CHAPTER II

ECONOMIC CHANGES
IN PATHANAMTHITTA DISTRICT

2.1 Introduction

Economic Change, which is a process, would enable us to account for the diverse performances of the economies, past and present. For the survival of a country or State or an area economic growth is essential. This chapter analyses the major trends and patterns in the economic arenas of Pathanamthitta district since its formation in 1982. This analysis provides not only an understanding of the varied arenas of such change, but also some of the driving forces of the overall developments in the district. The researcher analyzed the changes in the agricultural, industrial, and the labor sectors of the economy of the district separately. Mutual influences exerted by developments in each of these areas on the others have played key role in moulding the patterns of economic changes in the district. The trend in general is a gradual but an accelerated shift in the nature of the economy from agrarian to service oriented. The changes are sought to be understood in comparison with the trends in the all Kerala level.

2.2 Agriculture

Agriculture, which is the foundation of Kerala’s economic edifice, continues to be the core sector in the rural economy of Kerala. It provides livelihood security for vast majority of the population. During the past three decades the agriculture sector of Kerala has undergone wide-ranging changes in terms of land utilization, cropping pattern, productivity, and intensity of cultivation.\(^1\) In earlier periods, the choice of cropping pattern was guided by agronomic considerations and consumption needs of

---

farmers; but it seems that mainly market forces determine the emerging trend. The broad direction of change has been in terms of drastic reduction in the share of primary sector and a corresponding increase in the share of tertiary sector.²

Pathanamthitta has a long and notable history of agriculture. The district has a base foot on agriculture as it is blessed with the rivers and their tributaries with perennial flow of water. It is a land with an irregular terrain consisting of several hills, slopes and paddy fields. Since the industrial development was not so smooth here the area mainly depended on agriculture.³ It was the particular area of Kerala where wetland agriculture flourished from very early times, since the spread of the same in the State by the incoming Brahmins and their traditional 32 agrarian settlements.⁴

The abundance of rivers in the district and their boon of vast expansions of fertile river basins keep the district apt for agriculture even today. Pathanamthitta is a true tropical diversity adorned with fertile agricultural land, plantations and forest. Paddy, tapioca, varieties of vegetables and spices like cardamom and pepper are extensively cultivated here. Earlier the district had homestead farming with coconut as the base crop and other crops like tapioca, plantain, vegetables and tubers are grown as intercrops. In the wet areas too sufficient farming was there with tubers as inter crops.

The agrarian scenario in Pathanamthitta district has also been undergoing significant changes in the past few decades. “Agriculture production in the Central Travancore district has been reduced by half in the last five years reportedly owing to high farming costs, shortage of farm workers and, of course, large-scale conversion of

---


farmlands into housing plots and for various commercial activities in the real estate boom. Conversion of farmlands into commercial plots is rampant in many parts of the district, leaving little scope for farming.”

Geographically, the agricultural district of Pathanamthitta can be divided into three divisions, highland, midland and lowland. The highland stretches through the Western Ghats and descends to the midland in the centre, down to the lowland and coconut gardens on the western borders of Alappuzha district. Highland forms 37.25% midland 58.75% and lowland forms 4% of the total geographical area. The topography of the district is highly undulating. It starts from the tall hill-slopes covered with thick forests on the East along the mountains down to the valleys and small hills to the flat and of coconut trees in the West. The climate and the nature are suitable for cultivation. The temperature varies from $20^\circ C$ to $39^\circ C$ and high moisture content is available.

2.2.1 Land Use Pattern

Land has many uses but its availability is limited. However an ever increasing population demands additional land for producing more food, raw materials and for developing various infrastructural facilities. Land use pattern determines the economic efficiency of resource use. Besides, it determines the ecological sustainability of land resources in the long run. Agricultural land-use changes in Kerala during the past half-century were marked by an initial increase in total cropped area followed by dramatic shifts in the coverage of individual crops. The district of Pathanamthitta also

---

5 The Hindu News English Daily, 05 May 2008.

6 District Plan Pathanamthitta (Pathanamthitta: District Planning Board, 2000) 37.


witnessed severe changes in the land use pattern within three decades. The table clearly indicates the land use pattern of the district.

Table 2.1: Land Use Pattern in Pathanamthitta District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Geographical Area</td>
<td>268750</td>
<td>268750</td>
<td>268750</td>
<td>268750</td>
<td>268750</td>
<td>268750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest</td>
<td>155214</td>
<td>155214</td>
<td>155214</td>
<td>155214</td>
<td>155214</td>
<td>155214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Agricultural Use</td>
<td>8395</td>
<td>10884</td>
<td>13894</td>
<td>15108</td>
<td>14935</td>
<td>16371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barren Land</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Pastures</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Tree Crops</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivable Waste Land</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>2911</td>
<td>2411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallow Land</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>3571</td>
<td>1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Fallow</td>
<td>935</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>1668</td>
<td>3998</td>
<td>3050</td>
<td>4432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Sown</td>
<td>102037</td>
<td>100125</td>
<td>96470</td>
<td>92805</td>
<td>82169</td>
<td>81643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Sown More than Once</td>
<td>4970</td>
<td>27294</td>
<td>20121</td>
<td>22468</td>
<td>24537</td>
<td>21896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cropped</td>
<td>107007</td>
<td>127419</td>
<td>116591</td>
<td>115273</td>
<td>106706</td>
<td>103539</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics for Planning, Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

The total geographical area of the district when it was constituted in 1983 was 268750 hectares which was 6.92% of the total geographical area of the state. The distribution of land in the district of Pathanamthitta at the time of its constitution for different purposes may be summed up as follows. Ever since its constitution, the district has kept its forest area preserved constant. It is notable that the largest share of the land of Pathanamthitta district (58.51%) is forest area. The 58.51% of the total geographical area of the district is covered with forest when the share of land for forest in the all Kerala level is just 27.83%. The quality of the forest in the district is also worthy of mention. The Goodrickal Range of forest in the district is one of the largest virgin forests in the country. This high proportion of the forest area of the district has ecological, religious, historical and economic significance in the life of the people of the district. Pilgrim centre Sabarimala, River Pampa, a number of tribal habitats and the power projects and irrigation in the district are all determined or heavily influenced by its forest area.
The total cropped area expanded during the first decade under the study but it started decreasing at a slow rate.\textsuperscript{9} It was 107007 hectares which was 40\% of total geographical area and 3.74\% of state share in the year 1983-84. The total cropped area increased slowly until 1992-93 to become 127792 hectares in that year. In that year 4.19\% of the total cropped area in the state was in the district of Pathanamthitta, a fact which tells that the total cropped area was increasing in the district at a rate higher than that in the state. Then the total cropped area began to decrease at a slow rate to reach 106706 hectares in 2007-08. This is 3.86 \% of the total cropped area in the state in that year. In 2009-10 it again reduced to 103539. At the same time the net area sown\textsuperscript{10} was found decreasing continuously. In 83-84 the area was 102037 hectares occupying 4.68\% of state share and 38\% of the total geographical area. Afterwards the area suffers a steady decline bringing the figure down to 37.2\% in the year 2000-01 and to 31\% in 2005-06. In 2009-10 it again reduced to 81643 hectares.

Cultivable waste land shows an increase above 6 times during the study period.\textsuperscript{11} During the time of district formation, it was only 532 hectares forming 0.19\% of total geographical area. Thereafter it is seen decreasing for 1.5 decade but by the beginning of the new millennium onwards it is seen progressively increasing and by 2009-10 it comes to 2411 hectares i.e., 0.89 \% total geographical area.

Land put to non-agricultural use is increasing at a rapid rate in the district.\textsuperscript{12} This category of land shows rapid increase until 1994-95 and then it remains more or less

\textsuperscript{9} The total cropped area includes the net area sown and area sown more than once during the same year.

\textsuperscript{10} The net area sown consists of area sown with crops and orchards, with area sown more than once during the same year being counted only once.

\textsuperscript{11} Cultivable waste means land available for cultivation but not taken up for actual cultivation or abandoned after a few years of cultivation.

\textsuperscript{12} Land put to non-agricultural use includes land occupied by buildings, roads, railways or water and land put to uses other than agricultural purposes.
the same till 2007-08. The land used for this purpose was 8395 hectares in 1983-84 which almost doubled (16161 hectares) by the year 1994-95 and then became almost steady till 2008 and now it is registering progress.

The shift from fallow to land under non-agricultural use will take place depending on the opportunity cost of the land for non-agricultural uses. Increase in population, breakup of the traditional joint family system, rise in income from non-agricultural activities and inflow of remittances from abroad led to a spurt in construction activities in the district.

Barren uncultivable land registered an almost fourfold decrease during the 1983-84 to 2009-10 periods (from 926 hectares in to 220 hectares 2009-10). During the same interval, barren uncultivated land in the state reduced from 86590 hectares to 25527 hectares. It is notable that during the 1983-84 to 2009-10 periods, the barren uncultivated land in the district has reduced by 2.43 times while the same in the state has decreased by 3.39 times with the district lagging much behind the state average.

Current Fallow land increased from 935 hectares in the year 1983-84 to 3050 hectares in 2007-08. However, the share of the fallow land reached the highest during the period in the year 2009-10 with 4432 hectares of land left current fallow in that year. Then onwards the tendency is that of a slight decrease in the total amount of current fallow land.


14 Barren uncultivable land includes areas such as mountains, deserts and land that cannot be brought under cultivation except at a prohibitive cost.

15 Current fallow land means the cropped area which is kept idle during the current year.
Fallow other than current fallow land\textsuperscript{16} shows a continuous and enormous rise during the period of study with 490 hectares in the beginning and 3571 hectares in the year 2008-09. The rise of the land in this share is 7.29 times. No other sector we have discussed so far has seen such an enormous rise. The state average of fallow other than current fallow land shows only a 1.64 times of rise.

\subsection{2.2.2 Major Crops and Cropping Pattern in the District}

The major crops of the district include annual crops like paddy, tapioca, plantation crops like coconut, rubber, areca nut, cashew, pepper, tea, fruit crops like mango, banana and other plantain, jack, pineapple etc. The study is restricted to the principal crops in the district. Analysis of the cropping pattern in the district reveals a change from homestead farming to commercial farming and from food crops to cash crops. The historical analysis of the agricultural system of the midlands of Kerala shows that homestead farming system was the traditional agricultural pattern of the region.\textsuperscript{17} Also cultivation which was done as a way of life was mainly for home consumption. Now the situation has changed. It was found that while percentage of land under non-food crops has been increasing annually, the area under food crops has been coming down drastically. Commercial crops are encroaching into the fertile land tracts meant for growing essential food grains. Cultivation has become a commercial proposition mainly for income and profit generation. Now the cropping pattern is guided by the market forces rather than by the consumption needs of the farmers.\textsuperscript{18} An analysis of

\textsuperscript{16} Fallow other than current fallow land includes all lands, which were taken up for cultivation but are temporarily out of cultivation for a period of less than one year and not more than five years.

\textsuperscript{17} The homestead consists of the area surrounding the farm house. Intensive cultivation of all available crops is the main feature of this system.

the changes in the cropping pattern clearly shows that there has been a persistent shift in favour of garden crops and plantation crops at the expense of food crops.\(^{19}\)

The area under the crops and the yield rate of the crops are the most vital components in the estimation of crop production. The table provides a clear picture and trends in the cropping pattern from the formation of the district to 2010.

Table 2.2: Area under Important Crops (in hectares)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Paddy</th>
<th>Sugarcane</th>
<th>Spices</th>
<th>Fruits</th>
<th>Tapioca</th>
<th>Coconut</th>
<th>Food Crops</th>
<th>Rubber</th>
<th>Non Food Crops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1984-85</td>
<td>17439</td>
<td>1328</td>
<td>4848</td>
<td>4924</td>
<td>13650</td>
<td>25926</td>
<td>52869</td>
<td>22098</td>
<td>51695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>14234</td>
<td>963</td>
<td>6885</td>
<td>6338</td>
<td>10637</td>
<td>27505</td>
<td>52588</td>
<td>43715</td>
<td>74831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-96</td>
<td>10360</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>6322</td>
<td>5757</td>
<td>7208</td>
<td>23712</td>
<td>41516</td>
<td>47063</td>
<td>75075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-99</td>
<td>7497</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>4914</td>
<td>5176</td>
<td>6076</td>
<td>21994</td>
<td>34808</td>
<td>47570</td>
<td>74690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>5262</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>6383</td>
<td>6434</td>
<td>7524</td>
<td>21660</td>
<td>39109</td>
<td>47820</td>
<td>76167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>5235</td>
<td>6436</td>
<td>6783</td>
<td>17903</td>
<td>32695</td>
<td>49860</td>
<td>74011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>2996</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>6468</td>
<td>9052</td>
<td>6440</td>
<td>16213</td>
<td>30022</td>
<td>49957</td>
<td>73517</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics for planning, (various issues), Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Even though the food habits of the people of Kerala had remarkably changed over the last few decades, rice still continues to be their staple food. The diverse topographic, climatic and soil conditions of the state enable its people to cultivate wide variety of

---

seasonal and perennial crops.\textsuperscript{20} Paddy crop not only provides food for the human population but is also a major source of fodder to the ever-growing bovine population in the state.

When the areas under important crops are analyzed Paddy is the major crop that has lost the most in the area of cultivation in the district. 68.65\% of land under paddy cultivation has shifted to other crops and non agricultural purposes during this period. Out of the total cropped area of 107007 hectares, paddy occupied 17439 hectares forming 16.3 \% of the gross cropped area in 1984-85. But after that paddy cultivated area suffered a decline and in 2007 it is 2001 hectares, i.e., 1.88 \% of total cropped area. The decrease from 17439 hectares to 2001 hectares in less than a quarter of a century is an indicator of the trends in the cropping pattern in the district. It means that an 88.5\% of the total area under paddy cultivation has been shifted to other crops or even to non-agricultural purposes during this period. In the state level the decrease in the area under paddy cultivation during the period is from 730379 hectares to 228938 hectares. It shows a decrease of 68.65\% of area under paddy cultivation during this period. The district is much ahead of the state average of the rate of abandoning paddy cultivation. But in 2009-10 a slight increase can also be noted.

In 85-86 Pathanamthitta district occupied 2.14\% of the state’s total area under paddy cultivation. During the period from 90-91 to 95-96 the district – along with Kasargod, Kozhicode and Idukki districts – has the lowest area under paddy cultivation. In 2007-08, the district’s share of the area under paddy cultivation in the state is only 0.87\%.In 2007-08, Pathanamthitta district was in the last position having an area of 2001 hectares under paddy cultivation.\textsuperscript{21}

The rising cost of cultivation, stagnation of rice prices, less profitability of paddy cultivation, the flow of agricultural laborers’ to more profitable areas etc. resulted in

\textsuperscript{20} \textit{Ibid.}

\textsuperscript{21} Government of Kerala, \textit{Agricultural Statistics 2007-08} (Thiruvananthapuram: Department of Economics and Statistics) 4
the decrease of area under paddy cultivation and people began to concentrate on more profitable crops like rubber.\textsuperscript{22} This is true to the rest of Kerala as well.\textsuperscript{23} But the remarkably higher rate of decrease in paddy cultivation in the district as against the state average needs further explanations. Historically, Pathanamthitta has a longer and sounder legacy of wet land agriculture as compared to many other districts in the state. Geographical factors are comparatively more suitable to paddy cultivation here. Thus, explanations for the trend may be found in socio-cultural and economic factors and ecological changes which are not in the same pattern in different parts of the state. Changes in the preferences regarding labor opportunities may give another part of the explanation.

Sugarcane was another major crop produced in the district at the time of its formation and suffered the area under cultivation in the coming periods. Flowered sugar cane fields were a unique feature of central Travancore. A major industrial crop, the district had enough scope for sugarcane cultivation since summer irrigation was possible in the fertile areas of the district. The main product was Jaggery with the name ‘Pathiyan Sarkara’.\textsuperscript{24} Before the arrival of sugar mills they were made by the farmers themselves with their own \textit{chakku}. Later sugar mills came at Pulikeezhu and Pandalam. When the sugar cane needed for these two mills became insufficient, restrictions came on the household manufacturing. Later small scale farmers abandoned the farming. Sugarcane was also cultivated in Thiruvalla, Pandalam, Eraviperoor, Ayiroor, Vallicode and Pathanamthitta besides, in Nilakkal and Achancoil forest areas under government auspices.

\textsuperscript{22} Government of Kerala, \textit{Municipal Vikasana Rekhakal, Pathanamthitta, Vol.155} (Thiruvananthapuram: State Planning Board) 32.


\textsuperscript{24} \textit{Malayala Manorama Daily}, Pathanamthitta (31st July 2007)8.
The total area under sugarcane cultivation in the district contributed 18.5% of the total area for this purpose in the state. But now the share of the district is only 1.3% of the state’s share of the area under cultivation. The decrease is from 1433 to just 97 hectares during the period under study which accounts for a reduction of 93.24% of land for this purpose. In 2009-10 it again reduced to 48 hectares. Now the cultivation of sugarcane is only nominal in the district. Improper marketing facilities and unprofitability prompted the farmers to abandon this cultivation.²⁵

Major spices like pepper, ginger, turmeric, and cardamom were cultivated in the district at the time of its formation of the district. Pepper occupies the major share. The area of pepper showed an increasing tendency and by 2005-06 it was cultivated in 5529 hectares which is 3.32% of the total area under pepper cultivation in the state in that year. In 83-84 the total area was 3905 hectares i.e. 3.68% of state’s share. It means, even though pepper cultivation increased area wise, it was at a rate slower than the state average. Ginger doesn’t register a steady growth rate but stayed between 400-500 hectares. Area occupied by Cardamom registered a progressive increase from 45 hectares to 913 in 1994-95 and thereafter it shows a slow decline. Turmeric shows only a negligible increase from 15 hectares to 76 hectares by the year 1994-95 but in 2005-06 it comes to 137 hectares and later suffered a decline.

The overall trend in the area under spice cultivation is obvious. The comparative share of land put apart for spice cultivation has not undergone any considerable change during the period. The slight increase in the area under spice cultivation is only in proportion to the increase in the net sown area. In 1983-84, spices were cultivated in 4388 hectares. This was the 05.30% of the net sown area of the district in that year. In the year 2009-10, the total area under spice cultivation is 6468 hectares which is the 7.92% of the net sown area in that year.

²⁵ Government of Kerala, Vikasanarekhakal, Mallappally Grama Panchayat Vol.26 (Thiruvananthapuram: State Planning Board) 34.
Fruits on the whole showed an increase in area. Banana, other plantains, mango, pineapple, and papaya together occupied 5032 hectares of land in the year 1983-84. All the fruits except mango registered an increase in area of production.

Tapioca was a major food crop which once had a high access and later declined in the area under production. It occupied 17883 hectares of land during the time of district formation. The crop supported the people during the drought time in the past. But it faced a sharp decline in area (6.7% to 2.6%) over the last quarter of a century.

Coconut cultivation registers a considerable decline in area. At the time of the formation of the district, it was cultivated in 25926 hectares of land, 34.80% of the net sown area. It was the item that was cultivated the most in the district when the area under cultivation is considered. In the year 2009-10, coconut is cultivated in 16213 hectares of land which is only 19.8% of the net sown area of the year. The area under coconut cultivation in proportion to net sown area has thus become almost half over the last two and a half decades. Now it is far beyond rubber as far as the area under cultivation is considered. Coconuts have become less attractive due to the fall in price and rampant diseases. Moreover the opportunity cost of land (e.g.by planting rubber) is higher and the uncontrollable disease called root wilt mainly confined to the southern districts. Quilon, Pathanamthitta, Alleppey, Kottayam, Idikki and Ernakulum also resulted in area decline.26

The overall result is an increase in agricultural production with major shifts in composition from food items to commercial items. Area devoted to all food crops was 52869 (51.8%) in 1984-85 but it came down to 39109(43.25%) in 2003-04 and 30022 in 2009-10(36.77%). The decreasing interest in food crop cultivation is obvious. On the other hand, interest in non food crops is increasing rapidly. The increase is from 51695 hectares to 74011 hectares during the period under study (50.66% to 90.07% as

against the net sown area). This tremendous increase in the area under cultivation of non food crops is the most notable change as far as the changes in the cropping pattern is considered. In the state level, 1171577 hectares to 1634599 hectares is the increase. Plantation Agriculture, one of the means by which traditional economies got integrated with modern world economy\(^{27}\) has deep roots in the district.

Rubber one of the major cash/plantation crops (with tea, coffee, cashew nuts, and spices, including cardamom and pepper) introduced into India by the colonial powers during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, is the crop that has gained the most in the area of cultivation during the period under study. Rubber was cultivated in 16674 hectares of land in the beginning of the period and it rose to 49957 hectares by the end of the period – a threefold increase. In the state level, the increase in land under rubber cultivation is from 271200 to 512045 hectares. Increase rate at the state level is thus 88.81% while the same in the district is near 200%.

Increase in rubber cultivation in Pathanamthitta district is at a rate much ahead of the same in the state level. The steady increase in rubber prices and the assurance given to rubber growers by the government of an expanding rubber market due to industrialization of the country were clear signals that rubber was a dependable cash crop. In consequence, rubber cultivation spread from the High Ranges to midlands and even to marshy coastal lands.\(^{28}\) Among the other socioeconomic factors that contributed to an increase in rubber cultivation, the most important has been the significant improvement in the socio-economic status of the rubber growers contributed by the income generated from rubber cultivation for more than three decades. In fact, the surplus generated from rubber cultivation has been reinvested for


development of human capital (education) and other income-augmenting activities such as real estates, business, etc.\(^{29}\) The three digit surge in the price of rubber has improved the financial status of people in the rubber plantation belts of Mallappally, Ranni and Konni.\(^{30}\)

But the rubber cultivation has a serious effect on the mixed-cropping system of the area, since no other crops grow under rubber. So the mixed cropping has changed to a mono cropping system in the rubber plantation areas. Food and nutrition security which were major features of the traditional homestead farms have been sidelined in the modern system.

The reasons for the changes in the cropping pattern are not just because of an increased interest in non food crops but purely motivated by income. The nature and purpose of agriculture itself has shifted from the level of subsistence to the level of business generating regular income to the cultivating family. The attitude of people to agriculture has changed. For the older generation agriculture was a way of life; while for the present generation it is a commercial activity with profit as the prime concern.\(^{31}\) Expansion of mixed cropping in the coconut gardens with banana, nutmeg, arecanut etc. is also price-induced.

The crop sector has undergone many changes during the last three decades in tune with the shift in the cropping pattern. The area under cultivation of rice and tapioca have reduced and that account for the set back in the production of food crops.


Besides the poor performances of food crops, lack of adequate workforce, lose of fertility of land due to overuse and abuse of fertilizers, the concept of comparative advantage of commercial agriculture are some other reasons behind this change. The above mentioned changes were a continuation of the changes in agricultural fields in the State like division of fields to small pieces due to the disintegration of the Marumakkathayam system and the introduction of Makkathayam system, the land reforms and the consequent decline in Janmi Kudiyan relationship etc. As a result of lose of job and fixed earnings those in the agricultural fields concentrated their attention to other areas. This also led to changes in the cropping pattern.

2.2.3 Productivity of Crops

A decelerating trend in productivity of crops can be witnessed in the study period. The increase in production of most of the perennial crops during the past four decades was mainly due to the increase in area under these crops rather than improvement in productivity. Inefficient use of water, insufficiency and non optimal use of inputs like fertilizers and credit, monoculture and lack of full-time attention and long term investment in improving productivity of land are some of the main reasons for the decelerating trend in productivity of crops.

Table 2.3: Production of Important Crops (in tones)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>35920</td>
<td>33226</td>
<td>27210</td>
<td>19467</td>
<td>12641</td>
<td>4631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarcane</td>
<td>7657</td>
<td>6594</td>
<td>3040</td>
<td>1258</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spices</td>
<td>2748</td>
<td>5033</td>
<td>4284</td>
<td>2612</td>
<td>3296</td>
<td>3438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>26906</td>
<td>43044</td>
<td>47630</td>
<td>45090</td>
<td>54288</td>
<td>53398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapioca</td>
<td>302223</td>
<td>243211</td>
<td>156534</td>
<td>165089</td>
<td>184733</td>
<td>253419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>9973</td>
<td>25681</td>
<td>52974</td>
<td>60711</td>
<td>67985</td>
<td>73690</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Directorate of Agriculture and Statistics for planning (various issues), Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
Even though rice is the staple food of the people, its production is suffering a heavy setback within two and a half decades. In 84-85, the district’s contribution was 35920 tones which were 2.86% of the state’s share. Within a period of 25 years it was reduced to 4631 tones i.e. 0.88%. Throughout the period rice production suffered a serious setback. The amount of rice produced per hectare was 2.06 tons in the year 1983-84 while the same in the year 2007-08 was 2.31 tons per hectare. A slight improvement is seen in the productivity per hectare. This is but negligible improvement or stagnation or even decline in productivity as far as the technological advancements that were possible during the period is concerned. In the case of paddy cultivation, total amount of land under its cultivation and the total amount of paddy produced may be more significant than the productivity per hectare. It is clear that paddy is only nominally produced now. The lack of considerable improvement in productivity may also be due to the fact that paddy cultivation is now not at all done voluntarily or as the first preference. It is undertaken under legal and other pressures only.

Sugarcane was a major crop produced in the district which accounted for a high reduction in productivity. Earlier in the year 1983-84, the district contributed to 18.5% of state’s share. Its production was maximum in 1986-87 i.e. 14234 tones. After that it declined and by 2007-08 the district’s share was only 0.28%. Productivity per hectare shows steep decline during the period from 1986-87 to 2007-08 (5.77 tons per hectare to 0.45 tons per hectare). Over the quarter of a century, productivity of sugarcane has been reduced to one thirteenth. It is already noted that the area under sugarcane cultivation in the district at present is only nominal. The loss of productivity in case of this crop might explain the abandoning of it by cultivators.

The spices like pepper, ginger etc showed a fluctuating trend throughout the period. Both the area under cultivation and production register fluctuations. However, over the period, both these changed much. More importantly, productivity of spices per hectare of land has improved by more than 50% during the period, i.e. from 0.42 tons per hectare in 1983-84 to 0.69 tons per hectare in 2007-08.
Banana production is also seen increasing up to 1989-90. Thereafter it shows a decline for three years. Now the trend has reversed. The production of other plantains is increasing steadily and at a rate higher than that of banana. From 1983-84 to 2005-06, banana production increased from 8671 tons to 23302 tons. In the case of other plantains the increase in production is from 7439 to 29980 tones. Even though the trend in production is the same for both the categories, the trend in productivity is different. In the case of banana, productivity declined from 12.98 tons per hectare to 9.02 tons per hectare, a decline by about 25%. On the other hand, other plantains register about a threefold increase in productivity – from 4.31 tons per hectare to 13.61 tons per hectare. Remarkably, over this period, area under banana cultivation increased more than the area under cultivation of the other plantains even when productivity of banana declined.

With regard to coconut, from 79 million nuts the production of coconut increased to 160 million in 85-86 but afterwards it showed a fluctuating trend and finally in 2007-08, it stands at 107 million nuts. The productivity of coconut during these three years was 2742 nuts per hectare, 5814 nuts per hectare and 5977 nuts per hectare. Obviously, the increase in production in the year 1985-86 can be explained as a result of the increase in productivity. Thereafter, productivity either stagnated or improved at a negligible rate. At the same time total production as well as area under cultivation declined steadily.

Rubber is the crop which shows the most progressive increase in production. From 9973 tons in 1983-84 its production reached 73,690 tons in 2007-08, a three-fold increase. Productivity per unit of land also increased steadily in case of rubber. It rose from 0.6 tons per hectare in 1983-84 to 1.48 tons per hectare in the year 2007-08, about 150% growth in productivity. The large inflow of remittances had been pushing up the money wages and land prices, disproportionate to productivity and

profitability. Land is increasingly transformed from a productive asset to a speculative asset.

2.2.4 Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Animal husbandry, a subsector of primary sector, is closely connected with agricultural activities. The geographical distribution of land in the district is in favour of animal husbandry. But the pace of development of this sector is very slow. Livestock has a vital role in the economy as it has the potential for alleviating poverty and unemployment in rural areas. But now it is facing serious constraints in the district. One of the reasons for this is the inadequate fodder base as a result of sharp and continuous decline in the area under livestock supporting seasonal crops especially paddy and limited scope for fodder cultivation. The irrigation facilities are less compared to other districts. Spread of rubber cultivation reduced production of other crops and hence the residues of crops used as cattle feeds decreased. Reduction in the availability of natural grass coupled with the practice of putting lands barren has made problems. The diseases of cattle, marginalization of agricultural holdings and the declining trend in the family participation especially of the youth have further aggravated the situation.

The main species of livestock in the district are cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs, fowls and ducks. The various issues of Economic Review depict the decrease in the livestock population in the district within two to three decades. The facilities available in the district to promote Animal Husbandry include veterinary dispensaries, veterinary hospitals, and veterinary poly clinics. Besides this there are veterinary sub-centres, artificial insemination centres and sub centres, disease investigation lab, avian disease diagnostic lab and a duck farm.

---

As the district has no coast line there is no scope for marine fisheries. The district has a unique position in the inland fisheries of the state with its fresh water resources including rivers, canals, reservoirs, paddy fields, streams etc. The three river systems viz, Pamba, Achancoil and Manimala and the backwater areas of Upper Kuttanad have been given a significant place to the district in the inland fisheries map of Kerala. The district has tremendous potential in fish culture sector.

The fisheries activities in this region started with the establishment of a Fresh water survey station. The district has an ornamental fish breeding centre and a national fish seed farm. The Fish Farmers Development Agency provided technical as well as financial help to the farmers. One of the two breeding centers for quality fingerlings in the State is located at Pannivelichira. The farm at Polachira is a National Fish Seed Farm.  

2.2.5 Irrigation

The district of Pathanamthitta possesses a long history of wetland cultivation mainly owing to its rich water resources which made irrigation comparatively easy and effective. The rich forests in the district give birth to some of the most important rivers in the state. These rivers, flowing into the Arabian Sea and the Vembanad Lake, provide water to the majority of the agricultural endeavors of the district. The rivers are but not completely sufficient to irrigate the entire cultivated area of the district. The other major sources of water for irrigation in the district are canals, tanks, wells and minor irrigation projects. The cultivated area of the district is mainly in the midland which is filled with valleys and hillocks with general slop towards west and thus these irrigation methods are effective here.

Data regarding the net area irrigated year wise and source wise are provided by Statistics for planning of Department of Economics and Statistics and Economic  

http://www.kerala.gov.in/deptfisheries
Review of The State Planning Board. Several other studies on Agriculture by the above said departments are also available. The data regarding the Net Area Irrigated is available source wise. The sources thus identified are (i) government canals, (ii) private canals, (iii) government tanks, (iv) private tanks, (v) government wells, (vi) private wells, (vii) minor irrigation projects, and (viii) other sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Govt. Canal</th>
<th>Private Canal</th>
<th>Govt. Tank</th>
<th>Private Tank</th>
<th>Govt. Well</th>
<th>Private Well</th>
<th>Minor Irrigation</th>
<th>Other Sources</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986-87</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>1627</td>
<td>2875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>2802</td>
<td>4075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99-2000</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>919</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4935</td>
<td>6849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>1809</td>
<td>5882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2108</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>1275</td>
<td>5525</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics for planning, (various issues), Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Trends generally observable are that of an increase in the net area irrigated since the formation of the district until the year 2000, then a sudden decrease in the next year and progressive increase thereafter. In the beginning when the district was formed, canals were the largest single source of water for irrigation. Government canals irrigated 517 hectares and private canals irrigated 172 hectares in the year 1986-87. Minor Irrigation Projects was the next largest source irrigating 405 hectares. Government and private tanks irrigated 7 and 35 hectares respectively and another 1627 hectares were irrigated by other sources. The total area irrigated in that year was thus 2875 hectares. This was against the 102037 hectares of the net sown area in the district in that year. It means that only 2.82% of the net sown area was irrigated in the year 1986-87.

Until 1994-95, the figures remained almost the same with slight fluctuations. The only head that registered any considerable growth during this period was the ‘other sources’. From 1995 to 1998 the area irrigated by government canals was doubled, but the total area thus newly brought under irrigation was only 637 hectares. Irrigation using water from private wells also shows a similar pattern during this period with a
few changes in the rate of change. It registered constant growth and reached 919 hectares in 1999 from the 93 hectares in 1987. The percentage of growth is high but the area to which cultivation is extended is only limited.

Irrigation using government canals and private wells increased steadily after 2000. But the same from all the other sources register a decrease during the period. In the year 2007-08, government canals irrigated 2019 hectares of land, about 40% of the total irrigated area. Almost the same stretch of land was irrigated by private wells leaving only just above 20% of the total irrigated area to be irrigated by all the other sources together. The trend is very clear now with all the other sources of water either cease to exist or declining sharply and private wells and government canals only registering considerable growth.

In the year 2007-08, the net area irrigated is 5525 hectares. 82769 hectares of land was the net sown area in the year. It means that 6.68% of the net sown area in the district is now getting irrigated. It is from 2.82% that the figure reached to 6.68%. However, the increase is not to a considerable achievement. The increase in percentage is mainly due to the decrease in the net sown area. Only 2650 hectares of land is now added to the net irrigated area in the district over the period under study.

Table 2.5: Gross Area Irrigated Cropwise (in hectares)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Paddy</th>
<th>Tubers</th>
<th>Vegetables</th>
<th>Coconut</th>
<th>Banana</th>
<th>Sugarcane</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986-87</td>
<td>4156</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>6575</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>’99-2000</td>
<td>4914</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>3444</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>1465</td>
<td>1173</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>1824</td>
<td>1102</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>1348</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics for planning, (various issues), Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram
An analysis of the crop-wise area irrigated brings to our notice certain other factors. It is notable that only paddy and sugarcane register a considerable decrease in the total irrigated area. This happens along with the steep decline in the net cropped area of paddy and almost a disappearance of the cultivation of sugarcane. Coconut shows a different trend with steep decline in the area under crop and output but an increase in the irrigated area. In the beginning as well as in 2007-08 paddy is the crop most irrigated. Tubers, banana and vegetables are the items irrigated after paddy in the year 2007-08. Out of these, banana was only nominally irrigated in the beginning. There is considerable increase in the irrigated banana cultivation from 67 hectares in 1986-87 to 1348 hectares in 2007-08.

It is assumed that the preferences of cultivators regarding the crops reflect in the choice of irrigation of the crops as well. Except for coconut, all the crops which have declined in area under cultivation and output shows decrease in the area irrigated. On the other hand, crops like vegetables and banana which show increase in area under
crop and output register increase in irrigated area as well. As it is shown above, the increase in the irrigation facility over the quarter of the century under study is meager and the cultivator is left with little choice other than deciding which item is to be planted in the limited irrigated area or which item is to be irrigated with the limited water that is available. Thus, profitability of the crop depending upon the demand and price variables becomes the determining factor and accordingly the crop-wise area irrigated changes.

2.2.6 Forest

Forests serve as repositories of genetic diversity and confer hydrological benefits; besides facilitating soil and water conservation, micro-climatic modification and CO2 sequestration. Forest conservation is believed to be the only way by which nature can be saved from any kind of threat. The forests in the district which are located in Western Ghats, one of the “bio diversity hotspots “in the world can broadly be classified as evergreen, semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forest.

Timber is the most important forest produce in the district. In fact, forest is the main source of raw materials for wood based industrial units. Teak, rosewood, jack tree, Manjakadambu, Anjili, Pala etc. are some of the important varieties of timber available. Apart from providing raw materials for rayon, newsprint, plywood etc., these forests are a source for a number of useful minor products like bamboo, reeds, honey, medicinal plants and herbs.


Ever since its constitution, the district has kept its forest area preserved constant. The forest area in the district has certain notable features.

- The largest share of the land of Pathanamthitta district (58.51) is forest area. The 58.51% of the total geographical area of the district is covered with forest when the share of land for forest in the all Kerala level is just 27.83.
- The quality of the forest in the district is worth mentioning.
- The high proportion of the forest area of the district has ecological, religious, historical and economic significance in the life of the people of the district. Pilgrim centre Sabarimala, River Pampa, a number of tribal habitats and the power projects and irrigation in the district are all determined or heavily influenced by its forest area.\(^{38}\)

As it is clear from the above observation, no deforestation has taken place in the district after its formation. The reason for this achievement is mainly that the forests in the district are all well demarcated scientifically. There is no scope for any dispute and thus practically no encroachment took place. At the same time, there have been debates and disputes between the present owners of certain plantations and different contenting parties regarding the ownership of certain areas. If such present plantations be proved as belonging to the government really, then some changes in the size of the forest area would be needed. As far as the period of study is concerned, such changes do not exist.

The quality of the forest is very high. Goodrickal Range of Forest in the district constitutes a part of the most continuous rainforest in India. The forest is continuous, dense and diverse here. The variety of fauna here includes many endangered species like Nilgiri Tahr. The forest is also significant as it is the origin of the Pampa, Achankovil and many important tributaries of the Manimalayar.

Within the forest, certain changes are taking place recently when the approach to the forest is considered. In the year 2007, 148 square kilometer of the forest area under Ranny Division in the Goodrickal Range of Forest was changed into ‘Protected Area’ which gets full conservation without any human intervention. This is because the area ecologically constitutes a part of the Periyar Tiger Reserve. Another 600 square kilometer of land will soon be declared the buffer area of the Periyar Tiger Reserve. The change is clear. The long-term perspective on the forest is changing. Earlier it was ‘conservation for revenue extraction’ whereas now it is ‘conservation for the coming generations’. The changed approach is brought to effect with the active participation of the people.

2.3 Industry

Industrial performance correlates with the overall performance of an economy and therefore is the key sector in explaining the sustainability of different regional patterns in overall productivity and employment growth. The backwardness of the district in the industrial sector is notable. When the district was formed in 1982 it had only some nominal industries. Since more than half the part of the district is covered with forests large scale industries result in deforestation, and as such the scope for it is less. Shortage of energy and lack of active entrepreneurship are attributed as some other reasons. The district is also devoid of essential facilities for Industrial establishments like direct connection with Railways, National High Ways, and Airports. Migration and the flow of remittances made it a consumer district and that also contributed to a great extent to the present situation. The active real estate business resulted in a hike in the price of land and that also is another reason for the non availability of land.


40 District Plan Pathanamthitta, op.cit., 196.
The once prominent traditional industries also experienced a setback in the study period. The inflow of foreign money promoted the service sector and more people in the traditional areas shifted to service sector. In the earlier period the SC/ST people was engaged in bamboo based industries. The shortage of raw materials, the failure to find markets coupled with the changes in the socio-economic areas prompted them to shift their priority. Also the decline in the handicraft units are attributed to the shortage of forest based raw materials and the current forest laws. The reluctance of the younger generation to do traditional jobs and the lack of technical know-how also led to the decline of traditional industries. The cottage industries prominent in the district like Jagger suffered a downfall as a result of the decline in sugarcane.

The major industrial establishments in the district at the time of its formation were oil, cotton textiles, saw mill, printing and publishing, rubber, chemical products, matches, tiles, general engineering and automobiles. Out of these, rubber, printing and publishing, automobiles and general engineering only employed three digit numbers of persons. Together they employed more than 60% of the total number of people employed in the different industries. Regarding the Large Scale, Medium Scale and Small Scale Industries, the first and the second group are only nominal and that too are in the private sector. Small scale industries registered a growth in the district.

### 2.3.1 Small Scale Industries

An overview of the number of Small Scale Industries (SSI) units functioning in the district shows that the number went on increasing gradually from 1984 to 2000 and then decreased. More importantly, the trend is seen the same in the all Kerala level as well. In the year 1984, there were only 60 Small Scale Industrial units in the Pathanamthitta district. In the next year, the number almost doubled and became 110. This year, the increase in the number of SSI units in the all Kerala level was less than 20%, i.e., from 3382 in 1984 to 3866 in 1985. The next year increase in SSI units in the Pathanamthitta district was just below 50% and the same in all Kerala level was 30% as compared to the previous year. The increase in SSI units in the Pathanamthitta
district from 1986 to 1990 was from 160 to 505, i.e., more than 300%. The same in all Kerala level is less than 80%, from 4977 in 1986 to 8847 in 1990.

Table 2.6: Number of Registered SSI Units in the District and in the State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pathanamthitta</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1984-85</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>3382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-86</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>3866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988-89</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>8236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>8847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-96</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>16903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-00</td>
<td>1209</td>
<td>20006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>12334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>13958</td>
<td>288869</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Economic Review, Various Issues, State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram

During the three years from 1990 to 1993 the increase in SSI units in the Pathanamthitta district slowed down and it marked a much lesser growth from 505 to 670 in these three years. Now, the all Kerala level of growth rate overtook the Pathanamthitta rate for the first time after the formation of the district. The Pathanamthitta district’s SSI growth rate is 32.67% in these three years and the same in all Kerala level is 77.76%. The slowed growth rate continued to slow down further until 1999, but still maintaining a positive growth rate. In the all Kerala level, the growth rate was positive for one more year – until 2000. Throughout the period from 1993 to 1999-2000, the SSI units in the Pathanamthitta district increased in number, but only at a rate below the state average.

After 1999-2000, both the district and state averages show decreasing tendency. Here, the rate of decrease in the district is nominally lower than that in the State level. During the four years from 2000 to 2003, the rate of decrease in the number of SSI units in the Pathanamthitta district was 73.35%. The same in all Kerala level is
73.58%. But in 2007-08 periods a tremendous increase in number can be noted both in the district as well as in the State. Thus referring to the changes in the number of SSI units, the industrial growth in Pathanamthitta district from 1984 to 2008 shows four remarkable phases.

**Phase I: High Rate of Increase:** The first phase is from 1984 to 1990. In this phase, SSI units in Pathanamthitta district increased at a rate higher than the State average.

**Phase II: Slowed Rate of Increase:** The second phase is from 1991 to 1999. In this phase, SSI units in Pathanamthitta district increased but only at a rate lower than the State average. SSI units in Pathanamthitta district began to decline thereafter.

**Phase III: Steep Decrease:** The third phase is from 1999-2000 to 2003. In this phase, SSI units in Pathanamthitta district decreased at a rate almost same as the State average.

**Phase IV: Slowed Rate of Increase:** The fourth phase is from 2003 to 2008. In this phase, SSI units in Pathanamthitta district increased but only at a rate lower than the State average.

**Table 2.7: Total SSI Units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pathanamthitta</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>2140</td>
<td>10250</td>
<td>13112</td>
<td>13615</td>
<td>13958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>40342</td>
<td>73522</td>
<td>219833</td>
<td>270344</td>
<td>280584</td>
<td>288869</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Economic Review, various issues, State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram

The total number of SSI Units reveals that the number and percentage of SSI units in the district as against the total in the state is increasing in the district since its formation. In 1987 Pathanamthitta district had 359 SSI units whereas the figure for
Kerala was 40342. This means that the district possessed 0.9% of the total share of the State. In 1991 the total number of units marked an increase in both the State and the District and the share of the district increased to 2.9%. By 2000 it again marked an increase to 4.7% and in 2003 to 4.9% and 4.9% in 2005 and 4.83% in 2008.

**Figure: 2.2: SSI Units Increase in Pathanamthitta in comparison to the State Level Growth**

Even though agriculture is declining it forms the backbone of economy and as such agro based industries have good scope here. Among the 6895 industries 759 were agro based and that 601 were in Panchayats and 158 were in Municipalities. The allied sector of agriculture namely animal husbandry also had its scope for 161 industries.
Rubber, which is getting a prominence in the district, has 285 small-scale industries to its credit with a rural and urban break up of 205 and 80 respectively. Textile Industry is making a lead in the district with 1258 units. Here too the contribution of rural area is more-1030 units, whereas the urban areas support only 228 units.

Since the half portion of the district is forest, industries based on forests are also getting prominence. Among the 340 units 271 were in the rural and 69 in the urban setup. Migration and other peculiarities of the economy have created a construction boom in the district which has increased the scope of building material industries. Here the rural and urban break up is 446 and 86. Besides this engineering, chemical and electronics industries are also functioning here. They were 162, 719 and 324 and here too the share is more in rural areas.

2.3.2 Registered Working Factories

During the district formation period there were 78 registered working factories when the state had 11097. This denotes that the district had only 0.70% of the State’s share. In the consecutive years it started increasing. By 1990 Pathanamthitta District occupied 2.2% of the state’s share in this field and this increased to 2.36% in 1995, 2.83% in 2000 and 2.86% in 2006.

Table 2.8: Number of Registered Factories and employment in the district and State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>PATHANAMTHITTA</th>
<th>KERALA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>8522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>12325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>9447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>11475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Economic Review, various issues, State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram
Trends in Registered Working Factories show conformity with that of the SSI units. The number went on increasing steadily during the period 1985 to 1990-91 (from 78 in 1985 to 586 in 1991). A steady decline was experienced in the next year (1992) bringing the number down. Then, till 2000, the rate of growth slowed down and progressed in a slow pace. The net increase in number over these 9 years was only 197, marking a 59.88% increase over the period. In the third phase from 2000 onwards, it shows declining tendency. The total number declined from 526 in 2000 to 505 in 2003. Thus when we analyze the progress of registered working factories it can be noted that though the share of the district in the all Kerala sphere is increasing the pace of development is slow. The district holds only 2 to 3% of Kerala’s Industries.

In the case of employment in registered working factories also an increase can be noted. Starting as 660 in 1985 i.e., 0.22% of Kerala’s share it increased to 2.2% within a period of ten years. By 2000 it increased to 2.80% of Kerala’s average.

**Table 2.9: Participation of Social Sections and Genders in Industrial Initiatives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>SC/ST</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>2154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>3310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>1221</td>
<td>2140</td>
<td>9717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>1267</td>
<td>3219</td>
<td>4920</td>
<td>21195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>5261</td>
<td>7828</td>
<td>29390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>4161</td>
<td>6599</td>
<td>16369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>2532</td>
<td>6119</td>
<td>9170</td>
<td>23486</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Economic Review, various issues, State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram

When the participation of social sections and genders in Industrial Initiatives was analyzed, in 1987, there were 55 Scheduled Castes, and no Scheduled Tribes and 35 women initiatives in SSIs in Pathanamthitta District. This was out of a total of 359
initiatives. In 1988, women initiatives increased to 94 in number when the SC initiative decreased to 33. There were 662 total initiatives investing a total of Rs 913 Lakhs. The participation of SC/ST sections in industrial initiatives shows a gradual increase from 1987 to 2007. It rose from 55 to 519 in the referred period. Same is the trend in the participation of women. The number rose from 35 to 2532 during the period referred above.

2.4 Labour and Employment

Labour is considered as all human resources available to society for use in the process of production. The major sources of data on employment and unemployment are decennial population Censuses, surveys of the National Sample Survey Organization (NSS) on employment and unemployment, surveys of the Department of Economics and Statistics and data of the Employment Exchanges relating to job seekers. The surveys conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics also provide data on employment and unemployment. The concept of ‘work’, as defined in the Census of India has been broadly the same in the past five censuses, but the scope of the definition has been extended from time to time. Work is defined as participation in any economically productive activity with or without compensation, wages or profit.

2.4.1 Composition of Workers

Census classifies workers as Main Workers, Marginal Workers and Non Workers. Those workers who had worked for the major part of the reference period (i.e. 6 months or more) were termed as Main Workers. Those workers who had not worked for the major part of the reference period (i.e. 6 months or more) were termed as Marginal Workers. A person who did not work at all during the reference period was treated as a non-worker.
Census data regarding the same is available for the years 1991, 2001 and 2011. A general overview of the composition of workers in the district in the year 1981 is also available. There were 286 thousand main workers in Pathanamthitta district in the year 1981. This constituted 25.81% of population. Marginal workers in the year were 37 thousand in number and it constituted 3.34%. Non-workers were more than double the number of the workers covering 70.85% of the population. There were 785 thousand of them.

Table 2.10: Composition of Workers in the District and the State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Main Workers</th>
<th>Marginal Workers</th>
<th>Non workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>1188332</td>
<td>321595</td>
<td>31571</td>
<td>835166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1234016</td>
<td>285844</td>
<td>80205</td>
<td>867967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1197412</td>
<td>293257</td>
<td>99537</td>
<td>804618</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The decade between 1981 and 1991 marked considerable increase in the share of the main workers in total population. Out of the total population of 1188332 the main workers constitute 321595. The share rose by 1.21% over the period and reached 27.02% of population. At the same time, a decrease was experienced in the number and percentage of the marginal workers. In 1991, there were 32 thousand marginal workers constituting 2.65% of the population. Marginal workers decreased by 5 thousand when main workers increased by 35 thousand. In the district the number of females outnumbers the males as marginal workers. Out of the 31571 Marginal workers 11387 are males and 20184 are females. Here the female proportion of 64% is much ahead of the state proportion of 53%.

Non workers exceed main and marginal workers. In the district the nonworking male and female proportion is 1: 1.79. The non working women’s proportion is slightly higher than the state average.
This trend over the period 1981-1991 is seen reversed in the next decade. The combination of main, marginal and non workers changed. Total population rose by 46 thousands during these 10 years and reached 1234016 in 2001. The number and share of marginal workers marked considerable growth. The share rose by 3.79% and reached 6.48% of the total population. A corresponding decrease resulted in the number and share of the main workers and the share of the main workers came down to 23.18% i.e., a 3.84% decrease. As the differences in the share of main and marginal workers adjusted against each other, the share of non-workers remained almost the same with a nominal increase of the share of this head by 0.05% to reach 70.34% of the total population.

In 2011, out of the total population, 32.8% were total workers. Among them 24.49% are main workers, 8.3% marginal workers and 67% are non workers. What is notable is a reversal in the tendency of the changes in the combination of workers in the 1991-2001 decade as against the decade prior to it. Altogether, the tendency during the first of these two decades was an increase in the number and share of workers against non workers and in the latter decades the number of workers decreased as against non workers. The decrease takes place not only in share but also in the actual number of workers. The decrease in industries and steep decline of the agricultural sector coupled with the opening of new avenues in tertiary sector may explain the shifts and turns in the combination of workers in the district during these two decades.

2.4.2 Categories of Workers

In the 1991 Census, workers were categorized into nine occupational categories, viz., 1) Cultivators 2) Agricultural Labourers 3) Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Plantation, Orchards and Allied activities 4) Mining and Quarrying 5) Manufacturing and Repairs; a) Household Industries (b) Industries other than Household Industries 6) Construction 7) Trade and Commerce 8) Transport, Storage and Communication and 9) Services. However in 2001 and 2011, a four-fold
classification of workers has been carried out: 1) Cultivators, 2) Agricultural labourers, 3) Workers in Household Industry and 4) Other Workers.

Table 2.11: Percentage Distribution of Workers of Pathanamthitta District and Kerala State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PATHANAMTHITTA</th>
<th>KERALA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivators</td>
<td>25.82</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Labourers</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Industry</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Workers</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>59.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivators</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Labourers</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Industry</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Workers</td>
<td>68.1</td>
<td>77.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivators</td>
<td>10.77</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Labourers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Industry</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Workers</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


In the study period, Pathanamthitta district and Kerala in general experienced notable changes in the labor patterns. The change is multi faceted and complex. In many respects, the district follows the trends observed in the state in general. Sometimes the change in the district is more spectacular and larger in volume when compared to the corresponding aspects of change in the State level. In certain aspects, it is the other way round.
Definitely, Pathanamthitta had a higher agrarian nature rather than the rest of Kerala in average as far as the labor distribution is considered. In the census period 1991, out of the 8301087 total main workers in Kerala, 1015983 were cultivators. This accounts for the 12.24% of the total. The corresponding figures for district Pathanamthitta in the same year were 321595, 83027, and 25.82% respectively. It is thus observed that in 1991, the share of cultivators in the main workers was double in Pathanamthitta when compared to the same in Kerala. This comparatively higher agrarian preference of labor on the part of the district of Pathanamthitta is absent when the agricultural laborers’ statistics for the year are considered. The percentage of agricultural laborers against the total main workers in Kerala in 1991 was 25.54% and the same for Pathanamthitta was 27.11%. The difference is just 1.57%. When the high agrarian
nature of the district is considered the reason for this difference probably may be the fact that family labor was the main form of labor used in the area of agriculture in Pathanamthitta district. The comparatively smaller size of the peasant holdings in the district due to demographic pressures could be the factor that works behind this trend. Cultivator would be in a position to cultivate his land using his family labor and in less want of the service of the agricultural laborers.

Livestock, forestry, fishing and hunting accommodated 9.24% of the total main workers in Kerala in 1991. The % of main workers of Pathanamthitta in the year in this category was 6.37% only. Mining and quarrying accommodated around 2.99% of the total main workers of Kerala in 1991. The corresponding figure in Pathanamthitta district in the year was 0.55%. Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repair in household industry accommodated 2.58% of total main workers in Kerala in 1991. 1.18% of the main workers of Pathanamthitta also worked in this field in the year. The respective figures for non-household industry in the year for the state and the district were 11.59% and 0.99%.

The largest difference in the share of laborers employed in a particular sector in Pathanamthitta as compared to the same in All Kerala average is thus seen in the area of non household industry. It is about 1150% in the all Kerala average when compared to the Pathanamthitta’s labor pattern. This is possibly because organized industrial activity was very less in Pathanamthitta district when compared to the state average. A low rate of industrialization is evident.

In 1991, 74.41% of main workers of Kerala were rurally employed and only 25.59% were urban employed. The corresponding figures for Pathanamthitta are 87.25% and 12.75%. It is observed that the percentage of total main workers in urban background in Pathanamthitta district in 1991 was around half of the state average. The labor pattern in this respect is thus fitting to the rural nature of Pathanamthitta district. Both the state and the district labor patterns in 1991 show that the district in 1991 was around half of the state average. A major part of the workers were males – 77.15%
in the state and 82.51% in the district. The rural – urban change in the male – female combination of main workers do not exceed 2.5%.

The main workers of Kerala in 1991 numbered 8301087, the marginal workers 845031 and non-workers 19952400 and all the three together numbered 29098518. This means that out of the total of all these three categories, the main workers constituted 28.53% only. Marginal workers constituted 2.9% and non-workers 68.57%. The respective figures for Pathanamthitta district are 27.06%, 2.66% and 70.28%. No considerable difference is observed between the patterns in the district and in the state. At the same time, near 70% of the total is covered by the category non-workers is notable. The only labor category in 1991 in Kerala that has a larger women share when compared to the men is manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs in household industry. In this category in 1991, 47.40% were male and 52.60% were females. In the case of Pathanamthitta district, in all the ten categories men outnumber women.

In 2001, changes can be noticed in the labor pattern in the district. The category of cultivators and agricultural laborers is getting thinner both in the state and in the district but it is happening in the Pathanamthitta district in a higher acceleration. The cultivators of Kerala occupied 7.12% of the total main workers. In the case of Pathanamthitta district, the same is 13.57%. This tells that the share of cultivators in Pathanamthitta district is just below the double of the same of the state. This means that the share of main workers in the state experienced a 5.12% decline against the total main workers over the period from 1991 to 2001. 12.24% came down to 7.12%. This is a 42% decline over 10 years. The same experienced in the Pathanamthitta district over the same period was 25.82% to 13.57% which is 47.45% decline. Agricultural laborers constituted 12.40% of the total main workers of Kerala in 2001. The same in the case of Pathanamthitta district is 15.72%. These two figures are against 25.54% and 27.11% respectively in the year 1991. This means that there was a heavy decline in the category of agricultural laborers as against the total work force both in the state and in the district almost in the same degree during the period. Both
have become thinner by half. The difference between the Kerala and Pathanamthitta proportions of the agricultural laborers also has become thinner.

Even though Pathanamthitta district lags behind the State average in the case of the share of the household industrial workers in the year 2001, the district registered a growth considerably higher than that of the state. Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repair in household industry accommodated 2.58% of total main workers in Kerala in 1991. This sector employed 3.35% of the total main workers of Kerala in 2001. A growth of around 40% is observed. The respective figures for Pathanamthitta district are 1.18% and 2.54% respectively. The district registered 110% growth in this regard. Still, the sector but occupies only a minor share of the total labor population.

The seven industrial categories of workers – those other than the cultivators, agricultural workers and household industries – registered considerable growth in the state and in the district over the period 1991 to 2001. But the development in Pathanamthitta district is slower than the same in the state average. They together employed 59.64% of the total main workers of Kerala and 46% of them in the Pathanamthitta district in the year 1991. The respective figures for 2001 are 77.13% and 68.13%.

In 2011, 10.77% are cultivators, 12% are agricultural labourers, 2.5% household industry and 74.6% other workers. In the case of this All Kerala figures are 5.8%, 9.85%, 2% and 82% respectively. Here the share of cultivators and agricultural labourers are getting thinner both in the State and in the district. But the intensity is more in Pathanamthitta. But the gap between the State and the district in this regard is getting thinner. No change is noticed in the labour pattern in Household industry sector. In the case of ‘other workers category’ a notable increase can be seen but that is in tune with the State. It is seen that the percentage of non workers against the total workers is decreasing both in Kerala and in the district but the change in the district is slower than that in the state average. More importantly, the percentage of dependant
population is comparatively more sizeable in the district. It is important to note the fact that in the year 2001 the non-workers of Kerala were 209.6% of the total workers of Kerala. The same about the Pathanamthitta district was 237.12%, considerably higher than the state average. The respective figures in the year 1991 were 240.35% and 259.69%. Clearly, both the state and the district experienced considerable reduction in the percentage of non-working population as against the working population. The state could reduce it by 30.75% when the district could do it by 22.57% only. In 2011 census also the non workers were more in number than workers but the District could reduce it nominally and the percentage came down to 204.8%.

Regarding the percentage of males in the total main workers, it is noticeable that the state and the district are experiencing opposite trends. The share of males in the total labor force increased in the state average by 1.29% whereas the same decreased in the Pathanamthitta district by 3.18% during the period under study. The percentage of males in the total main workers of Kerala in the year 2001 was 78.44% and the corresponding figure for Pathanamthitta district was 79.33%. The corresponding figures in1991 were 77.15% and 82.51% respectively. In 2011 the percentage of males in the total workers in the district has reduced to 71.7%. Contribution of women workers is decreasing in the Pathanamthitta district as against the state average trend probably because of the so called income effect due to migration where in higher amount of household income discourages the participation of economic activity by the female members of the house hold.43

2.4.3 Sectoral Distribution of Work Force

Workers can be categorized into primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. The primary sector consists of occupations such as cultivators and agricultural laborers and comprises mostly unskilled workers. The secondary sector includes construction and

manufacturing jobs as well as household industry workers. The tertiary sector includes jobs in the service sector and public sector jobs.

Table 2.12: Sectoral Distribution of Work Force (District and State) in 1991, 2001 and 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.S.</td>
<td>S.S.</td>
<td>T.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.S.</td>
<td>S.S.</td>
<td>T.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.S.</td>
<td>S.S.</td>
<td>T.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATHANAMTHITTA</td>
<td>52.92</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>45.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>68.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>74.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERALA</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>59.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>77.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>82.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Figure 2.4: Sectoral Distribution of Work Force (District and State) in 1991, 2001 and 2011
The sectoral distribution of workforce signifies a change in the distribution from primary to tertiary overcoming the secondary. This is in conformity with the all Kerala pattern. In 1991 census period the district was predominantly agricultural with primary sector (52.92%) in dominance against the State pattern where Tertiary sector in lead. But by 2001 the predominance in the primary sector gave way to prominence in service sector overcoming the secondary. Here the growth of the district is faster than of the State. In 2011 also the same trend persists and an increase in the importance of tertiary sector can be analysed. When the primary sector is concerned the importance of it diminished but the district is above the State average. The intense cultivation of rubber and the slight increase in paddy cultivation in the period just before 2011 can be attributed as the reasons for this.

Tertiary sector plays a very crucial role in the district’s economy. Even before the State formation, Travancore area witnessed growth in education, health, banking, transport and communication which contributed much to the development of tertiary sector, which in turn led to economic development. In all the above categories the district had a strong base as it was a part of Travancore. The progressive policies followed by the Travancore rulers, contributed much to the development of education. The Christian missionaries took advantage of the situation and started several schools that gave the required fillip to educational development.44

The Travancore government has pursued certain progressive policies in the field of education, which contributed directly or indirectly to the improvement in health status.45 The commercialization of agriculture resulted in the large scale economic


expansion. The overall economic development created favourable conditions to the growth of trading activity which provided the stimulus for the change over from indigenous credit institutions to modern banking. Trade demanded banking services; at the same time it provided the necessary resources for the growth of banks. The Travancore region, which was the centre of greater development of banking facilities, was also developed in the sphere of transport. The commercialization of agriculture and the resultant increase in the volume of trade has played an active role in the emergence of a well-developed transport network in Travancore.

The rising living standards will fuel the demand for commercial, social and community services. Construction, retailing, education, health, entertainment and tourism will expand more rapidly than ever before. The district level break up of NSDP at current prices in the present century shows the importance given to the tertiary sector of the economy. In 2002-03, Rs.86017 lakhs was given for primary sector which includes agriculture, fishing and animal husbandry and 46456 for secondary but the tertiary sector including transport, communication, banking and

---


insurance etc occupied 161312 lakhs. Likewise at constant prices also tertiary is in the lead overcoming primary and secondary.49

The indicators of social change like education, health, banking, transport and communications, provides a comprehensive picture of tertiary sector development in the district. Pathanamthitta district has significant achievements in education, health, transport, banking sectors compared to other districts of Kerala. The improvement in the literacy rate of the district, the indicators of health compared to developed countries, etc. created the necessary conditions for the growth of tertiary sector in the district. The intensification of the process of commercialization of agriculture and the increasing inflow of gulf remittances further accelerated employment in the tertiary sector.

2.4.4 Age wise Classification

The census report gives the age distribution of laborers in three categories: 5–14 years, 15-59 years and 60+ years. Among all these categories, both in Kerala and in Pathanamthitta district, above 90% of the laborers were in the 15 to 59 years age group. But in 1991 and 2001 census a different trend that can be noticed in the Pathanamthitta district is the higher proportion of main and marginal workers in the 60plus age group compared to that of Kerala. The proportion of female workers is very less compared to the males in Pathanamthitta district.

2.4.5 Quality of Work Force

As far as the level of education of the workers is considered, both in the district and in the state, there were very few illiterates – around 2% to 3% of the total. At the same time, illiteracy among female workers stands around 10%. A major share of the

laborers was educated up to primary and middle school level. No considerable difference is observed between men and women laborers in the case of their level of education. Only when coming to higher education, we see considerably more men getting it as against women. But illiteracy is found more with Agricultural labourers as against the other categories. Again, among male main agricultural laborers, the percentage of illiteracy was 8.5 and the same among women of the category was 21.9%. It is interesting to note that, there were 80 graduate women and no male graduate in this category in Pathanamthitta district. In the case of household industry workers of Pathanamthitta district, there were 30 male and no female graduates. Among the marginal workers of the districts, women achieved more higher education. There were 254 female and 205 male graduates among them. There were 56 male and 47 female post graduates also in this category.

2.4.6 Work Participation Rate

Work Participation Rate (WPR) is the percentage of all workers to the total population. Workforce participation rate, a useful measure of economic activity is computed as the ratio of total workers to the total population, expressed as a percentage. Population Census, conducted once in 10 years and the quinquennial sample surveys of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on Employment and Unemployment are the two main sources of data on work participation in the country. Worker-population ratios provide an idea about the participation of population in economic activity.\footnote{Mahendra Dev S. and Vijay Mahajan, “Employment and Unemployment”, Economic and Political Weekly (March 2003): 1252.} The same for the three censuses are available.

2.4.6.1 Total Work Participation Rate

To get an idea about the participation in economic activities during the census period 1991, about 29.7% of the total population of the district was in the working force with
figure for male work force being about 48% as compared to that of 12.3% for females. The district stood 11\textsuperscript{th} among the districts of the state in that year in the case of work participation. Pathanamthitta’s work participation rate was 1.7% less than the state average (31.4%).

Table 2.13: Work Participation Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTA*</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERALA</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Pathanamthitta


Male Work Participation Rate (WPR) of Pathanamthitta was 48.0 in 1991 whereas the female Work Participation Rate was 12.3. The male Work Participation Rate was almost 4 times the female Work Participation Rate in 1991. The difference in male and female Work Participation Rate is higher only in three other districts of Kerala viz., Kottayam, Kozhikode and Malappuram. It is noticeable that the male Work Participation Rate of Pathanamthitta was 0.4% higher than the state average in 1991. The female Work Participation Rate of Pathanamthitta was but 3.4% less than the state average. As far as the male Work Participation Rate is considered, Pathanamthitta was 6\textsuperscript{th} among the districts of Kerala. But the female Work Participation Rate of Pathanamthitta in 1991 was only at the 11\textsuperscript{th} place among the districts of Kerala with Kottayam, Kozhikode and Malappuram behind her. It is also remarkable that the position of the district in the case of the total Work Participation Rate is exactly the same 11\textsuperscript{th} with the same three districts of Kottayam, Kozhikode and Malappuram behind her. Thus it is clear that it was the backwardness in the female Work Participation Rate that kept Pathanamthitta below the state average in case of total Work Participation Rate.
In ten years from 1991 to 2001, the Work Participation Rate of Pathanamthitta experienced no change and it remained just the same. But the district’s position in the State in this regard further declined and in 2001, it stood at 12th with Kannur overtaking it. The Work Participation Rate of Pathanamthitta stagnated over the said period when the same of 10 districts of Kerala marked observable growth. The state average also grew from 31.4 to 32.3, a 0.9% increase as against the total population and a 2.87% increase against the 1991 Work Participation Rate over the 10 years. In the next ten years (2001-2011), a minor increase in Work Participation Rate can be noticed in the district. Here the Work Participation Rate increased from 29.7 to 32.8, a 3.1% increase. The State average also grew from 32.3 to 34.7, a 2.4% increase.

2.4.6.2 Male Work Participation Rate

The most glaring deviation in the tendency of change during the 1991–2001 periods is observed in the case of male Work Participation Rate. Pathanamthitta district is the only district in Kerala that marked a decline in the case of male Work Participation Rate between 1991 and 2001. In Pathanamthitta, the figure fell by 0.4, from 48.00 to 47.60. All the other 13 districts of Kerala marked growth in this regard during the stated period. The state average of growth in male Work Participation Rate between 1991 and 2001 was 2.6, from 47.6 to 50.2. The slow growth in agricultural employment due to the declining acreage under rice cultivation and the growth of area under low labour absorbing cash crops may be the reason behind this. The migration of men in search of employment can also be cited as a reason behind this. But in 2011 a reverse effect can be seen. Here the male work participation rate increased by 2.6 points. In the case of the State also 2.5 point increase can be noted.


There still exists a large difference between the work participation rates of males and females, which is an important aspect of gender inequality. Literacy, together with non-domestic employment, which gave women access to independent sources of income, have been regarded as important indicators of women’s ‘status’, which affected fertility and mortality outcomes.

---


The work participation rate of a State indicates to a great extent the economic empowerment of women in the society. The status of women is intimately connected with their economic position, which in turn depends on opportunities for participation in economic activities. Changes in the sectoral distribution of female work force in Kerala clearly shows that structural transformation of women’s economic activity have indeed taken place in the State with primary sector losing its importance and tertiary sector taking up its place.\(^5\)

Changes in the female Work Participation Rate in Pathanamthitta district from 1991 to 2001 show very different tendencies. In this head, Pathanamthitta marked a growth by 0.7%. The growth of house hold industries in the district which accommodates more women than men may be the probable reason behind this growth. This growth is significant because it was achieved when 9 districts of Kerala showed decline in female Work Participation Rate. The state average of change in female Work Participation Rate during the 10 years was \(-0.5\). The state average of decline in female Work Participation Rate stood at \(-0.5\) because the opposite tendency was very strong in the districts of Kottayam (+1.8), Idukki (+4.3) and Kannur (+1.4). In other words, the decline in female Work Participation Rate in the other 10 districts is at an average considerably lesser than the state average of \(-0.5\). Even when the female Work Participation Rate of Pathanamthitta marked an exceptional growth during the period 1991-2001, it stood only in the 12th place among the districts of Kerala in this regard in 2001 with only Malappuram and Kozhikode behind it.

In 2011, Pathanamthitta increased the gap in the growth of Work Participation Rate to 4.3 points where as the State did it only 2.8 points. But the female work participation rate is far behind that of men in all the census periods. Explanations for depressed economic activity rate, the female labour force being more affected in the process are many and varied. It can be explained as an increase in the population among

jobseekers occurred due to the shift in the age structure of the population in favour of working ages. This in turn is due to the demographic transition with a low proportion of children and a high proportion of elderly.\textsuperscript{56} Migration also depresses female workforce participation through the so-called 'income-effect', wherein higher amount of household income discourages the participation in economic activity by the female members of the household. This hypothesis perfectly fits for Pathanamthitta which has high incidence of migration, also has the lowest rate of female work participation in the state. Sex ratio, also affects workforce participation. In Kerala sex ratio is higher as in most of the districts females outnumber males. As the total population of females is higher than that of males, female workforce participation rate can be depressed to a certain extent.

Population, workforce and employment are closely interrelated and change in the size, composition and distribution of the population will alter the demographic structure of the labour force. In turn, a change in the size of the labour force, level of employment and job opportunities will affect components of population change, particularly fertility and migration.\textsuperscript{57} Longer periods of time spent in education\textsuperscript{58}, decline in participation rates of younger age groups\textsuperscript{59}, reduction of area under paddy, changes in operational holdings, growth in per capita income, are yet another reasons behind the low work participation rate.

\textsuperscript{56} Zacariah K.C., \textit{The Syrian Christians of Kerala-Demographic and Socio-Economic Transition in the 20\textsuperscript{th} Century} (Hyderabad: Orient Longman, 2006) 182.


2.4.7 Percentage Distribution of Category of Other Workers

The census definition of "other workers" includes workers who are employed in government jobs, transportation, banking, social work, teaching, and entertainment. All occupations other than agricultural laborers, cultivators, or household industry workers are included in the "other workers" category. The significantly higher representation of Kerala women in this category is due to the growth in employment in the tertiary sector.

The category “Other Workers” forms the major share of the workers in the district Pathanamthitta in the last two censuses. In 2001, 60.9% of the male workers and 74.5% of the female workers come under this category. Together they form the 64% of the total workers of the district. This is but 9.2% below the state average. The state average of the percentage of total workers employed in the category “Other Workers” is 73.2. In 2011 also the same trend continues. Here altogether ‘other workers ‘formed 72.5% of the total workers. 68.7% of the male workers and 81% females come under this group.

In 2001 an interesting contrast is observed in the percentage of male and female workers under the category “Other Workers” in relation to the respective state averages. The state average of the percentage male workers employed in the category “Other Workers” is 75.5. The same for district Pathanamthitta is 60.9. In other words, the percentage of male workers employed in the category “Other Workers” in Pathanamthitta is 14.6% lower than the same of the state average.

On the other hand, the state average of the percentage of female workers employed in the category “Other Workers” is 66.0. The same for district Pathanamthitta is 74.5. In other words, the percentage of female workers employed in the category “Other Workers” in Pathanamthitta is 8.5% higher than the same of the state average. The same trend repeats in 2011 also.
The percentage of male and female workers in Pathanamthitta district employed in the category “Other Workers” show just opposite tendencies when compared with the respective state averages. The significantly higher representation of women in this category is due to the growth in employment in the tertiary sector and increase in the literacy rate.

2.4.8 Rate of Unemployment

Unemployment, the most serious form of capability failure is measured through labour force surveys which elicit the ‘activity’ status of the respondent for a given reference period. In India, employment-unemployment surveys are conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSS) Organization. Industrial backwardness of the State, together with the limited scope for absorption of more workers in agriculture and the considerable dependence on salaried employment has led to large-scale and growing unemployment in Kerala. Influx of a large number of women into the labour force, ageing of the labour force, large increase in the number of persons with secondary or higher levels of education and emigration and inward remittances are some other factors that could be associated with the increase in unemployment. The rapid expansion of higher education in the State and the consequent steady increase in the supply of graduates swell the reservoir of educated unemployed especially women. Women are increasingly opting higher education and are entering into the labour market more frequently. The fact that educated women have distinct job preferences has been well documented. Emigration has had direct as well as indirect impact on

60 Human Development Report, op.cit. 16.

61 Ibid.


the employment situation in the state\textsuperscript{64}. Migration of workers to countries in the Gulf region is an important feature of Kerala’s labour market that has markedly reduced rates of unemployment in the State\textsuperscript{65}.

Pathanamthitta district is marked by severe unemployment rates. The statistics of unemployment in the district Pathanamthitta for 1998 and 2003 are available. In the year 1998, the rate of unemployment in the district Pathanamthitta was 12.9\% and it grew to 22.9\% by the year 2003, a 10\% increase. The state averages of rate of unemployment in these 2 years were 11.2\% and 19.2\% respectively, marking an 8\% growth. In 1998, the rate of unemployment in Pathanamthitta was 1.7\% higher than the state average. In 2003, the district had an unemployment rate 3.7\% higher than the state average, the figures being 22.9\% and 19.2\% respectively. Coming to the age group 20 to 29 years, the unemployment rate (54.5\%) in Pathanamthitta is 17.3\% higher than the state average (37.2\%).

Altogether the changes in the labour market is in conformity with the changes in agriculture along with a multiple other factors. As the district is in the fore front of Migration and when labor migration takes place from the peasant families, the agriculture land is left uncultivated in many cases, especially in the case of labor intensive cultivations like that of paddy cultivation which is fast disappearing from the district. In case of the expansion of the cultivation of cash crops, which is also promoted by the liberal international trade of the period, one can see that the cash crops that are increasingly cultivated in Pathanamthitta district are not labor intensive.

\textsuperscript{64}Irudaya Rajan S. and Zachariah K C., \textit{Migration and Development: The Kerala Experience} (Delhi: Danish books, 2009) 12.

2.5 Infrastructure

Infrastructure is usually defined as underlying basic buildings, institutions and facilities or other essential elements that are necessary to sustain and enable economic growth in the economy. It has been regarded as an integral part of development as a system of providing and delivering basic services that people need for everyday life—water, sanitation and other health facilities, modern energy, roads and other aspects of transport and access to modern information communication technology—and thus helping to achieve development goals.

The significance of infrastructure in economic growth has long been recognized. Infrastructure contributes indirectly, as an intermediate input, by increasing the productivity of other inputs in the production process. The role of infrastructure is crucial for agricultural, industrial and overall economic development. It also, incidentally, provides, basic amenities, which improve the quality of life. A proposition of chain interaction between human development and economic growth is suggested whereby the human development had achieved by means of infrastructure development propelled economic growth which in turn has led to further human development. Composition of economic infrastructure changes significantly with per capita income. Over and above, infrastructure continues to be a serious constraint on country's economic growth potential and is vital for accelerating economic development in the economy.

---


reliability of infrastructure are thus important preconditions for overall economic growth.

The infrastructure development of any country includes both economic infrastructure development that is the development of various sectors like Energy, Power, Telecom, Transport, Finance etc. and also the social infrastructure development including education and health. Physical and financial infrastructure helps the movement of direct productive activities and thus, improves the physical resource base in the economy. Social infrastructure, on the contrary, improves the human resource base in the country. As economies mature and most of their basic consumption demands are met, the share of agriculture in the economy shrinks and more service related infrastructure is required.

Here the trends in the infrastructural growth in the District in the past two and a half decades are analyzed. More clearly, it is the relative position of the district in the scale of infrastructure development in Kerala. The indicators used here are economic infrastructure facilities like transport and communication, banking, irrigation and social infrastructure facilities like education and health.

2.5.1 Economic Infrastructure Facilities

Transport Infrastructure is the backbone of a nation’s economy and has become one of the most critical elements of economic liberalization strategies of countries throughout the world. Of the various modes of transport, Road Transport is vital to economic development, trade and social upgradation. Network of roads are necessary for supporting agriculture and industry. Not only that an excellent transportation facility is essential for making education and health facilities accessible to the populace. Roads promote communication with nearby towns, facilitate the sale of agricultural
surplus and import of manufactured goods and provide local residents with information about outside events through the delivery of such items as newspapers.  

Transport development in Travancore area owes very much to the growth and development of agriculture even from the time of the British. The commercialization of agriculture and the resultant increase in the volume of trade has played an active role in the emergence of a well-developed transport network in Travancore. The transport sector began to show signs of development when British capital entered the plantation sector on a massive scale. The spread of tea, coffee and rubber plantations in remote areas necessitated the construction of roads to facilitate the movement of men and materials from the plantation area to the trading centers. This led to the development of internal transport facilities.

Pathanamthitta district is connected to other districts through road transport. Even though National Highways do not pass through the district, it is well connected by State Highways and other types of roads. The State Highways passing through the district are SH-1 known as M.C. Road having a length of 34.62km, SH-7 i.e. Thiruvalla-Kumbazha (33km), SH-6 Kayamkulam-Thiruvala (9.16km), SH-8 Punalur-Muvattupuzha (47.90), SH-9 Kottayam-Kozhencherry(16.23km), SH-10 Mavelikkara-Kozhencherry (8.84km), SH-11 Kayamkulam-punalur (3.70km) and SH-37 Adoor-Sasthamkotta (6.40 km)

The total length of all the roads in the district in 87-88 was 1425 kms. Here the state average was 19752 i.e. the district holds 7.2% of the state. Out of this length State Highways occupy a length of 173 km, other major district roads 458 kms other department roads 656 kms and village roads 138 kms. By 1990’s the length increased

---


to 1473 and it was 7.4% of state share. State Highways, Major district roads Other Department Roads increased in length whereas village roads reduced in length, a trend similar to the all Kerala pattern.

Based on the surface of roads they are divided into cement concrete, blacktopped, water bound macadam and other types. Out of the 1425 k.m. of roads all these categories were available. Later water bound macadam roads disappeared from the district. In 1986-87, 85% of the roads were blacktopped which increased to 99.7% in 2003. The only railway line Trivandrum-Ernakulam broadguage line passes through the western part of the district with Thiruvalla as its only Railway station. The total length of the railway line is 7 kms. Chenganur Railway station in the Alappuzha district is more used by the travelers in the district as well as the Sabarimala pilgrims.

Communication facilities are critical across all aspects of development, especially in an internationally integrated economy.\textsuperscript{72} Post Offices are available in all the villages. In the 1991 census period there were 3 head post offices, 296 post offices, 37 telephone exchanges. It works out to one post office for every nine square kilometer of area and on an average each post office is serving 4015 persons. By 2001 the number of post offices in the two divisions increased to 468. Emigration of the people to other parts of India and abroad, literary movements and spread of print media are some of the favorable demand factors at work behind the spread of communication facilities.\textsuperscript{73} Globalization and the emergence of knowledge based economy have ushered in a revolutionary significance for telecommunications.

Drinking water facilities include tap, well, tank, tube well, river, canals etc. Well and tap facilities were available in almost all villages and more people made use of these sources of drinking water. Besides these tank and tube well were also in demand.

\textsuperscript{72} Human Development Report, \textit{op.cit.p}.81.

The district has a good banking infrastructure. District wise distribution of Scheduled Commercial Banks shows that the numbers of banks are increasing at a rapid pace in the district. Banking Statistics of Kerala prepared by State level Banking Committee reports that Scheduled Bank Offices in the district improved its position from 162 in 1985 and to 272 in 2008.

### 2.5.2 Social Infrastructure

Social infrastructure is as critical for human resource development as physical infrastructure. The Social Infrastructure includes the education system, health care; etc improves the quality of human resources which in turn accelerates the process of economic growth. Social indicators like education and health are direct and partial measures of well-being in a society. It is the human resources of a nation, not its capital or its material means that ultimately determine the character and pace of its economic and social development.\(^\text{74}\)

Educational facilities in the district according to 1991 census include Primary, Middle and High Schools, Higher Secondary/Pre-University Colleges, Industrial Schools, Training Schools and other educational institutions include Sanskrit Patasalas, Senior basic school, Makhtab etc. The district had 431 primary schools, 134 middle schools and 165 high schools in 1986-87.\(^\text{75}\) District Census Hand book 1991-Pathanamthitta shows that Adoor Taluk had the highest number of primary schools (174) with Kozhencherry and Thiruvalla having second and third position. Ranni Taluk had 119 Primary Schools whereas Mallapally had 87 only. Regarding Middle schools Kozhencherry occupies the first position with 73 schools whereas other taluks like Thiruvalla, Mallappally, Ranni and Adoor had 44, 35, 60 and 48 schools respectively. In the case of High Schools, Kozhencherry retains the first position with 42 schools.


where as the other taluks like Thiruvalla, Mallapally, Ranni and Adoor had 20, 22, 34 and 33 respectively. When the higher education section is concerned each taluk had a college numbering five, 9 Training schools, 13 Industrial schools and 35 other institutions.

In 2003-04 the number of primary and middle schools shows a decline owing to the demographic transition in the district. Now the district had 416 primary schools, 144 middle schools and 166 high schools. When the educational infrastructure is concerned the effect of fertility decline and decrease in growth rate can be seen in the enrolment of students which lead to a decrease in the number of schools. Higher education has not that much affected by this. So an increase can be noted in the number of colleges especially Professional colleges.

Medical facilities include Hospitals, Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Maternity Homes, Child Welfare Centres, Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Primary Health Sub Centres Dispensaries, Family Planning Centres, TB Clinics, Nursing home, registered private practitioners and community health workers. Pathanamthitta district had 26 hospitals, 40 dispensaries, 43 MCW’s, 35PCH’S, 19FPC’s27PH Sub centres, 24 Community health centres and 160 other institutions. Regarding taluk wise distribution, all the taluks except Kozhencherry had an average of 4 hospitals where as in Kozhencherry it was 11. All the five taluks had MCW’s and here too Kozhencherry took the lead with 9. In the case of PHC’s too all the five taluks had 5 to 10 PHC’s,PHS, Dispensaries and CHW’s. In the 2001 census a detailed list of hospitals including Allopathic Ayurvedic and Homeopathic can be seen. As such a sudden increase in the number of Medical institutions can be seen.

Development in a State is the outcome of the interplay of a variety of factors, such as political, economic, demographic and geographic. The UNDP’s Human Development

---

76 Census of India 1991, District Census Hand Book, Pathanamthitta, Part XII-A&B.
Index captures the possible essence of human development across the globe in terms of three indicators: health (life expectancy) education (literacy) and standard of living (per capita income). It should be noted that the first two are the outcomes of the social infrastructure, complemented by economic ones, and the third that of economic infrastructure combined with physical capital, labour and human resources. The last input human resources are in turn the outcome of the social infrastructure supported by economic ones.

2.6 Migration

Migration, one of the positive outcomes of the Kerala Model of Development, has proved to be a vital factor of change in Kerala. The high density of population, the slow growth of economy and the rising rates of unemployment have been compelling our people to migrate not only to other regions of the country but also to all parts of the world. The scale of migration is so large that it is often referred to as the Malayalee Diaspora. This export of manpower motivated by the push as well as pull factors was first from agricultural to industrial and commercial areas within India and now the trend is emigration to foreign countries. Migration, a common response to slump and famine and chronic unemployment is positively related to development. Since the aim of it is economic more than anything else, migration has a major role in the economic wellbeing of the people.

Migration can be of two types—internal migrations or out migration and external migration or emigration. The data sources on migration can be classified into three


categories, viz, Census Reports, Surveys conducted by Department of Economics and Statistics and Surveys and studies conducted by Research Institutions like Centre for Development Studies and Individuals. From the Censuses, data on Internal Migration is available. Census terms like place of birth, place of last residence etc give details on in and out migration and the destination of migrants. Emigration details are not available from the censuses. Since emigration has a prominent role in changing the social and economic fabric of the district, its study is crucial here. For that purposes studies and Surveys conducted by The Department of Economics and Statistics and other Research Institutions are reliable.

The Government of Kerala conducted separate surveys at different times to assess the international migration situation and has produced reports on the subject. The survey on Housing and Employment conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics which provides a district wise and destination wise estimate of out migrants and emigrants is the first survey which gives an estimate of the out migrants and emigrants from Kerala. The two other Surveys which give details about migration and its major impact remittances are The Survey on the Utilization of Gulf Remittances in 1987 and Report on Migration Survey 1992-93. The DES report on activity status and rehabilitation of migrants of 2002 gives a detailed account of the general features of migrant households, estimate of the emigrants and return emigrants, a district wise and destination wise migrants, reasons of return and the number of persons died abroad.

In all the prominent studies on migration Pathanamthitta District has a major position among other districts of Kerala. The First Kerala Migration Survey conducted by CDS between March and December 1998 points out that the main place of origin of out-migration is central Travancore: Alappuzha (90,000) and Pathanamthitta (86,000) districts, each accounting for about 13 per cent of the total. In terms of out-migrants per hundred households, Pathanamthitta district (29) was substantially higher than Kasargode district (22). Six districts– Pathanamthitta, Kasargode, Alappuzha, Palakkad, Thrissur, and Kollam– had out-migration rates above the state average of 10.9. In terms of return out-migrants per 100 households, also Pathanamthitta is a
leading district in the State. Syrian Christians are the major emigrant group in Pathanamthitta (47%). In the case of out-migration, Syrian Christians hold a dominant position in Pathanamthitta (37%).

An overall measure of the impact of migration on the Kerala households is given by Migration Prevalence Rate (MRP). Thrissur district loses its first rank to Pathanamthitta district when migration rates are considered. In this district, the total number of migrants is almost the same as the number of households, the MPR being 99 percent. Pathanamthitta, Thrissur, Malappuram, Alappuzha, Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram have MPRs higher than the state average (of 59 per cent).

The most recent round of the Kerala Migration Survey being conducted by the Research Unit on International Migration of the Centre for Development Studies (CDSMRU) states that International migration has remained absolutely stationary during 2003-07. Demographic contraction could have been an underlying factor in the stability of the volume of migration from the state. Demographic trends seem to have started exerting their inexorable pressure more effectively on migration from the state in recent years than in earlier years. Pathanamthitta, the district that has advanced most in demographic transition, is also the district that has evidenced the largest decline in emigration. Their study points to the fact that Southern districts especially Pathanamthitta has lost the ground as a source of emigrants from the State. Emigrants per household, in which Pathanamthitta once had a lead also decreased considerably. The number of emigrants among Christians seems to have decreased by

---


81 Migration Prevalence Rate (MRP) is the ratio of the sum of all the four types of migrants in an area (district, taluk, etc) to the number of households in the area.

82 Demographic contraction is the reduction in the proportion of persons in the younger age groups as a result of decrease in the birth rate.
about 25 percent. This too had its negative impact on the district which has as sizable number of Christians as migrants.

Table 2.14: Emigrants in the State and the District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emigrants</th>
<th>EMI Per 100 HHs</th>
<th>Percentage to Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATHANAMTHITTA</td>
<td>133720 97505</td>
<td>44.3 33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERALA</td>
<td>1838478 1361955</td>
<td>26.7 21.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Regarding the number of emigrants, the district had eighth place in the state in 1999 and retained the same in 2004. But with regard to emigrants per 100 households the district is above the State average and ranked just behind Malappuram in the two periods.

Table 2.15: Return Emigrants in the State and the District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Return Emigrants</th>
<th>REM Per 100 HHs</th>
<th>Percentage to Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATHANAMTHITTA</td>
<td>83502 57537</td>
<td>27.7 18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERALA</td>
<td>893942 739245</td>
<td>13.0 11.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


In the case of return emigrants, the rank of the district was seventh in 1999 and it rose to fifth in 2004. But similar to the case of EMI per 100 households REM also is above the state average in two periods. In 1999 the district ranked just behind Malappuram and Thrissur but in 2004 it leaped forward to the first position.

---

Table 2.16: Non Resident Keralites Emigrants in the State and the District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Resident Keralites</th>
<th>NRK per 100 HHs</th>
<th>Percentage to Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTA</td>
<td>217222</td>
<td>152042</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERALA</td>
<td>2732420</td>
<td>2101200</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Non Resident Keralites per 100 households too were above State average. In 1999 Malappuram was the only district above Pathanamthitta but by 2004 Pathanamthitta went ahead of Malappuram with the highest number of Non Resident Keralites per 100 households in the State. The NRI remittances play a major role in the economy of the district.

2.6.1 Migration as a Change Agent

While Kerala has experienced significant socio-economic changes through agrarian reforms, collective bargaining, growth of infrastructure and social capital, it is migration that stands out as a major change-agent in recent decades. Likewise the role of emigrants in the socio-economic structure of the district cannot be underestimated. The emigrants who migrated to foreign countries in 70’s and 80’s contributed to a great extend to present day Kerala’s especially Central Travancore’s western oriented life style and economic structure. The old generation went outside in search of job where as the new generation starts their life as out-migrants for educational purposes. Migration and education interact to contribute to economic and social mobility. Migration resulted in scarcity of labour especially manual labour in Pathanamthitta district. This resulted in the huge inflow of people from other States of

---


India particularly to the construction sites of the district and this in a way contributed to replacement migration.  

**Table 2.17: Household Remittances (In Millions)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>Actual Increase</th>
<th>Percentage Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATHANAMTHITTA</td>
<td>2705</td>
<td>4115</td>
<td>1410</td>
<td>52.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERALA</td>
<td>40715</td>
<td>79654</td>
<td>38939</td>
<td>95.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Kerala Migration Study 2007

In 1999 the household remittance of the district was 2705 which increased to 4115 in 2004 with a percentage increase of 52.1%. It is widely acknowledged that remittances play a crucial role in the economy of the state and the role of the district in this regard cannot be minimized. Pathanamthitta is a district which had relatively larger proportion of households’ receiving remittances from abroad. Pathanamthitta received relatively high proportions of their domestic income from remittances (28.6%) which is more than the State average. These remittances increase the savings and bank deposits and this increase in deposit is a major reason for the reduction in credit-deposit ratio of the district. The remittances in turn lead to improved living standards and increased consumption levels.

Migration also reduced the pressure of population and contributed in no small measures for the reduction of unemployment in the district. Since educated workers are one of the scarcest resources in developing countries, it has been argued that the

---


Migration of educated workers is a “brain drain” for the developing countries. But it provides an outlet to persons who would otherwise remain unemployed or have only inadequate employment. This outflow of manpower may, in turn, bring in remittances to the concerned households and thus serve to sustain a higher standard of living.

Migration has resulted in some structural changes in the society of the district also. It has a major role in the reduction of population growth in the district. Migration has reduced the working age population and consequently increased the proportion of elderly. In 1991 Census old aged people (60+) constituted only 11.9% of the total population but within a decade they formed 14.58% of the total population. The increase in proportion of elderly is not due only to the out-migration of persons of working ages, but also to the return of persons aged 60 years and over, thus contributing to an increase in the dependency burden.

Migration has its impact on family too. When the male from the household migrates women took on increasing responsibilities for managing the household activities. The migration of the younger generation has a significant impact on the inter-generational contract and the dynamics of the family left behind.

Migration has fundamental implication for women and children. It is one of the reasons for the increase in the female headed households in the district. The migration puts extra mental and physical pressure on women. However, it has also been suggested that rather than family disintegration, male migration could lead to more capable and self confident women. The female headed households have become a steadily growing phenomenon. Likewise the other groups of people who are adversely affected are the older generation. In the Indian context, responsibility for care of the elderly is primarily borne by members of the family. But since the whole

---


family migrates leaving behind the old people here single member or dual member households are the result. The large number of old age homes in the district also points to the same fact. Thus Migration has proved to be a major change agent in the district.

2.7 Banking

Banks and other financial institutions are of vital importance for the development of the economy of a country. The commercial banks can bring in economic development through the provision of credit and mobilization of deposits. The State of Travancore, of which the present Pathanamthitta district was a part, had an excellent banking infrastructure even prior to 1900. Much of the cultivable land in the state was, by the 1920s, given over to cash crops - coconut, pepper, cashew, cardamom, rubber, sugar cane and tea. The sharp price rise in cash crops and the resulting increase in farmers’ incomes provided the spur to the expansion of banks. The overall economic development created favorable conditions to the growth of trading activity which provided the stimulus for the change over from indigenous credit institutions to modern banking. The bulk of the advances from the banks were for trading activities and thus trade demanded banking services or in other words the spurt in the banking activities can partially be attributed to the increase in trade. The commercialization of agriculture increased trade and it was accompanied by relatively better physical infrastructure, development of transport, and social services which in turn facilitated the emergence financial institutions. Besides this land was a major asset and the better diffusion of it also helped in the emergence of credit. These banks advanced credit on the basis of land offered as security and this was used to purchase

---


more land, develop remunerative crops and extend trading and processing of agricultural products.\textsuperscript{92}

From the early years of the twentieth century till 1939, there was a concentration of firms especially banking companies in the Thiruvalla taluk. Taluk wise distribution of joint stock companies in Travancore for 1919-20 and 1924-25 shows that concentration was the most in the Thiruvalla, Ambalapuzha, Quilon and Kottayam taluks. The first organized Commercial bank in Kerala called the Travancore Bank was also established in 1893 in Central Travancore. Area around Thiruvalla continues to be a major centre of banking and Thiruvalla municipality accounts for the largest per capita deposit in the country.\textsuperscript{93}

### 2.7.1 Different Types of Banks

Pathanamthitta, the Complete Banking District, has a strong banking infrastructure. Both Commercial and Co operative Banks are functioning in the district. Panchayat level Statistics 2001 reveals that various Banks & Co-Operative Institutions functioned in the district. The chief among them were State Bank of India and associates, Nationalized Commercial Banks (89), Scheduled Commercial Banks (71), Gramin Banks (1), NABARD (1), branches of Land Mortgage Bank (4), branches of District Cooperative Bank (42), Service Co-operative banks & credit societies (155), Urban Co-operative bank (15), State Co-operative bank (7) and Kerala State Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (20).\textsuperscript{94} The Panchayat level Statistics, 2006 shows the changes in the numbers of branches. State Bank of India and


associates had 74 branches by this time and the changed numbers of branches of other banks are as follows. Nationalized Commercial Banks (106), Scheduled Commercial Banks (103), Gramin Banks (16), NABARD (1), branches of Land Mortgage Bank (8), branches of District Cooperative Bank (49), Service Co-operative banks & credit societies (174), Urban Co-operative bank (17), State Co-operative bank (8), and Kerala State Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (16).  

Table 2.18: District-wise Distribution of Scheduled Commercial Bank Offices in Kerala

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATHANAMTHITTA</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERALA</td>
<td>2708</td>
<td>2838</td>
<td>3045</td>
<td>3233</td>
<td>3836</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Banking Statistics quarterly hand out gives us the district wise distribution of Scheduled Commercial Banks. At the time of inception of the district, there were 162 Scheduled Bank Offices in the district. In that year the district was in the eleventh rank among the districts of Kerala. Then a progressive increase can be noted and within a decade an increase of 35 bank offices can be noticed in the district improving the rank to ninth. Thereafter, in all the consecutive years, progressive growth was registered and by March 2000, there were 217 bank offices in the district. Banking Statistics of Kerala prepared by State level Banking Committee reports that by March 2008, number of branches of all Commercial banks functioning in the district as 272. There are a number of Co-operative and other types of banks in the district in addition to the above mentioned ones. Besides this, different institutions offering alternative asset forms like Post-Office savings, Chitties, Life Insurance Policies etc. are also functioning efficiently in the district.

---

Studies show that the banking system in the district is meeting the requirements of the people adequately and the bank branches are evenly distributed and also the district has more than proportionate share of branches.

2.7.2 Bank-Deposits and Advances

Regarding the bank deposits, the district shows a marked improvement over these years. The domestic deposits are growing at an impressive rate.

Table 2.19: Deposits and Advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks including Regional Rural Banks (in lakhs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Deposit</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Credit Deposit Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>50491</td>
<td>8602</td>
<td>17.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>58902</td>
<td>10115</td>
<td>17.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>67644</td>
<td>10465</td>
<td>15.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>79060</td>
<td>11411</td>
<td>14.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>206150</td>
<td>24504</td>
<td>11.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>41353</td>
<td>6262</td>
<td>15.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>169820</td>
<td>19639</td>
<td>11.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>196491</td>
<td>28116</td>
<td>14.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>239710</td>
<td>32348</td>
<td>13.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>279053</td>
<td>38027</td>
<td>13.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>328448</td>
<td>44307</td>
<td>13.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>367192</td>
<td>49251</td>
<td>13.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>432890</td>
<td>57128</td>
<td>13.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>690900</td>
<td>124700</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>909600</td>
<td>296500</td>
<td>32.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


In 1988, the total deposit of the district was 50491 lakhs which was 10.5% of the State’s deposits. In the same year, the Credit was 8602 lakhs which was 0.02% of the State. The Credit Deposit Ratio of the district was 17.04 while that of the State was 65.65. In the consecutive years, the deposit can be seen increasing and by 2004 the
total deposit accounts for 690900 lakhs and credit 124700 lakhs putting the Credit deposit ratio to 18. In 2008 both the deposit and credit registered an increase and as such the Credit Deposit Ratio also improved.

The NRI deposits play the major role in the increase in deposit rate. The region had witnessed marked increase in migration in the period of study. The available statistics on Migration shows that the Migration Prevalence Rate of the district is very high.\textsuperscript{96} The remittances from the Gulf and other foreign countries explain the better deposit rates of the district compared to other district. State Bank of Travancore holds the role of the Lead Bank in the district. The inflow of NRI deposits are seen increasing\textsuperscript{97} and these remittances have also made significant impact on savings. The high rate of savings is also reflected in high growth rates in Bank deposits and a low credit-deposit ratio.

Credit-Deposit Ratio, which is a product of the ratio of number of credit accounts to deposit accounts and the ratio of credit amount per account to deposit amount per account, is the pivotal indicator of the two way banking intermediation in a region. It is the measure of indicating the role of banking system in the economy. A better Credit-Deposit Ratio implies a better disbursal of credit or use of the same.

When we analyze the Credit-Deposit Ratio of the district we get the dismal picture that the ratio is seen fast declining. In 1988, when the Credit-Deposit Ratio of the district was 17.04 the state had a Credit-Deposit Ratio of 65.65. There after a decline in the ratio can be seen but and it never registered a growth from 13-15 points up to 2004. In all these years the district had the lowest rank among the other districts of the State.


\textsuperscript{97} George K.K and Ajithkumar N. \textit{op.cit.} 16.
In the case of the district the fall in Credit-Deposit Ratio was more an aftermath to the lower credit growth. Banks are more interested in deposit mobilization than in credit disbursal. Besides this, migration and the remittances of NRIs also contribute to the lowering of the Credit-Deposit Ratio. Since the people are job seekers rather than job givers, as is evidenced from the high unemployment rate of the district, a low Credit-Deposit Ratio is the aftereffect.

The changes in all the sectors of the Economy-primary, secondary and tertiary has affected the disbursal of credit in the district. The primary sector dominated by agriculture experienced a sharp fall in the district and as such investment in this area also experienced a steep fall. Consequently the credit for this section also experienced a decline. Now the majority of the credit disbursed in this section is used to meet the needs of perennial crops. The Industrial sector also shows considerable decline in the share of credit. The district from its very inception is a backward district with regard to its Industrial development. Large and Medium Scale industries are meager or absent and as such large scale absorption of credit is not needed. The only major area using Industrial credit is the Small Scale Industries section which shows considerable development in these years. The most important section of the economy which showed considerable improvement is the tertiary sector.

2.8 Income and Expenditure

Most important determinants of economic status of a society are its per capita income, the standard of living, the level of consumption etc. Sector wise distribution of district income shows the importance and contribution of different sectors to the economy of the district. Primary sector includes besides agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining and quarrying, secondary sector includes industrial and manufacturing areas and the tertiary the service sector includes banking, insurance, transport and communication and other services. In 1983-84 out of Rs.21358, Rs.8771 (41.1%) was devoted to primary sector, Rs.4748 (22.2%) to secondary sector and Rs.7839 (36.7%) to tertiary sector. During the same period average distribution for the State was 39.7%, 23.7%
and 36.6% respectively for current prices. In the case of constant prices also the same trend can be witnessed. Here too the district was devoting 40.5% to primary, 22.8% to secondary and 36.75% to tertiary where as the State devoted only 35.9% to primary, 24.9% to secondary and 39.2% to tertiary. The figures point to the importance given to the primary sector by this agricultural district. In the subsequent years a reversal of trend can be noticed both in the case of current as well as constant prices. The district changed its priority to tertiary from primary and more percentage of the district income was devoted to that sector.

National Sample Surveys which conduct surveys on consumption expenditure in the form of rounds is the only source which provides information on the changes in the expenditure and consumption pattern of the people. The results of the surveys reveal that Kerala has undergone considerable change over the last three or four decades.

Table 2.20: Monthly Per capita Consumption Expenditure (MRCE) of Rural and Urban People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sample Households</th>
<th>MPCE (Rs)</th>
<th>% of Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RURAL</td>
<td>Pathanamthitta</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KERALA</td>
<td>3300</td>
<td>1013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBAN</td>
<td>Pathanamthitta</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KERALA</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>1291</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The table brings a comparison between the State and the district. The monthly per capita consumption expenditure in Pathanamthitta’s rural areas was Rs.1165, which was fourth among the districts of Kerala and is more than the average Kerala level. In the urban areas also the same trend can be noticed. Here too the monthly per capita consumption expenditure exceeds the State average. Here the district is in the sixth position in the State. The excess of consumption expenditure can be explained by the

---

inflow of remittances from the large migrant population. The inflow of foreign remittances not only brings about changes in the consumption pattern of the households in the short run but influences them to invest the rest in the form of economic assets in the long run.99

2.9 Land Value

Land value is escalating in the district in tune with the developments in the State. The increasing price of land is due to a variety of reasons. The land use pattern of the district reflects the trends in the district with regard to the utilization of land. From 1983-84 periods the land put to non agricultural uses shows a tremendous increase. It was 8395 hectares in 1983-84 but made a jump to 14935 hectares in 2007-08.

Table 2.21: Land put to Non Agricultural Uses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Geographical Area</td>
<td>268750</td>
<td>268750</td>
<td>268750</td>
<td>268750</td>
<td>268750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land put to Non Agricultural Use</td>
<td>8395</td>
<td>10884</td>
<td>13894</td>
<td>15108</td>
<td>14935</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The density of population also is in an increasing pace from 450 in 1991 to 468 in 2001 census even though the growth of population is low. The number of households both in the rural as well as in the urban areas also is escalating. The sudden increase in rubber prices and the increase in area under rubber plantations are yet another major reason for the increase in land value. Besides these basic factors Pathanamthitta being

---

a district with a high migration prevalence rate, the remittances also made its contribution in increasing land prices.

2.10 Conclusion

Various aspects of the economy of the district have been changed and at the same time they were changing the other aspects of life during the period of study. The changes observed in the district are generally in conformity with the trends observed in the State as a whole. Sometimes the change in the district is more spectacular and larger in volume when compared to the corresponding aspects of change in the State level. The district with an agrarian nature with a long history of agriculture is shifting its priority to other areas. The changes in the agrarian sector in terms of land use pattern, cropping pattern, productivity and choice of major crops are in conformity with the all Kerala level changes, but the intensity of change is more severe here. Agriculture mainly intended to fulfill the consumption needs of the farmers and considered as a level of subsistence, through diversity of crops in the homestead was replaced by market oriented farming and mono cropping especially rubber. Increase rate of rubber at the state level is 88.81% while the same in the district is near 200%. The surplus from rubber was reinvested in human capital and the people were reluctant to cultivation of food crops on a subsistence basis and this resulted in significant changes in the land use pattern.

Explanations for the trend may be found in socio-cultural and economic factors and ecological changes which are not in the same pattern in different parts of the state. Changes in the preferences regarding labour opportunities may give another part of the explanation. When the labour distribution is considered, the district had a high agrarian nature than the rest of Kerala. Here too significant changes are taking place in the study period. The sectoral changes in the labour pattern identify a shift in priority from primary to tertiary overcoming the secondary. The decline in acreage under paddy and the growth of low labour absorbing cash crops contributed a great measure for the reduction in the work participation rate of the district. Besides this
migration and its income effect, high sex ratio and changes in demographic structure explains the other part.

As the district is industrially backward not much changes have taken place in the Industrial area. The small scale industrial sector is the only area worth mentioning. Here the growth of the district is in tune with that of the State.

A major change factor in the economic field in the district, migration and its effects are worth mentioning. The remittances sent by the migrants play a crucial role in the economy of the state and the role of the district in this regard cannot be minimized. Banking development in the area can be considered as an outcome to this factor. The NRI deposits play the major role in the increase in deposit rate. But the credit deposit ratio is found decreasing.

Besides economic importance, migration has some social importance too. It has a major role in the reduction of population growth in the district. It also reduced the pressure of population and contributed in no small measures for the reduction of unemployment in the district. Migration has resulted in some structural changes in the society also. Migration has reduced the working age population and consequently increased the proportion of children and elderly. The increase in proportion of elderly is not due only to the out-migration of persons of working ages, but also to the return of persons aged 60 years and over, thus contributing to an increase in the dependency burden. Migration has its impact on the family pattern of the district too. It has fundamental implication for women and children. One reason for the increase in the female headed households in the district is migration. Likewise the other groups of people who are adversely affected are the older generation. The emerging tendencies in the economic arenas of Pathanamthitta district function as a basic force that influence the social and other aspects of life in the district. These changes have mutual influences and are seen interconnected.