CHAPTER III
SOCIAL CHANGES IN PATHANAMTHITTA DISTRICT

3.1 Introduction

Social change, a phenomenon inevitable for any society is a general term which is used in the study of History, Sociology, Economics and Political Science. This chapter deals with the major trends and patterns of the changes in the social arenas of Pathanamthitta district since its formation in 1982. The social indicators like demography, education, health, family, religion and human development are analyzed in detail and the changes in these areas in these years are studied in a broad Kerala perspective. The changes among the marginalized communities like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes are also studied and a comparison with the general population is made. The position of the women folk in the district and the changes happened to them in these years is also studied. The chapter analyzes the changes in these areas so as to understand how they influence each other and the economic developments in a causal manner and, at the same time, get shaped by them. The trends in demographic changes in the district and their influence on the education and other areas and vice versa are specially focused to reach at understandings regarding the social change in the district.

3.2 Human Development

Development in a State is the outcome of the interplay of a variety of factors, such as political, economic, demographic and geographic. It could be maximizing human potential, progressing towards a better condition. Human Development Index of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 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 human resources. The last input human resources are in turn the outcome of the social infrastructure supported by economic ones.

It goes without saying that Kerala continues to rank at the top among Indian States with respect to the human development index (as per 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 estimates), with continuous improvement. There is little variation in human development indices across the districts in Kerala and as a result absence in any significant disparity in human development. Kerala’s experience reveals that from the wide regional differences at the time of Independence it is possible to achieve remarkably high level of human development within a short span of one generation.

The Kingdom of Travancore, in which the study area was a part, had made significant progress in the educational and health status of its population from very early times. The base for this was facilitated by the strong revenue system of the area. This was possible by the commercialization of agriculture and the expansion of trade. Before that the Travancore Government brought a substantial proportion of the land under State control and was cultivated by numerous tenants, who were subsequently conferred ownership rights. This had the effect of strengthening the revenue base of the area. All these facilitated the Travancore Government to allot an increasing proportion of expenditure on social services especially education and health care. Regarding education the government not only opened schools and hospitals of its own but also promoted private agencies through Grants-in-aid. The activities of the Christian missionaries decisively influenced the expansion and development of health and educational facilities in Kerala as the lower classes were also given recognition. The growth of modern institutions for education and health in Travancore had not been at the cost of the indigenous systems prevailed here. Besides this the Travancore showed a positive response to caste or religion base social reform movements and later to organized political movements.
The district has achieved substantial progress in Human Resource Development. As per the report of Economics and Statistics Department, the total job seekers in 1984 were 63978 which showed an increase in the later years. As on 31 March 2008, the number of Total work seekers registered with employment exchange were 162626. Out of this 98538 were women and 64088 were men. Among the total job seekers 155887 were with General qualifications and 6739 were with professional and technical qualifications. These figures of educated work seekers show the supply side of human resources in the district. The Human Development Index, a summary measure of human development which measures the average achievements in three basic dimensions of human development - a long and healthy life as measured by life expectancy at birth, knowledge as measured by the adult literacy rate, a decent standard of living as measured by GDP per capita. Analysing all the major indicators of human development, Pathanamthitta district is in the third position just behind Ernakulam and Kottayam district. In all the major indicators the district is above the State average also.

3.3 Demography

The quality and size of population are two factors that are emphasized in the development of human resource. Also a change in the size and composition of population is a very important factor leading to social change. Social change may occur in response to changes in demographic or ecological conditions and demographic transition may occur as a result of social change. The decadal census provides a detailed examination of demographic and economic characteristics for such areas as the State and districts. The results of censuses allow researchers to analyze the population as well as its demographic subgroups. As these data are available for


rural as well as urban areas it is useful to study not only individual areas, but also different combinations of such areas, depending on the user’s needs.

3.3.1 Population Profile

The district of Pathanamthitta accounts for 2637 sq.km which is 6.8% of the state’s area and its share in the state’s population is 3.9%. In 1991 the population was 11,88,332 which was raised to 12,34,016 in 2001 and lowered to 11,97,412 in 2011.

Table 3.1: Demographic Characteristics of Pathanamthitta District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Decadal Growth Rate</th>
<th>Sex Ratio</th>
<th>Urban %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>1188332</td>
<td>576176</td>
<td>612156</td>
<td>5.60%</td>
<td>1062</td>
<td>13.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1234016</td>
<td>589398</td>
<td>644618</td>
<td>3.84%</td>
<td>1094</td>
<td>10.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1197412</td>
<td>561716</td>
<td>635696</td>
<td>-3.12%</td>
<td>1129</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The population of Pathanamthitta as in 1991 stood at 1188332 persons with a break up of 576176 males and 612156 females. The corresponding State population was 29098518. Thus the district constitutes 4.1 % of the state’s population. In the rural area the total population was 1033298 with 500965 males and 532333 females. The urban area of the district supported 155034 persons with 75211 males and 79823 females. The district ranks eleventh among other districts in population size. In the 2001 census, the population has increased to 1234016 with 589398 males and 644618 females but it was only 3.87% of state’s population. The rural population was 1110218 among them 529823 were males and 580395 were females .The urban area at the same time had only 123798 people with 59575 males and 64223 females. In the census of 2011, a decrease in population can be seen. Here the total population has been reduced to 1197412 with a break up of 561716 males and 635696 females. One of the peculiarities of the district is the higher proportion of females in the total
population (51.5\% in 1991 & 52.23 \% in 2001 & 53.08\% in 2011). Also the share of minorities especially Christians in the population are more. The share of SC/ST population is 13.3 and 0.6 in 1991 and 13.1 and 0.5 in 2001 and 13.7 and 0.67 in 2011. The percentage of urban population in the district in 1991 was 13.05\% which was lowered to 10.03\% in 2001 retaining the 11\textsuperscript{th} rank in this respect. In Kerala also a corresponding decline can be seen i.e. from 26.39 to 25.96\%. In 2011 the increased percentage in urban growth rate of the district as compared to 2001 is to the tune of only about one percent, i.e., from 10.03\% in 2001 to 11\% in 2011.

### 3.3.2 Growth Rate

Even though the population is increasing slowly in the two census periods, the growth rates showed fluctuations. The district observes a continuous declining trend in growth rate in the study period. In both the periods the district was below the State average and lowest among other districts of the State. In the 2011 census, a negative growth rate of -3.12 is recorded against the State average of 4.86. While considered in percentage terms the growth rate of female population has been observed more than the growth rate of male population. In 1991 the district had a growth rate of 5.60\% which was the lowest in the State.

Though the rate of increase in total population is low in all taluks, it differs from taluk to taluk. Among the taluks the highest growth rate in 1991 is reported in Adoor taluk and the lowest in Mallappally taluk. Regarding rural-urban breakup Thiruvalla and Adoor witnessed a decline in rural population. Thiruvalla municipality’s area has been extended which resulted in the decline of rural growth rate in Thiruvalla taluk, and the formation of two new municipalities carved out from the rural areas of Adoor and Pandalam Panchayats has contributed to the decline in rural population. In 2001 the district had a growth rate of 3.8\%. Here all the taluks witnessed a positive growth rate
except Ranni which had a negative growth rate. In 2001 the district holds only 3.8% of Kerala’s population. The present population growth rate of 3.8% in the district over 1991 census is the lowest ever recorded in the last one hundred years.\(^3\)

The growth rate of population in rural and urban areas of the district are 7.4% and 20.2% respectively in 2001. It was -2.8% for rural and 149.3% for urban areas in 1991. These wide fluctuations are due to the addition of two towns, Adoor and Pandalam in 1991 and further the declassification of Pandalam municipality as rural in 2001. In 2011 both in the total as well as in the rural set up a negative growth rate can be seen. If the decadal growth rate in the district is -3.12%, the rural areas and urban areas reported -4.16% and 6.19% respectively. The decline in growth rate was contributed to partly by decline in fertility and partly by net out migration.

### 3.3.4 Density of Population

Density, the land-people ratio is one of the important indices of population concentration or pressure of population on land. The density of the district in 1991 was 450 persons per square kilometer which was lower than the density of the state which is 749 persons per square kilometer. Pathanamthitta was 12\(^{th}\) among the districts of Kerala with regard to density. The thick forests and hilly terrain in the upland areas reduce the density of its population. In 2001 the density has increased to 468 persons, but retained the 12\(^{th}\) rank among the districts of Kerala. In 2011 it again reduced to 453. The density has wide variations at Taluk level in the district. In 2001 the density varies from Thiruvalla the most thickly populated taluk to Ranni the least populated one. Most of the taluks of the district are situated on highland where hills

\(^3\) *District Census Hand Book, Pathanamthitta*, Census of India 2001- Series -12 Kerala, Part XII-A&B, 35.
are thickly forested in upper ranges, while in the lower ranges the forests are interspersed with plantations.

**Table 3.2: Population Densities in the State and the District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATHANAMTHITTA</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERALA</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>819</td>
<td>859</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source- Census of India 1991 &2001 Primary Census Abstract, General Population, Part II-B (i)

**Figure 3.1 Density of Population in Kerala and Pathanamthitta District**

The forest areas show a lower density whereas the same is more in non forest Panchayat and Municipal areas. The difference in the density in the various settlement areas in the district shows the differences in the Infrastructural developments in the concerned areas.
3.3.5 Sex Ratio

Pathanamthitta district has a unique position with regard to sex ratio. The district has a sex ratio favouring the female population. Sex ratio denotes the quantification of the weight of females in a population. Migration of male workers, women literacy, accesses to medical service etc influence the sex ratio. The sex ratio of the district has steadily increased over the preceding decades. In all the censuses in the study period females out number males and the district has the top most position in the State in this regard.

In 1991 it was 1062 as against the State average of 1036 with second position in State. In 2001 census, Pathanamthitta district has the first position among the districts of Kerala with 1094 females per 1000 males as against 1058 females per 1000 males in the State. In 2011 the sex ratio has been raised to 1129. For long the overall sex ratio in Kerala has been favourable to females and has been the most widely discussed indicator of women’s status. Large scale male outmigration from the district for better job opportunities coupled with women literacy and improvements in health indicators can be cited as reasons for this.

Regarding the rural and urban sex ratio also the picture is not much different. The rural area of the district has reported 1095 females per 1000 males in 2001 as against a

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Zachariah K.C, Mathew E.T. and Irudaya Rajan S., Socio Economic and Demographic Consequences of Migration in Kerala (Thiruvananthapuram: Centre for Development Studies, 2000) 44.

sex ratio of 1063 in 1991. In the urban area the sex ratio increased from 1061 in 1991 to 1078 in 2001. In 2011 the figures were 1129 for the total as well as rural and 1125 in urban areas.

**Table 3.3  Sex Ratio of Kerala and Pathanamthitta**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KERALA</td>
<td>1036</td>
<td>1058</td>
<td>1084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>1037</td>
<td>1059</td>
<td>1077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>1034</td>
<td>1058</td>
<td>1091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATHANAMTHITTA</td>
<td>1062 (Rank 2)</td>
<td>1094 (Rank 1)</td>
<td>1129 (Rank 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>1063</td>
<td>1095</td>
<td>1129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>1061</td>
<td>1078</td>
<td>1125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: *Census of India 1991, 2001 & 2011*

In 1991 Sex Ratio of rural area (1063) is higher than the district average. The Sex Ratio of urban area is (1061) lower than district average. In the Taluks females outnumber their male counterparts. Kozhencherry Taluk has the highest Sex Ratio 1076, followed by Tiruvalla 1072, Adoor 1069 Mallappally 1063 Ranni 1023, the only Taluk lower than district and state average. Among the taluks highest sex ratio in 2001 is reported from Kozhencherry (1108) and lowest in Ranni (1063).

The rural sex ratio of the district is higher than the urban sex ratio. The out migration of male population for better avenues can be considered as one of the reasons for domination of female population in the district. In most populations, more boys than girls are conceived and born, but when given the same care, mortality rates at every age are slightly higher for males than females due to behavioral and biological factors. This leads to a fairly stable sex ratio, a pattern most societies develop. Declining sex ratio for a population has generally been diagnosed as an indicator of worsening female advantage. Considering this point the advantage is more to females in the district.
Sex ratios of total population and child population are very important from a social perspective. In Kerala from 2001 to 2011 i.e., within a period of 10 years, the sex ratio has achieved an increase of 26 females per 1000 males and is at 1084 females per 1000 males. Pathanamthitta enjoyed the first position with a sex ratio of 1094. This order has been changed in 2011 and Pathanamthitta has the second place with 1129 females against 1000 males. All the taluks, sex ratio is above State average. Sex Ratio of Child population also warrants attention with its social and demographic relevance. In Pathanamthitta the total population in the 0-6 age group in 1991 was 137310 persons with 70167 males and 67143 females. The rural population was 119484 whereas the urban was 17826 only. In both the cases male members outnumber females, a trend opposite to the general trend. The sex ratio of 0-6 population group is negative in 2001 census (967) with rural (967) and urban (966) break up.

In 2011 Child sex ratio reported was 964, 965 and 967 in the total, rural and urban sectors. Here a decline in the Child sex ratio can be noticed and it is a trend opposite to the general trend in the District. The registering of child sex ratio below the State average is noteworthy from demographic point of view. In 2011 period Pathanamthitta district register higher child sex ratio in the urban areas as compared to rural areas.

3.3.6 Literacy

Another characteristic of population is the literacy which shows the quality of life. The literacy rate in 1991 census is calculated excluding the population up to the age of 7 years. Pathanamthitta has creditable achievements in the field of literacy. In the 1991 census it is 94.86% as against the State average of 89.81%. In 2001 the figure was improved to 95.09% and again improved to 96.93% in 2011. The male literacy of the district in the three periods is above the State average. Female literacy is very
significant and the district can be proud of the higher literacy of women very high over the State average.

Table 3.4: Literacy Rate of Kerala and Pathanamthitta District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>89.81</td>
<td>90.92</td>
<td>93.91</td>
<td>93.62</td>
<td>94.20</td>
<td>96.02</td>
<td>86.17</td>
<td>87.86</td>
<td>91.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathanamthitta</td>
<td>94.86</td>
<td>95.09</td>
<td>96.93</td>
<td>96.56</td>
<td>96.62</td>
<td>97.70</td>
<td>93.29</td>
<td>93.71</td>
<td>96.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.3.7 Age Structure of Population

Census Reports give us an idea regarding the age structure of the population. In 1991 census, Pathanamthitta had 214606 persons in the 5-14 age groups, which was 18% of the total population whereas in Kerala it was 20.5%. Among them males and females were 109463 and 105143 respectively. According to 2001 census the student population (5-14 age groups) decreased both in Kerala and in the district 17.37% and 15.65% respectively of the total population. In the 1991 census in all the age groups except 5-14, females outnumber the males. In the year 2001 the 5-14 and 15-59 age groups also males outnumber females and in the other ages the trend continued. Regarding the population in the working ages a slight increase can only be noted in the district compared to 1991. In the case of the state average the increase is much more commendable. The shoot up of population in the old age is the most important aspect when we compare the population growth of 1991 and 2001. In the year 1991 old aged people (60+) constituted only 11.9% of the total population but within a decade they formed 14.58% of the total population. In Kerala also the same trend can be noted but the intensity is much more in the district.

Kerala’s demographic transition has been the focus of attention of many researchers. Usually demographic transition is connected with economic development. But the
experience of Kerala demonstrates that fertility and mortality decline can occur without substantial economic development and that good health outcomes can be achieved at low cost.\textsuperscript{6} Kerala’s demographic transition occurred through many conventional social and health correlates and political will.\textsuperscript{7} Pathanamthitta is also along the path of Kerala, a little bit ahead of it. The population growth in any area is determined by the levels of births, deaths and migration in the specific geographical area. When these three features of population are analyzed Pathanamthitta’s position is far ahead of Kerala.

3.3.8 Fertility

Fertility decline is perhaps the most important social change that has occurred in India in recent years even in the absence of significant structural changes in the economy.\textsuperscript{8} It is one of the important social changes taking place in developing countries recently defying conventional theories and belief.\textsuperscript{9} Fertility refers to the actual bearing of children, the reproductive performance and is measured in terms of live births.\textsuperscript{10} Fertility estimates are done at the State level by the National Family Health Survey. In the absence of reliable estimates of fertility indicators at the district level, some attempt has been made to provide such estimates using indirect estimation techniques


\textsuperscript{7} Mari Bhat P.N. and Irudaya Rajan S.,”Demographic Transition in Kerala Revisited”, Economic and Political Weekly (8 Sep. 1990) 1957-79.


\textsuperscript{9} Mahendra Dev S., James K S and Binayak Sen, “Causes of Fertility Decline in India and Bangladesh Role of Community”, Economic and Political Weekly (26 October 2002) 4447-4454.

\textsuperscript{10} Malcolm Potts and Peter Selman, Society and Fertility (Macdonald and Evans Ltd., 1979) 5.
from the census data. The Census of India 1981 for the first time canvassed the information on children ever born and surviving among women of different age groups at the district level. Individual researchers also have done independent estimates.\(^{11}\) The Total Fertility Rate (TFR), a summary measure of fertility, is the most significant demographic indicator in the analysis of the impact of national population programmes - in particular, family planning programmes on individual or group reproductive behaviour. High status of women, female literacy, age at marriage and low infant mortality, were thought to be factors behind the rapid fall in the fertility rate in the State.

### Table 3.5: Total Fertility Rate and Percentage of Decline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Fertility Rate</th>
<th>Percentage decline in TFR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathanamthitta</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Retnakumar & Arokiasamy 2006; Guilmoto and Rajan 2002\(^{12}\)

The district is recording a reduction in population growth rate. The Total Fertility rate of the district declined from 1.7 in 1984-1990 to 1.5 in 1994-2000, which was the lowest level in the State. The TFR of the district was 1.7 in 1984–90, which further declined to 1.5 in 2001. The figure was 0.2 lower than the state average. It is one of the lowest fertility districts in the country besides metropolitan districts such as Chennai (1.3) and Kolkata (1.4).\(^{13}\) In 1993, it recorded a population growth rate of 0.09%, which was the lowest ever recorded by a district in the country.\(^{14}\)

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Among all the socio-economic factors, education especially female education is considered to be one of the most important factors influencing fertility\textsuperscript{15} even though it varies by residence, educational background and other background characteristics of a woman. A large body of Indian and international evidence points to the role of rising female education in lowering fertility\textsuperscript{16}. The inverse relationship between education and fertility can be seen in the district. The literacy of the district in all the censuses was in a high position in the state. Improvements in male literacy income, economic status of the house hold, religion, labour force participation especially females, urbanization, improvements in health services, poverty\textsuperscript{17} etc may also determine fertility.

Marital fertility control through extensive use of family planning also resulted in a steep fall in fertility rates. The Couple protection rate of the district is a proof of this statement. Mean age at marriage can be considered as a determinant of fertility decline, even though the reasons for delay in marriage were not restricting fertility alone but socioeconomic too. According to an estimate from the Reproductive and Child Health Survey (1998-99) the mean age at marriage in Kerala for males is 28.7 years and for females 22.7 years.\textsuperscript{18} In that survey Pathanamthitta’s figures were 27.6 and 23.2 respectively. The mean age at marriage of girls is slightly higher than the


\textsuperscript{17} Alaka Malwade Basu, “Birth Control by Asset less Workers in Kerala: The Possibility of a Poverty Induced Fertility Transition”, \textit{Development and Change}, 17 (1986): 265-82.

Delayed marriage age and a deliberate attempt by couples to limit fertility were a response to the overall societal changes.

3.3.9 Mortality

Demographic transition cannot be achieved without mortality decline. Mortality decline in all sphere especially infant, child, and maternal as well as general mortality decline is needed. This health indicator plays a crucial role in population growth. In most demographic literature, Kerala stands out as a positive example. The experience of this state demonstrates that fertility and mortality decline can occur without substantial economic development. Kerala’s infant mortality rate (IMR) can be compared to developed nations.

Infant Mortality Rate, the most remarkable change in the demographic sphere is considered as an index which measures the quality of life in any given population. The widespread healthcare facilities, the successful population control campaigns, state supported nutrition programme for pregnant and new mothers and greater awareness regarding the importance of breast feeding are some of the factors that pulled down infant mortality rate. High level of female literacy and low gender gap in literacy are some of the other factors. Apart from humanistic consideration, reducing infant mortality rate is important to stabilize population.

Studies reveal that the infant mortality rate of Pathanamthitta District in 1991 was considerably lower when compared to the all Kerala Average. The difference in rural-urban infant mortality rate in Pathanamthitta registers a tendency just opposite to the same in the all Kerala average. In Kerala level, total urban infant mortality rate is 8 point lower than total rural infant mortality rate. On the contrary in Pathanamthitta total urban infant mortality rate is 8 point higher than the same for total rural infant mortality rate. Coming to 2001, we see the difference in infant mortality rate between
Kerala averages and figures for Pathanamthitta thinning away to bring the figures as well as trends roughly the same. The total infant mortality rate is same for Pathanamthitta and Kerala. Only the female urban infant mortality rate is higher in Pathanamthitta when compared to Kerala average. But the difference is only 3 points. Regarding child mortality rate also Pathanamthitta’s figures were low when compared to State average. (An absolute difference of 13). The advantage of Pathanamthitta is more among males than among females. Interestingly this low child mortality rate of Pathanamthitta is due to the developments in rural areas. The rural child mortality rate of Pathanamthitta in 1991 was 31 which were 17 points lower than the Kerala average. On the other hand the child mortality rate is more or less the same in the case of the urban Kerala and urban Pathanamthitta.

As in the case of infant mortality rate, over the 10 years from 1991 to 2001 child mortality rate of Kerala average registered a higher reduction as against the figures for Pathanamthitta to bring the figures more or less the same for both the state and district. Child mortality rate is somewhat similar for Pathanamthitta and Kerala in all its details like total, total male, total female, urban male etc. There was an overall decrease in mortality rate in all age groups. High literacy rate, development of health consciousness etc. can be cited as the main reasons.

3.3.10 Migration

Census Reports give details on district wise proportion of in-migrants by sex in rural and urban areas. In migrants to any district are those persons who are enumerated in the district at the time of enumeration but born outside the district of enumeration. The percentage of in-migrants to total population of each district has been calculated and is grouped into three ranges. The highest range of 12.01 and above percentage
has been occupied by Pathanamthitta in 1991 Census along with Idukki and Wayanadu.

The migration survey conducted by the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, points out that Pathanamthitta district have out migration above the State average.\(^{19}\) The Pathanamthitta district accounts for 13% of the total out migration in the state. Regarding the Migration Prevalence Rate, the district is above the State average. In Pathanamthitta district, the total number of migrants is almost the same as the number of households, the Migration Prevalence Rate being 99 percent.

### 3.3.11 Consequences of Demographic Transition Process

The demographic transition process has various consequences. Age structural transition is an integral part of a demographic transition. During the final stage of the demographic transition, when both fertility and mortality reach the lowest level, the share of old aged population increases. Thus, the dependency ratio increases during the final stage of demographic transition due to an increase in the elderly population. There has been a steady and more recently a sharper decline in the proportion of children of school going age, while the proportion of the aged population has increased significantly which is inevitable during transition. This has contributed to an age pyramid that has a shrinking base consisting of children and a swelling top consisting of senior citizens.

Since the proportion of children in the total population is reducing educational system especially primary school system has been seriously affected. The reduction has been

reflected in the school enrolment, particularly at the Lower Primary levels, and in the case of Pathanamthitta it has been well studied and this has resulted in ‘uneconomic schools’ and ‘protected teachers’. Not only this the cost of education and health will be reduced due to a decline in the number of children per household and this increases the expectations of parents and has resulted in a flow to English medium and Aided schools. Keeping the cost per child constant, fertility decline will contribute towards better quality of children with respect to education and health.

Another notable feature is the fast increasing number and proportion of elderly in the population. Ageing is intrinsic to socio-economic transition. Demographic transition leads to ageing, an increase in the proportion of the aged. The elderly is generally defined as consisting of population above 60 years of age. Some demographers distinguish categories of the old: young old (60-69 years), old (70-79 years), oldest old (80-89 years) and the extreme old (90+ years). Pathanamthitta leads the state, and perhaps the country, in the old-old (above 70 years) and the oldest-old (above 80 years) population. When the number and proportion of elderly in the district is studied in detail it can be seen that the district is not in first position in number of elderly. But in proportion of elderly (60+, 70+ and 80+) the district is in the first position.

Pathanamthitta’s story may present the most severe picture of an ageing society, but the district is also representative of the general direction of the state’s demography. Decline in birthrate, decline in death rate and migration lead to ageing. In case of the district the birth rate and death rate are lower than the State average and migration of working age population and return migration of elderly also contribute a great share in the process.

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20 J.N. Retnakumar, *op.cit.* 231-48

The challenges for elderly are more complex because a majority of elderly is in the rural areas, which are often left behind by migrating youth. This is a social issue in Pathanamthitta, modernization in the form of migration, affects severely the care of the old unlike in the past. Secondly, the gender dimension of the old age population is also of importance. There is feminization of the elderly population. As age advances, the sex ratio becomes more favourable to women.\textsuperscript{22}

Longevity has increased significantly in the last few decades mainly due to the socio-economic and health care developments. These factors are responsible for the higher numerical presence of elderly people leading to higher dependency ratio. In fact, care giving has emerged as a new need of the elderly due to increased longevity. Because of globalization, the traditional joint family systems are breaking up as the young in the family migrate for better livelihood options, leaving the elderly to fend for themselves. Pathanamthitta happens to be one of the leading beneficiaries of Non Resident Indian’s remittances, and so the senior citizens of the district may be relatively better off, but majority of seniors in Kerala face the challenging odds of dependencies and healthcare expenses.

The ageing population has also brought with it a new gender dimension. In the ageing society of the district the number of elderly females is considerably higher than those of males, owing to the higher life expectancy among females.

The reduction in the growth rate of population has some political effects too. When the Constituencies are reconstituted on the basis of population, in future, there are the chances for losing some Constituencies. This in turn leads to the reduction in MLA funds and consequently to the reduction in development.

3.4 Education

Education and man power development are considered as catalytic factors for the development of every nation. The earlier notion was that development of less developed nations will happen only through material capital. Now the notion has changed and in the place of material capital, human capital took the place.

Kerala’s achievements in the field of education - near total literacy, free and universal primary education, low dropout rate at the school level, easy access to educational institutions, gender equality in access etc. are well known. She had a long and definite lead in the history of Education among the Indian States. She stands miles ahead among the other Indian states in social indicators like literacy rate, higher enrolment of students, higher percentage of girl, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students in schools, low dropout rate among students etc. This unique position which Kerala has achieved is not the result of a sudden spurt of activity in the field of education in recent times, but the climax and culmination of the enlightened policies followed by its rulers from the very early days and the intellectual pursuits of the people spread over several centuries.23

3.4.1 Education and Modernization

Education has been used as a tool for economic, political and social modernization.24 Education is the key that unlocks the door to modernization. Missionary activities and


Travancore government’s educational policies were very vibrant and deeply influencing the process of modernization in this region from the beginning of the second half of the nineteenth century. Their zeal and outlook helped Kerala as well as the region covered under this study overcome the caste and sex biases and constraints in the field of social and educational progress.25 The way showed by the missionaries was zealously followed by the rulers of the pre-independence period. The socio-religious movements like Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana, Nair Service Society etc. gave their primary emphasis on education and at the time of independence - as a result of all these and other minor factors - Kerala stood first among the states of India in literacy and related aspects.

Modernity, if understood as a state of mind which is free from fears prejudices and superstitions and endowed with a scientific attitude and approach, definitely had direct causal relationship with the educational progress. Educational process spread ideals like reason, liberty, equality, fraternity and logical thinking. From the field of medicine to religion, modernity - even though colonial in essence - was ushered in simultaneously and the backbone of the development was formed by education. One may say that education was the cause and result of modernization at the same time in this geographical area. We note progressive changes in the socio-political, religious and economic structures – caste-ism, feudal land tenure, gender relations, semi-feudal monarchy etc of the prior period experiencing changes - in the region during this period as the light of modern western education and knowledge system penetrate the society gradually. These changes further enhanced the socio-economic base of education in return. Thus, the processes of development of education and modernization were mutually reciprocal, complementary and directly proportional.

3.4.2 Education and Social Change

Social change implies not only the change of outer form of a community or society but also in the social institutions as well as the ideas of the people living in that society. The material aspects of a culture as well as the ideas, values and attitudes of the people may change. The importance of the study of education and social change arises from the fact that the process and pattern of society of the present period owes its origin to a considerable extent from the developments taken before.

Among one of the most potent instruments of peaceful social change, education has been in the limelight at present times to ascertain the nature and degree of its efficacy as a harbinger of change. Changes may be good or bad but the effort of education is to make the change desirable. Education must produce a readiness on the part of the people to work for social change.

Educational progress can be seen behind many a social changes in the Pathanamthitta district in a multifarious way. Many of these go in conformity with the trends in the state as a whole.

Female education one of the most significant catalysts of the progressive social changes in the district and the State in general. When females are educated, changed attitudes are developed and imbibed by them and this can then be directly transmitted to the next generation. Usually the hardest hindrance in the path of social change is unlearning of the ideas and habits already imbibed and sometime cherished for generations. When education of attitudes, ideas and ideals are limited to male population, the female folk would continue to cherish the long-held but many a times mistaken notions and habits and attitudes of many a generations and they would probably transmit them to the younger generation which mainly they only bring up. This is for two reasons: first, absence of education for women and thus lack of modernization and change for their mindset and second, absence of education and the consequent lack of chances to go out for study or work purposes and being confined to
the walls of house where the lady has to look after the kids. When educated, females get a chance to go out for work or study. This coupled with education bring them changed mindset and they would transmit it to the young generation. This avoids the need to unlearning and thus hastens the process of social change.

In Kerala in general and in the District of Pathanamthitta in particular, female education received great fillip due to historic and socio-cultural factors. The Nairs, who constituted an affluent section of the Kerala society for ages practiced matrilineal system of inheritance and polyandry was not unknown to them. This opened the doors of public space for women in that community thus showed the way for the others too.

Being able to maintain a public space for themselves later helped women overcome barriers to get formal education and public services in due course.

When men in large numbers embarked on migration for work, women had to maintain the affairs of the public space in the locale and this further strengthened their role there. Even though the female work participation is low, more and more women are entering into the labour force from the district due to educational effects and gender equality and this can often be a trigger of change.

Emergence of smaller families is a major result and cause of social change at the same time. Education leads to better awareness and scientific knowledge on the one hand and to enhanced ability to plan a family on the other hand. This results in smaller families. Smaller families in return enable parents to educate their children better and higher as their burden is lesser and their resources to spend on child per head are larger. The structure of a small family in many ways brings about social change. The Mean household size of the district reduced from 4.5 in 1991 census to 4.1 in 2001 census. Absence of grandparents, closer interaction between parents and children, lesser burden on the shoulders of the parents, more importance to the fewer number of
children, their better bringing up, more leisure time, etc result and bring about changes in the society.

3.4.3 Education and Social Mobility

Social mobility is usually defined as the movement or opportunities for movement between different social classes or occupational groups. This concept can be seen as a measure of equality of opportunity. The term social mobility refers to the ability of someone to move from one position in the social order to another, from one class or socio-economic status to another. It allows people to move up or down the class ladder, upward or downward mobility. One of the most important aspects of social change is the vertical mobility connected with it and this is related to education. Thus the three variables Education, Social Change and Social Mobility are related to each other.

Political power, marriage, education etc are some of the ways of facilitating social mobility of which the primary channel for mobility is education. Social mobility has been a central feature of modern systems of education. Since formal education is essential for all established professions, education first of all maintains the class positions and then acts as a mechanism for social mobility.

Education is a powerful instrument of social and cultural mobility. Socially handicapped people as well as people suffering from poverty or illiteracy can be uplifted or made socially mobile if they are given opportunities of education. The educational policies of the State in general and the district in particular helped

promote considerable vertical social mobility by making school education accessible to students from all socio-economic strata.

Women are the foremost group enjoying the benefits of education and social mobility. From household works and agricultural occupations, more and more women are coming outside as higher education is being accessible to them. This change propelled through educational achievements provides social mobility. Economists tend to measure social mobility in terms of income and sociologists focus primarily on social mobility in terms of occupational status.

3.4.4 Equality of Educational Opportunity

Educational institutions and their admission, selection and certification processes may play a significant role in reducing or maintaining social inequalities. When the labour pattern is analysed a change in the female employment pattern over the years can be noticed.

The category “Other Workers” forms the major share of the workers in the district Pathanamthitta. 60.9% of the male workers and 74.5% of the female workers come under this category. Here the state average of the percentage of female workers employed in the category is 66.0%. 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 significantly higher representation of women in this category may be due to the growth in employment in the tertiary sector and increase in the literacy rate. Thus the changes in job pattern can be witnessed as a result of education and equality of educational opportunity.
3.4.5 Educational History of the District

Pathanamthitta district has a unique position in the educational map of Kerala. The district itself had a good educational tradition. Evidences are there stating that in the earlier period itself educational institutions like Salais, Ezhuthupallis, Kalaris existed here. The Thiruvalla Salai associated with Srivallabha Temple is well known for its Gurukula system of Education. In the 19th century several Sanskrit schools existed here of which the most important was the “Vignana Santhayani”, the one existed in Omalloor.27 The contributions of Mulur S. Padmanabhapanikkar also deserve special mention.

The princely State of Travancore had its own way of life and educational and social institutions. Since the district was a part of the princely state of Travancore, She also enjoyed all these benefits. The royal state of Travancore viewed Education as an important factor in modernization and development and has given its Royal patronage to Education. In Travancore education was started as a state programme as early as 1817, 53 years before England started that programme. The progressive policies followed by the respective governments and the large scale economic expansions resulting from the commercialization of agriculture have resulted in dynamism in the educational field.

The role of Christian missionaries, who set up schools and colleges and imparted western system of knowledge through the medium of English, was also important. The missionaries were the pioneers in the field of female education as well as of the depressed classes. The Christian missionaries took and started several schools that

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gave the required fillip to educational development. The missionary enterprise helped partly to reduce the magnitude of the problem of educating the backward classes.

The private enterprise in Travancore also helped the state in the educational endeavor. The government has always pursued a liberal and progressive policy in the spread of education and also encouraged other agencies in the field by providing them liberal grants. The private enterprise comprised of individual efforts and efforts of institutions like Nair Service Society, S.N.D.P and others.

Pathanamthitta District has two major educational divisions, viz, Pathanamthitta and Thiruvalla. The Sub-Districts under Pathanamthitta educational district are Ranny, Adoor, Pandalam, Kozhencherry, Konni and Pathanamthitta. Thiruvalla Educational District has Pullad, Vennikkulam, Mallappally, Thiruvalla and Aranmula as Sub-Districts.

3.4.6 Literacy

Literacy and educational attainments are the indicators of qualitative improvement in human resources and can also be considered as an indicator of the economic progress achieved by that country. Literacy, the basis of all education is as essential to survival and development in modern society as food is to survival and development of human body.

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In the area of education, clear progress can be seen if one looks at the figures of literacy rates over the years. The district had consistently maintained a much higher literacy rate compared with other districts. Her literacy rate in 1991 and 2001 were 94.86 and 95.09 which shoulders above other districts except Kottayam. In 2011 it again raised to 96.93% with second position in the State. Her female literacy rate of 93.29 in 1991 and 93.71 in 2001 and 96.26% in 2011 were unique against the state average.

If we were to go back to the educational statistics of Travancore at the end of nineteenth century, quite significantly, primary schools and vernacular schools had a clear predominance. This pattern of distribution of schools was also helpful in promoting mass literacy. Primary schools and vernacular education do help the spread literacy more than secondary schools and education in English.30

The district of Pathanamthitta also deserves special mention in the following factors. In 1991 Census, the Mallappally Taluk of the district is having the highest literacy rate of 97.03% and the highest female literacy rate of 96.35%. In 2001 census also the Taluk wise literacy rate shows a positive growth and above State average tendency.

Among the taluks in 2011 the highest literacy rate is noticed in Thiruvalla taluk (98.09%) of this district. This is also true in the case of males (98.61%) and females (97.63%) of Thiruvalla taluk. In the urban areas of the taluks, Thiruvalla taluk continues to uphold its position as the taluk with the highest literacy rate among females (97.99%).

3.4.7 Educational Infrastructure

Enhanced social development is impossible without the required social infrastructure as also complementary economic infrastructure. The latter is significant in contributing to the efficient utilization of the former.\textsuperscript{31} The total number of schools in the district in the year 1986-87 were 730, with Lower Primary (LP), Upper Primary (UP) and High School (HS) being 431,134 and 165 respectively. The corresponding Kerala figures were 6828, 2884, 2430 and the total number was 12142. Thus out of the total number of schools in 1986-87, the lower primary schools, upper primary schools and high schools account for 59.04\%, 18.35\% and 22.6\% respectively as against 56.23\%, 23.75\% and 20.02\% respectively of all Kerala figures. In 90-91, the figures changed to 58.73\%, 18.56\% and 22.71\% in the case of the district and 55.7\%, 24.1\% and 20.20\% in the case of the State.

However, the time trend reveals that the percentage of Lower Primary Schools has declined over the period while the share of Upper Primary Schools and High School has increased. There is a declining trend in the Lower Primary Schools in the district up to 1994-95 and after that a slight progress can be seen even though the pace of the progress is low. But the slight progress in the number of Lower Primary Schools is due to the increase in unaided schools. Gradual decline in the enrollment in standard one as a result of the drop in the birth rate and parents’ desire for western education are the reasons behind this.

When the total student strength is considered there has been a reduction of percentage of students in Lower Primary Schools to total students. From 84-85 periods to 2005-06 periods when we analyze the student strength it decreased continuously both in

\textsuperscript{31} Vijayamohanan Pillai N.,  \textit{Infrastructure, Growth and Human Development in Kerala} (Trivandrum: Center for Development Studies, 2008) 11.
Kerala as well as in the District but the decline is more felt in the district. The presence of ‘uneconomic schools’ and ‘protected teachers’ are more prominent here. This implies that the impact of demographic transition has been far greater in Pathanamthitta compared to that of Kerala.

Regarding the type of Schools it can be seen that the educational sector is dominated by Private agencies—both private aided and private unaided. As a consequence of demographic transition and fertility decline the student strength has declined and that adversely affected the Government as well as the Government aided section. There has been also a rapid growth of schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Indian Council of Secondary Education (ICSE).

Regarding the types of education changes in the structure of the education system is seen at every level. The emphasis has been shifted toward higher and technical education. The number of Polytechnics, Engineering Colleges, Medical and Para medical institutions are increasing at a rapid pace. When the enrollment from 1989-90 to 1998-99 periods were studied out of the total 19755 students enrolled in Class I, 17555 reached standard X, i.e. 88.86%. But among the SC and ST such a high percentage cannot be noted. In 1989, 3719 Scheduled Caste (SC) and 178 Scheduled Tribe (ST) students were enrolled in standard one. But in 1999 only 2835 Scheduled Caste students and 66 Scheduled Tribe students reached standard ten. The data reveals that students reaching class ten are 76.23% in the case of Scheduled Caste students and 37.08% in the case of Scheduled Tribe students.\(^{32}\) In 1999-2000, 175842 students were studying from classes 1 to 10. Out of this 89844 were boys and 85998 were girls. Among them there were 14454 Scheduled Caste boys and 13519 Scheduled Caste girls, the total constituting 27973. Among the total Scheduled Tribe students of 1056, 559 were boys and 502 were girls.

3.4.8 Impacts of Education

Education has contributed to the social and economic development of the district. If we take the impact of education in the sphere of health it is clear that education, particularly female education, which has been regarded by both academic researchers and institutions as being the key that unlocks the door leading to fertility reductions, has a fundamental influence on health and health seeking behaviour. Education has also contributed to the decline in mortality rates. Besides this a strong correlation between life expectancy and literacy can also be seen.

The achievements in the field of health have helped in achieving much renowned changes in demographic transition. The reduction in birthrate as well as the death rate has reduced the population growth to the minimum. The Travancore government pursued certain policies in the field of education which contributed directly or indirectly to the improvement in health status.\textsuperscript{33} The achievements of the district can be cited as a continuation of these policies. The district is recording the minimum growth rate even comparable with metropolitan cities.

Education has facilitated the large scale migration of people from the district whose remittances sustain the economy. The old generation received their education from these areas and migrated outside in search of better jobs. But now the major change is that the new generation starts their life as out migrants in search of education. The number of luxury buses from the district to neighboring states is the proof of this outflow. Literacy is a foundational feature of Kerala's political culture, crucial in the


creation of public opinion and essential to the consciousness of individual and political rights that is so conspicuous a feature of social and political life in Kerala. The decision making power of the women is also a by-product of education. It has also role in political mobilization. Education, especially female education has a profound role to play. High rate of female employment, higher age of marriage, higher decision making roles, utilization of health care facilities are other advantages.

3.5 Health

According to World Health Organization, health is not just the absence of disease or infirmity but is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being. The health services help to make society physically and mentally sound and increase the capacity of people to work more. Socio-economic development in a country is very much linked with the improvement of overall health of the people. Improvement of health is one of the primary goals of development. Better health has set the demographic transition in motion.

In the mid-1970s, a group of researchers came to the conclusion that Kerala, a relatively poor state, had made fairly impressive advances in health and education.35 Their study postulated that the sharp decline in birth rates in Kerala resulted from societal changes in attitude to family size resulting from longer life expectation,


reduction in infant and child mortality and female education. Kerala’s achievements in health care are far ahead of other states in the country and ranks first in attaining low birth rate, infant mortality rate and in attaining high life expectancy especially of females.\textsuperscript{36}

The health of a nation is difficult to define in terms of a single set of measures. It is a product of many factors and forces that combine and interact with each other. The health status of any people can be measured in terms of birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate, expectation of life at birth etc. Measuring in terms of these health indicators the district has commendable achievements in health standards.\textsuperscript{37} It exceeds Kerala in the field of almost all Health indicators. The rapidly declining growth rate, declining death rate, life expectancy especially female life expectancy, acceptance of family planning programmes and fertility decline are some among them. Better health has made the demographic transition more speedy, first increase in life expectancy, next decline in general death rates, next sharper decline in infant mortality finally a steeper fall in birth rate.

The health status of a population is a reflection of the socio-economic development of the country and is shaped by a variety of factors like education, employment, level of income,\textsuperscript{38} development of road networks and transportation, better utilization of health care facilities etc. The private health facilities also contributed to a great share in the health development of the area.\textsuperscript{39} Population Census, Civil Registration System and


\textsuperscript{37} Gethanjali, \textit{op.cit.} 44.

\textsuperscript{38} Subramanian S.V. and Kawachi Ichiro, “Income Inequality and Health: What have We Learned so far?”, \textit{Epidemiologic Reviews}, 26 (2004) 78–91.

\textsuperscript{39} Halstead S.B., \textit{Good Health at Low Cost} (New York: Rockefeller Foundation, 1985) 57–77.
Sample Registration System are some of the most reliable source of time series information on vital statistics in India. Regarding the major sources of the health indicators Sample Registration system occupies the pivotal position.

3.5.1 Life Expectancy

Expectancy of life at birth is an important indicator for assessing the overall health situation of any people and is one of the aspects of human development included in the HDI. It represents the average lifespan of a new born and is an important indicator for assessing the overall health situation of any population. The demographic transition in Kerala brought about commendable improvements in the area of health and life expectancy. In all the major reports\textsuperscript{40} Pathanamthitta exceeds Kerala in Life Expectancy. Life Expectancy at birth for males is higher in Pathanamthitta among the districts of Kerala. The figure is 76 which is 2.3 higher than the state average 73.7 which is quite notable.\textsuperscript{41} Because of natural advantage, women live longer than men if they receive comparable care. Female life expectancy at birth is also higher in Pathanamthitta compared to the state average. The advantage is of 1.9 years. But in case of female life expectancy, Pathanamthitta is not in the first position.

3.5.2 Total Fertility Rate

The most commonly used measures of current fertility are the total fertility rate and its components, age-specific fertility rates. The total fertility rate is the most significant

\textsuperscript{40} District Plan Pathanamthitta, op.cit, p.229
\textsuperscript{41} Human Development Report, op.cit., p.168

\textsuperscript{41} Human Development Report, op.cit.170.
demographic indicator in the analysis of the impact of national population programmes - in particular, family planning programmes - on individual or group reproductive behaviour.

Kerala made achievements in total fertility rate with a low per capita income. High status of women, female literacy, age at marriage and low infant mortality were thought to be factors behind the rapid fall in the fertility rate. Researchers in the field of health have come to the conclusion that one of the most important factors behind Kerala’s remarkable performance in reducing fertility is the high level of female education. The total fertility rate of the district was 1.7 in 1984–90, which further declined to 1.5 in 2001. Pathanamthitta in 2001 registered the lowest total fertility rate among the districts of Kerala which was 0.2 lower than the State average. In other words the total fertility rate of the district Pathanamthitta was almost 12% lower than that of the State average. It is one of the lowest fertility districts in the country besides metropolitan districts such as Chennai (1.3) and Kolkata (1.4).

3.5.3 Infant Mortality Rates and Child Mortality Rates

A significant role in the dramatic decline in fertility in Kerala in the 1970s was played by the sharp decline in infant mortality rates. Infant mortality rates are considered as an index which measures the quality of life in any given population. Of all the changes in the demographic sphere that have occurred in Kerala, the decline in infant mortality rate is the most remarkable.


Table 3.6: Infant and Child Mortality Rates

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IMR - Infant Mortality Rates
CMR - Child Mortality Rates

The widespread healthcare facilities, the successful population control campaigns, state supported nutrition programme for pregnant and new mothers and greater awareness regarding the importance of breast feeding are some of the factors that pulled down infant mortality rate. High level of female literacy and low gender gap in literacy are some of the other factors. Apart from humanistic consideration, reducing infant mortality rate is important to stabilize population.

The study reveals that the infant mortality rate of Pathanamthitta District in 1991 was considerably lower when compared to the All Kerala Average in that year marking an absolute difference of 8 points. Difference in infant mortality rate is bigger among males in that year (absolute difference is 9) where as in the case of females the

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absolute difference is only 4 points. This difference is observed in the case of Pathanamthitta when there is no such difference seen in the all Kerala average. Here the absolute difference observed is only 2. Very notably, the figures vary considerably between the urban and rural population. The total infant mortality rate of rural Pathanamthitta in 1991 was 28 whereas in Kerala it was 38. The advantage of Pathanamthitta is higher among rural males that are 11 points. The advantage of Pathanamthitta rural females over Kerala rural female is 9 which is 2 less than the same for Pathanamthitta. In the all Kerala average the infant mortality rate among rural male is 38 and among female is 39 marking only an absolute difference of one point between them. Coming to urban areas a difference can be noted. The total infant mortality rate of Pathanamthitta is 6 points higher than that of Kerala average.

The difference in rural-urban infant mortality rate in Pathanamthitta registers a tendency just opposite to the same in the all Kerala average. In Kerala level, total urban infant mortality rate is 8 point lower than total rural infant mortality rate. On the contrary in Pathanamthitta total urban infant mortality rate is 8 point higher than the same for total rural infant mortality rate. Astonishingly among the males, infant mortality rate in Pathanamthitta shows the tendency same as in the all Kerala average and in a considerably advanced level. The total male infant mortality rate of Pathanamthitta is lower than Kerala average in both rural and urban areas. The rural male infant mortality rate of Pathanamthitta is 11 point lower than Kerala while the urban male infant mortality rate of Pathanamthitta is 8 point lower than the Kerala average.

The entire contrasting trend is seen in the case of the urban female infant mortality rate. The urban female infant mortality rate in Pathanamthitta is 13 point higher than the Kerala average. Coming to 2001, we see the difference in infant mortality rate between Kerala averages and figures for Pathanamthitta thinning away to bring the figures as well as trends roughly the same. The total infant mortality rate is same for
Pathanamthitta and Kerala. Only the female urban infant mortality rate is higher in Pathanamthitta when compared to Kerala average. But the difference is only 3 points. Comparing the 1991 and 2001 results it can be seen that in the all Kerala level, total infant mortality rate got reduced to less than 50% over the 10 years. Infant mortality rate in Pathanamthitta also got considerably reduced from 29 to 18. The development in reducing infant mortality rate in all Kerala level was quite quicker than in the case of Pathanamthitta over the period 1991 to 2001. Pathanamthitta could not catch up with the race of Kerala in average.

Infant mortality rate is a robust indicator of health of the population despite being limited only to a sub group of population.\(^{(45)}\) It reflects adequacy of nutrition available to infants and women of reproductive age-group and utilization of protective health care services and hygienic conditions like availability of clean water and sanitation. Infant mortality rate is an important indicator of level of human development and is considered an indicator of overall socio-economic development of a society.

### 3.5.4 Child Mortality Rate

Regarding Child Mortality Rate also Pathanamthitta’s figures were low when compared to State average. The advantage of Pathanamthitta is more among males than among females. Interestingly this low child mortality rate of Pathanamthitta is due to the developments in rural areas. The rural child mortality rate of Pathanamthitta in 1991 was 31 which were 17 points lower than the Kerala average. On the other

hand the child mortality rate is more or less the same in the case of the urban Kerala and urban Pathanamthitta.

Notably the advantage of Pathanamthitta in child mortality rate is confined to rural areas only because of an increased child mortality rate among urban females. Among urban males, child mortality rate in Pathanamthitta is 11 points lower than the Kerala average. But female urban child mortality rate in 1991 in Pathanamthitta was 11 points higher than the state average. It is this high rate of child mortality rate among the females of Pathanamthitta as against the state average that negates the district’s advantages in urban male child mortality rate. In 1991, female urban child mortality rate of the district was more than 200% of the male urban child mortality rate of the district.

As in the case of Infant mortality rate, over the 10 years from 1991 to 2001 child mortality rate of Kerala average registered a higher reduction as against the figures for Pathanamthitta to bring the figures more or less the same for both the state and district. Child mortality rate is somewhat similar for Pathanamthitta and Kerala in all its details like total, total male, total female, urban male etc. The reduction of child mortality rate in all Kerala level is almost twice that of the Pathanamthitta district in many of the above said categories. In other categories also the child mortality rate reduction is considerably higher as in with the all Kerala average. In the case of urban female only child mortality rate of Pathanamthitta achieved a higher reduction than the all Kerala average.

3.5.5 Birth Rates and Death Rates

Demographic data, which is very much useful for planning programme implementation, is received through various ways, of which one of the important
sources is Registration of births and deaths. The Registrar General of India initiated a Sample Registration of births and deaths in India on a full scale during 1969-70, to provide reliable estimates of fertility and mortality in the absence of dependable vital rates from the civil registration system. The registration records are primarily useful for their value as their legal documents and secondarily as a source of vital statistics.\textsuperscript{46} In most of the studies birth rate is the lowest in Pathanamthitta district. In the District Plan of 1997 Pathanamthitta registers a birth rate of 12 as against a Kerala figure of 17.9

\textbf{3.5.6 Crude Death Rate.}

Crude death rate shows the frequency of deaths in the population and thus the overall health status of a population. There was an overall decrease in mortality rate in all age groups. High literacy rate, development of health consciousness etc can be cited as the main reasons. In all the periods the crude death rate of Pathanamthitta was lower than the state average. In 1994-2001 crude death rate was lowest in Pathanamthitta among the districts of Kerala when the state average was 17.1. It means that crude death rate of Pathanamthitta was 15.2\% lower than that of the state average.

Death Rates and Birth rates are analyzed from Vital Statistics Reports. Over the period from 1985 to 2005 Death Rate in Pathanamthitta district has been almost static with slight changes over years. It has been varying from 4.92 to 7.82. What is noticeable specifically is the fact that all through the period death rate has been doubled or even tripled in the urban Pathanamthitta when compared to the rural. Birth Rate but shows a more declining tendency occasionally with a slight reverse trend in some years. Birth Rate was 19.76 in 1985. For the next four years it showed declining slightly to bring it down to 17.84 in 1989. The year 1990 registered a slight reverse

tendency. Then again the progressive decline in birth rate continued up to the year 2000 to bring the figure to the lowest 14.32 level. Generally speaking, the Birth Rate in the district has shown a declining tendency from 1985 to 2000 and then it has become somewhat stable. Notably, just like the Death Rate, in fact in a more increased level, Birthrate was higher in urban parts of the district when compared to rural side. The huge difference in Birth Rate in Rural and Urban areas may be due to the possible fact that child births often take place in the hospitals in urban areas and even the women from rural Pathanamthitta are delivering their kids in the urban hospitals.

3.5.7 Couple Protection Rate

An important indicator showing the performance of family planning programmes is the percentage of couples currently protected by various methods. Regarding the Couple Protection Rate, during the district formation period it was 42.7 as against the state average of 36.8. A difference of 5.9 points only can be seen. Gradually it increases and by 2004 a difference of 18.2 points can be seen, but regarding the rank of the district among other districts of the State, to it was the fifth highest in 1981. In 1990 the position declined to eighth and to tenth in 1992. In 1981 it was 5.9 above the state average but fell 2.3 below state average in 1990 and 2.4 by 1992. In 1999 it was almost in par with the state average, just 0.93 below the state average but in 2004 a clear cut increase had taken place. The couple protection ratio can be identified as a prominent reason for fertility decline.

3.5.8 Health Infrastructure

Health development in Kerala, comparable to that of high-income countries, has been the outcome of investment in health infrastructure in public, private and co-operative
sectors, along with people’s health awareness and connectivity. Development of health infrastructure ensures a country of healthy manpower for production of goods and services. Health infrastructure includes hospitals, doctors, nurses and other para-medical professionals, beds, equipment required in hospitals and a well-developed pharmaceutical industry. Other than the presence of infrastructure facilities, utilization of the same is also important which can be explained in terms of accessibility, better transportation facilities and better literacy.

There is a fairly good distribution of health facilities in the public sector as well as private sector with the private sector fast growing in the urban as well as rural areas of the district. Three systems of medicine viz., Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic co-exist here. The facilities available for allopathic treatment in the public sector include General Hospital, District Hospital Taluk hospitals and numerous Primary Health Centres and sub centres under them. There are also institutions for infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and leprosy. Community health centres and Family Welfare Centres also work properly in the district.

During the district formation period the total number of institutions was 47 in the Allopathic section which includes 4 hospitals, 11 Primary Health Centres, 31 dispensaries and 1 TB Centre. In the 80’s itself the number started increasing. Primary Health Centres registered a shoot whereas dispensaries reduced in numbers. The district also supported other systems of medicine - Ayurveda and Homeopathy. The three systems together have 227 medical institutions in the district. Of these 158 belong to allopathic including 10 hospitals, 7 dispensaries, 54 Primary Health Centres. Ayurveda supports 14 hospitals and 31 dispensaries where as the Homeopathic field had 26 dispensaries. Panchayat Statistics of 2006 states that the


total number increased to 425 out of which the share of Allopathic hospitals, Ayurveda and Homeopathy was 343, 55 and 27 respectively.\textsuperscript{49}

In the health sector the role of the private sector is significant and it has grown phenomenally with facilities in all three systems of medicine. The private sector has been particularly successful in providing facilities for sophisticated tertiary care.\textsuperscript{50} Both the three systems together have 465 medical institutions which is almost double the number in the government sector. Allopathy was in the lead with 169 institutions whereas Ayurveda and Homeopathy shares 95 and 201 respectively. In 2006 the number increased to 495 i.e., 195 in Allopathic 95 in Ayurvedic and 207 in Homeopathic.\textsuperscript{51} The density of government medical institutions (per lakh of population) is higher in Pathanamthitta, largely because population density is lower. The number of hospital beds was largely confined to the Allopathic section. In the 1983-84 period the district started with 707 beds in the government sector which had increased to 1086 in 2001\textsuperscript{52} and later to 1474 in 2006.\textsuperscript{53} Ayurveda was far behind in this regard with only 50 in 1983-84 and to 58 in 2001 and 174 in 2006. The private sector plays a pivotal role in medical care with three times the number in the government sector. Panchayat Statistics 2001 and 2006 reports 3002 and 5750 beds in the Allopathic section.


\textsuperscript{52} Panchayat Statistics 2001, op.cit., 403.

\textsuperscript{53} Panchayat Statistics 2006, op.cit., 104.
Thus to sum up, Pathanamthitta district was the first Polio-free district in India (declaration on Oct 2, 1994), also the first district in India implementing eradication of Tuberculosis with the help of World Bank and the district has commendable achievements in the demographic area. These achievements especially in the field of mortality and fertility were attributed to sufficient health coverage. The health development is generally attributed to inter sectoral factors such as the spread of education, political awareness, development of road networks and transportation and social movements. Rather than the geographical distribution of health care facilities better utilization of it is more important. Fertility rate is influenced by a variety of factors. Socio-economic characteristics of the population influence fertility. Age structure of the population has a major effect on fertility. If more people in a society fall into the reproductive age group that society is bound to have a high fertility rate. Rising per capita income has been associated with better health and lower fertility all over the world. Besides income factor non income factors also play their roles in lowering infant and child mortality as well as fertility. Education especially female literacy is a factor in the field of health. Amartya Sen attributes Kerala’s better social indicators to state involvement in education which started in 1817. It has been


considered a very important determining factor for effecting declines in mortality\textsuperscript{57}, in reducing fertility\textsuperscript{58} in reducing infant mortality rates\textsuperscript{59} and making changes in demography.

Higher female literacy in Kerala has contributed significantly toward higher utilization of maternal and child health services by the women of the state. They are also less inhibited regarding physical examinations and more open to traveling to the health centers. Indirectly higher literacy has contributed to a higher level of political participation of the rural poor, which, in turn, has forced the state government in the post-independence era to cater to their health needs along with other needs. High levels of female literacy, rapid gains in the sanitation front and an extensive network of modern medical care institutions, both in rural and urban areas have served as push factors in accelerating health development. The district was much ahead of other districts in the State with regard to literacy. In both the two censuses the district stood in the second rank.

Work participation rate has shown a negative relationship with fertility. When we analyze the work participation rate of the district we get a dismal picture that it is below the state average. Male work participation rate of Pathanamthitta was 48.0 in 1991 whereas the Female work participation rate was 12.3. The male work

\textsuperscript{57} Caldwell J.C., “Routes to Low Mortality in Poor Countries”, Population and Development Review 12, (1986) 171-220


\textsuperscript{59} Murthi Mamta, Anne-Catherine Guio and Jean Dreze, op.cit. 42.
participation rate was almost 4 times the female work participation rate in 1991. 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 immunization programs launched by Kerala since late 1970s seem to have played a great role in the development of the district. The expansion of immunization into the whole of Kerala and the district in particular in the 1980s must have played an important role in bringing down infant mortality. Good health is an essential prerequisite not only for women’s participation in economic activities but also for their better control of their own lives.60 The fertility and mortality rates have declined significantly over a period of time.

3.6 Family

Family, a basic unit of study in most Social Science disciplines, may be broadly defined as a unit of two or more persons united by marriage, blood, adoption, or consensual union, in general consulting a single household, interacting and communicating with each other.61 Family in its various forms has been recognized as a basic unit of society and social structures and is a link between individual and community. It is a basic, cohesive, and integral unit of the larger social systems. The family is the basic and important unit of society because of the role it plays in generation of human capital resources and the power that is vested in it to influence individual, household, and community behavior.62


Families are undergoing rapid changes in their structure, functions and responsibilities. In the economic sphere, the patterns of production, distribution and consumption have changed greatly. Urbanization, commercialization, Migration to foreign countries, change from caste oriented and hereditary occupations to new patterns of employment has left their impact on the family. These changes in the socio-economic milieu of our society have led to changes in the structures, functions, roles, relationships and values of the family.

Family structure has changed markedly over these years. Families and households become smaller, with frequent changes in size and composition. Globalization, modernization and changes caused by demographic transition, internal and international migration are some of the factors affecting families nowadays. Various functional changes are also taking place in the family system. Families have been attributed with biological functions such as reproduction, social functions like caring the old, sick, and socialization of children etc., and Economic functions like catering the needs of the members. Changes are taking place in all these arenas. Notable changes have also been occurring in the life style, fashion, food habits, types of residences etc.

It is through education in the family which is both of informal and formal types that the individual acquires his primary and secondary values. Hence the role of family as an agency of education cannot be ignored. The institution of family can be utilized in bringing about desirable social changes if we at the same time keep in view its education role. Human development can, thus, be enhanced by enriching family life. Makkathayam or the patrilineal system was the prevalent form of succession in the civilized society. In Travancore, Marumakkathayam or the matrilineal system of inheritance was in vogue among certain communities. The Nairs and Ezhavas of the district also practiced the system. Due to rapid socio cultural and political changes taken place in the state and especially with the spread of education, matrilineal system

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declined in tune with that of the State.\textsuperscript{64} The concept of family has also undergone extreme changes. As these societies shifted to patrilineal system men assumed the role of providers. As a result of the changes households became less extended and more nuclear and transition from joint families to nuclear families can also be witnessed.

Since a family may be defined as a group of persons related to a specific degree through blood, adoption or marriage, comparative data in the broad definition of the term is not available. The available statistics relate to households, defined by location, community or living arrangements. The changes in family structure are amply reflected by the National Census Data. When the last three census data are analyzed the number of households grew at a faster pace than the population. This indicates that nuclearization of families is growing in the district.

The district which is forefront in demographic transition and migration rates, changes in family structure and functions occur mainly due to these factors. Over the years, changes have been taking place in the socio-economic and demographic dimensions. Low growth rate in population, low birth and mortality rate, higher life expectancy, changes such as reduction in the number of children a couple has, changes in the age structure of the population are some major factors that had their impact on the traditional family system when the district is considered. Reduction in population growth occurred due to fertility levels in turn result in reduction in family size. Family is a major factor in the survival, health, education, development and protection of children. Reduction in the number of children a couple has definitely made the family more children centric.

Demographic transition also makes important changes within the family perhaps not always favorable.\textsuperscript{65} In the developing societies due to great zeal for social change, social institutions like family have suffered a lot. The old and aged people have to live separately when the young son becomes employed and has his own family. This has created problems not only for old parents but also children in the family. Pathanamthitta and Kottayam are more advanced than other districts in their demographic transition and naturally have more old age homes than other districts in the State.\textsuperscript{66}

The demographic transition provides an opportunity for women to enter into the labour market. Due to drastic decline in fertility women had adequate extra time to spend for productive employment outside. From being unpaid family workers, they become wage earners. Such change is likely to enhance the independence of women and to strengthen their role in decision making within the family. As a result there were significant familial changes especially in the relationship within the family and between generations. The female age at marriage went up, the proportion not married have significantly increased, the elder care become difficult for the children etc. All these changes had profound influence on the family relationship and particularly for the elderly.

Migration both internal and international is yet another major factor that caused changes in the family set up of the district. This factor itself is challenging family structures. The migration of the younger generation has a significant impact on the inter-generational contract and the dynamics of the family left behind. The prospect of the younger people living with their parents is becoming increasingly difficult if not


impractical, as the search for employment opportunities take them more to locations away from their homes and to distant lands

Migration has fundamental implication for women and children. They suffer when the male migrates either alone or with them. 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. The increase in female headed households could be due to variety of reasons including widowhood, migration, non-marital fertility and marital instability. The district which is ahead of the state in demographic transition especially sex ratio and growth rate of population and female life expectancy, the number of widows are likely to be more.

Likewise, the district which is in the forefront of demographic ageing the other group 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. Besides the migration factor the other major factor that makes changes to the life of elderly is the entry of women, the traditional caregivers, to labour market. Even though the opportunity existing in the district and the state hampers the female entry into the labour market, more and more women are now in the employed category.

Changes are taking place in women’s roles in families. Even though the female work participation of the district is low, the numbers of educated and employed women are increasing. Here too the persons who are suffering the most are the elderly. Also the breakup of the traditional joint family system to nuclear one also had its repercussions on the elderly. Current trends indicate that there is a definite change in the basic system of family, especially the role of elders. Elderly people experience a stage of transition from independence to interdependence, then to total dependence, which

produces a crises and tension for all generations. Earlier they were given a high status in family and always acted as the chief decision makers. But the breakup of the traditional joint family system coupled with migration and female work participation made the life miserable. The number of old age homes in the district testifies this. The economic hardships are yet another problem of the elderly. As a result of ageing they were exempted from formal occupations and become vulnerable to economic hazards. All these point to the growth of an alternate family pattern here. Such families are, therefore, not mere lifestyle experimentations but come out of certain circumstances.

As the scale of labour migration grows ever larger by the day, transformation takes place in the lives of the global migrants, their families as well as the local areas from which the migrant flow initially took off. The increased physical mobility among family members has resulted in families being spread across the globe. The emergence of new family forms like transnational families calls for reorganization of the lives of those staying behind - often women, children and elderly. Meanwhile aged family members constitute a significant number within these transnational migrant families.

A number of changes have been observed in the patterns of marriage such as age at marriage, inter-caste marriage, etc. A substantial increase of the proportions never married, among both males and females, at young ages, has been noted in many censuses. A consequence of the increase in the proportion of never married young adults is the gradual upward trend of the average age at marriage. A major area of the family that has been affected by the social and economic changes in the society is that of the role performed or expected of the different members of the family. The role of the father, the mother, the husband, the child and the elders in the family has all undergone various changes.


69 Bharat S., Alternate Family Patterns and Policies: Alternate Family Pattern (Bombay: TISS, 1994) 72-76.
3.7 Women in Society

Women have been an integral part of the social structure not only because of their importance in the reproduction and caring of human race but also by virtue of their significant contribution to socio-economic progress. Gender analysis views women and men in terms of the roles they play in society, roles that change as societies change. Improvement in the status of women is a crucial factor in the development of a region.

The study of social status of women is important because it forms one of the most trustworthy and reliable indices of the state of society and indicates the nature and direction of social change.\(^{70}\) The socio economic status of women in Kerala related to that of men reveals that the position of feminine folk in the State is much advanced than that in other states of the country. Laudable achievements are there in the socio-demographic realms, such as favourable sex ratio, high levels of literacy, high health standards unseen in other parts of the country.\(^{71}\) Thus, it has become a commonplace in development studies literature that the agency of women has contributed significantly to high social development in Malayalee society. The women in Travancore also enjoyed a high status thanks to the ruling class, the Christian missionaries and the socio reform movements.

For measuring the status of women in the district the following indicators are used. Sex ratio, literacy rate and access to education, work Participation rate and improvements in the field of health.

\(^{70}\) Abha Chauhan, *Tribal Women and Social Change in India*, (Bombay: A.C. Brothers, 1990) 34.

3.7.1 Sex Ratio

Sex Ratio is the most credible pointer towards status of women in a society. Declining sex ratio for a population has generally been diagnosed as an indicator of worsening female advantage. Pathanamthitta district has a sex ratio favoring the female population. The sex ratio of the district has steadily increased over the preceding decades. In all the censuses in the study period females out number males and the district has the top most position in the Kerala State in this regard.

In Pathanamthitta district, according to 1991 Census there are 1062 women for every thousand men against the all Kerala figure of 1036. The district had the second position in the State too. In 2001 the district improved its position to rank one with 1094 females per thousand males as against 1058 in the State. In 2011 it again raised to 1129 with the second position in the State. Large scale male outmigration from the district for better job opportunities coupled with women literacy and improvements in health indicators, low infant mortality rate, long life expectancy etc can be cited as reasons behind this.

3.7.2 Access to Education

Education, a fundamental human right confers various advantages on individuals. Besides economic and political development, Education’s multi dimensional advantage also includes social development. This is more possible when gender equity is achieved. Gender justice gets a boost when women have access to education, which, by enhancing women’s knowledge and employment capacity, increases their sense of autonomy and self worth. When Education acts as a vehicle for professionalization

and social mobility among women an upward movement can be witnessed. In Kerala in general and in the District of Pathanamthitta in particular, female education received great fillip due to historic and socio-cultural factors.

In the process of human development, literacy’s role cannot be minimized. Attainment of literacy improves people’s productivity by strengthening their knowledge and skill base, and this, in turn, increases their income. In the case of female literacy it enhances the capacities of women choices about their lives and about their rights as citizens in a democracy, open up avenues of knowledge, give high health awareness, employment capacity as well as equity and social justice.

Pathanamthitta district has a high position in the case of literacy especially female literacy. In 1991, 2001 and 2011 census, the district had a female literacy rate above the State average. In 1991 it was 93.29, 93.71 in 2001 and 96.26 in 2011. In that place Kerala had 86.17, 87.86 and 91.98. In the two Censuses it retained the second position in the State and in the last one bagged the top position.

3.7.3 Health

Health is one of the important indicators for assessing the status of women in any society. The state of an Indian woman's health is intrinsically related to her socio-economic status and affects all aspects of her life. Nutrition levels remain low in the lower socio-economic groups. This is mainly due to poverty and the burden of family responsibilities. In the lower middle income groups, the general neglect of food intake, accentuated by discrimination in favour of males, has also resulted in low levels of nutrition.

Access to better education in a way has positive effects on the health standards of the people. The major indicators of good health like more life expectancy among females, less fertility rate, less maternal mortality rate etc point to the health standards of women in the district. Because of natural advantage, women live longer than men if
they receive comparable care. Female life expectancy at birth is also higher in Pathanamthitta compared to the State average. The advantage is of 1.9 years.

3.7.4 Participation in the Labour Force

In the modern society, women have assumed greater responsibility, both at home and in the world of work. With progressive change in the economic structure of the country, more and more women are living out of their homes in search of employment. The new role of women of sharing in the income earning activity has come to co-exist with their primary status as mothers and house wives. Consequently, working women are expected to be both traditional and modern in domestic and public jurisdictions.73

The Work Participation Rate of a State indicates to a great extent the economic empowerment of women in the society. There still exists a large difference between the work participation rates of males and females, which is an important aspect of gender inequality.74 The status of women is intimately connected with their economic position, which in turn depends on opportunities for participation in economic activities. Women in the state in spite of enjoying better status and position compared to other parts of the country have low levels of participation in economic activity.75


Female Work Participation Rate of Pathanamthitta marked an exceptional growth during the period 1991-2001 even though it stood only in the 12th place among the districts of Kerala. 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%. This growth is significant because it was achieved when 9 districts of Kerala showed decline in female Work Participation Rate.

Regarding rural woman Work Participation Rate Pathanamthitta stands 11th among the districts of Kerala when the Work Participation Rate of rural women in 1991 is considered. It was 12.6 in 1991 and the figure is only slightly higher (0.1) than the total woman Work Participation Rate. But the district marks a 1.8% positive change when compared to the state average. Regarding the urban women Work Participation Rate in the year 1991 it was 11.8. In 2001 we find her almost in the same position and figure in comparison with the other districts of Kerala. She marked only a 0.2% of increase over the period. We may note that the growth in urban women Work Participation Rate of Pathanamthitta from 1991 to 2001 falls 0.3% behind the state average of change over the period when the rural woman Work Participation Rate of Pathanamthitta registered an increase of 1.8% above the state average of Kerala. The Work Participation Rate of female main workers show same tendency during the period. When a majority of districts in Kerala showed considerable decrease in the Work Participation Rate of female main workers, Pathanamthitta almost maintained status quo with a slight decline by 0.2%.

Pathanamthitta had attained 0.9 point increase in the Work Participation Rate of female marginal workers over the period 1991 to 2001. The rate of change in Pathanamthitta’s Work Participation Rate of female marginal workers from 1991 to

2001 is 0.5 points below the state average. The demise of many traditional household industries such as handloom and weaving may account for the lower representation of women in the marginal category, at least in the rural area of Kerala.\textsuperscript{76} In the all Kerala level, the tendency of change in the Work Participation Rate of female marginal workers is opposite to the tendency of change in the Work Participation Rate of female main workers. Pathanamthitta showed a tendency of change similar to that of the all Kerala tendency, but with a lesser degree of change.

In the case of Pathanamthitta district the role and status of women in the district is influenced by a variety of factors. The geographical area included in the present Pathanamthitta district had a good tradition in female education pioneered by missionaries and other socio religious reformers. Now the district with a high demographic advantage, and a lower fertility rate even compared to metropolitan cities in India, the role and status of women is changing. Women had adequate extra time to spend for productive employment outside. Even though the female work participation is low, that does not mean that the supply of female labour is low since a certain percentage of women would be unemployed. Due to educational effects and gender equality more women are changing their traditional occupational structure and this can often be a trigger of change.

Significant familial changes especially in the relationship within the family and between generations and especially for the elderly are being witnessed in the district. The district which is ahead of the state in demographic transition especially sex ratio and growth rate of population and female life expectancy, the number of widows are more.

Education, especially female education pioneered by the missionaries has a profound role to play in the condition of women folk of the district. It is the key factor for women to be employed. Now gender equity opens avenues for more women to higher education. Besides this, education gave a chance for females to go out for work or for further study. This triggers social mobility and upward mobilization among the women folk. Female education acts as a good catalyst for progressive social changes in the district like changes in family and life patterns and changing social norms, improvement in scientific knowledge and ability to plan a family.

The district with a high migration prevalence ratio, migration had its effects on women in the district. Migration and its consequent income effect can be cited as a reason for the lower female work participation in the district. Migration is also the reason for the increasing female headed households in the district. When men in large numbers embarked on migration for work, women had to maintain the affairs of the public space in the locale and this further strengthened their role there.

The Gender Development Index which is often used to state the development of the countries of the world by the Human Development Report place the district in the pathway of the State. Except life expectancy in all other indicators males are ahead of females. But a comparison with the State reveals that in all the indicators except Real Percapita Income and Gross Enrollment, the rates of the district are above the State average.

3.8 Religion

Religion is an important characteristic of the people in any country. As far as religion is concerned, Pathanamthitta district is special in many ways. This hilly terrain is well known as the headquarters of pilgrim worship in Kerala. Historically, from the beginning of the Christian era, the district has been able to house new religions and religious sects. When the Brahmins from the other parts of the country established 32 settlements in Kerala, some of them like Aranmula Thiruvalla, Venmani were also in
this district. Some other settlements are close to the district on the banks of river Pamba. This had geographical factors behind. The rich and fertile river valleys in the district made it best suitable for wetland agriculture and thus the Brahmans chose to settle down there.\textsuperscript{77}

One of the most popular pilgrim centers of India, Sabarimala is located in this district. Recently, a number of new sects and new religious formations have either originated or come to prevalence in the district. The trend of emergence of new sects is seen mainly in Christianity and Hinduism. The geography, history and economy of the district along with migration and such factors influence the religious profile of the district and the change in it over the course of years.

\subsection{3.8.1 Population by Religion}

The major religions groups in the district are Hindus, Christians and Muslims. The other religious communities like Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists are insignificant as their percentage to total population is very negligible.

Demographically speaking Hindus constitute more than half of the population in the district in the two censuses which is in accordance with the all Kerala pattern. In 1991 out of the total population of 1188332, 660432 were Hindus. i.e., Hindus constitute 55.58\% of the total population. In 2001 the total Hindu population of the district increased to 56.28\% against the all Kerala figures where it reduced to 56\% from 57.28\%. In the case of male-female break up also 1991 figures correspond to the

\textsuperscript{77} Raghava Varier and Rajan Gurukkal, \textit{Kerala Charithram} (Sukapuram: Vallathol Vidhyapeedom, 1992) 111.
Kerala figures of approximately 49% and 51%. In 2001 the male figures reduced to 47.8% and a slight improvement in female figures can be seen.

Regarding the Muslim population Pathanamthitta is the district with the least Muslim population in both the censuses. In 1991 census period the district had only 4.03% of the total population as Muslims whereas in Kerala they constitute 23.33%. But in the 2001 census period a slight increase in the Muslim population can be seen (4.57%). Here also the percentage of female population is more than that of the male population in both the censuses. But the percentage of male to total population is seen decreasing whereas the female percentage is seen increasing against the Kerala trend.

The Christian population constitutes 40.36% of the total population whereas in Kerala as a whole they constitute only 19.32%. But in 2001 the percentage decreased to 39% of the total population even though it retained the third rank among the districts of Kerala. Christians were the only major religious group in the district that showed a reduction in population proportion. Likewise the female percentage has increased and a reduction in male percentage can be seen against the Kerala trend. Though all the three major religious groups have grown in numbers, the rate of growth among Christians (0.45%) is the lowest as compared to Muslims (17.82%) and Hindus (5.17%) during 1991-2001.

Besides the three above said religious groups in the district, there were 14 Sikhs, 10 Jains and 86 people belonging to other religious persuasions. In 2001 the number of these people has changed to 81, 42 and 45 respectively. In 1991 census Buddhists were not reported but in 2001 census 64 Buddhists were noted. The numbers of persons who have not stated their religion due to reasons unknown were 403 in 1991 and 1165 in 2001.
3.8.2 Profile of Religious Communities

The co-existence of different religions was the specific feature of pre-modern Travancore. Among the Hindus, the Nairs and Ezhavas were numerically superior. These two were identified as two distinct communities within the Hindu fold having their own distinct features and characteristics.

The Nairs occupied an important position in the social life of Travancore. The Nairs mostly land lords, controlled their respective villages, constituted the bulk of the militia of the principalities. Nairs are the Savarna Hindus who constituted the warriors, landed gentry and yeoman of Kerala. Their status and honour came from the fact that they belonged to the militia of Travancore attached to feudal nobles. The majority of Nairs cultivated their own land. This dominant position continued up to the time of Marthanda Varma, who killed the chiefs of Nair families and sold their women to low caste fishermen. Later the British who had wide political powers also considered the Nairs as a martial race and employed them in their militia but were delisted after rebelling against them under Velu Thampi Dalawa. This also dealt a blow to the Nair dominance.

Nairs were traditionally matrilineal, which means that the family traces its roots through the women in the family. In this Marumakkathayam system the inheritance is through maternal line and they lived in units called Tharavadu (matrilineal joint

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family). The senior most male member was generally deputed to administer the affairs. He was known as the *karnavar*. Other male members had no say in anything in the house neither did they had the basic right to lead a normal family life, as they were not allowed to bring their spouses home. The *Marumakkathayam* system and *Tharavadu* system are not viable anymore and has declined in tune with the social and cultural changes which have taken their toll on many old institutions.

The Nair Service Society (NSS) is an organization created for the upliftment and welfare of the Nair community under the leadership of Mannath Padmanabhan. Though initially started to reorganize, strengthen and empower the Nair community the N.S.S, has extended the benefits of its service beyond communal and religious boundaries and has been playing significant roles in the social, economic, educational and political transformations of the concerned areas.  

The NSS is a three tier organization with *Karayogams* at the base level, Taluk Unions at the intermediate and Headquarters at the apex level. Pathanamthitta district is covered by six unions - Adoor, Ranni, Pathanamthitta, Thiruvalla, Mallappally and Pandalam with Head Quarters at Changanacherry. The various departments functioning under the auspices of NSS brings in no small measure the social and economic mobility of that community. Besides concentrating on the educational section they also give much importance to agriculture, health, social services etc through their various sections.

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81 NSS official website: http://www.nss.org.in/

The newly established departments like the Human Resource Department aimed at exploiting the human resources to the maximum is an example of the changed ideas of N.S.S. aiming at progress through changes in perspective. Besides the above mentioned aim the department also aims to establish various programmes suiting the current needs and also exhort the community members against the social challenges.\(^\text{83}\) Premarital counseling, career guidance, personality development and leadership training classes, value education classes, as well as knowledge in modern technology are provided.

The Ezhavas occupied an important position in Travancore. They were subdued for centuries under the dominating influences of Brahmins and Nairs and they constituted the upper layer among the lower castes. They were called Chovan or Chekavan in South and in some parts of Central Travancore.\(^\text{84}\) The Head Office of Shree Narayana Dharma Paripalana, an organization created for the upliftment and welfare of Ezhava community is at Quilon. In the structure of Shree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam, SNDP unions are the strongest part. Under each SNDP union, SNDP branches or *Sakhas* are coming whose activities are controlled by unions. Pathnamthitta had 5 Unions and 289 Branches.

The Christians were yet another important social group in Travancore even though numerically less than the Hindus. The introduction of early Christianity in this part of Indian subcontinent might have happened because of the trade relations that this region had established with countries in the Mediterranean region from ancient times.\(^\text{85}\) By the closing decades of the nineteenth century, the Christian community


\(^{85}\) Mathew Varghese, “The Indigenous Tradition of Syrian Christians of Kerala, A
of Travancore came to reflect all the three broad streams of this religion: the Roman Catholics, the Protestants and the Orthodox. Pentecost movement had also its adherence in Travancore. It had its beginning in Mulakuzha near Chenganoor as early as 1925.

### 3.8.3 Changes in Religion

Demographic changes in the Christian community especially the Syrian Christians, who constitute nearly half of the state's six million Christian population, are heading towards a zero or even negative population growth regime. Earlier the community was characterized by high death and birth rates, very early age marriage and 10 to 12 children per woman where she had no control over the number and timing of childbirth. Syrian Christians were not a very migratory community and concentrated in a small number of taluks. But when they began their demographic transition all the above said characteristics changed a lot. Now the community has a low level of mortality and fertility rates. Most Syrian Christian women have full control over when and how many children they would like to bear in their lifetime. They had high migration rate and are now spread out not only all over India, but also all over the globe.

Since Pathanamthitta district holds the largest number of Syrian Christian population the study and the results are applicable here. When we compare the 1991 and 2001 census periods Christians were the only community that showed a reduction in

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87 George Mathew, *op.cit*. 20.
population proportion. Syrian Christians are the major emigrant group in Pathanamthitta. The large scale out migration of people is search of job coupled with the high practice of family planning can be attributed to the reasons behind this fall in population proportion.

The demographic transition has thrown up new concerns in the district. Christians were a prosperous community commanding extraordinary political clout in Kerala. This is likely to be affected in future if the decline in the numerical strength is continuing. The most important structural changes that occur here is the rapid rise in the population of the elderly and the decline in the number of children. Even though the State is also in tune with these changes it is more among the Christians.

There also occurred movements originated within the framework of Missionary Christianity, but moved beyond the limits of the missionary project and eventually offered a critique of it like Prathyaksha Raksha Daiva Sabha (PRDS), the assembly of those who are saved by God. This is a socio-religious organization founded by Poikayil Sree Kumara Guru Devan aimed to articulate the interests of the Dalits. The assembly with no sacred books, ritualistic practices and priestly classes was the culmination of the efforts of its founder for a democratic church capable of embracing all those who were joining to worship God. Poikayil Sree Kumara Guru was the son of Lechi, a lower caste woman of Eraviperur near Thiruvalla. The members of his family were the slaves of the aristocratic Christian family, Sankaramangalam. The

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family gave him literacy and lessons in Bible reading under the discipleship of Muthoottu Kochukunju Upadeshi. Soon he became a crowd pulling Bible reader and Preacher. After 1905 he began to distance himself from Christianity on his understanding that no major religion accepted the Dalits into its castles. He began to organize the lower sections and teach them cleanliness and wearing white dress. According to him Bible was the book of the Jews and the priests and thus it was not helpful for his people. Thus he put the Bible to fire and taught his people a number of simple songs containing his message. At present, Pratyaksha Raksha Daiva Sabha (PRDS) is a religious movement that signifies the lower caste assertion and a consciousness on their part which prompts them to leave the established paths of the traditional religions and to embark on attempts aimed at the creation and development of religious identities for themselves.⁹¹

Dravidian Class United Front (DCUF) is another new religious formation which owed its inspiration mainly to Pratyaksha Raksha Daiva Sabha (PRDS). The headquarters of DCUF is at Mukkada, only a few meters north of the Pathanamthitta district, in Kottayam district. Dravidian Class United Front (DCUF) was founded by Sabharaj, who was born on 2nd October, 1926. He began his life as a porter in Kottayam town and worked as a member in the Communist Party of India and Revolutionary Socialist Party. Soon he distanced himself from these parties and in May 1958 his DCUF was inaugurated. A decade after its foundation, the organization began to concentrate on the spiritual and religious aspects of life in the area. Sabharaj died in July 2002 before when he codified the needs and demands of his lower caste followers in 78 points and later got himself engaged in social and political issues and strikes. Main contention that the DCUF raised against and faced was with the Christians as they were the major powers in the region.

⁹¹ Suresh Thompumpkal, Sree Kumara Darsanavum Dalit Vishayangalum, (Kottayam: Swathy Books, 2008) 47.
The Dravidian Class United Front (DCUF) was named with a specific sense and care about terminology. Instead of using the name of any existing class or caste to show its identity, it calls itself “Dravidian”. This was to show that the members belonged to the race that really owned and authored the earliest of the Indian civilizations - the Harappan. Incidentally, the mouth organ of the DCUF was named Saindhavamozhi which means “the word of the Indus valley people”. This was part of the argument that they were not really slaves but the ancient original and real inhabitants and owners of this land. Evidently, DCUF was predominantly a political formation which had its roots in the social milieu of the period and was expressed in religious terms.

The new religious formations have certain characteristics: (i) they are founded and fostered by the lower castes themselves; (ii) they distance themselves from the traditional religions in organization and faith; (iii) the founder is often deified; (iv) they uphold the enlightenment values like equality, equal opportunity for all and respect for the constitution etc.; (v) Pratyaksha Raksha Daiva Sabha (PRDS) can be seen imbibed many of the notions and ideological traits and even terminology from Christianity even though it is a totally different and new religion; (vi) the new religious formations were predominantly political in nature; (vii) they base themselves on the unjust social scenario.

This trend has bearings on globalisation which foster localisation and the deconstruction of meta- narratives. The general, universal and common codes give way to the particular and individual expressions and constructions. Religious identities now get closer to the socio-economic identity of the followers and because there is a multitude of the latter, the former also get multiplied and diversified. Without the creation of a new religious identity, the upward movement or the attempt to upward movement would not probably be complete or even effective. This is also because

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almost every other aspect of life here is deeply related to religion. This could be a factor working behind the origin and growth of the new sects. Pathanamthitta is renowned as the headquarters of pilgrim tourism in Kerala. Belief in God is like breathing air to the pilgrim district of the State. Due to this reason the river sand beds of the district is rich with a religious colour. Conventions of all Christian denominations as well as Hindus are being held here every year. Neither the pilgrimage nor the convention is wholly a religious event. They both have social, political and economic implications and they respond to the material needs of the concerned communities. For instance, the Maramon Convention of the Mar Thoma Christians respond not only to the spiritual but the material needs of the followers of the sect. The community is one with the widest range and rate of global Diaspora. At the same time, as it is pointed already, their demographic growth rate is very low. This results in an acute difficulty for the parents of the young men and women to find matrimonial alliances for their sons and daughters. The Convention, besides other things, becomes a stage for search for suitable alliances. People of all ages from different parts of the world flock together here on the occasion and thus the effort is more effective than anywhere else.

3.9 Changes among the Marginalized Communities.

The two major marginalized social groups, namely Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are recognized communities that have suffered from immense backwardness and deprivation and belonged to the lowest rungs of the Indian stratification system. The disabilities imposed upon them by the privileged castes of the society covered the whole gamut of economic, social, political and cultural spheres.

Here the social and economic changes among these communities are analyzed with certain selected indicators like changes in demography, education and literacy rate, labour force etc. The Primary Census Abstract of 2011 gives general details of SC/ST Population. But the specific details of this Census are yet to be published.
3.9.1 Scheduled Castes

The caste system was the organizational principle of Kerala society for centuries. The out-castes or now classed as Scheduled Castes suffered for centuries under the most severe forms of discrimination. They were forbidden even to approach members of higher status castes. The exclusion and deprivation of Scheduled Castes is closely associated with the institution of caste and the practice of untouchability. It is the result of economic exploitation and deprivation and structured and organized inequality, in its extreme form spread over several centuries. The SC’s were excluded from access to property rights, civil rights and education, except as their use as labour for the caste higher than them permitted. Their deprivation became more severe as they also suffered from physical and social segregation from the rest of the Hindu society through the institution of untouchability.

Table 3.7: Population wise Distribution of Scheduled Castes in Pathanamthitta District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Person</th>
<th>Rural Male</th>
<th>Rural Female</th>
<th>Urban Male</th>
<th>Urban Female</th>
<th>% to total population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>158033</td>
<td>77821</td>
<td>80212</td>
<td>68745</td>
<td>70818</td>
<td>9076 9394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>162002</td>
<td>78731</td>
<td>83271</td>
<td>73174</td>
<td>77476</td>
<td>5557 5795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>164465</td>
<td>78942</td>
<td>85523</td>
<td>72784</td>
<td>79060</td>
<td>6158 6463</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


According to the 1991 census, the population of Scheduled Castes in the district was 158033 consisting of 77821 males and 80212 females. It was 5.47% of State population of SC and 13.29% of the total population of the district. Among them 49%

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were males and 50.75% were females. Among the total population 88% were distributed in rural areas and 12% were in urban areas. In both rural and urban areas females outnumber males.

In 2001 the total population increased to 162002 with a male population of 78731 and a female population of 83271 (5.18% of the State population of Scheduled Castes). The proportion of males and females to total population doesn’t show any significant change. But a difference can be noted in the percentage of people residing in rural and urban areas. Among the taluks Adoor (17.6%) had the highest percentage of Scheduled Caste population to total population. The next place is to Kozhencherry (13.8%) and the other taluks like Thiruvalla, Mallappally had almost equal number (11.6% and 11.3%). The lowest percentage of SC population is reported in Ranni Taluk (8.4%).

In 2011 a slight increase can be noted in number, 164465 with a male and female break up of 78942 and 85523 (5.41% of the State population of SC). This growth in the number of population of Scheduled Castes in 2011 Census is against the trend exhibited by the general population where a decrease in population can be noted. The Scheduled Castes are overwhelmingly rural with majority of them residing in rural areas. In 2011, out of the total SC population 151844 people (92%) are rural and there were 587 Scheduled Caste colonies in the rural areas and 79 in the urban areas of the district.

The five major Scheduled Castes in the district were Pulayan/Cheramar, Kuravan/Sidhanar, Paraiyan/Parayan/Sambavar, Pathiyan and Thandan. Besides this Boyan, Chakkiliyan, Kakkalan, Pallan, Mannan, Nayadi, Panan, Paravan, Vannan and Velan also exist in the district.
In 1991 census, the total population of *Pulayan/Cheramar* was 64581. Of this male and female division were 31871 and 32710 respectively. More than 90% of this group of people lives in the rural areas of the district. In 2001 their number decreased to 63457 and the male and female divisions were 30,876 and 32,581 respectively. In this census period also the people were overwhelmingly rural. The population of *Kuravan/Sidhanar* was slightly lower to the *Pulayan* and it was 53906 in which 26428 were males and 27478 were females. The number increased to 57431 in 2001. Their corresponding male and female population was 27,757 and 29,674. Next in number is the group called *Paraiyan/Parayan/Sambavar* whose population was 18121 in 1991. A slight increase in population can be noted with males being 9,153 in number and females being 9,491. The next two groups *Pathiyan* and *Thandan* were 6703 and 3613 respectively. Their number increased to 7061 (male 3,409 and female 3,652) and 3943 (1,869 males and 2,074 females) respectively.

The table shows that *Pulayan* numerically the largest caste accounts for the highest number among the total Scheduled Caste population in the district in the two census periods. But their number can be seen reduced in the 2001 census. *Kuravan* the next numerically higher caste shows an increase in population in the 2001 census. All other castes also record the same growth.

Age wise distribution of total Scheduled Castes in 2001 census shows that the working class group (15-59) occupies the highest strata with 107244 persons with a male and female break up of 51809 and 55435 respectively. It is followed by
students group where the total number is 24698 with 12547 males and 12151 females. The total number of aged in the population is 16729 where 7633 people were males and 9096 were females.

Table 3.9: Sex Ratio among the Scheduled Castes Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PTA</th>
<th>Pulayan</th>
<th>Kuravan</th>
<th>Paraiyan/Parayan/ Sambavar</th>
<th>Pathiyan</th>
<th>Thandan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>1031</td>
<td>1026</td>
<td>1040</td>
<td>1007</td>
<td>1054</td>
<td>1097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1058</td>
<td>1055</td>
<td>1069</td>
<td>1037</td>
<td>1071</td>
<td>1110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Computed from Census of India 1991&2001-Serirs-12 Kerala, Part II-B(ii) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Government of India.

The sex ratio of the SC population in Pathanamthitta district was 1031 in 1991 which was lower than the District General Sex Ratio. In the district the highest sex ratio (1097) was among Thandan while the lowest sex ratio (1007) was among Paraiyan/Parayan/Sambavar. The sex ratio among Pulayan/Cheramar, Kuravan/Sidhanar and Pathiyan were 1026, 1040 and 1054 respectively. In 2001 the sex ratio became 1058 which was 10 points above the state average for Scheduled Castes. This time the district had the third position too. In all the castes Sex Ratio showed a progressive improvement. This time also the first position in Sex Ratio was for Thandan (1110) and behind them were the Pathiyan (1071), Kuravan (1069), Pulayan (1055) and the Paraiyan/Parayan/Sambavar (1037).

3.9.1.1 Literacy Level

Regarding the literates and illiterates in the total Scheduled Caste population, an increase in the percentage of literate population to general population can be seen in the total as well as rural and urban set up. In 1991 the total literate was 76.29% where as illiterate was 23.7%. The percentages changed to 77.8% and 22.18% in 2001.

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With regard to the rural population also the number of literates to total population increase (Rural literate-76.2% to 77.7%) and a corresponding decrease can be seen in the number of illiterates. In the Urban scene also the same situation can be witnessed (Urban literate 76.9 % to 78.9% and urban illiterate-23% to21%).

Table 3.10: Literacy Level of Scheduled Caste People (1991)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
<th></th>
<th>Literate</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>37460</td>
<td>16272</td>
<td>21188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>33,209</td>
<td>14,471</td>
<td>18,738</td>
<td>106,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>4,251</td>
<td>2,450</td>
<td>3801</td>
<td>14,219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 1991, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Government of India.

Table 3.11: Literacy Level of Scheduled Caste People (2001)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
<th></th>
<th>Literate</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>35,935</td>
<td>15,254</td>
<td>20,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>33,543</td>
<td>14,236</td>
<td>19,307</td>
<td>117,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>2392</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>1374</td>
<td>8960</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 2001-Serirs-12 Kerala, Part II-B (ii) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Government of India.

3.9.1.2 Educational Level

When the educational level of Scheduled Castes are considered in the categories below primary, primary, middle etc. those with middle school education are more in the list. Behind them occupy those with primary and below primary education. Those with Secondary or higher secondary or graduate level education are less. When the male and female categories are analyzed we can see that those with higher education are more in the female category.
Table 3.12: Educational Level of Scheduled Castes in Pathanamthitta District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2001</th>
<th>People</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literate without Educational Level</td>
<td>1,689</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below Primary School Education</td>
<td>25,170</td>
<td>12,790</td>
<td>12,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School Education</td>
<td>31,413</td>
<td>17,259</td>
<td>14,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Education</td>
<td>40,370</td>
<td>20,108</td>
<td>20,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School Education</td>
<td>19,090</td>
<td>8,705</td>
<td>10,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Secondary</td>
<td>3,927</td>
<td>1,583</td>
<td>2,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate and above</td>
<td>2,077</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>1,143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 2001-Serirs-12 Kerala, Part II-B(ii) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Government of India

Literacy and education reflects the social development of a community. Regarding the literacy rate of the Scheduled Castes, just like the general population, this group also had the literacy rate above the State average. In 1991 the literacy rate of the Scheduled Castes in the State was 79.66 percent. Pathanamthitta district had the literacy rate of 86.47 percent for its total Scheduled Castes population. Among them the male literacy was 90.08 percent and the female literacy rate was 83.01 percent. In the case of rural Scheduled Castes population, the male literacy rate was 82.95 percent while urban literacy rate among male was 91.72 percent and 84.48 percent for females. In 2001 a slight increase can be noted. From 86.47 the figure changed to 87.4% with third rank in the State.

The relative disadvantage of Scheduled Caste population in terms of educational development is very well reflected in their literacy rates. Even though they were denied educational opportunities for centuries the educational developments of the district can be reflected in the case of Scheduled Castes also. Even though Pathanamthitta reports a high literacy rate for the Scheduled Castes (86.47% for total and 90.08% for males and 83.01% for females) and above the state average (79.56%
for total and 85.22% for males and 74.31% for females) it is several points below the corresponding rates for the non-scheduled population of the district in 1991. In 2001 also the same conditions persisted (87.4% for total).

### 3.9.1.3 Work Force of Scheduled Caste People

When the workers were analysed it can be observed that in both the censuses non workers excel the main and marginal workers. When the workers alone were considered main workers were more in number compared to the marginal workers. But the main workers decreased in 2001 census whereas a corresponding increase can be noted in the case of marginal workers. Among the main workers the majority of them are agricultural laborers. The main workers in other categories like cultivators, industry workers, and household industry workers are very less.

Table 3.13: Work Force of Scheduled Castes in Pathanamthitta District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1991</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>2001</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main workers</td>
<td>54835</td>
<td>37951</td>
<td>16884</td>
<td>41434</td>
<td>30246</td>
<td>11188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginal workers</td>
<td>5788</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>3804</td>
<td>11266</td>
<td>6879</td>
<td>8493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-workers</td>
<td>97410</td>
<td>37886</td>
<td>59524</td>
<td>102423</td>
<td>37219</td>
<td>65204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 1991&2001-Serirs-12 Kerala, Part II-B (ii) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Government of India.

In 2001 census the percentage of main workers to total workers among the Scheduled Castes in Pathanamthitta district is 69.5% where as the percentage of marginal workers to total workers is only 30.5%. The Work participation rate of this community is 36.8 which are almost 6 points higher than the general work participation rate.
3.9.2 Scheduled Tribes

The *Adivasis* or the Scheduled Tribes are yet another social groups which were subjected to exclusion and deprivation but the basis of their exclusion is neither caste nor religion but ethnicity. Historically tribals have been ethnically different from the mainstream society with a distinct culture, language, social organization and economy- practicing hunting, food gathering and shifting cultivation and also habitat of their own in the river valleys and forest regions.\(^6\) Most of the tribal people changed their life style in course of time due to a variety of factors like educational growth, globalization etc. Earlier forests occupied a prominent role in their economy and culture. Now they came out of the forests and many of the have taken up salaried jobs in Governmental and private enterprises.

3.9.2.1 Changes in Population

The population of Scheduled Tribes in the district was 6922, in 1991 which was 2.16% of the Scheduled Tribe population in the State. Here the male and female division was 3459 and 3463. In 2001 the population reduced to 6549 consisting of 3184 males and 3365 females. Among the total 6922 people in 1991 male and female were almost in equal proportion. More than 95 % of the population was residing in rural areas.

In 2001 a decrease can be noted in the Scheduled tribe population of the district. This time also more than 95% live in the rural areas. The 2011 census reveals a noteworthy feature in the population structure of this community. Here a clear cut increase can be

witnessed in the population against the District’s trend. The Sex ratio also is in favour of females.

Table 3.14: Population wise Distribution of Scheduled Tribes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>6922</td>
<td>3459</td>
<td>3463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>6549</td>
<td>3184</td>
<td>3365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8108</td>
<td>3947</td>
<td>4161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Among the Taluks Ranni is the only Taluk with a higher proportion of Scheduled Tribe population (2.3%). In all the other Taluks their percentage of population to total population is below one percent. When the age wise distribution of Scheduled Tribes were considered among the total Scheduled Tribe students occupy 16.9% where as the working age population represents 65.3% and the aged constitutes 8.15%.

Table 3.15: Caste wise Distribution of Scheduled Tribe Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ulladan</th>
<th>Malai Vedans</th>
<th>Uraly</th>
<th>Malai Arayan</th>
<th>Malai Pandaram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>2254</td>
<td>1236</td>
<td>1155</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3246</td>
<td>2061</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>1070</td>
<td>717</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The major Scheduled tribes in the district were *Ulladan, Malai Vedan, Uraly, Malai Arayan and Malai Pandaram*. Besides this *Malaarayar, Kanikaran, Malakuravan, Malayan, Kuruman, Paniyan* and some other castes also exist in Pathanamthitta district in nominal numbers.
Among the major Scheduled tribes *Ulladans* were more in number in Pathanamthitta district with a total of 2254 in 1991 consisting of almost equal number of males and females. Their number increased to 3246 in 2001. The next prominent group was the *Malai Vedan* consisting of 1236 in number. Here also an increase can be noted. In 2001 they became 2061. *Uraly, Malai Arayan and Malai Pandaram* were 1155,991 and 606 in numbers and more than 98% of all these groups live in the rural areas of the district. A notable decrease can be seen in the *Uraly* population of the district in 2001. All other castes showed marginal increase. Besides these prominent groups the district also had some other Scheduled Tribes also like *Malaarayar, Malakuravan, Kanikkaran, Kattunayakan, Kuruman* and others but they are only nominal in numbers not exceeding two digits.

### 3.9.2.2 Sex Ratio

Regarding the general sex ratio of the tribal population it was 1001, which was lower than the District and the State’s General Sex Ratio. As regards the five major Scheduled tribes in the district, the highest sex ratio(1124) was among *Malai Vedan* while the lowest was among *Malai Pandarams* (836). The sex ratios among *Uraly, Ulladan and Malai Arayan* were 1100,1000 and 939 respectively.

Table 3.16: Sex Ratio among the Scheduled Tribe Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Ulladan</th>
<th>Malai Vedans</th>
<th>Uraly</th>
<th>Malai Arayan</th>
<th>Malai Pandaram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>1001</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1124</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1057</td>
<td>1076</td>
<td>1080</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>1074</td>
<td>981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


---

In 2001 the general sex ratio increased to 1057 when the State average was 1021. As regards the individual sex ratios in 2001 also Malai Vedans top the list with a sex ratio of 1080 but a decrease can be noted from 1991. The lowest was with Malai Pandarams (981) but they showed an increase as against 1991. The Uraly also shows a decrease in sex ratio (989) whereas Ulladan and Malai Arayan shows progress (1076 and 1074 respectively).

3.9.2.3 Religion

Religious composition of Scheduled Tribes signifies that majority of them pursue Hinduism. A minority are in Christian faith also. Those with other religions and persuasions and whose religion is not stated are only nominal.

Among the major scheduled tribes in the district, all the castes except Malai Arayans pursue Hinduism more than any other religions. Malai Arayans are the only castes with more Christians in their population.

Table 3.17: Religion of Scheduled Tribes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2001</th>
<th>Ulladan</th>
<th>Malai Vedans</th>
<th>Uraly</th>
<th>Malai Arayan</th>
<th>Malai Pandaram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Religions</td>
<td>2209</td>
<td>1235</td>
<td>1153</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christians</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindus</td>
<td>2203</td>
<td>1234</td>
<td>1153</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Religions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion not Stated</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 2001-Serirs-12 Kerala, Part II-B(ii) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Government of India.
3.9.2.4 Education

Out of the total population of 6549, 1359 people attended educational institutions in 2001. In them the female population was more than the male population and the number of people getting higher education is less. After high school level the number is continuously decreasing.

Table 3.18: Literacy Level of Scheduled Tribes (1991)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
<th>Literate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Person</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2524</td>
<td>1177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>2448</td>
<td>1144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 3.19: Literacy Level of Scheduled Tribes (2001)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
<th>Literate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Person</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


As in the case of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes also registered a decrease in the number of illiterates and a corresponding increase in the number of literates when comparing the two census periods. Regarding the literates and illiterates in the total Scheduled Tribes population, an increase in the percentage of literate population to general population can be seen in the total as well as rural and urban set up.
In 1991 the total literate was 63.54% where as illiterate was 36.46%. The percentages changed to 69.80% and 30.20% in 2001. With regard to the rural population also the number of literates to total population increase (Rural literate-62.8% to 69.17%) and a corresponding decrease can be seen in the number of illiterates (37.1% to 30.8%). In the Urban scene also the same situation can be witnessed (Urban literate 77% to 82.1% and urban illiterate-22.8% to 17.8%).

Table 3.20: Educational Level of Scheduled Tribes in Pathanamthitta District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2001</th>
<th>People</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literate without Educational Level</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below Primary School Level</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School Level</td>
<td>1,410</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Level</td>
<td>1,338</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School Level</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Secondary</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate and above</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 2001-Serirs-12 Kerala, Part II-B (ii) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Government of India

The educational level of Scheduled Tribes in the categories below primary school level, primary school level, middle school level etc. are more as in the case of Scheduled Castes in Pathanamthitta district. Behind them occupy those with primary and below primary education. Those with Secondary or higher secondary or graduate level education are less. When the male female categories are analyzed we can see that those with higher education are more in the female category and those with primary and below primary education only are in the male category. In 2001 the population of Scheduled Tribes with literacy but below matriculation or secondary level was more when compared to people with secondary education or graduation. Since the Scheduled Tribes were denied educational opportunities because of their isolation from the mainstream, their literacy rates are lower than the Non Scheduled population and the Scheduled Caste population.
The literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribes in the district was 73.21%, 75.89% and 70.3% respectively for total, males and females. This was above the State average where it was 57.22%, 63.38% and 51.07% respectively. The rural literacy rate was 72.3%, 75.08% and 69.62% respectively for total, male and females. The population of which the majority is residing in the rural areas urban literacy rate is not important yet the rates are 90.78%, 91.78% and 89.71% for total, males and females.

3.9.2.5 Work Force of Scheduled Tribes in Pathanamthitta

As in the case of the general population, in the case of Scheduled Tribes also Non Workers were more than the worker force. In 1991 the total work force including the main and marginal workers constitutes 38.76%. Here the main workers were 28.73% and marginal workers were 10.03%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Main Workers</th>
<th>Marginal Workers</th>
<th>Non Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>1586</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1023</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>751</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 1991&2001-Serirs-12 Kerala, Part II-B (ii) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Government of India

But in 2001 the percentage among main workers decreased to 21% and marginal workers increased to 18%. Regarding the non workers their number increased slightly from 61.4% to 62%. In 2001 census the percentage of main workers to total workers among the Scheduled Tribes in Pathanamthitta district is 53.7% where as the
percentage of marginal workers to total workers is 46.3%. Here the difference is only nominal compared to the Scheduled Castes. The Work participation rate of this community is 38.4 which is higher than the general work participation rate as well as of Scheduled Castes.

Traditionally tribal people were nomadic agriculturists and depended on shifting cultivation, hunting and food gathering. Now the conditions have significantly changed. Changes have occurred in their economic activities of these communities. At present their economy is mainly centred on settled cultivation as well as waged labour. Education has provided the tribal people the opportunity to contact with advanced communities and in taking up white collar jobs in government offices and private institutions. Thus the condition of the Scheduled tribes in the district is changing. But when a comparative study is made between the general population and the Scheduled Tribes, the latter is far behind and a lot of improvement is needed in this regard.

3.10 Conclusion

Social change, a phenomenon inevitable for any society, implies changes in the social institutions as well as the ideas, values and attitudes of the people living in that society. It may be partial or total, but mostly partial. Also change in one part of society brings changes in other parts also. But the rate of speed and direction of change are not always uniform in all aspects of society.

The district is along the path of the State in the demographic transition process, a little bit ahead of it. The three features of population growth birth, death and migration have their effects in the district. Fertility decline is perhaps the most important social change that has occurred in the district in recent years. The district is recording a reduction in population growth rate and now it is one of the lowest fertility districts in
the country besides some metropolitan districts. Among all the socio-economic factors which determine fertility, education especially female education is considered to be one of the most important factors along with other factors like improvements in male literacy, income, economic status of the household, religion, labour force participation especially females, improvements in health services, extensive use of family planning etc.

The various consequences of the demographic transition process are also felt in the district. As a result of age structural transition, the share of old aged population increases and the dependency ratio increases. Consequently the challenges for them are more complex because majority of elderly is in the rural areas, which are often left behind by migrating youth. Also the feminization of the elderly population increases the higher dependency ratio. Also there has been a steady and more recently a sharper decline in the proportion of children of school going age. The reduction in the school going population has its effects in the educational system especially the primary school system.

Demographic transition cannot be achieved without mortality decline. Mortality decline in all sphere especially infant, child, and maternal as well as general mortality decline is studied and the figures for the district were lower when compared to the State level in most cases. Migration yet another factor determining population also work in the district. Regarding the Migration Prevalence Rate, the district is above the State average. In this district, the total number of migrants is almost the same as the number of households, the Migration Prevalence Rate being 99 percent.

Education, a catalyst for progressive social changes produce a readiness on the part of the people to work for social change and make desirable changes in the society. Educational progress, especially female education can be seen behind many a social changes in the Pathanamthitta district. A district with a good educational tradition, coupled with economic expansion from commercialization of agriculture and
remittances from migration, qualitative improvement in human resources is desirable. Education thus fastens the process of social change and in other words education was the cause and result of modernization at the same time in this geographical area. The educational policies of the State in general and the district in particular helped promote considerable vertical social mobility by making school education accessible to students from all socio-economic strata. Women are the foremost group enjoying the benefits of education and social mobility.

Socio-economic development in a country is very much linked with the improvement of overall health of the people. Improvement of health is one of the primary goals of development. Better health has set the demographic transition in motion. The district has commendable achievements in the demographic area. These achievements especially in the field of mortality and fertility were attributed to sufficient health coverage.

Families are undergoing rapid changes in their structure, functions and responsibilities. The district which is forefront in demographic transition and migration rates, changes in family structure and functions occur mainly due to these factors. Pathanamthitta even though advanced than other districts in demographic transition have more old age homes than other districts in the State. Emergence of smaller families is a major result and cause of social change at the same time. Smaller families in return enable parents to educate their children better and higher as their burden is lesser and their resources to spend on child per head are larger. The structure of a small family in many ways brings about social change. Absence of grandparents, closer interaction between parents and children, lesser burden on the shoulders of the parents, more importance to the fewer number of children, their better bringing up, more leisure time, etc result and bring about changes in the society.

Also the breakup of the traditional joint family system to nuclear one also had its repercussions on the elderly. The breakup of the traditional joint family system
coupled with migration and female work participation made the life miserable. The number of old age homes and paid old age homes in the district testifies this. Even in one’s own houses the ‘isolated elderly’ has also been a growing phenomenon in the district.

The demographic transition and migration of men in search of employment provides an opportunity for women to enter into the labour market. As a result there were significant familial changes especially in the relationship within the family and between generations. The female age at marriage went up, the proportion not married have significantly increased, the elder care become difficult for the children etc.

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. They suffer when the male migrates either alone or with them. 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.

As the scale of labour migration at the global level grows ever larger by the day, lives of the global migrants, their families as well as the local areas from which the migrant flow initially took off, are being transformed. The increased physical mobility among family members has resulted in families being spread across the globe.

Changes are taking place in women’s roles in families. Even though the female work participation of the district is low, many are educated and employed. Even though the female work participation is low, more and more women are entering into the labour force from the district due to educational effects and gender equality and this can often be a trigger of change.

Religion which is like breathing air to this pilgrim district also is undergoing changes. Recently, a number of new sects and new religious formations have either originated
or come to prevalence mainly in Christianity and Hinduism in the district. The geography, history and economy of the district along with migration and such factors influence the religious profile of the district and the change in it over the course of years.

Marginalized Communities like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes are also present in the district. Some of the indicators like sex ratio, literacy etc changed in tune with the changes in the general population. The improvement in educational standards and corresponding difference in job pattern and settlement pattern are yet other prominent points to be noted.

Development in a state is the outcome of the interplay of a variety of factors, such as political, economic, demographic and geographic. It could be maximizing human potential, progressing towards a better condition. Analysing all the major indicators of human development, Pathanamthitta district is in the third position just behind Ernakulam and Kottayam district. In all the major indicators the district is above the State average also.