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Research Journal*

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## A STUDY OF EDUCATION : FACTOR BEHIND HIGH HDI OF KERALA.

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### ABSTRACT

**K**erala, a tiny state, in the southern tip of the Indian sub-continent covering less than two percent of the overall national area and home to a little over three percent of the country's population has achieved very high levels of HDI comparable to the first world. In term of individual and public health and economic & demographic indicators, Kerala shows a remarkable achievement, all this at per capita income as low as one sixtieth that of US nominal GDP per capita. The thing that makes it all the more special and unique is that; all these achievements have been made without huge investment in economic growth. It was found in the study that the magic factor behind all this growth in HDI is Education.

**KEYWORDS:** HDI - Human Development indicators, which



includes life expectancy, Education & per capita GDP. GSDP-Gross State Domestic Product.

### INTRODUCTION :

Kerala, mostly a land of paddy covered plains, stands out as the Mount Everest of social development. Kerala's unusual social-economic and demographic situation was summarized by author and environmentalist Bill Mckibben-

"Kerala, a state in India, is bizarre anomaly among developing nations, a place that offers real hope for the future of the third world. Though not much larger than Maryland-Kerala has a population as big as California's and a per capita annual income of less than \$300. But its infant mortality rate is very low, its literacy rate among the highest on earth, and its birthrate below America's and falling faster. Kerala's residents live nearly as long as Americans or Europeans. Though mostly a land of paddy-covered plains, statistically Kerala stands out as the Mount Everest of social developments, there is truly no place like it"

Kerala is also socially and tropically different from the rest of India. The other states in India are refashioning itself in the image of western life style and economy , Kerala remains a communist state with very strong influence of trade unions and centralized politics. One of the major factor behind Kerala's development is Education.

### OBJECTIVE

- The present study intends to examine extent to which education has affected

the socio-economic factors of Kerala's development.

- To find any side effects stress on education on Kerala's economy.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on secondary data. These were collected from various reference books, published journals, Economic Survey and censusindia.gov.in website and internet. The study covers the census of the year 2001 to 2011. It is mainly based on the available information on the subject.

## Effect of Education on Various Development Parameters in Kerala.

Kerala has undermined the proudly accepted idea that the improvement in the standard of living of people can only be achieved after rapid & steady economic development. The essence of the force behind Kerala emerging as hope to third world countries lies in its stress on education and better healthcare. An educated population had led to land reform and access to better social security in terms of pensions & employment rights.

## Education & Health Parameters

Kerala has 3.34 crores population and the GSDP is just \$1000 a year, some \$200 less than the national average. Yet life expectancy at birth in Kerala is 81 yrs which is close to that of Scandinavian Countries and above Indian average of 66.

Infant mortality rate is the lowest in the developing world i.e. 12 death per thousand live births in 2011 against an Indian average of 79 per thousand and it is lower than that in the far richer countries such as Argentina.

## Population growth rate is 491% (2001-2011)

The Fertility rate is 1.7 births per women, which is lower than that of 1.8 in Sweden Kerala's access to affordable health care and education has huge impact on birth & mortality rate of the population. Birth control is widely accessible. There is a dispensary every few kilometers where IVDS and other forms of birth control are freely available. The health clinics provide cheap health care for children, programme for mother like breast feeding and state supported nutrition programme for pregnant & new mother for example more than 95 % of keralite births are hospital delivered which places Kerala among developed countries.

UNICEF & WHO designate Kerala the World's first baby friendly state via its "Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative".

## • Education & Gender Equality

Gender Equality is another hallmark of Kerala's Education system. Nearly half of the students in lower primary classes are girls. The female literacy in Kerala is 91.98% as per census 2011, which is far above the all India rate of and it is as high as in many developed countries. Male -Female gap in literacy rate in Kerala has been declining at higher rate.

For instance in 1951, male female gap was 21.9% and in 2011 it is only 4.04. At all India level the gap is in 2011.

<b>Female literacy rate- Kerala, India (1951-2001)</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Kerala-female literacy (%)</b>	<b>Male-female gap(%)</b>	<b>India-female literacy (%)</b>	<b>Male-female gap (%)</b>
<b>1951</b>	36.43	21.92	7.93	17.02
<b>1961</b>	45.56	19.33	12.95	21.49
<b>1971</b>	62.53	14.6	18.69	20.77
<b>1981</b>	65.73	9.53	29.76	26.62
<b>1991</b>	86.17	7.45	39.29	24.84
<b>2001</b>	87.86	6.34	54.16	21.69
<b>2011</b>	91.98	4.04		

Thus there exists no discrepancy between male & female education, The Kerala literacy rate was growing at (2001-2011) as against the male literacy growth rate of in the state of Kerala, some states are still lagging behind the level attained by Kerala in 1951,

Education, particularly women's education has played an important role in developing the mortality rates. Educated women are better able to take charge of their lives e.g. the typical Kerala's women gets married at the age of 22 compared to 18 in the rest of India. On an average, women with at least an elementary education give birth to two children less than uneducated women.

### EDUCATION & LIVING CONDITIONS

The impact of education is also seen on improvement in living conditions. According to K. R. Nayar 47 % of the rural population & 74 % of the urban are covered by protected water supply. The dependence on surface water for drinking is less than 1% in the state. More than four-fifth of the people have access to water supply within their own premises. The share of people who have to travel for more than half a Km for drinking water is just 1.7% in the rural areas and 0.4% in the urban areas (K.R. Nayar 1997).

### EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT.

Service sector including education is the fastest growing sector in Kerala economy. The education system provides employment opportunity to 18% of the population the number of teachers is equivalent to about 50% of the total number of the workers in the registered factories:-

<b>Period</b>	<b>Share of service sector</b>
1980-81	36.4%
1990-91	40.1%
1997-98	45.4%
2001-11	

### EDUCATION AND SOME DRAWBACKS

With all the positive impact of education on the aforesaid sectors, there is another face of it. There are two fronts on which the present education system of Kerala has failed to deliver. One is rising number of cases of depression and poor mental health, among the educated women. Despite progress in gender equality in education, violence against women has increased particularly domestic violence. A study conducted by INCLIN and ICRW on domestic violence in Kerala found that as high as 62.3% of the women in Kerala are subjected to physical torture and mental harassment as national India level (ICRW, 2002). There are increasing reports of dowry related violence, rape and other abuse against women in Kerala (Women's Commission, 1999).

Second is unemployment problem in Kerala as unemployment rate among the educated persons above 15 years of age was much higher than the rate for the general population in this age group. The problem was much more acute among educated women, Nearly half of the educated women in rural



areas were unemployed. In the urban areas more than 40% of the women were unemployed. (B.A. Prakash and MP Abraham 2004). Kerala has the highest unemployment rates among Indian states. It is estimated that in 2003 unemployment was as high as 25% (K.C. Zachariah 2005 p.21). As the following table suggests:-

Period	Unemployment rate (in percent)
1993-94	15.5%
1999-2000	21.0%
2001-2011	--

## CONCLUSION

To conclude, it can be inferred that Kerala has experienced high level of social development, which has not lead to high economic growth. The poor economic growth has put a limit to whatever social development Kerala has achieved and whatever social development could be needed by future generations. Along with the development of education, there is need for investment in and development of employment generating industries particularly for the educated population. There is no need to change the type of society that Kerala has evolved into, only such industries which can well fit into the present set up must be brought in and entrusted the task of providing employment.

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