chellammal**

Kerala, being one of the economically backward state, facing acute shortage of employment opportunities, has become the major source of supply of migrant workers to Gulf countries as well as to other parts of the world. But there is sharp decline in the scope of job opportunities in Gulf countries and lionshare of them are retreating of various reasons. In this context SRC proposed to conduct a study on the matter.

#### **Objectives**

1. To prepare a profile and present socio-economic background of Gulf returnees.
2. Assess the prospects and future plans of Gulf countries.
3. Assess the social impact and problems faced by the Gulf returnees.

#### **Design of the Study**

1. Location of study-Thiruvananthapuram & Malappuram.
2. Size and selection of respondents.
3. Methods and tools-Interview, FGDs, case studies.
4. Two types of interview schedules.

5. Stand scale of domestic like positive self-evaluation, realistic perception Integration of personality, Autonomy, group oriented attitude and environmental mastery.

### **Recommendations**

1. The State should formulate a saving scheme and a pension scheme for the benefits of emigrants with the help of Government and non-government organizations based on contribution of the emigrants while in employment abroad.
2. With the help of reputed agencies or consultants, viable proposals may be prepared for promoting foreign investments.
3. Particular attention should be made to promote employment opportunities for Gulf returnees.
3. Govt. should make necessary permission technical support and bank loans for Gulf returnees to start ventures on industrial or group basis by forming companies or other forms of organization.
5. Steps should be taken for reassertion of employment for the needy Gulf returnees where they were working formerly.
6. Rehabilitation of Gulf returnees by establishing a welfare scheme and organizing co-operatives for specific tasks, in which the work discipline that the Gulf returnees have acquired abroad.

### **14. FUNCTIONING OF OLD AGE HOMES AND THEIR INFLUENCE OTHE FAMILIES OF KERALA (2003-04)**

**Dr.S.Syamakumari  
Dr.Prasannakumari**

Population ageing represents in one sense a human success story as the confluence of lowered fertility and improved health and longevity has generated growing numbers and proportions of older population throughout the world. Several theories have been proposed to explain ageing from a socio-psychological perspective. It has important implications both at the macro and micro levels. At the micro level it affects the individuals and their families, at the macro-level it affects the entire nation. The general social attitude of the modern time glorifies all that is youthful and devalues or considers of limited value the ageing persons of either gender. In Kerala the population of the aged is increasing rapidly as a result of the advances made in the field of health, education, family planning etc.

### **Methodology**

1. Selection of the area

2. Selection of sample
3. Selection of tools and techniques
4. Conduct of study
5. Data consolidation & statistical analysis
6. Individual Approach
7. Group approach.

### **Suggestions & Recommendations**

- The existence of the need for old age homes were accepted and considered as necessity today by the people of Kerala due to the changing social factors like family disintegration, increased population mobility, dual careers and diminishing fertility rate.
- The Government and all concerned should acknowledge the fact with increase in life span and improvement in health status, the elderly population is fact growing in our state.
- It could be seen that majority of the aged live today in family situations or in the homes and only very few are institutionalized considering the inability of the modern nuclear families to cope with these situation institutional help or day concreters with the company of similar people will be more ideal.
- Though there are a few national and state health programmes lots of barriers exist for the receipt of good health care to the aged. Opening up geriatric wards in every hospital and training manpower for geriatric care is highly necessary.
- Psychological counseling from early years to prepare for contingencies of old age and for building personal competence and appropriate social relationship is advocated.
- Community responsibility and action programmes to help the aged should be encouraged. Community homes and services in collective collaborations with other organizations and agencies need to be organized in every panchayat.

### **15. EFFECTS OF GLOBLISATION IN THE PSYCHO - SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PEOPLE OF KERALA (2004-05)**

**Jolly Varghese**

#### **Objectives**

- To assess the degree of influence of globalisation in the behavioural pattern specific to the consumer and buying behaviour and life style of the Rural and Urban people of Kerala.

- To identify specific behavioural and psychological aspects in social life of the urban population of Kerala, which can be attributed to factors, resulted out of the globalised economy.
- To assess the degree of influence of the factors resulted out of globalisation in the psycho-social behaviour and value systems of the adolescent population in Kerala.

### **Methodology**

Field sources and documentary sources were used for data collection.  
Focus Group discussions, Structured interviews  
Verification of Crime records, Observation  
Structured interview schedule.  
\Case studies.

### **Major features**

- Globalisation has transformed mindsets of the people.
- Spending ratio has considerably increased.
- Savings and investments fell dramatically.
- The Global exposure has led to soaring ambitions- perfect job, body, best clothes.
- Cutthroat competition and high ambition make for a depressive combination.
- Due to the inflow of Internet/TV the teenagers/youths are in a vertex of uncertainty and anxiety.
- Consumerism is on the rise in Kerala. Behaviour and life styles of middle class people has been changed and are facing an increased level of mental turmoil. Suicide rates are three times the national average.
- Teenagers are susceptible to a range of diseases that were earlier found only in adults.

### **Recommendations**

An extensive study has to be undertaken on certain areas like factors influencing the mental health of the adolescents, which is fast deteriorating.

An awareness campaign targeted at the adolescents to give the right kind of information to them on issue related to sex and morality.

Increasing rural urban divide has to be slowed down by generating more job opportunities for the rural poor which is possible by developing

entrepreneurial spirit in them and supporting them with venture capital from banks and financial institutions.

State agencies need to develop a mechanism where in adequate support is extended to the Self Help Groups in pricing and packaging their products competitively and attractively to ensure a market for the goods and helping in their marketing strategies to establish good distribution net work.

Agricultural sector has to be supported with subsidies and incentive packages.

A system need to be devised in order to facilitate flow o foreign exchange to their home states from the earnings made in a foreign country.

## **16. SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEMES FOR EDUCATED UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS IN KERALA (2004-05)**

T.Radhakrishnan

### **Objectives**

- To assess the impact of PMRY and Kerala State Self Employment Scheme(KESRU) to reduce unemployment situation among educated unemployed Youths in Kerala.
- To make an analytical study on the implementation of welfare schemes and its impact on income, employment generation and asset creation.
- To assess the perceptions and attitude of officials implementation by schemes and funding officials towards PMRY and KESRU schemes.
- To assess the strength and weakness of the two self employment schemes to reduce educated unemployed youths.

### **Methodology**

- Use of Primary and Secondary data
- Case studies
- Comparative analysis
- Interview Schedule
- Focus Group Discussion

### **Recommendations**

- To cope with the accelerating growth rate of educated unemployed, the target under PMRY and KESRU schemes should be increased.
- Create scheme awareness among educated unemployed through extensive publicity.

- All beneficiaries should be given adequate training so that they can perform effectively.
- Banks should provide maximum extent of loan to self employed persons.
- Delay in taking decisions should be avoided.
- Terms and conditions should be related for weaker sections.
- Increase the subsidy rate and reduce the intensity rates.
- The District industries center should give top priority for the establishment of small scale Industries under this scheme.
- Good co-operation and co-ordination among Govt. officials and Banks is essential and positive attitudes towards PMRY/KESRU beneficiaries and regular interaction among the beneficiaries pioneer a new route to the success of PMRY/KESRU schemes.

### **Summary of study**

The study highlights the CE centers are not serving as a source of study circles for the neo-literates. The existing collection and distribution of readable materials are little use. The Preraks and the beneficiaries are demotivated with the present system of functioning of libraries and distribution system. The themes of readable materials are not a source of interest Promotion Income Generating activities or quality of life improvement to the beneficiaries of CEP.

The DLMA and SRC should take active role in the matter of district wise data on reading requirements of various classes of adult learners.

This identification of interest and needs of neo-literates and beneficiaries could enhance the productivity of the reading habits among the target groups.

## **17. AN IMPACT STUDY ON QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES OF DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN SSA, KERALA**

**C. Swaraj**

### **Introduction**

*Sarva Siksha Abhiyan* (SSA) aims at the enrichment and spread of elementary education all over India. It is also an attempt to provide an opportunity to all children to improve their human capabilities, through

provision of community-owned quality education in a mission mode. This is the first comprehensive attempt in the field of elementary education since Independence. One of the major components of this project is Distance Education Programme. It has been assigned to Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, for its implementation in all the states and Union Territories in the country.

The main focus of DEP-SSA, Kerala, is to supplement the face-to-face in-service training of teachers and other functionaries by using various distance learning materials. The materials developed and produced under the programme range from printed matter to multi-media packages. This study titled '*An Impact Study on Quality Improvement Initiatives of DEP in SSA, Kerala*' tried to assess the effectiveness of the activities launched under the Distance Education Programme. It gave interesting insights into the Programme and also found some glaring gaps in its implementation.

### **Objectives of the Study**

Following are the major objectives set for the present impact study of Distance Education Programme in *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan*, Kerala:

1. To assess the quality of various distance learning materials developed by DEP in SSA, Kerala.
2. To study the effectiveness of Audio–Video Programmes in improving the teaching-learning process in primary schools.
3. To study the impact of Self-Instructional Materials in enhancing the study environment in primary schools.
4. To study the impact of Capacity Building Programmes conducted by DEP-SSA, Kerala.
5. To analyse the overall performance of DEP in SSA-Kerala for the enrichment of the elementary education scenario.

### **Methodology**

The distance learning materials were distributed through the Block Resource Centres (BRC) for use at the local level in-service training programmes. An attempt was made to collect data from at least two teachers from each BRC in the state. Apart from that, BRC trainers and District Institute of Educational Training (DIET) lecturers were also included in the study. Focus group discussions with primary school teachers were arranged as part of the field visits. Detailed interviews were also held with District Programme Officers and District Project Officers (DPO) of SSA and the principals of DIET.

### **Major Findings**

The distance learning materials prepared by DEP-SSA Kerala were sufficient to supplement the teacher-training programme at the local level. Teachers who had come across the material were satisfied about their content.

The analysis of the impact of distance learning materials shows that their reach among the target audience was below expectations.

It was found that there was no sufficient mechanism to monitor the distribution of distance learning material at the local level. This led to improper use of the material prepared by the DEP.

The study revealed that the materials like audio/video programmes were sufficient to bring an insight into the topic concerned. However, there was no mechanism to ensure their effective utilization at schools.

The video programme prepared by DEP got a favourable response from the teacher community. Majority of teachers who had come across the material shared the view that such video programmes can overcome the limitations of the face-to-face cascade model of training.

### **Suggestions and Recommendations**

A core group consisting of academicians, media experts, technicians attached with DEP should be constituted for the development and production of distance learning materials. The services of this core group can be utilised for the production of distance learning material as and when required.

The release/ distribution of the distance learning materials should be given wide publicity through print/visual media. All BRCs/CRCs should be issued a communiqué to ensure publicity about the material among the teaching community.

A package of follow-up activities is necessary to ensure the proper use of the material. To attract the teaching community, a continuing education course/teacher improvement programme can be thought of. Assignments, project work and contact classes that make use of the distance learning material should be included in the curriculum.

The teleconferencing facility should be made available at all BRCs. A studio with up-linking facility should be made available to DEP-SSA Kerala for the use of the existing DRS facility.

Technology should be adopted as a catalyst for the qualitative improvement of elementary education. All possible media should be used to attract the target audience.

The importance of multimedia should be taken into consideration. More distance learning materials like Interactive Multimedia CDs should be developed for better use of the medium.

DEP activities at the BRC level should be coordinated with the help of a trainer. The trainers have to be given capacity building trainings at regular intervals. The details of materials supplied by the DEP have to be informed to these trainers in advance.

A comprehensive need-assessment of the distance learning materials is necessary for the improvement of DEP activities. Local-specific issues should be given due consideration while preparing the materials.

To sum up, the reach of DEP activities did not match up to the expectations of the project. However, the distance learning materials prepared by DEP are of good quality. But much requires to be done about local level distribution and dissemination. The major findings and recommendations of this study are expected to work as catalysts for the betterment of DEP activities in future.

## **18. CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN LAKSHADWEEP - A STUDY (2005)**

**T.Sundaresan Nair**

### **Objectives**

- To analyse the socio-economic profile of preraks and assistant preraks of Lakshadweep Islands.
- To assess the performance of CECs.
- To study the scope of continuing education programme in Lakshadweep.
- To suggest measures and suggestions.

### **Methodology**

Survey method was adopted for the study. A questionnaire for Preraks was prepared to collect data. Interview with officials, administrators and Panchayat representatives was also conducted. There are 30 continuing education centers in the ten inhabited islands. Sixty preraks and assistant preraks are engaged in CECs in which 48 preraks are selected as sample.

### **Major findings**

Age wise distribution of the respondents indicates that 96 percent of the preraks are in the prime age group 18-35. All of them are unemployed youth. The family structure of the preraks indicate that majority of the preraks (60.42%) have 3 to 10 family members. As far as mother tongue

is concerned 94 percent of the preraks are well versed in Malayalam. The rest speak "Mahal", the local language.

Majority of the preraks (71 percent) are found to have no previous experience in the field of literacy and continuing education. At the same time 69 percent of them have experience in social work, by way of people's terms, arts clubs, and such other similar organizations.

One fourth of them have qualification above SSLC. 90 percent of the preraks are found to have some technical and professional qualifications. Income wise distribution of the respondents indicate that around 50 percent of the prerak's monthly family income is below Rs.3000/-

65 percent of the CECs are functioning in Anganwadies, which create functional problems of the CECs. Most of the CECs functions afternoon only and function only 2 to 3 hours per day.

30 percent of the centers do not have the local support group. The reasons are lack of interest on the part of members in establishing local committee, lack of initiation among preraks failure on the part of LLMA to strictly enforce constitution of local group.

Regarding infrastructure facilities, most of the CECs are lacking due to lack of fund, lack of furniture shops in the islands and space problems. The reading materials are also nil. A monthly magazine published by State Resource Centre, Kerala for regularly receives by the preraks. Most of the CECs purchased bicycles for their local use.

Monthly progress reports are submitting through local school headmasters to LLMA. All the 48 preraks have given 5 day residential training by SRC Kerala, which helped them to boost the day-to-day activities of the CECs.

The major reasons to attend the CECs by the participants are attending literacy classes, participate sports and games activities, using library facility etc.

Newspapers receive only Ship arrives in each island, which is in every alternate week.

### **Major Suggestions**

The dweep administration should release matching grant every year for CEC activities. A detailed educational survey may be conducted in all islands. The preraks should be given efficient and continuous training. The NLM should release further grant to SRC Kerala to prepare need based materials to the inhabitants of islands.

Separate buildings would be given to each CEC boost the activities. For effective co-ordination for various institution and groups with in the jurisdiction, functional linkages with local schools, co-operatives,

Government officers, NGOs, groups of different types etc. should be ensured.

## **STUDIES ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION**

### **19. THE PROBLEMS OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN IN KERALA (2004)**

**Dr.Celine Sunny**

#### **Objectives of the Study**

- To find out the Socio-demographic profile of the senior citizens.
- To identify their problems in relation to physical, psychological and social aspect faced by them in the day-to-day living.
- To understand the existing services available for the senior citizens.
- To examine the needs of the senior citizens in relation to physical, psychological and social aspects.
- To suggest appropriate measures for bettering the present conditions of the senior citizens in the State of Kerala.

#### **Methodology**

The universe of the study comprised the following categories of the elderly (60 years and above)-viz-widows, widowers, the destitute, the abandoned, those from the old homes, joint families and informal sector.

The geographical area was restricted to Ernakulam district in the State of Kerala. To give due representation to the sample, rural, urban coastal areas were taken. The study covered a total sample size of 300 senior citizens.

The study would be descriptive and analytical. Interviews, formal and informal discussion and observations were the methods used to the collection of data.

The tools used for the data collection included pre-tested interview schedules, and case studies.

#### **Major Findings**

- Majority of the respondents belonged to 60-70 years category with 67.7 percent followed by 71-80 years with 28 percent.
- About 30.7 percent had studied up to primary level, illiterate formed 30.7 percent and 31.7 percent as semi-literates.

- 23 percent were employed, 47.7 percent unemployed and 29.3 percent were unable to do any work due to ill health.
- Remittance from children was the main source of income for 45.7 percent of the respondents. 14.7 percent were earning through doing various types of jobs viz. Manual work, running petty shops etc. Pension (work related, widow, destitute, farmers) accounted for the income of nearly 13 percent. Majority did not have any saving at all.
- The male senior citizens, compared to their female counterparts were found to be the victims of chronic diseases. Lack of sufficient income prevents for taking proper treatment at the proper timings.
- Regarding the attitude of the society towards the aged, majority of them (88 percent) received indifferent and negative attitude.
- Nearly 80 percent were not members of any organizations such as club, church, charitable organizations.
- Majority of them (72%) were looking for free medical care as the need of the hour to cop-up wit the situation. Feeling of unwanted and in security had deleterious effects on their mental health.
- Majority need pensions, travel concession for survival.

### **Recommendations**

- Introduction home based care services and equip family members with better skills in earning and understanding the senior citizens.
- Encourage senior citizen to form their groups and forum and plan and implement various programmes/schemes of the local bodies.
- Provide geriatric counseling on regular intervals to reduce depression, tension etc.
- Encourage setting up of some income generating programmes, and provide special provisions to find out some employments.
- Constitute comprehensive health insurance scheme by the State/G.Os to cover all the senior citizens and day care centers.
- Start recreational clubs and parks to provide entertainment facilities to the senior citizens. Also arrange picnic, sigh seeing trips for them.
- Provide free counseling, medical care and hearing facilities.
- Initiate a separate government department exclusively for the welfare of the senior citizens.

## **20. THE STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF VISUAL MEDIA AMONG ADOLESCENTS (2003)**

**Dr. Jacob Thomas**

### **Objectives**

- To study the psycho social problems faced by adolescents due to the influence of media.
- To study the types of media to which the adolescents are exposed to.
- To identify strategies for minimizing the negative impact of media and increasing the positive aspects.

### **Methodology**

Adolescent children attending schools in Ernakulam district are the universes of the study. The samples were selected through purposive sampling. 25 students each were selected from 5 schools. Head of their institutions, journalists, doctors, TV Channel Staff, Parents, Internet service provides, Social works, teachers were also selected.

Questionnaire and interview schedule were used for data collection from schools.

And key personals. Information was also collected through observation. Secondary data was collected from journals, articles etc.

### **Major Findings**

51% of the respondents have friendly relationship with their parents and they can discuss anything with them. 64 percent of the adolescents prefer to watch TV and they have chosen television on the prime media. 22% one interview in using internet.

In CBSE and ICSE schools, majority have personal computer in their homes and they spent enough time for browsing the net. 33 percent spent 2-3 hours daily for watching TV and 65% spent more than one hour before TV every day.

20 percent of the respondents like to chat with strangers and they prefer visiting that room. 33% do not want to reveal the topics selected for chatting and they opted that it is strictly personal.

Parents especially mothers watch the serials in television regularly and this turn give the child more opportunity to sit in front of the set.

65 percent of the respondents opined that career guidance programmes telecasted in various channels helped them in choosing their career. Many

channels telecast late night programmes after 10 pm and 22% of the students wish to watch that programme.

The study indicates that computer has also become a part of an adolescents life. Internet has also become a craze for them. In order to share the interests and for chatting, the adolescents does not need any phone calls or letters today. Internet cafes have helped the young generation who does not have a computer in there home to use computer. Chatting has become common among adolescents and the children make friendship with its of people through chatting. 44% of the parents do not know what then children do with computer and the main problem is that they do not know the basis of computer.

Adolescents got update information about new brands through media. 60% of the parents agreed with the fact that life style of their children are influenced by the media. Change of food habits also influenced by the media has instead of taking health home made food; they prefer drink food and fast food about which they come to know through media.

### **Major suggestions**

Adolescents need to restrict the time for watching television and engage in more outdoor/productive activities. School system can encourage health relationship with persons of opposite sex. Proper guidance/awareness has to be given to adolescents to distinguish between good and bad aspects of different media. Students should be encouraged to discuss their problems and difficulties with any elder person such as counselors or School social workers.

Students' guidance bureau should be formed in schools to guide students. Adolescent children must be given information about sex, sexuality, family values etc. The parents should take initiative in equipping values in their children by providing authorized books. Parents should spent some time with their children every day and monitor the programmes.

Awareness camps and programmes can be organized by the Parent Teacher Association, which helps in improving the relationship between the students, teachers and the parents.

Initiate rules that would ban vulgar advertisement in diatonic media. Steps should also be initiated to stop misguidance through Internet.

## **21. IMPORTANCE OF POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION IN THE COASTAL AREAS OF KERALA: A NEED ASSESSMENT STUDY (2004)**

**Sabu Philip**

### **Objectives of the study**

- To document the socio-economic background and demographic details of the coastal people.

- To analyse the situation prevailing in different costal areas of Kerala, especially on health, sanitation, education and socio-economic aspects.
- To identify the major sources of Population and development education messages and their impact on the population under study.
- To analyse the limitations of awareness among the target population on development and population issues.
- To understand the utilization of health facilities and services by the coastal people and also understand about the components that affecting the well being of the population under study.
- To study the Childcare and child-bearing practices, especially wearing and normal diet pattern of the anti natal mothers sickness. Care and management of the child as specified for each childhood diseases, knowledge of the mothers on immunization, its importance and schedule, knowledge of the mother about the existing health services in their vicinity etc.
- To suggest appropriate IEC methods for imparting development and population education messages to the fisherman community according to their culture, education, level of understanding etc.
- To prepare a report on importance of population and development education in costal areas of Kerala with special emphasis on.
- The nature and extent of demographic and health related problems in coastal areas.
- The linkages between poor health and demographic conditions of the coastal people and their socio-economic status.
- Approaches and actions within the community for importing development and population education messages to the coastal people.

### **Methodology**

The universe of the study is confined to the kadinamkulam coast in Thiruvananthapuram district. 200 fisherman households, 100 from both Christian, Muslim communities in that locality. Protested interview schedule is used for gathering facts and figures for administrating the study. Secondary data on relevant areas is also collected for comparison. The collected data were coded and edited. The quantitative analysis of data is carried out with sophisticated statistical package. Means and percentages were computed using computer. Statistical tables and quantitative presentation of data and incorporated wherever found necessary.

## **Conclusion**

Education serves two major roles. It increases skills, knowledge and ability to deal with men ideas and it provides a vehicle for importing a different culture which is the most important on determining health status. Educated persons are more aware about personal hygiene, better nutrition and the need to use available preventive and curative health services. Education break down the traditional values that have adverse effects on health and demographic condition. They are less superstitious and less fatalistic in outlook.

At this juncture, it is highly relevant to impart the messages of Population and Development Education in the Coastal regions of Kerala. Coastal people are born and brought up in social, economic, demographic, geographical and cultural environment, which is entirely different from the general population. The family structure, fertility rate, birth spacing, age at marriage, awareness on health and related aspects, morbidity and mortality rate, facilities for communication, proportion of total expenditure on health care etc of the coastal people entirely different from the average population of the State. In order to uplift this population into making stream life imparting population and Development Education is an indispensable thing.

The awareness level of community is consideration be a good indicator of the good health and demographic status of that community. It is after used to reflect the state of public health, environment, sanitation, socio-economic development and people's attitude towards the value of human life. Hence, imparting Population and Development Education is of foremost importance in promoting socio-economic development of the coastal people.

## **22. SUICIDAL TENDENCY AMONG KERALITES – A CASE STUDY IN NOORANAD PANCHAYAT**

**Saju Parackal & Umesh.S**

### **Objectives of the study**

To study the increasing rate of suicide and its causes in relation to Nooranad Panchayath.

### **Specific Objective**

- To assess the Socio-economic profile of the suicide victims.
- To find out the causes/natives of suicide.
- To assess the health, social, family factors in relation to suicide.

- To draw out views and suggestions of the key personnel about suicide to choke out measures to prevent it.
- To suggest measures for the prevention of the increasing rate of suicide.

### **Methodology**

a) *Universe:* All households with persons committed suicide, within Nooranad Panchayath of Alappuzha district constituted the universe of the study.

b) *Geographical Area:* The geographical area of the study comprised of the Nooranad Panchayat of Alkappuzha district.

c) *Sampling:* An enlistment survey was conducted as a preliminary step in order to identify the households with suicides. All the households with suicide victims since the year 1999 came under the purview of the study. 34 households suicide victims from the year 1999 January to August 2001 were this identified. A census method was resorted to collect the data. In addition, key persons viz religious leader – 1 Headmistress of the School functioning in the Panchayat – 1, NGO representatives – 2, Hospital authorities-1, Public person like M.C.A-1, Police official-1, and Panchayat President-1, were also interviewed. Thus I total 42 respondents came under the purview of the study. Moreover persons outside this category viz neighbours and other well known persons in the area were also approached to get a clear picture of the persons committed suicide.

### **Sources of Data**

The study made use both primary and secondary data to arrive at relevant conclusions. The primary data consisted of the responses of the respondents (close relative of victim and the key personnel) who came under the purview of the study. The secondary source included all relevant information from the public books, reports and publications of various organizations pertaining to the topic.

### **Tools of Data Collection**

Pretested interview schedule for the close relatives of the suicide victims and interview guide for the key personnel were the major tools used to gather relevant resorted to, in order to get a better picture of the suicide acts.

### **Findings**

Suicide results from the interplay of a variety of reasons. This makes it difficult to state just one cause at the reason. The data analysis showed that in good many of the cases financial crises has played a vital role. However, taken the familial problems together viz-marital 7 adjustment, maladjustment in family, extramarital affairs, feeling of insecurity etc.

Familial problems top the list of causes. Other motives as highlighted by their close relatives included bodily illness, psychiatric illness and guilt feeling. Alcoholism, which was rampant in the village, was also a contributing factor in the suicidal act. Mode of the act primarily included intake of poison, hanging, jumping into well and burning. Major mode of suicide was the intake of poison. Easy availability was reported to be the reason for this high rate. Hanging followed intake of poison.

Physical and psychological illness as the cause of suicide was stated only in a very few cases. Physical health status on the whole pictured a promising note as barring a few, all enjoyed either good or very good. Physical health status. Physical appearance as a cause was not mentioned by any of the respondents. Almost 100 percent of victims has experienced certain amount of psychological problems. These might have contributed in varying degree for the act of suicide. Suicide due to psychiatric illness was reported only in one case. Alcoholism has been identified as a menace that has engulfed the whole panchayat. It was easily available and it might have contributed greatly as it anesthetizes the thinking power of man.

### **Major Recommendations**

- Family therapy or family counseling centers with full time counselors should be introduced in the village giving prominence to field assistance.
- Community based action programmes should be organized with the help of the club to develop a sense of togetherness and mutual support.
- Mass awareness campaign should be organized effectively in different parts of the panchayat highlighting the impact of suicide on society, family and on the younger generation.
- Effective measures should be taken on the part of Governing Machinery to check the out growth of illicit brewing and the in flow of illicit liquor.
- A network between the clubs and NGOs should be build up to make the anti suicidal programmes more effective.
- Prompt measures should be taken to make the functioning of the counseling center at the police station more effective.
- A task force should be introduced in the panchayat to help families of suicide victims to conduct the formalities related to the unnatural death also to take the regions of campaign against suicide.
- Suicide prevention centers should be introduced at various pockets of the panchayat . This could also act as help line centers to those who have a tendency of suicide.

- Community level educational programmes should be initiated to identify the warning signs. Of suicide with the support of local action groups.
- The Prerakes, Anganawadi workers, School teachers etc should be trained to impart values to their students and thereby making them prepared and fit to face the challengers of the life successfully.
- Special attention should be paid to the elderly, as they are more prone to suicidal deaths.
- Supportive and rehabilitative services should be provided to these who are affected by suicidal behaviours, persons who are at risk and persons who have attempted suicide.
- Reduce the availability, and accessibility of the means for suicidal behaviour
- Increase public and professional access to information about all aspects of preventing suicidal behaviours.

### **23. NUCLEAR FAMILIES IN KERALA- A STUDY ON INTERNAL DYNAMICS**

**Dr. V.A. Gangadharan**

#### **Objectives**

The study attempts a comparative assessment of the internal dynamics of the family system in Kerala in a retrospective and introspective manner: It reviews the nature of joint family system, as it existed in Kerala prior to the emergence of nuclear family system.

It analyses the internal dynamics of nuclear families in contemporary Kerala to understand the life processes underlying there in.

It brings out the problems and prospects of nuclear family in the state.

#### **Methodology**

Sample families for this study have been selected from the Kazhakkottam Block Panchayat of Thiruvananthapuram district in Kerala. Fifteen families each were selected on a random basis from the seven-grama panchayat, which constitute the block. The data was collected from 105 families based on a structured questionnaire drafted for this purpose. Special care has been taken to ensure that the respondents truly represent the Kerala family in all its manifestations. Out of the 105 samples, selected only 100 families were interviewed due to various reasons. The researchers hope that this sample is adequate to bring out the internal dynamics of the family life particularly in the area and generally in the state.

The families interviewed for the study mainly belonged to Hindu religion– 77percentage. Christian and Muslim respondents were 13 and 10 percentages respectively. Gender-wise, 77 percent were males, among whom Hindus constituted the majority - 59%. The community wise women respondents were 18 percent Hindus and 5 percent Christians. We did not interview any Muslims women, as there were none in the random sample. In terms of location, 69 percent were from rural area. The remaining belonged to urban area. There were 53% Hindus, 10% Muslims and 6% Christians from the rural sector, while the same from the urban sector is 20%, 5% and 6% respectively. The predominance of Hindu respondents in sample is mainly attributed to the social background of the Thiruvananthapuram district where the area falls.

Majority of families are economically backward. Sixty- percent families have income less than Rs. 5000/-, majority of whom are Hindus (55%). Families with annual income up to Rs. 8000 are 88%. Of this also, the majority is Hindus (55%).Twelve percent families have income above Rs. 8000/-. There was no Christian family with in the category. Seventy families have own houses, others live in rented houses. Only 39 percent has own vehicles – 31% has 2 wheelers, 6% car, 2% both. Families with phone connection are 63% - land phone 47%, mobile 12%. All these indicate that respondent families are leading a comparatively better life with access to almost all facilities.

## Conclusion

### *Joint Family:*

About fifty percent respondents had *experience in living* in joint families. The average size of a family was 12 members. The house leader or *karanavar* convened family meetings to share views and take decisions. *Greetings* exchanged and meetings held among members (86%). *Peace and unity existed* in the family with trust, love and compassion dominating the scene. In joint family, the age and status of *karanavan* decided leadership.

Absence of privacy was an important *irritant* in the family. Respondents believed that, despite negative characteristics, joint family was never an obstacle to social economic development.

*Major suggested advantages of joint family include the following:* unity among members, economic stability, mutual care and concern. *Negative elements* were inequality, lack of privacy, socio – economic disincentives, in- fights and various personal complexes.

### *Nuclear family:*

*Twenty percent* families in Kerala still constitute joint families. *Important reasons for transition* of joint family in to nuclear family were growth of individualism and social and economic changes. Only fifty-one

percent respondents were fully satisfied. Seventy-four percent believe that nuclear family life has a positive impact on life.

Some of the most *important advantages* suggested by the respondents were peace, privacy, freedom, enhanced personal efficiency, opportunities, and absence of intra-family insights, self-reliance, self-motivation and management.

Similarly, *disadvantages include* isolation tension, extinction Taravad as a social institution, psychological disorders, competitive selfishness, destruction of core values and concern among members etc.

Eighty-five per cent found *privacy in nuclear family life* and freedom for choice in education and employment, among other things. Husbands lead nuclear families in at least 74% families.

It faces *many problems* – mental, family, social and economic.

Lack of adequate *time, finance* and mutual *recognition* are major problems. Differences of opinion, however, are rare according to 50% respondents, which challenge a widely held public belief against nuclear family.

In the event of a problem, both husband and wife take the *initiative* in resolving the same.

*Childcare is a major issue* in the nuclear families due to obvious reasons. Despite the availability of day care facilities only very few families utilizes them. Majority prefer traditional (elder's) care of children.

Out of social or personal compulsions majority of members maintain good *social relations*. Some views it as a social responsibility born out of conscience.

*Nobody sends elders to aged homes*. This is an important finding that families despite problems are not sending their aged members to the homes.

*Major economic problem* relate to income, wastage and competition. They did not believe that these could be solved even in the joint family set up.

Many agree that the *socio-psycho dynamics of the nuclear family play a vital role in the alarming growth in the rate of suicides*.

*Debt - trap*, another reason for suicide, has been an inherent problem associated with the nuclear families.

Food (59%), home appliances (31%) and dress (26%) constitute *major expenses* in nuclear family.

Eighty-seven percent respondents did not believe that the current *development impasse* in the state connects to the nuclear family life in any way.

Though there are problems, majority of respondents are not interested in *returning to joint family*.

*The future of nuclear family*, according to majority of respondents, is safe. They hold that it will sustain while undergoing drastic changes. Few respondents feel that it will decline or disappear.

The institution of *family will survive* notwithstanding the challenges posed by several forces, including all-embracing globalization.

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