

Inter-Generational Households Characteristics and Living Standards of the Outlier Groups in Wayanad, Kerala

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In Kerala, the Wayanad district, which has distinct dissimilarities with respect to poverty and other human development indicators, is one such region. The outlier group's immiseration has culminated in a vicious circle of poverty, which in turn has contemporaneous characteristics. The article illustrates that economic trajectory shifts have a vital role in determining the income earned by the households and the resultant assets accrued to the households at the inter-generational level. The study also shows that in an inter-generational dimension, it is a cycle of occurrences that determine the poverty status and the asset creating/owning capacity of the households.

I Introduction

Kerala perhaps is the only state in India that has made substantial progress in reducing the incidence of poverty at both rural and urban levels. Education and health are the two galvanizing forces employed in sculpturing such a development model, popularly known as 'the Kerala Model of Development'. The remarkable achievements with respect to the human development indicators evince that this model of development has enabled the state to be in a far better off position compared with other Indian states. Nonetheless, the same impressiveness is not seen in the case of social outliers like the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities. This is made clear by the Kerala Human Development Report (2005). It divulges that 57.9 per cent of the STs and 45.5 per cent of the SCs are deprived of their bare minimum facilities, while only 26.9 per cent of the non-SC and -ST population is denied the same. Their immiseration has culminated in a vicious circle of poverty, which in turn has contemporaneous characteristics. In Kerala, the Wayanad district, which has distinct dissimilarities with respect to poverty and other

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