

Household Poverty in Kerala: Evidence from NSSO Data

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Abstract: Present study estimates household poverty among socio-religious groups in Kerala. Study also measures of determinants of household poverty and compare 61st (2004-05) and 68th (2011-12) NSSO rounds of Household Monthly Per capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) data surveyed by National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). Methodology of the research work is primarily uses of state specific poverty line for rural and urban sector separately which is defined by Tendulkar Methodology. The study found higher the incidence of household poverty is 19.71 percent in 61st (2004-05) round & 08.08 percent in 68th (2011-12) round in the state. Meanwhile, among the socio-religious groups where larger the household poverty decline by 14.95% in Scheduled Tribes, 14.96% in Scheduled Caste, 14.12% in OBC & 04.35% and 18.99% in Muslims & 10.59% in Hindu communities for both rural and urban sector during the study period.

I. INTRODUCTION

Poverty and economic inequality dwell in a significant place in the neoliberal development context. In the post-globalised era, when the state retreated from welfare commitments, it has intensified the political and economic processes that lead to poverty, inequality, deprivation and social exclusion (Atkinson, 2003). Poverty is one of the most serious issues being faced by any economy. There has been considerable discussion on the question whether poverty line should reveal an 'Absolute' or 'Relative' view of poverty. Absolute view of poverty considers the poverty line as the expenditure required to procure a subsistence basket of goods and services by the individual, whereas Relative view of poverty requires a comparative analysis of percentage of the number of persons in different expenditure groups.

Income or consumption levels though are taken formally to represent poverty, but such a measure of poverty needs to be supplemented by other factors that would reflect access to a minimum level of social facilities. In nature, therefore the concept of poverty is multidimensional, where in concepts such as capabilities, human development, education, health are essential to define and measure poverty. India still is a country having biggest concentration of poor people in the world and home a third of the world's poor. In Indian context, poverty is measured in terms of a specified normative poverty line reflecting the minimum living standard of people. The measurement of poverty is a complex exercise and the estimates are broadly based on household per capita consumption expenditure from NSS household consumption expenditure surveys.

The World Bank (2005), estimates that 42% of India's population are below the international poverty line of \$1.25 a day having reduced from 60 percent in 1980. However, the Planning Commission of India constituted by Expert Group under the chairmanship of Suresh D. Tendulkar for estimation of household poverty. The committee is estimates 21.9 percent of the population are poor that is 269.9 million of population are living below the poverty line in 2011-12, it reduced from 37.2 percent in 2004-05¹. But still sizable proportion of population in the country live below the poverty line and there is considerable disparity in capabilities across regions, within regions and across socio-religious groups in the country. Recently, the World Bank (2015) found 10 percent of world population lived on less than \$1.90 a day in 2015, down from 11.2 percent in 2013. That means 735.9 millions are lived below the poverty threshold in 2015, down from 804.2 million.

STATUS OF POVERTY IN KERALA

Kerala is the southern states of India. As per the Census of India 2011, the population of Kerala was 3,34,06,061 or 2.76 per cent of India's population. Out of the State's total population, 52 per cent are women and 48 per cent are men. The share of urban population in Kerala was 47.7 per cent of the total population, representing a decadal increase of 21.74 per cent between 2001 and 2011. There are 14 districts in Kerala. They are Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod. Kerala's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew at 7.18 per cent in 2017-18 in constant (2011-12) prices, which is higher than the 6.22 per cent growth recorded in 2016-17. District-wise per capita income reveals that Ernakulam District continues to stands first with the per capita income of ¹

1,66,996 at constant (2011-12) prices in 2017-18 against ¹ 1,60,625 in 2016-17. Kerala has been ahead of other Indian States in achieving demographic and human development indicators. In achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2018) by the States in India as computed by the NITI Aayog, Kerala ranks first along with Himachal Pradesh, with a score of 69 against national average of 57. Kerala ranks first in SDGs relating to health, education, and gender equality². Kerala has the highest proportion of literate persons in the population among the Indian States. Public investment in educational infrastructure and quality is a priority and as a consequence the enrolment of students in Government and Government aided schools has increased. The growth of literacy rate between 2001-2011 decade shows that Kerala has achieved significant progress was 90.89 percent (94.24% men & 87.72% women), which increased to 93.91 percent (96.02% men & 91.98% women) in 2001 to 2011.

Historically, Kerala has followed a developmental path different from that followed by other Indian States. The state has charted a development path somewhat from that followed by others states. Poverty reduction in Kerala, a society rigidly caste ridden where untouchability and unsuitability was practiced, cannot be delinked from the spread of literacy associated with the nationalist, socialist and communist and socio-religious reform movements. The efforts of the reformers became successful in increasing the literacy levels³. In India, there is huge disparity among states with regard to official poverty levels. It is evident that State of Kerala is far ahead of other states with regard to poverty and deprivation. The household poverty in Kerala is low compared to other southern states of Indian and the all India figures. According to the official figures, absolute poverty rate in Kerala is 7.1 per cent in 2011-12 and has shown a sharp reduction over the last four decades. The success of Kerala in poverty reduction is reflected in the sharp reduction in the proportion of poor. The incidence of poverty in Kerala was 59.79 per cent in 1973-74 which reduced to 7.1 per cent in 2011-12. State has also made an extensive development in declining the incidence of household poverty for both rural and urban sector. In Kerala, from 1973-74 the rural poverty found in 59.19 percent and urban sector is 62.74 percent. The government of Kerala state was introduced effective policies i.e., land reforms, spread of education and health care, decentralization, pension schemes, public distribution system, Kudumbashree and Plan schemes which is really reduced poverty ratio is 9.1 percent in rural and 5 percent in urban sector in 2011-12 in the state.

The study makes use of specific poverty line for Kerala based on Tendulkar Methodology i.e. Rs.537 and Rs.585 of 61st round (2004-05) and Rs.1018 and Rs.987

of 68th round (2011-12) for both rural & urban sector. On the basis of geographical, historical and cultural similarities, the study grouped 14 districts into three (03) administrative division of Kerala i.e., North Kerala, Central Kerala and South Kerala divisions. This is an important value addition to the existing list of literature on poverty in Kerala the study is significant value addition because it examines the extent, intensity of poverty covering two quinquennial rounds for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBC and two major religions of the state, Hindus and Muslims. The section following presents of Poverty estimates at regional level of both rural and urban areas along with brief description. Section III estimates the incidence of poverty across social groups and religious groups for both rural and urban areas. Section IV measures key determinants of household poverty and finally, section V focuses on findings and conclusion.

II. LITERATURE REVIEWS

- **Panagariya, A., & Mukim, M. (2013)** provides comprehensive analysis of poverty for 17 larger states in the country, by estimating poverty (headcount ratio) for rural and urban sector and for socio-religious groups by using two official poverty lines based on Lakdawala and Tendulkar Methodology. The study finds out that, during 1993-94 and 2009-10 poverty declining for various social and religious groups in all the states, secondly the reduction of poverty is larger in scheduled caste and scheduled tribes than the other backward class.
- **Rath (2003)** in his study calculated poverty line based on Dandekar and Rath methodology by using household consumption expenditure survey data of 1961-62. The study examines estimating poverty by using price indices data by forming detailed price index structure for each state. The study reveals increasing income and declining calorie intake among poor and it has shown declining incidence of poverty in various states.
- **Kozel and Parker (2003)** in their study estimates the levels of household poverty in Uttar Pradesh (UP) by using state sample of 55th round of NSS data. The data on a set of monitoring indicators were collected by UP government on many indicators like health service, access to education and use of specific anti-poverty programmes. The study finds out that poverty in UP is interrelated to material deficiency, deprivation of human resources, voice and power and social contacts. The study reveals significant regional differences and that increase in poverty is higher in western and eastern.

- **Arora, A., & Singh, P., S. (2015)** by using unit level NSSO household consumption expenditure data of 61st (2004-05) and 68th (2011-12) round estimated regional as well as disaggregated levels of poverty for socio-religious groups for both rural and urban sector of Uttar Pradesh (UP). The study classify the state into different regions and identifies critical poverty affected regions in UP across socio-religious groups. The study finds the level of poverty across the central region, southern region and eastern region is unfairly distributed.

III. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

In order to fulfill the objective of household poverty estimation among the state and across socio-religious groups for various NSS regions the study makes use of NSSO data. The study compares 61st and 68th round of quinquennial surveys, based on their two surveys the poverty levels are estimated across state, district and divisions among the socio-religious groups and compared three administration divisions⁴ i.e., North Kerala⁵, Central Kerala⁶ & South Kerala⁷ divisions in the state. The study makes use of specific poverty line for Kerala based on Tendulkar Methodology⁸ i.e. Rs.537 and Rs.585 of 61st round (2004-05) and Rs.1018 and Rs.987 of 68th round (2011-12) for both rural & urban sector. Based on this poverty line study measures incidence of mean poverty by using Head Count Ratio (H_p): which is defined as the “Percentage of population which is below the poverty line” it is calculated by dividing the number of people below the poverty line by the total population.

$$H_p = \frac{n}{N} \quad (1)$$

H_p = Headcount ratio, n = Number of people below poverty line & N = Total population.

IV. EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

Table 1: Incidence of Household Poverty in Kerala

<i>Round/Sector</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Total</i>
61 st Round (2004-05)	20.11	18.41	19.71
68 th Round (2011-12)	09.19	04.97	08.08
Decline	10.92	13.44	10.91

Source: Author estimates based on 61 & 68 round of NSSO data.

Above table 1 reveals that rural poverty is greater than urban sector in the state. The study found, 20.11 percent of rural households are poor, which is higher than 18.41 percent of urban poverty in 2004-05. Meanwhile, in 2011-12 it has come down to 9.19 percent in rural sector and 4.97 percent of urban sector. In the state's effective government policies has been declined by 10.91 percent of the poverty during the period of 2004-05 to 2011-12.

Table 2: Household Poverty across Socio-Religious Groups

Socio- Religious Groups	ST		SC		OBC		OTHERS		Hindu		Muslim	
	61 st	68 th	61 st	68 th	61 st	68 th	61 st	68 th	61 st	68 th	61 st	68 th
	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round
Rural	56.86	40.96	30.49	17.76	21.27	07.68	10.82	06.99	20.77	01.09	26.37	07.96
Urban	21.79	13.63	33.00	06.04	21.19	05.68	07.93	02.66	19.05	06.60	23.67	03.45
Total	54.37	39.39	30.95	15.99	21.25	07.13	10.12	05.77	20.35	09.76	25.75	06.76
Decline	14.98	14.96	14.12	04.35	10.59	18.99						

Source: Author estimates based on 61 & 68 round of NSSO data.

Above table 2 reveals that, study estimates household poverty at across socio-religious groups in Kerala. In 61st (2004-05) round where higher the poverty ratio found in Scheduled Tribes household is 54.37 percent is followed by Scheduled Caste 30.95 percent, OBC is 21.25 percent and others 10.12 percent for both rural and urban sector. Meanwhile, in 68th (2011-12) round larger the poverty ratio found in ST (39.39%) and SC (15.99) which is higher than OBC (7.13%) & Other (5.77%) households. In addition the study also estimates poverty in religion groups like Hindu and Muslim. The Muslims (25.75%) are found to be comparatively poorer in Kerala as compare to Hindu (20.35%) households in 61st round but in 68th round the Hindu (9.76%) households are significantly poorer than Muslim (6.76%) households.

Table 3: Division wise Household Poverty

Divisions	Rural			Urban			Total		
	61 st	68 th	Decline	61 st	68 th	Decline	61 st	68 th	Decline
	Round	Round		Round	Round		Round	Round	
North Kerala	33.64	12.08	21.56	33.69	07.65	26.04	33.65	10.87	22.78
Central Kerala	17.39	09.07	08.32	14.85	03.8	11.05	16.61	07.38	09.23
South Kerala	10.63	06.71	03.92	08.46	02.99	05.47	10.20	05.93	04.27

Source: Author estimates based on 61 & 68 round of NSSO data.

Above table 3 exhibits that, study also estimates households poverty at division level. The study found that, in 61st round larger the household poverty in North Kerala division is 33.65 percent followed by 16.61 percent in Central Kerala division and 10.20 percent in South Kerala division for both rural and urban sector. Meanwhile, in 68th round successful government policies is reduced household poverty in the state. However, still there is little household poverty found in North Kerala division is 10.87 percent followed by 7.38 percent in Central Kerala division and 5.93 percent in South Kerala division respectively.

Table 4: District wise Household Poverty in Kerala

Regions/ Districts	Rural			Urban			Total		
	61 st Round	68 th Round	Decline	61 st Round	68 th Round	Decline	61 st Round	68 th Round	Decline
North Kerala	44.22	40.88	03.34	30.24	23.28	06.96	42.21	36.91	05.30
Kannur	40.21	12.55	27.66	40.09	07.30	32.79	40.17	09.87	30.30
Wayanad	33.89	04.35	29.54	08.92	19.37	-10.45	33.15	04.98	28.17
Kozhikode	34.61	03.93	30.68	31.30	04.12	27.18	33.46	04.01	29.45
Malappuram	27.82	10.48	17.34	31.57	08.02	23.55	28.21	10.23	17.98
Central Kerala	15.67	11.53	04.14	15.77	04.13	11.64	15.68	10.42	05.26
Thrissur	16.19	05.63	10.56	16.35	03.24	13.11	16.23	04.89	11.34
Ernakulam	20.48	09.90	10.58	13.95	04.05	09.90	17.54	07.11	10.43
South Kerala	06.95	04.12	02.83	16.84	08.20	08.64	07.30	04.45	02.85
Kottayam	12.33	03.36	08.97	04.86	00.00	04.86	11.38	02.89	08.49
Alappuzha	17.86	15.00	02.86	16.40	03.11	13.29	17.46	11.60	05.86
Pathanamthitta	07.92	06.75	01.17	06.05	04.59	01.46	07.69	06.50	01.19
Kollam	13.62	07.18	06.44	08.07	03.02	05.05	12.71	06.43	06.28
Thiruvananthapuram	04.29	04.80	-00.51	04.72	02.98	01.74	04.42	04.22	00.20
Total	20.11	09.19	10.92	18.41	04.97	13.44	19.71	08.08	11.63

Source: Author estimates based on 61 & 68 round of NSSO data.

Above table 4 are exhibits that, the study estimate household poverty at district level and compare 61st and 68th rounds surveyed by NSSO by using state wise specific poverty line based on Tendulkar methodology. Study found that there is larger the household poverty is decline by entire districts during the study period of 2004-05 to 2011-12. In 61st (2004-05) round larger the household poverty found in Kasaragod district is 42.41% followed by Kannur is 40.17%, Wayanad is 33.15% and Kozhikode is 33.45 for both rural and urban sector. Whereas, lower the incidence of household

poverty found in Thiruvananthapuram district is 4.42% followed by Idukki 7.30%, Pathanamthitta is 7.69%, Kottayam is 11.38% and Kollam 12.71% respectively. Meanwhile, in 68th (2011-12) round except Kasaragod district (36.91%) the state has made a record to eradicate household poverty for entire districts is less than 11 percent. Whereas, lower the household poverty found in Wayanad district is 4.98% followed by Thrissur is 4.89%, Idukki is 4.45%, Thiruvananthapuram is 4.22%, Kozhikode is 4.01 and Kottayam is 2.89% only.

Table 5: Household Poverty at Division wise across Social Groups

Divisions/ Social Groups		North Kerala		Central Kerala		South Kerala	
		61 st Round	68 th Round	61 st Round	68 th Round	61 st Round	68 th Round
Rural	ST	80.64	49.79	31.49	73.61	34.11	04.23
	SC	48.96	23.09	28.96	20.01	21.50	12.62
	OBC	31.25	09.59	19.36	06.72	11.20	05.96
	OTHERS	28.81	13.19	06.21	05.41	05.43	06.01
Urban	ST	36.27	85.15	47.16	00.00	04.89	00.00
	SC	53.30	02.58	29.40	06.68	16.92	07.06
	OBC	34.27	08.08	17.10	05.20	09.87	01.95
	OTHERS	18.71	04.33	07.66	00.76	03.99	04.23

Source: Author estimates based on 61 & 68 round of NSSO data.

Table 6: Household Poverty at Division wise across Religious Groups

Divisions/ Religious Groups		North Kerala		Central Kerala		South Kerala	
		61 st Round	68 th Round	61 st Round	68 th Round	61 st Round	68 th Round
Rural	Hindu	36.53	16.48	18.31	12.01	12.06	06.37
	Muslim	31.48	09.10	22.54	04.06	13.85	08.47
Urban	Hindu	33.54	09.30	17.88	05.07	07.60	04.85
	Muslim	35.42	05.64	12.47	02.47	12.46	00.00

Source: Author estimates based on 61 & 68 round of NSSO data.

Above table 5 & 6 is reveals that, the study is also measure household poverty across the socio-religious groups at administrative division. The study is found that larger the household poverty among socio-religious groups particularly in scheduled tribes, scheduled caste and Hindu households in North Kerala divisions. Meanwhile, smaller the household poverty of among socio-religious groups found in South

Kerala divisions for both rural and urban sector during the study period of 2004-05 to 2011-12.

Determinants of Household Poverty

Table 7: Incidence of Poverty and Occupation across Socio-Religious Groups

	<i>Socio-Religious Groups</i>												
	<i>ST</i>		<i>SC</i>		<i>OBC</i>		<i>OTHERS</i>		<i>Hindu</i>		<i>Muslim</i>		
	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	
	Rural												
SE-Non-Agri	(*)	(*)	6.59	9.85	13.87	4.02	5.9	1.63	9.53	3.16	18.48	6.57	
Agri-labour	63.11	30.03	33.43	24.85	37.51	5.27	21.87	7.21	34.8	10.31	55.63	3.67	
Other-labour	62.18	(*)	35.17	15.92	27.84	4.97	13.97	4.37	26.18	5.77	37.56	5.98	
SE-Agri	(*)	(*)	68.1	7.47	29.38	10.36	16.41	10.31	20.43	12.78	28.27	8.14	11.89
Non-Agri-Lb	(*)	(*)	16.32	(*)	9.51	(*)	12.28	(*)	14.99	(*)	9.07	(*)	19.35
Others	26.88	(*)	20.17	23.18	16.2	2.19	5.42	3.76	8.25	6.93	24.16	1.14	
	Urban												
SE	(*)	(*)	35.71	(*)	16.63	2.15	5.39	0.4	12.9	1.02	20.24	3.37	
RW/SE	(*)	(*)	13.89	5.04	18.06	3.81	5.32	1.97	13.48	4.79	24.05	0.74	
CL	89.6	26.87	41.33	7.9	32.5	12.02	19.41	4.39	34.04	13.43	34.98	7.98	
Others	(*)	(*)	6.77	7.03	6.73	12.34	2.39	7.39	5.23	5.3	5.38	15.37	(*)

Source: Author estimates based on 61 & 68 round of NSSO data. (*) excluded because of small sample size. Note: SE=Self employed; RW/SE=Regular Wage/Salary Earner; (N)AL- (Non) Agricultural Labour; CL=Casual Labour

Occupation plays an important role in influencing the level of poverty in a household. Above tables 07 reveals poverty and household occupation for both rural and urban sector among socio-religious groups for 2004-05 and 2011-12. The NSSO classifies occupation in to six categories, according to the levels of poverty estimated across the occupation categories for various social groups. It is found from that agricultural labour, other labour and self employed in both rural and urban have higher levels of poverty across the various socio-religious groups. The level of poverty is concentrated among SC & ST and Muslim households with self employed, agricultural labour & other labour. In urban sector people engaged in casual labour have high level of poverty with significantly high proportion of households found in SCs and STs.

Poverty is not only a problem of low incomes rather it is a multi-dimensional problem, with deprivation in wellbeing and capabilities. Education plays a key role in creating human capital. The growth of literacy rate between 2001-2011 decade shows that Kerala has achieved significant progress was 90.89 percent (94.24% men & 87.72% women), which increased to 93.91 percent (96.02% men & 91.98% women) in 2001 to 2011. Poverty Incidence by education level of Household head among socio-religious groups for urban and rural sector is shown in below table.

Table 8: Poverty and Level of Education across Socio-Religious Groups

Level	Socio-Religious Groups											
	ST		SC		OBC		OTHERS		Hindu		Muslim	
	61 st	68 th	61 st	68 th	61 st	68 th	61 st	68 th	61 st	68 th	61 st	68 th
	Rural											
NL	57.69	59.26	38.64	23.75	33.85	22.73	22.82	28.63	35.17	25.31	39.50	30.97
LWFS	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)	50.01	(* *)	19.92	(* *)	39.66	(* *)	35.73	(* *)
BP	56.49	(* *)	37.48	27.51	26.87	(* *)	11.36	56.49	27.76	04.26	31.08	76.39
P-M	58.06	58.96	25.83	11.38	18.50	08.31	12.44	12.11	17.39	12.81	23.15	04.3
S-HS	15.45	01.29	12.49	17.04	06.12	04.68	05.14	05.48	06.89	08.02	08.94	02.6
G&A	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)	00.79	(* *)	00.33	(* *)	0.95	(* *)	(* *)
	Urban											
NL	69.50	(* *)	47.21	11.77	31.02	20.11	51.39	07.99	40.88	22.55	26.82	12.46
LWFS	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)	58.02	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)	27.99	(* *)	63.13	(* *)
BP	(* *)	(* *)	30.63	(* *)	25.70	27.41	29.77	(* *)	36.01	27.41	21.00	(* *)
P-M	81.23	(* *)	28.71	(* *)	23.85	10.03	10.04	12.92	20.02	17.43	27.05	04.62
S-HS	(* *)	02.66	15.77	06.37	05.07	03.82	02.48	02.38	04.39	04.76	04.35	02.18
G&A	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)	05.04	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)	02.29	(* *)	(* *)	(* *)

Source: Estimates based on 61 & 68 round of NSSO data. (* *) excluded because of small sample size.
 Note: NL= Not Literate, LWFS= Literate Without Formal Schooling, BP: Below Primary, P-M: Primary-Middle, S-HS: Secondary-Higher Secondary, G&A: Graduate & Above

Above table 8 exhibits, the study also estimates poverty and level of education of household head across social groups and major religious groups in Kerala during 2004-05 to 2011-12. There exists high incidence of poverty among illiterate in rural and urban sector of both rounds, irrespective of their caste and religion. Kerala with high incidence of poverty is related between irrespective, illiterates of their caste and religion, both in rural as well as in the urban sector. It is found that as the

level of education increases from lower level to higher level, the intensity of poverty decline in both rural and urban sector across all the socio-religious groups. However, in relative to rest of the social groups SC & STs and Hindus have higher poverty level across the entire education category.

Food security situation in India is on the road to achieving self-sufficiency. However, the country has not been able to eliminate chronic hunger and poverty due to lack of access to food grains. The NSS also collected data on the type of ration card in its 61st and 68th round by the household consumption expenditure survey data. Poverty Incidence by Type of Ration card of Household head and the incidence of poverty among different type of ration cards in urban and rural sector is shown in below table 9.

Table 9: Poverty and Type of Ration Card across Socio-Religious Groups

Type of Ration Card	<i>Socio-Religious Groups</i>											
	<i>ST</i>		<i>SC</i>		<i>OBC</i>		<i>OTHERS</i>		<i>Hindu</i>		<i>Muslim</i>	
	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>
	Rural											
Antodaya	67.63	(* *)	58.11	(* *)	39.49	03.44	26.09	33.64	54.64	13.63	72.53	10.42
BPL	61.27	57.58	33.36	22.29	35.50	14.80	14.72	15.31	31.77	19.97	44.99	14.16
Others	36.61	(* *)	19.88	12.49	14.95	05.27	09.05	03.89	13.56	05.43	19.24	06.29
	Urban											
Antodaya	75.66	(* *)	65.40	(* *)	85.44	08.87	02.79	(* *)	61.76	05.35	(* *)	16.79
BPL	56.58	09.73	40.32	10.35	36.31	16.03	26.46	03.71	38.21	17.85	34.66	10.04
Others	15.99	(* *)	25.34	01.86	16.89	02.86	05.31	03.04	13.18	03.58	21.02	02.11

Source: Estimates based on 61 & 68 round of NSSO data. (* *) excluded because of small sample size.

In relative to Antodaya and others BPL card holders have higher proportion of poor in the state. The SC & ST and Muslim households with Antodaya & BPL card holder have highest rate of poverty in the state. Another major finding of the study is those urban sectors have higher proportion of Antodaya households in comparison to rural sector. In urban sector again SC and ST have higher poverty compared with Antodaya card holder.

The result reveals that among socio-religious groups were higher levels of poverty is found in .001 to 1.00 hectares especially in Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes. Land is an important essential it determines the social and economic status in India.

Table 10: Poverty and Land Ownership across Socio-Religious Groups

<i>Land Holding (in hectare)</i>	<i>Socio-Religious Groups</i>											
	<i>ST</i>		<i>SC</i>		<i>OBC</i>		<i>OTHERS</i>		<i>Hindu</i>		<i>Muslim</i>	
	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>	<i>61st</i>	<i>68th</i>
0.001-0.004	70.96	(**)	40.84	(**)	9.78	(**)	1.79	0	10.27	(**)	28.06	(**)
0.005-0.400	63.35	43.47	31.64	16.71	23.11	6.96	10.33	6.75	21.59	10.17	27.97	6.17
0.410-1.000	24.18	(**)	(**)	3	12.38	12.98	9.24	4.73	14.40	10.45	10.16	24.04
1.001-2.000	62.73	(**)	(**)	(**)	7.5	(**)	11.36	(**)	14.18	(**)	9.85	(**)
2.001-4.000	(**)	(**)	(**)	(**)	(**)	(**)	(**)	(**)	00.50	(**)	(**)	(**)
>4.001	(**)	(**)	(**)	(**)	23.91	(**)	5.26	5.07	(**)	9.24	41.42	(**)

Source: Estimate by using 61st and 68th rounds of NSS data. Land Ownership is hectare (1 acre = 0.4047 hectare). Note: (**) are excluded because of small sample size.

Land holdings will significantly reduce consumption deprivation and thereby have a direct influence on the level of poverty.

V. CONCLUSION

Poverty is one of the most serious issues being faced by any economy. In India context, poverty is measured in terms of a specified normative poverty line reflecting the minimum living standard of people. The official approach has laid emphasis on ensuring a subsistence minimum and hence, on eradicating absolute poverty. India still is a country having biggest concentration of poor people in the world and home a third of the world's poor. The study found higher the incidence of household poverty is 19.71 percent in 61st (2004-05) round & 8.08 percent in 68th (2011-12) round in the state. Meanwhile, among the socio-religious groups where larger the household poverty found in Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste which is higher than OBC and Others and also Muslim households are comparatively poorer than Hindus. The study is request to the central government and as well as state government to start some more effective policy implementations should focus on development of education and self-employment in general; improve the quality of education and provide more job opportunities in particular amongst rural households, with special emphasis on Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Muslims in the state. The central Government should also made properly plan and implement target budgeting at district level, and effective monitoring of outcome budget is necessary. To contain spatial variation in poverty and inequality the study suggests for improving infrastructure in agricultural sector which in turn increases income generation in the poverty affiliated regions.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The measurement of poverty is a complex exercise and the estimates are broadly based on household per capita consumption expenditure from NSSO survey. There exist several studies on assessments and determinants of poverty both a macro and micro level, Inter-state and Intra-state studies focusing on spatial divergence in poverty. In addition, the study estimates of determinants of household poverty which are significantly poor. Although most of the empirical works on poverty and inequality are examined through the regional disparity. While in respect to Kerala, there are very few empirical studies focusing on development and regional disparity within the state and linking the same to poverty.

Notes

- 1 Planning Commission Report GoI, (2014)
- 2 Economic Review 2018, Kerala State Planning Board, Government of Kerala.
- 3 <https://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/kerala.pdf>
- 4 On the basis of geographical, historical and cultural similarities, the study grouped 14 districts into three (03) administrative division of Kerala i.e., North Kerala, Central Kerala and South Kerala divisions.
- 5 North Kerala division consists of 5 districts i.e., Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode & Malappuram.
- 6 Central Kerala division consists of 3 districts i.e., Palakkad, Thrissur & Ernakulam.
- 7 South Kerala division consists of 6 districts i.e., Idukki, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kollam & Thiruvananthapuram.
- 8 http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/genrep/pov_rep0707.pdf

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