



## A STUDY OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS IN KERALA

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### Abstract

*Demographic characteristics play vital role in the development of an area, they are interrelated and independent. In the present study two indicators i.e. Literacy and Sex ratio have been analysed to find out their relationship by applying Spearman's Rank Correlation method. Literacy and sex ratio are most important indicators of development in any particular area. Literacy is an index of human development and quality of human life. It affects birth rates on the one hand and also indicates the level of economic development, living standards, status of women and technological development etc. Sex ratio of a population refers to the balance between male and female in any population. It can be expressed either in the form of proportion of a particular sex in the population or as ratio between male and female. Kerala has highest literacy percentage in India. As per census 2011 93.91% people are literate, with male literacy 96.02% and female literacy 91.98% Palakkad district has lowest literacy (88.49%) while path Panamthittla highest (96.93%). All the district of Kerala has high sex ratio means females number are more than male. In 2001 Census Kerala Sex ratio was 1058 which has increased to 1084 in 2011 Census against nation average 940.*

**Key Words** – Demographic, Literacy, Sex ratio, correlation



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**Introduction:** Literacy is defined as percentage of literate persons (excluding the population in the age group 0-6 years) while the crude literacy rate is the percentage of literate population to total population in a specific area. Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write the

person's name and to form simple sentences, higher literacy levels in a state denote rising socio economic development and universal literacy is a crucial step towards achieving overall progress. India has made a remarkable progress as far as literacy is concerned. In 1991 India's literacy was 52.2% and 2001 it was 64.8% and in 2011 it has gone up to 74%. The male literacy has increased from 27% to 82% in last 60 years, literacy being one of the most important indicators of social development also essential for eradicating poverty, reduction of mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy. "Literacy for all" is the vision and slogan of India for which government has initiated various plans for implementing and achieving "Literacy Mission". Kerala has 1<sup>st</sup> rank in literacy in India. Kerala has highest literacy percentage in India. As per Census 2011 93.91% people are literate with male literacy 96.02% and female literacy 91.98%.

Sex composition is also important demographic component for human development. It is generally expressed in terms of sex ratio i.e. number of females per 1000 males. All over the world the male populations are more than female population but in Kerala it is otherwise female's number are more than males in all district of Kerala. It is due to very high percentage of literacy among males and females.

### **Study Area**

Kerala is a state in South West India. It was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1956, with the passage of the State Reorganization Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Kerala in 1973. The capital and the largest city is Bangalore. Kerala is bordered by the Arabian Sea and the Laccadive Sea to the west, Goa to the North West, Maharashtra to the north, Telangana to the North East, Andhra Pradesh to the east, Tamil Nadu to the South East and Kerala to the South West. The State covers an area of 38863 square kilometers or 1.18 percent of the total geographical area of India. There are 14 districts in Kerala as per census 2011 total population of Kerala was 33387677 which is about 2.76% of total population of India

### **Objectives**

The main purpose of the study is to find out the interrelationship and interdependency of literacy & Sex ratio in Kerala.

### **Database and methodology**

The present work is completely based on primary and secondary data. The secondary data is taken from Census of India, Kerala state, 2011. Variables like literacy and sex ratio are taken

under consideration. Data regarding literacy and sex ratio is obtained from census of India, Kerala, 2011. Further the collected data is processed to analyze the literacy rate and sex ratio in Kerala. Then, the correlation between two variables viz. literacy and sex ratio is analyzed by using the Spearman's Rank Correlation method. The formula for computing Spearman's Rank Correlation is as follows:-

$$P=1 - 6\sum d^2/n^3 -n$$

Where, n is the total number of observations, and d is the difference in the ranks of the two variables in the i<sup>th</sup> observation.

### Literacy in Kerala

Kerala has 1<sup>st</sup> rank in literacy. As per Census 2011, the literacy percentage was 93.91% out of which 96.02 % and 91.98 % literacy of male & female respectively.. There is variation in literacy percentage in different districts of Kerala i.e. Pathanamthitta districts highest literacy (96.93%) and lowest in Palakkad (88.49%).Kerala

Literacy is one of the most important indicators of development so that sincere efforts are to be made by Government and people to eradicate literacy from the areas which have low percentage of literacy.

**Table No. 1: Literacy Rate and Sex Ratio in Kerala 2011.**

District Name	Sex Ratio	Literacy Rate
Alappuzha	1100	96.26
Ernakulam	1028	95.68
Idukki	1006	92.2
Kannur	1133	95.41
Kasaragod	1079	89.85
Kollam	1113	93.77
Kottayam	1040	96.4
Kozhikode	1097	95.24
Malappuram	1096	93.55
Palakkad	1067	88.49
Pathanamthitta	1129	96.93

District Name	Sex Ratio	Literacy Rate
Thiruvananthapuram	1088	92.66
Thrissur	1109	95.32
Wayanad	1035	89.32

Source: Census of India Kerala 2011

### Sex Ratio in Kerala

Ratio between male and female also play vital role in development of our society in many ways. It affects the labour supply through marriage and fecundity. One observes high degree of association between high sex ratio and socio economic development, particularly in those areas where sex selective migration is absent. The gender ratio in Kerala is 1084 females per 1000 males, which is much more than the national average of 940.

Though Sex Ratio in Kerala varies from district to district yet all districts have very high Sex ratio, It is due to higher percentage of literacy among male and females

### Correlation between Literacy Rate & Sex Ratio

Correlation simply means relationship between two variables viz., Independent variable and dependent variable. The factor which is supposed to be the cause is known as the independent variable and the one which is supposed to be the effect is known as the dependent variable. In the present study literacy is considered as the independent variable whereas sex ratio is considered as the dependent variable. Thus, the variations in dependent variable may be explained in term of variations in the independent variables. Spearman's Rank Correlation is another measure of the relationship between two variables using the ranked data. For a rank correlation the data may be collected either in ranked form of actual quantitative values may be converted into ranked form.

In the present study spearman's rank correlation method is used to find out the correlation between literacy and Sex ratio in Kerala. It is observed that there is very positive correlation between literacy and sex ratio i.e. +0.436, In other words we can say that if there is increased in one variable like literacy rate also results increased in sex ratio which can be observed from

**Table No. 2 Relationship between Literacy & Sex ratio in Kerala 201**

Sr.No.	District Name	Sex Ratio	Literacy Rate	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	d	d <sup>2</sup>
1	Alappuzha	1100	96.26	3	5	2	4
2	Ernakulam	1028	95.68	4	13	9	81
3	Idukki	1006	92.2	11	14	3	9
4	Kannur	1133	95.41	5	1	4	16
5	Kasaragod	1079	89.85	12	9	3	9
6	Kollam	1113	93.77	8	3	5	25
7	Kottayam	1040	96.4	2	11	9	81
8	Kozhikode	1097	95.24	7	6	1	1
9	Malappuram	1096	93.55	9	7	2	4
10	Palakkad	1067	88.49	14	10	4	16
11	Pathanamthitta	1129	96.93	1	2	1	1
12	Thiruvananthapuram	1088	92.66	10	8	2	4
13	Thrissur	1109	95.32	6	4	2	4
14	Wayanad	1035	89.32	13	12	1	1
	<b>Total</b>						$\sum d^2 256$

Source: Computed by Author.

$$P = 1 - 6 \sum d^2 / n^3 - n$$

$$P = 1 - 6 * 256 / (14)^3 - 14$$

$$P = 1 - 1536 / 2740 - 14$$

$$P = 1 - 1536 / 2726$$

$$P = 1 - 0.5634$$

$$P = +0.436$$

### Conclusion:

Literacy and sex ratio both are considered as important indicators for developing of a region. Kerala has 1<sup>st</sup> Rank and highest literacy percentage in India. It is believed that in this state literacy will be 100 % which is model for other state to follow. This is universal trend that males are more than females but Kerala has proved otherwise. In all the district of Kerala the females are more than males. It is due to very high percentage of literacy among male & female

population. It shows that two variable i.e. literacy & Sex ratio are very much correlated with each other.

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