

New studies on Kerala

Young Scholars' Forum, GIFT

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Investment, Finance, and Financial Institutions

Scopus Indexed

1. Asok, A. R., & Cox, J. (2025). 'Inclusivity' in Welfare-Oriented Microfinance: Lessons From Kudumbashree in Kerala, India. Journal of Alternative Finance, 2(2), 174-194.

This study examines the inclusivity of Kudumbashree, a welfare-oriented microfinance initiative in Kerala, India, by analysing non-participation through the lens of social exclusion. Using quantitative data from 678 rural poor households, complemented by in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, the research finds that despite the programme's financial and non-financial benefits, women from the most marginalised backgrounds face barriers leading to passive or implicit exclusion. A positive link between participants' debt attitudes and continued engagement underscores the role of financial incentives in retention. The paper highlights a paradox wherein policies aimed at reducing social exclusion may inadvertently reinforce it through institutional exclusion shaped by design-stage conditions, operational enforcement, and individual limitations. Policy recommendations include targeted awareness sessions to

strengthen group solidarity and team cohesion, thereby enhancing participation in welfare-oriented microfinance programmes.

Scopus-indexed

Book Chapter

1. M.D. Parvathy, Dayana Das, N. Ajithkumar (2024). Unravel the DFL Level Among Nationalized Bank Women Employees in Kerala

The rapid expansion of digital financial services, intensified by recent global crises, has made digital financial literacy (DFL) essential for informed financial decision-making and economic well-being. This study assesses the level of DFL among 384 women employees from a population of 15,158 in nationalized banks across Kerala. The findings reveal a generally high level of DFL, reflecting strong adaptability among participants. However, gaps remain in areas such as service knowledge, self-determination, financial behavior, attitude, and overall financial knowledge. Using mean percentage scores for analysis, the study highlights the need for targeted strategies to further enhance DFL. As digital finance continues to evolve, strengthening DFL is vital for empowering individuals in a dynamic economic environment.

Other Articles

1. Ajay Pratap Singh, Adya Pandey (2025). From Constitution to Practice: Examining Financial Autonomy of Panchayati Raj Institutions

The self-governing financial capabilities of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are fundamental to the local governance system in India and have a bearing on the functioning of democracy at the grassroots level. PRIs were set up under the 73rd amendment of the Indian constitution in 1992 to enable self-governance at the local level so that the people can actively partake in

development processes. This paper analyzes the constitutional provisions relating to the financial autonomy of PRIs, the obstacles to achieving true financial autonomy, and the ramifications of these obstacles on local Governance.

2. Binny and Chacko (Entrepreneurial Challenges in a Southern Indian State: Exploring Financial Awareness, Credit Access and related Barriers to Entrepreneurship

This study explores the challenges and opportunities faced by entrepreneurs in Kerala by analyzing survey data from 310 respondents. It focuses on critical areas such as financial awareness, access to credit, and procedural barriers. The findings reveal low entrepreneurial awareness—only 30.49% of women and 57.98% of men are aware of business procedures. Just 18% have attempted entrepreneurship, often hindered by limited credit access and bureaucratic delays. Despite 46% perceiving improvements in the business climate, systemic issues like job security preference, gender disparities, and political instability persist. These factors contribute to perceived financial risks, shaping entrepreneurial behavior and limiting growth. The study emphasizes the need for targeted awareness programs, streamlined procedures, and greater institutional support to foster a more inclusive and dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem in Kerala. It concludes with key recommendations for policymakers to enhance public awareness, reduce barriers, and strengthen the state's business environment.

Society and Culture

Scopus Indexed

1. Harikrishnan, S. (2025). Which god's own country? A spatial history of Hindu-Christian tensions in modern Kerala. *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*, 1–20.

Kerala has long resisted the ambitions of the Bharatiya Janata Party in India; a state where despite a large grassroots presence of the Sangh Parivar, the BJP has enjoyed little electoral success. Previous scholarship has attributed this to the peculiar demography in Kerala which makes it difficult to consolidate Hindu sentiment, or to a 'secular political culture' nurtured by the socio-religious reform movements and the strong presence of communism. In recent years, the BJP in Kerala has tried to remedy this through outreach to Christian communities to position them as allies against a common 'Muslim other'. This article looks at Hindu-Christian encounters from the nineteenth century to the present to argue that these attempts can be read productively as rhetorical and strategic. Through an analysis of key incidents, I argue that historically, advocates of Hindutva forces have considered Kerala to possess a 'sacred geography' for Hindus, where other identities are seen as invasive.

2. Piyus, G. (2025). Literary child subjects and childhoods in Kerala: Agency and intersections in the late 20th century. *Global Studies of Childhood*, 15(2), 179-190

The paper examines the role of literature set in late 20th-century Kerala, India, at the intersections of class and gender, in establishing and propagating new ideals for children and childhood. During this period, Kerala gained recognition from the UN for its Kerala Model of Development, which positioned the state at the forefront of Human Development Indexes within a post-colonial country like India. Simultaneously, this era witnessed the introduction of children's rights, based on the Western model, into a society where the legacy of colonialism had shaped various contours of modernity. Accordingly, children and childhood of the newly emerged middle class became significant within the developmental rhetoric of Kerala. The paper explores how the literary representation of these middle-class children and their childhood in selected Malayalam literature from Kerala reflects and caters to the construction of the agency a child should possess in a developing society. The paper argues that through the domestication and feminization of childhood, these representations contributed to constructing a hegemonic model of middle-class childhood that emphasized the 'becoming' child, which gradually set the standard in Kerala society at the time. Despite being situated within the discursive practices of modernity, the literature produced during this period remained constrained by the astronomative ideals of society.

3.Kumar, S. (2025). Care Integrated into the Social Fabric: Palliative Care in Kerala. In: Handbook of Aging, Health and Public Policy. Springer, Singapore.

Palliative care addresses the suffering associated with terminal illness, aging, and end-of-life experiences. While globally underprovided, Kerala has emerged as a model for community-based palliative care, integrating health services deeply into the social fabric. Over the past 25 years, Kerala's approach has evolved from institution-led programs to a vibrant community-driven

movement. The state's unique system—comprising over 1,000 palliative care units supported by local governments and more than 400 by civil society groups—thrives through decentralized ownership, non-hierarchical structures, and spontaneous local participation. These units are supported by diverse actors, including NGOs, religious organizations, political parties, and informal community networks. This dynamic, self-organizing ecosystem continues to expand and adapt, offering valuable insights for public health policy and grassroots healthcare models.

4. Sabu, N.A., Radhakrishnan, V. Status of Holocaust teaching in secondary level of education in Kerala: analysis and suggestions. *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* 12, 664 (2025).

Holocaust education in India is often overlooked due to its perception as a European event and its historical overlap with India's Independence. This study examines the status of Holocaust teaching in Kerala, highlighting the state's unique connection to Jewish history through the centuries-old Cochin Jewish community. As this community faces decline, purposeful teaching of Jewish settlement and the Holocaust is vital to preserving this heritage. The research analyses history textbooks from Kerala SCERT, NCERT, and ICSE syllabi for classes IX and X, applying the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's ten guidelines for Holocaust education. Findings reveal that NCERT materials offer a more comprehensive understanding than those from SCERT or ICSE, and the study suggests measures to strengthen Holocaust teaching in Kerala's schools.

5. Das, D. K., & Navaneeth, P. (2025). A Mytho-Religious Reading of Kumbapattu of the Kurichiya Community of Kerala, India. *Religions*, 16(7), 848.

Kumbapattu is a folk song of the indigenous Kurichiya community sung during Thira, a religious festival celebrated during the month of Kumbham (February). It narrates the mythical life and actions of Malakkari, an embodiment of Lord Shiva and the chief deity of the Kurichiya. A critical study of this 1051-line folk song, its ritual performance, and its ecological fountainheads can contribute to our understanding of the cultural and ritualistic energies and functions of indigenous art forms. This paper examines the role played by religious folk songs in reiterating Kurichiya identity and community integration, and the relevance of such narratives in addressing ecological challenges while sustaining cultural heritage. The method of close textual analysis of Kumbapattu is employed to decode the religious concepts and philosophies of the community, supplemented by observations of ritual performances during fieldwork. This study draws on both primary and secondary materials for the analysis. The study employs Bronisław Malinowski's myth-ritual theory to examine the relationship between myth and ritual and their role in shaping the Kurichiya identity. Further, William R. Bascom's four functional categories are applied to identify the ecological functions expressed through the song, since the community is traditionally agrarian and still largely depends on the forest and environment for a significant part of their community life. To provide a culturally grounded interpretation that reflects Kurichiya worldviews, the study also incorporates indigenous epistemology to make the analysis more relevant and comprehensive.

Other articles

1. Rahul, N R, and Banita Behera 2025. 'Living Cultural Heritage Thira of Kerala: An Interdisciplinary Exploration'. *Sampratyaya*, 2(1): 94-105.

This study examines the Thira ceremonial art form via an anthropological and museological lens, focusing on its cultural, historical, and performative significance. Thira, a religious and social phenomenon from Kerala's Malabar area, blends dance, music, and oral traditions. The study follows Thira's growth from tribal and temple origins to modern modifications, capturing broader socio-cultural shifts. It investigates the role of museum anthropology in documenting, preserving, and displaying Thira to ensure the survival of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The research uses qualitative approaches such as ethnographic fieldwork, participant observation, and interviews to investigate ceremonial symbolism, community participation, and the impact of modernisation on Thira's practice. Thira's semiotics and embodied knowledge are analysed using interdisciplinary approaches such as ethnomusicology, dance anthropology, and performance theory. Given the growing threat to this ceremonial legacy from socio-economic shifts, cultural dilution, and dwindling practitioners, this study emphasises the critical need for rigorous recording and cultural institutional conservation initiatives. The findings emphasise the importance of comprehensive preservation measures, including physical artefacts, visual media, and oral histories, to protect Thira's spiritual and cultural core. Cultural institutions can play an important role in ensuring the continuity of Thira by connecting local traditions with global audiences, fostering cultural sustainability, and preventing the ritual from becoming a mere performance devoid of its original religious and communal significance.

2.Lahiri, S. C. (2025). Democratising science? The People's Science Movement and the pandemic. *Vantage: Journal of Thematic Analysis*, 6(1)

This paper examines the role of the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP), a pioneering people's science movement in India, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on Robert Merton's vision of science thriving within a democratic society, the study contextualizes how science, once a colonial and postcolonial institution tied to state-building in India, was kept alive and vibrant through grassroots activism. During the pandemic—a time marked by scientific uncertainty and growing right-wing hostility towards rational knowledge—KSSP played a critical role in translating scientific information into public awareness and action. The movement facilitated citizen participation in science by disseminating accurate health information, countering misinformation, and reaffirming public faith in scientific reasoning. By documenting these interventions, the paper underscores the continued relevance of people's science movements in bridging the gap between science, society, and democracy in contemporary India.

Agriculture and Rural Economy

Scopus Indexed

1. Ismail, S., Vasudev, H., & Cheriyan, J. (2025). Enhancing Seed Quality and Predictive Accuracy in Indian Agriculture: Case Study at RARS, Kottayam, Kerala. In *Advances in Seed Quality Evaluation and Improvement*

Agriculture in Kerala faces significant challenges, including unpredictable crop failures, limited dissemination of knowledge, and inadequate access to modern

technologies. This chapter explores how advanced Machine Learning (ML) models—Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), Moving Average (MA), and Auto Regressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA)—can enhance agricultural sustainability by improving seed quality and predictive accuracy at the Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS) in Kottayam. Using time-series data and environmental variables specific to Kerala, the models uncover seasonal patterns and forecast crop yields with improved precision. The study also details the integration of these models into a web-based service featuring crop and fertilizer recommendation systems designed to provide tailored, data-driven support to farmers. This system helps farmers select optimal crops and fertilizers based on local soil and climatic conditions. By combining traditional knowledge with modern analytics, the chapter highlights how data-centric innovations can revolutionize agricultural practices in Kerala, increase yields, and promote environmental and economic sustainability for smallholder farmers.

2. Deepudas, Nair, B.R. Exploring the molecular mechanisms of host plant resistance in Black pepper against *Phytophthora*: current perspectives. *Indian Phytopathology* (2025).

The ‘King of Spices,’ *Piper nigrum* L., holds significant economic and cultural value but faces a serious threat from foot rot disease caused by *Phytophthora capsici* and *Phytophthora tropicalis*. Due to environmental concerns and rising antimicrobial resistance, fungicide use is becoming less favored, making the identification of naturally resistant cultivars crucial for sustainable disease management. While cultivars such as IISR Shakti (tolerant), IISR Thevam (field resistant), and Panniyur varieties (tolerant) show some resistance, a fully resistant *P. nigrum* variety has yet to be developed. Molecular studies have

sought to understand the mechanisms behind the differential responses of these cultivars, with ‘Omics’ approaches providing substantial data. Key elements in *P. nigrum*’s immune response include resistant (R) genes, resistance gene analogues (RGAs), pathogenesis-related (PR) genes, phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL), and the phenylpropanoid pathway. Additionally, microsatellites and microRNAs act as regulators in the plant’s defense. This review summarizes recent molecular advances in the *Phytophthora–Piper* pathosystem, focusing on the complex regulatory networks involved in the plant’s immune response.

3. Shramodaya, Mohankumar, A. P., Kavitha, R., Surendrakumar, A., & Sivakumar, V. (2025). Smart mechanization of tapioca planting: Integrating AI and advanced technologies. *Plant Science Today*, 12(sp3).

Conventional cassava farming often lacks site-specific guidance, making it difficult for farmers to optimize crop placement and productivity. This review explores how artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, IoT, and modern mechanization technologies can transform cassava cultivation, particularly in drought-prone regions like Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Cassava, a staple for over 500 million people globally, faces challenges such as inconsistent planting depths and labor inefficiencies caused by traditional methods. Innovations like tractor-operated stake cutter-planters and rotary dibble-type machines offer cost-effective, precise alternatives. Integrating AI and big data analytics enables precision agriculture, allowing farmers to make informed decisions and improve yield consistency. The data and findings in the review underscore that sustained innovation, farmer training, and adoption of smart technologies are essential for improving cassava farming practices, boosting sustainability, and enhancing food security.

4. Lekshmi, G. S., Aryadevi, R. D., Pushpalatha, R., Gangadharan, B., & Hariprasad, K. M. (2025). Enhancing coconut yield potential: A climate-smart land suitability analysis using machine learning. *Smart Agricultural Technology*

Coconuts are vital to Kerala's agricultural economy, yet yield inconsistencies persist due to diverse land and climate conditions. This study integrates machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) models to enhance coconut yield potential through land suitability analysis. Using data from the Soil Survey Department of Kerala, XGBoost was identified as the best-performing model for soil suitability prediction with near-perfect accuracy (100%), while climate suitability was assessed using the MaxEnt model (67.7% accuracy). The results were combined using GIS tools to classify regions into different suitability zones. The study provides a robust, climate-smart framework for optimizing coconut cultivation, demonstrating the applicability of ML and GIS in agricultural planning.

5. Smitha, P.S., Bindhu, V.M., Sudheer, K.P. et al. An integrated modeling approach for the design and planning of inter-basin water transfer under climate change conditions. *Sustain. Water Resour. Manag.* 11, 64 (2025)

This study investigates the feasibility of inter-basin water transfer (IBT) in the context of climate change and rising water demand, using the proposed Pamba–Achankovil–Vaippar (PAV) link between Kerala and Tamil Nadu as a case study. An integrated modeling framework is employed to evaluate sustainable water transfer volumes under varying climate scenarios (RCP 4.5 and 8.5) and four future development trajectories. The analysis accounts for hydrological uncertainties, environmental flow needs, and reliability in meeting the donor basin's water requirements. Results show that dependable transfer volumes vary significantly across scenarios, with sustainability index values averaging 0.45,

0.55, and 0.40 during normal, excess, and deficient monsoon years, respectively. The findings confirm that the proposed integrated approach can guide equitable and sustainable water transfers under complex climate and demand conditions without severely compromising donor basin health.

Other Articles

1. Mathew, Shilpa & Aiyappanpillai, Prema. (2025). Land Use and Cropping Pattern Changes in Kerala. 49.

Natural resources, particularly land, play a vital role in the development of the agricultural sector. As a primary input, land has long been central to discussions on effective utilization and sustainable management. Land use refers to the overall arrangements, activities, and inputs that people undertake within a specific land cover type (Gregorio and Jansen, 1998). It is a dynamic and evolving process in which each parcel of land is systematically categorized and managed within a defined classification system. The land use pattern of a region is shaped by a variety of socio-economic, agro-climatic, ecological, institutional, and technological factors (Ramasamy et al., 2005; Premakumar and Vinothkhanna, 2015). These patterns are critical in the broader context of natural resource management, as decisions regarding land use significantly influence biodiversity, the supply of agricultural commodities, ecosystem services, and overall societal welfare (Claassen and Tegene, 1999; Jose and Padmanabhan, 2015).

2. Ganesh Ram Jat, Ibraheem Kutty C, Giggin T, Smitha S. (2025). Layer poultry farming in Kerala: Current status, emerging trends, and future prospects. *International Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry*, 10(5), 14–20.

Layer poultry farming in Kerala holds immense potential to enhance food security, rural livelihoods, and economic development, driven by high egg consumption (63 eggs per capita annually) and a demand for 560 crore eggs yearly. However, the state's production of 260 crore eggs falls short, necessitating imports of 300 crore eggs, primarily from Tamil Nadu. This review examines the current status, opportunities, and challenges of layer poultry farming in Kerala, focusing on production systems, management practices, and regional trends. Key challenges include high feed costs (60-70% of expenses), land scarcity (average holding 0.18 hectares), labor shortages, market saturation, and stringent environmental regulations. Government initiatives, such as those by the Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation (KSPDC) and Kudumbashree, promote inclusive models, empowering women and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Opportunities for growth include leveraging demand for organic and cage-free eggs, adopting climate-resilient breeds like Athulya, and integrating IoT and blockchain technologies for efficiency and transparency. Strategic recommendations encompass promoting backyard farming, developing value-added products, enhancing cold chain infrastructure, and strengthening research-extension-policy linkages. By addressing these challenges and capitalizing on opportunities, Kerala can achieve self-sufficiency in egg production, fostering a sustainable, profitable, and equitable poultry sector

Public Policy

Scopus Indexed

1. The Evolution and Impact of E-Governance Initiatives in Kerala, India: A Statistical Analysis of Development Outcomes. (2025). *International Journal of Environmental Sciences*, 11(6s), 624–635.

This paper examines the evolution and impact of e-governance initiatives in Kerala, India, assessing their effectiveness in promoting socio-economic development. Through analysis of major programs including FRIENDS, Akshaya, and e-District, the study evaluates implementation strategies, outcomes, and challenges. Findings indicate that Kerala's e-governance model has significantly improved service delivery efficiency and citizen participation while facing challenges in digital literacy and infrastructure accessibility. The Kerala experience offers valuable insights for developing regions seeking technology-enabled governance frameworks to advance development goals.

2.J. Sophie von Lieres, A.M. Sretha, M. Nitin Kumar, Nibi Kulangara Velayudhan, Aryadevi Remanidevi Devidas, Maneesha Vinodini Ramesh, Promoting water-sustainability: A participatory co-design approach for addressing water-supply challenges in urban Kerala, India, *Journal of Urban Management*, 2025

This study addresses water supply challenges in rapidly growing urban centres of India through a participatory, co-design approach. Focusing on two marginalised wards in Kochi, Kerala, India, the study uses Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques and stakeholder co-design workshops to explore solution suggestions for sustainable urban water supply. The study revealed critical issues such as water shortages, unequal distribution, and water quality concerns. Through active engagement with residents and local water supply service institutions, this study collaboratively designed and proposed sustainable and context-specific solution suggestions, such as implementing Internet of Things (IoT) sensors for real-time monitoring of water systems and a multilingual digital social platform to facilitate communication between water supply services and residents. This approach not only addresses immediate water supply issues but also promotes long-term stakeholder engagement and community empowerment. While some aspects of the findings are context-

specific, such as the particular challenges identified and the solutions suggested, the core methodology of combining PRA and co-design approaches is generalisable to other contexts. The research findings provided insights that can be applied across different urban infrastructure issues in different contexts to understand local challenges, engage stakeholders, integrate technology with existing infrastructure and local knowledge, create user-friendly interfaces, and iteratively refine solutions in a co-design process. The study's innovative methodology demonstrates how participatory approaches can lead to more effective, sustainable, and locally adapted solutions in urban water supply, offering valuable insights for policymakers and urban planners in low- and middle-income countries facing similar challenges.

3. The Evolution and Impact of E-Governance Initiatives in Kerala, India: A Statistical Analysis of Development Outcomes. (2025). *International Journal of Environmental Sciences*, 11(6s), 624-635.

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Scopus Indexed

Bookchapter

1. Renjith, P.S., Antony, S. (2025). Sustainability and Growth Implications of Sub-National Fiscal Choices in India: A Case of Kerala. In: Shanmugam, K.R. (eds) India's Public Finance and Policy Challenges in the 2020s. India Studies in Business and Economics. Springer, Singapore.

Indian states face fiscal stress due to limited revenue autonomy and rising expenditures, often compromising development priorities. This study examines Kerala's fiscal choices from 1980 to 2022 to assess their impact on development, sustainability, and growth. Using policy response models, p-spline estimations, and threshold regressions, the findings show that Kerala's fiscal deficit above 3% increases development spending but also raises concerns about debt sustainability. The sustainable debt-GSDP ratio is identified as 27.9%, below the current 36.69%, with growth benefits tapering off beyond this threshold. The study recommends state-specific fiscal strategies to enhance development while ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability.

2. Irudaya Rajan, S., Sunitha, S. (2025). The Emerging Aging Scenario in India. In: Handbook of Aging, Health and Public Policy. Springer, Singapore

The world is graying, and rather than the earlier phenomenon of the younger population caring for the older population, the young-old population is now caring for the older and oldest old. Earlier, the graying population was a phenomenon in developed countries, but it is now common in many countries, irrespective of their economic classes. The world has undergone drastic changes in terms of demography, environment, and economy. Globally, these radical changes in demographics, climate, and economy affect the living conditions of the human population. These drastic changes, especially in terms of demographics and economy, affect individuals in particular and society in general. It challenges the older population in terms of healthcare and services, family relationships, social security, and pension schemes. This chapter intends

to give an idea of the global aging growth, the changing demographic profile of India and its states, and the challenges in the emerging aging status. It also attempts to define aging under the changed condition with the nature of aging and care needs, which has implications for policy formation.

Other Articles

1. Anil, A., Kartha, A. V., Alappat, D. J., & Dinesh, M. (2025). From Margins to Mainstream: The Impact of the India Eco-Development Project on Tribal Well-Being in Kumily, Idukki. In Proceedings of the IBA IEA Conference on Economics and Public Policy (Ecofluence 2024) (pp. 76–94). Atlantis Press

The study examines the impact of the India Eco-development Project (IEDP) on the tribal communities in Kumily, Idukki. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and field observations. Significant improvements in physical infrastructure, such as housing, sanitation, and road access, were noted. However, social infrastructure development was mixed. While the IEDP fostered community participation and empowerment through the establishment of Ecodevelopment Committees (EDCs), persistent challenges remain, particularly concerning gender roles, education, and healthcare access. Although healthcare facilities have improved and infant mortality rates have declined, serious illnesses still necessitate long-distance travel to hospitals, and issues like alcohol abuse among youth remain prevalent. While the project supported women's empowerment initiatives, empowerment levels varied, with some women assuming greater responsibilities and others remaining constrained by traditional roles. These findings highlight the need for integrated public policies that address both physical and social infrastructure to achieve truly sustainable and inclusive development outcomes in protected area communities.

Labour

1. Xavier, M. (2025). Negotiating the Masculinities: Reading the Marginal Worlds in Nalini Jameela's Romantic Encounters of a Sex Worker

This paper explores the constellation of masculinities portrayed in the memoirs of Nalini Jameela, with a particular focus on her work *Ente Aanungal*, translated into English as *Romantic Encounters of a Sex Worker* (2018). Her negotiation with the complex landscape of masculinities is analysed to understand how life writing as a genre has the potential to present a counter–public discourse that enables the subaltern worlds to assert their voices. Her memoirs also disrupt the hegemonic constructions of gender, sexuality, and morality, although there are strategic compromises with the established patterns during many instances. By portraying her experiences with a wide range of masculinities, her narrative brings out the fluid and often contradictory masculinities at play, which are often missed from the regular analysis of mainstream Kerala society. Her autobiographical accounts thus present an alternative perspective on masculinity studies in the context of Kerala. The paper tries to understand how different masculinities are performed and how they are negotiated and resisted within the transactional sexual economies. Her ethnographic-like exploration of her relationships helps us to understand the dualities embedded in Kerala society from a fresh perspective, which can present a cogent critique of the social hierarchies and the moral geographies of this region.

2. P.M., Joshy. (2025). Reimagining Resources: Analyzing the Politics of Dalit Land Struggles in Kerala, India with Special Reference to Chengara

This article examines the history of land alienation in Kerala, its representation in social reform movements, and the ongoing land struggle in Chengara. It highlights how movements led by Ayyankali and Poykayil Appachan transcended Brahmin-imposed sub-caste divisions to unify oppressed communities around shared concerns. However, the ruling class effectively weakened these movements through sub-caste fragmentation. Similarly, the Chengara struggle, led by the Sadhujana Vimochana Samyukthavedi and inspired by Ayyankali, faced suppression with support from the Communist Party of India (Marxist). The study underscores the recurring role of sub-caste divisions in undermining collective action and emphasizes the importance of charismatic leadership in fostering unity and resisting hegemonic strategies in caste-dominated societies.

3. Ansari, P. A. A., & Sameer, B. M. (2025). Back to the roots: Socio-economic policy making and re-integration of Kerala's Gulf-return migrants amidst the COVID-19.

Many gulf countries' migrants, particularly those from developing countries like India, have been deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Kerala, a state with high emigration rates, depends heavily on these migrant workers who form a significant part of its labour force. This research report examines how Kerala has responded to the COVID-19 crisis and highlights its distinct and notable approaches. However, most Gulf migrants work in the informal sector and are unaware of many things. These former key components of Kerala's economy return home to find themselves excluded, disorganised, and voiceless, as their

rights or working environment cannot be fought for. Within the period of COVID-19, more than half a million returnees in Kerala faced numerous problems as well as socio-economic challenges. They were once breadwinners in families, but now face similar hardships within their states. This study examines the macroscopic aspects of the socioeconomic lives of marginalised migrants, as well as the social links that hinder their integration into society, both through state policies and community barriers. The article is based on a survey of 300 respondents from Malappuram and Ernakulam districts, aimed at understanding the intricacies of post-pandemic experiences.

Gender and Social Inclusion

Scopus Indexed

1. Jose, B., & Muthulakshmi, S. (2025). Kerala's Differently Abled: A Socio-Economic and Demographic Perspective

The inclusion of differently abled individuals into mainstream society has been a focus of Indian policy, marked by the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act in 1995 and its comprehensive revision through the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. These legislations aim to safeguard the rights of the differently abled, particularly in education and employment. Kerala, known for its progressive policies and high human development indicators, has taken proactive steps in this direction. In 2015, the state conducted a Disability Census under the Social Security Mission to assess the

demographic and socio-economic status of differently abled individuals. Kerala remains the only Indian state to undertake such a detailed study. This research analyzes data from the 2015 Disability Census to examine the socio-economic and demographic profile of the differently abled in Kerala and offers policy recommendations to enhance their inclusion and development.

2. Johny V, F., Menon, V.T.K., Georgy, S. et al. Prevalence of recurrent urinary tract infections and its associated factors in female staff of reproductive age group in a medical college in central Kerala: a cross-sectional study. *BMC Infect Dis* 25, 276 (2025).

This cross-sectional study among 417 female staff aged 18–49 years in a private medical college in central Kerala found a 22.30% prevalence of recurrent urinary tract infections (UTIs) (≥ 3 episodes in 12 months). Recurrent UTI was significantly associated with factors such as low daily water intake, reduced urination frequency, holding urine, foul-smelling vaginal discharge, constipation, lack of pre-coital urination, and inadequate pre- and post-intercourse vaginal hygiene. Occupation also played a role, with cleaning staff showing higher odds. The findings highlight that prevention requires adequate hydration (>2 L/day), good personal and sexual hygiene, and targeted health education to improve quality of life among women in this group.

Other Articles

1. K A, R., & C C, D. (2025). Socio-Economic Disparities in Educational Attainment and Career Aspirations: A Study of Students in Thrissur District, Kerala

This study investigates how socio-economic factors shape the educational experiences and aspirations of college students in Thrissur district, Kerala. Employing a mixed-methods approach, it analyzes the impact of family income, parental education, and occupation on academic performance, access to resources, and career goals. Findings show that students from lower socio-economic backgrounds face financial constraints and limited support, which hinder their academic progress and aspirations. Conversely, those from more privileged backgrounds benefit from greater resources and parental involvement, enabling stronger ambitions. The study highlights the critical role of parental background in educational outcomes and advocates for inclusive policies—such as financial assistance, career counseling, and parental engagement—to bridge the educational divide and foster socio-economic mobility.

2. Matovu, B. & Lukambagire, I. (2025). Examining the perceptions and attitudes toward Women's employment and leadership in the blue economy: A case study of India

The blue economy (BE) offers significant potential for sustainable development and coastal women's empowerment (WE). However, challenges related to gender exclusion and male dominance in BE sectors persist, particularly in employment and leadership roles. This study, using India as a case study,

conducts a bibliometric analysis of 1,768 scholarly articles to explore research trends, key themes, and perceptions toward women's involvement in the BE. Findings show a growing interest in gender-related BE research, yet most of it appears in low-impact journals, with limited international collaboration. Persistent gender stereotypes and structural inequalities continue to hinder women's participation. Although opportunities are increasing in service and nearshore sectors, significant gaps remain in leadership inclusion. The study emphasizes the importance of transdisciplinary research, financial literacy, institutional support, and community-based strategies to promote WE. A five-step Women Empowerment Pathway (WEP) is proposed to facilitate phased and holistic empowerment, calling for a redefinition of WE in the BE to identify grassroots vulnerabilities and foster inclusive, replicable frameworks.

Growth and Development

Scopus Indexed

1. Amrie Singh, Vijay Sreeparvathy, Sengupta Debdut, Maria Pregnolato, Nigel Wright,

A critical review of flood risk assessment in Kerala Post-2018: Methodological approaches, gaps, and future directions,

This study critically reviews the state of flood risk assessment (FRA) in Kerala, India, with a particular focus on developments since the catastrophic floods of 2018. Kerala, comprising 14 districts with diverse topography, climate, and land-use patterns, has witnessed an increasing frequency and intensity of

flooding events in the 21st century. The 2018 floods, triggered by extreme rainfall and aggravated by anthropogenic factors such as wetland encroachment, riverbed sand mining, and inadequate urban drainage, resulted in over 480 fatalities and the displacement of more than a million people. Despite a long history of flood occurrences, flood management systems have failed to match the scale of recent disasters due to outdated infrastructure, fragmented dam management practices, and poorly coordinated urban planning. This review synthesizes existing FRA methodologies applied in Kerala, including hydrological modelling, remote sensing, GIS-based mapping, and vulnerability assessments. By identifying methodological gaps—such as insufficient integration of climate projections, socio-economic vulnerability metrics, and real-time monitoring—the paper provides a foundation for developing more effective, region-specific flood management strategies. The findings underscore the need for coordinated, multi-disciplinary approaches that integrate environmental sustainability with growth-oriented development planning, ensuring Kerala's resilience against future flood hazards.

2. Achu, A.L., Aju, C.D., Thomas, J. et al. Decoding the dynamics of July 2024 Mundakkai-Chooralmala landslide in Kerala (India): an analysis of formation mechanisms, impacts and lessons learned.

Most sections of Kerala's Western Ghats are highly susceptible to landslides, especially during extreme rainfall events (EREs). On 30 July 2024, the Mundakkai–Chooralmala region in Wayanad experienced one of India's deadliest landslides, causing over 225 deaths, 273 injuries, 131 missing persons, and destruction of 1,555 houses. This study examines the event's formation mechanisms and impacts through field observations, aerial imagery, satellite data, and rainfall records. The ~7 km runout was triggered by 373 mm of rainfall within 24 h, compounded by antecedent totals of 586 mm (3 days) and 809 mm (5 days). Unstable slopes of thick lateritic soils and kaolinitic clay over

weathered charnockites and gneisses, combined with concave slope morphology, amplified failure risk. Debris dams formed and breached, intensifying downstream damage. The findings highlight the need for targeted landslide risk management, including early warning systems, improved land use planning, and community preparedness in the Western Ghats.

3. Renu, S., Reddy, B. S. N., Santhosh, S., Sreelekshmi, Lekshmi, V., Pramada, S. K., & Sridhar, V. (2025). Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling for Flood Risk Assessment: A Case Study of Periyar River Basin, Kerala, India. *Climate*, 13(6), 129.

Floods pose a substantial threat to both life and property, with their frequency and intensity escalating due to climate change. A comprehensive hydrological and hydraulic modeling approach is essential for understanding flood dynamics and developing effective future flood risk management strategies. The accuracy of Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) directly impacts the reliability of hydrologic simulations. This study focuses on evaluating the efficacy of two DEMs in hydrological modeling, specifically investigating their potential for daily discharge simulation in the Periyar River Basin, Kerala, India. Recognizing the limitations of the Hydrologic Engineering Center's Hydrologic Modeling System (HEC-HMS) with the available dataset, a novel hybrid model was developed by integrating HEC-HMS outputs with an Artificial Neural Network (ANN). While precipitation, lagged precipitation, and lagged discharge served as inputs to the ANN, the hybrid model also incorporated HEC-HMS simulations as an additional input. The results demonstrated improved performance of the hybrid model in simulating daily discharge. The Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) was employed to predict flood inundation areas for both historical and future scenarios in the Aluva region of the Periyar River Basin, which was severely impacted during the 2018 Kerala floods. By integrating hydrological and hydraulic modeling

approaches, this study aims to enhance flood prediction accuracy and contribute to the development of effective flood mitigation strategies.

4. D, H.S., Thekkumakara Surendran, A., Gaitonde, R. et al. Health in Kerala: exploring achievements and remaining challenges of health systems reform using an equity lens. *Int J Equity Health* 24, 89 (2025).

The southern Indian state of Kerala, often cited as a global model for achieving impressive health outcomes at low cost, continues to face disparities in health equity, particularly among underserved populations. This special issue, based on an open call in 2022, received 29 submissions, of which nine peer-reviewed articles were published, covering topics such as tuberculosis control efforts, evaluations of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) reforms, challenges faced by transgender individuals in accessing gender-affirming care, qualitative analyses of UHC policies from marginalized perspectives, a rabies death case study, and the mental health impact of COVID-19 on school children. Collectively, these studies highlight persistent barriers such as limited access to care, inadequate attention to social determinants, lack of targeted interventions for marginalized communities, and insufficient engagement with the private sector. The findings emphasize the need for custom-tailored policies to meet the specific health needs of underserved populations, rather than relying on a “more of the same” approach.

Other Articles

1. Ramkumar, M. and Balasubramani, K. (2025). Environmental dynamics in the tropical tourist beaches of southwestern India

Tropical beaches with lush vegetation are prime locations for recreation and tourism, particularly along the southwestern coast of India, where rainforests

meet serene beaches. While such activities boost economic growth, they often result in significant environmental degradation. This study investigates four popular beaches in Kerala—Pozhikkara, Hawa, Lighthouse, and Chowara—to assess coastal environmental sustainability through geomorphological, land use/land cover, and sediment textural analyses. Results reveal dominance of medium to coarse sediments, high heavy mineral content, and platykurtic distributions, indicating homogenization due to anthropogenic interference. Environmental discrimination diagrams suggest sediment exposure to turbid, high-energy conditions, affirming human-induced alterations. The transformation of fluvial sediments to marine signatures further supports this impact. These findings highlight the ecological stress caused by unchecked recreational and commercial activities, especially in intertidal zones, often in violation of coastal regulations. The study underscores the urgent need for remedial and reclamation strategies to preserve the ecological integrity and sustainable habitability of Kerala's tourist beaches.

2. Mathew, A. (2025). The obesity equation: Unpacking the role of changing food consumption patterns. *American Journal of Psychiatric Rehabilitation*, 28(5).

Overweight and obesity are now recognized as serious global public health concerns. In Kerala, a state known for its high social development standards, lifestyle diseases—particularly obesity—are on the rise. This growing issue is closely linked to metabolic syndrome, which includes conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, and elevated cholesterol levels. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, heart disease, and respiratory conditions are increasing rapidly, placing a heavy burden on the state's healthcare system and

reducing productivity. Poor diet, sedentary lifestyles, alcohol consumption, and smoking are key contributors, and these issues are now affecting children and adolescents as well as adults. Despite numerous studies on obesity and its causes, there has been little focused research on adult obesity in Kerala. This study aims to assess the prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults and explore the socio-economic and consumption patterns driving this trend. Adolescent obesity, influenced by changing socio-economic conditions and dietary habits, remains an under-researched area. Addressing it is essential—not only as a matter of human rights but also for the long-term economic and health benefits to society. Investing in adolescent health ensures a healthier, more productive future population and reduces the burden of disease in later life.