

**Socio-economic changes in Kerala –
Empirical analysis at micro level**

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Chapter I

Introduction

Measuring socio-economic change or progress is a subject which has attracted considerable attention, especially during the last three or four decades. International agencies such as Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) evinced a good deal of interest in the subject*. It was felt that the prevailing macro approach to the assessment of progress tended to operate in terms of national abstractions which are far remote from the local reality. Most systems of statistics are not geared to answer concrete questions on the extent to which people were better off in their levels of living conditions. The present project aims at developing a suitable system of monitoring at the local level for the periodic assessment of real socio-economic change in terms of variables which directly reflect the changes in the level of living of the people.

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* (* Report on the workshop 17-19 October, 1973, UNRISD, Mimeo PP.1-2)

Under the auspices of the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), KSI had initiated a Development Monitoring Study in 12 locations in Kerala during the three year period 1979 to 1982. This was an exploratory survey to finalise the methodology and to develop appropriate concepts and definitions and survey procedures. Based on the experience thus gained, KSI repeated this study in 15 selected centres in 1986-87 with financial assistance provided by the Government of Kerala. In 1990-91, the survey was repeated with financial assistance from State Government. But the sample size was reduced to 10 centres owing to shortage of funds. Five years later in 1996-97, a follow-up survey / study was undertaken by KSI, more or less along similar lines. These studies have made use of a number of indicators, each of which will reflect the level of living of the people of that locality.

The proposal of KSI to KRPLLD was to undertake the above study in 10 centres selected earlier, representing 3 different natural regions, northern and southern zones rural and urban areas. But KRPLLD has suggested that KSI may undertake a pilot study in Trivandrum district covering only two centres viz. Trivandrum and Vembayam. Hence the scope of the study has been limited to an enquiry in the changes in the levels of living of these two centres based on indicators selected earlier for the previous rounds of this study. The findings presented in this report have their limitations, viz. they reflect the changes in the levels of living in two centres of Trivandrum district only.

II. Survey of Literature.

Most of the indicators of progress or development are usually “national aggregates” ie. national total for some phenomenon viz. hospital beds, doctors, deaths, food calories, school enrolments, telephones, electricity consumption, etc. added up and divided by the total relevant population. These indicators are obviously incomplete and omit important aspects of development. In addition, national indicators have revealed certain limitations which might be remedied to a certain extent by a systematic approach at the local level. A number of national indicators have been severely criticised by

writers like Myrdal for their poor quality and their unreality when observed at the local level.¹ Many indicators have not been designed and tested for use as development indicators but have become available as by-products of administrative procedure. At the local level, they may reflect something quite different from what they are presumed to reflect at national level.

The national aggregate figures may or may not be based on actual counting of the phenomenon in question at the local level. Instead, it may be based on inferences from production and trade figures, taxation and licensing figures or inferences and estimates of various other kinds. Examples of this are literacy rates, school enrolment rates, morbidity and mortality rates. Macro indicators represent separate streams of information, and it is usually not possible to determine for analytical purposes what items are spatially associated with each other, whether the same communities that have progressed in one aspect or experienced one problem have progressed in other aspects or experienced other problems. Attempts to understand the interrelations of social and economic factors by studying the behaviour of aggregative variables at the national or international level have generally proved unsuccessful. When social variables are involved, it is necessary to move down to the level where the interactions take place with a view to understanding how different factors relate to each other in real contexts rather than depending on national abstractions.

A major deficiency of national planning, as pointed out by the UN study on Development,² has been the failure of the national planning offices to obtain adequate information and orientation as to what is actually happening in the country at large, what changes are taking place in the villages and towns, who are the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of various programmes, etc. Local observations made in this project are intended to correct or supplement where ever necessary the national indicators. Local observations can serve as part of a more comprehensive information system since many phenomenon can be better observed in a regional context. Its purpose is to concentrate on

¹ Ref: Myrdal.G.: Asian Drama, Chpater VI Challenge of World Poverty.

selected information that will show how development is progressing at the local level and will give a picture of the pattern of this development.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development has since 1965 worked on the measurement of levels of living, (rather than poverty), both at national and sub-national (local) levels. In India, a rich and varied literature has grown during the decade of the seventies on the incidence of poverty and the concept of poverty line. A mile stone in the literature was the study, *Poverty in India* by Dandekar and Rath³. A further mile stone is the papers contributed to a conference of the International Statistical Institute in 1977 on the measurement of poverty in New Delhi. Among them papers by VKRV Rao and PV Sukhatme⁴ criticising the methods and results of Dandekar and Rath deserve special mention. A further series of papers was published by the EPW during 1981, including among others a detailed reply by Dandekar to his critics⁵. Dandekar and Rath define poverty in terms of household consumer expenditure making use of estimates of minimum calorie requirements to determine the point at which expenditure is insufficient. Much of the subsequent discussions centred on Sukhatme's assertion that because of interpersonal and intra-personal variations in calorie requirements, the minimum line as used by Dandekar and others is inappropriate.

In recent years, a set of measurement tools to indicate the changes in the level of living/quality of life have been developed, viz. Physical quality of life index (PQLI) and Human Development index (HDI). PQLI was suggested in 1977, as a composite measure of economic and social well-being, by the Overseas Development Council[@] using three indicators – life expectancy, infant mortality and rate of literacy, giving equal weight to each. Following the methodology of ODC, Tewari and Joshi⁶ worked out PQLI for Indian States for the years 1961, 1971 and 1981. Using the same methodology, PQLI for

² Report of the Secretary General, UN: "Unified Approach to Development Analysis and Planning – Preliminary Report of the Secretary General, UN, Document E/CN.5/477.

³ (EPW Vol VI Nos. 1 and 2, January 1971)

⁴ (Bulletin of the International Statistical Institute, proceeding of the 41st session, Vol. XLVII, 1977)

⁵ (EPW Vol. XVI, Nos. 22, 23, 30, 31, 32, 1981).

[@] Overseas Development Council: *The United States and World Development Agenda for 1977*, New York, Preger Press.

⁶ (Tewari and Joshi: *Development and change in India*, New Delhi, Asia Publishing House, 1988)

the state of Kerala was computed by Dr P P Pillai in 1994. Pillai's estimate showed that PQLI for Kerala was very much high compared to India. For instance, in 1991, PQLI for Kerala was 90.52 as against 55.45 for All India⁷. Since 1990, UNDP had computed another composite Index Called Human Development Index (HDI) by using the three indicators life expectancy, literacy and income. This is different from PQLI, as it takes income as a component of the index and omits infant mortality rate. The estimates of HDI for 1994, showed that the value of HDI for India was 0.446, with India occupying the 138th position among 175 nations. Following the UNDP method, Sivakumar⁸ has made an attempt to estimate HDI for all states in India for the year 1987. According to this estimate Kerala had the highest HDI of 0.651 and U.P. the lowest (0.292). A new measure of poverty applicable to rural areas was attempted by Dhanasekhar⁹ which is called Rural Quality of Life Index. His study was undertaken in a village in Periyar district in Tamil Nadu. This index was computed after considering variables such as social status, income status, nutritional status, clothing and housing applying equal weights to all the variables.

The approach taken by the present study is that (a) poverty should be expressed in terms of a small number of indicators, most of them not monetary, covering the principal components of the levels of living; (b) indicators are expressed in terms of a distribution and not a cut off point. The choice of a cut off point, below which people are to be poor, in any case is not absolute, universal truth.

An attempt is made in this study to measure levels of living in general, in a small sample area in Kerala by means of a restricted set of indicators covering the principal components of levels of living.

⁷ (Pillai P P : Kerala Economy – Four Decades of Development, Trichur, Institute of Planning and Applied Economic Research, Dr John Mathai Foundation, 1994).

⁸ (Sivakumar A K: UNDP's Human Development Index: A computation for Indian States - EPW, 12th Oct, 1991)

⁹ (Dhanasekhar K. Socio-economic measures of quality of Rural Life: An alternative approach to measure Rural Poverty, Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, 46, No 1, 1977).

The levels of living components used here include income and assets, health, education, nutrition, transport and communications, housing and associated services such as water, sanitation and electricity, furniture and footwear: Poverty denotes deprivation in respect of some items for ex, little land, a fragile house, low income, absence of protected water or insufficient food. In general, Kerala is well supplied with public facilities as compared to most other parts of India. With a few exceptions in the hilly areas, centres are covered by adequate roads and served by relatively cheap public/private transport. Urban and rural areas alike are served by a net work of public hospitals, health and family planning centres. Many centres have a primary school, also middle and secondary schools. Banks, Post and telegraph offices are well distributed.

1.3 Objective

This project aims at studying (a) whether real improvement is taking place in the living conditions of the people and if so to what extent and (b) whether inter-locality and inter-community differences in socio-economic conditions exist. This has limited validity since the study covered only two centres in Trivandrum district.

1.4 Scope, Coverage and operational methodology

This is envisaged as a pilot study and covers only two centres in Trivandrum districts viz. Trivandrum Corporation and Vembayam Panchayat. These two centres were covered in the earlier rounds also and hence the results of the study in the present round can be compared with previous rounds. But as regards inter-community differences in the levels of living information are available from the present round only ie. 2003 - 04. From each centre, 2000 households were listed and basic household data such as household size, type of house, whether electrified or not, type of sanitation facility, source of drinking water, number of births and deaths including infant deaths and illness (for adults and children separately), employment exchange registration etc. were collected from each household. All wards were covered and the number of households selected from each ward was proportional to the number of households in the ward. Out of 2000 households, a smaller sample of 200 households was selected from each centre

for detailed enumeration. Data collected include housing condition, area of land owned, durable household assets possessed, demographic particulars regarding members of the household, occupation and income of members, number of days and hours actually worked per week, quantity and value of consumption of selected items etc.

1.5 Salient Features of the two centres selected for the survey.

(i) Trivandrum Corporation

This is the Capital of Kerala. It was Capital of former Travancore State as well as former Travancore - Cochin State. As per 1991 Census, Trivandrum Corporation has an area of 74.92 Sq. KM. and a population of 5.2 lakhs. It has a coastal length of about 5 Km. People in the coastal wards are generally engaged in fishing activities. Being the Capital for a long period, the city is dominated by the service sector. Majority of the population are Hindus, followed by Christians and Muslims. According to 1991 Census, Scheduled Castes form 8.3 percent of the population, while Scheduled Tribes constitute 0.1 percent only.

(ii) Vembayam Panchayat

This is a midland panchayat in Trivandrum district located about 18 Km. North of Trivandrum city. It has an area of 30.58 Sq. Km. With a population of 32,637. Majority of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Perennial crops grown are coconut, areacanut, rubber, cashew, jack and mango. Small industries in the locality are brick making, tailoring, furniture making and beedi making. The majority of the population in the panchayat are Hindus, followed by Muslims and Christians. As per the 1991 Census, Scheduled Caste form about 8.4 percent of the population and Scheduled Tribes constitute 0.4 percent.

Chapter II

Demographic Particulars of the Selected Households

2.1 The demographic particulars reviewed here are taken from the data available from listing Schedule (Schedule I) and is available for 2000 households in each centre.

2.2 Table 2.1 (see Annexure) gives the number of sample households in each of the two centres, Trivandrum (urban) and Vembayam (rural). The household size varies from 4.08 in Vembayam (rural) to 4.15 in Trivandrum City (urban). The data relating to household size obtained from the present and previous surveys conducted by this institute, are shown in table 2.2 and summarised below. It is evident that the household size has come down over the years. In Trivandrum the decrease was from 5.5 in 1981 - 82 to 4.15 in 2003 - 04, while in Vembayam (Rural) the fall was from 5.3 in 1982 - 83 to 4.08 in 2003 - 04.

2.2 Trend in household size

Locality	Average household size				
	1981 - 82	1986 - 87	1990 - 91	1996 - 97	2003 - 04
Trivandrum	5.5	5.01	4.9	4.4	4.15
Vembayam	5.3	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.08

The above trend is a positive sign of development indicating awareness on the part of the people to reduce family size for enjoying better levels of living.

Community-wise differences in household size are available for 2003 - 04 only and is furnished below.

Table 2.2(a) Average household size - Community - wise, 2003 - 04

Centre	Community - wise Household size						
	S C	S T	Hindu Backward	Hindu Forward	Christians	Muslims	Total
Trivandrum	4.3	4.7	4.0	3.8	4.0	5.3	4.2
Vembayam	4.3	4.3	3.9	4.0	3.7	4.4	4.1

Among communities, the largest household size is recorded among Muslims both in Trivandrum (Urban) and Vembayam (Rural) centres.

Age Composition

Age composition as obtained from the present survey as well as from the earlier surveys are presented in table 2.3 and 2.4. A summary of the data in this regard is given below :

2.3 Percentage Distribution of Males by Broad Age Groups

Locality	Year	Percent males aged			Number of Males
		0 - 14	15 - 59	60 and Above	
Trivandrum	1986 - 97	29.20	63.60	7.20	505
	1990 - 91	24.80	66.20	9.00	476
	1996 - 97	23.10	67.00	9.90	636
	2003 - 04	18.66	69.90	11.44	402
Vembayam	1986 - 97	27.20	65.30	7.5	480
	1990 - 91	26.00	63.90	10.10	438
	1996 - 97	25.30	64.10	10.60	625
	2003 - 04	27.53	62.63	9.85	396

2.4 Percentage Distribution of females by broad age-groups

Locality	Year	Percentage of females aged			No of females
		0 - 14	15 - 59	60 & above	
Trivandrum	1986-87	25.20	66.50	8.20	514
	1990-91	21.60	66.80	11.60	500
	1996-97	20.60	68.70	10.70	664
	2003-04	19.27	67.35	13.38	441
Vembayam	1986-87	27.90	64.30	7.80	505
	1990-91	25.80	64.10	10,10	515
	1996-97	24.50	65.30	10.10	652
	2003-04	22.76	67.55	9.69	413

The above tables give the percentage of males and females in the age groups of 0-14, 15-19 and 60 and above as obtained from the surveys conducted in 1986-87, 1990-91, 1996-97 and 2003-04. It is seen that the percentage aged 15 and below showed a decreasing trend and percentage aged 60 and above showed an increasing trend both among males and females alike. In the rural centre of Vembayam also almost the same trend was

visible. There is no special significance for the observed trend, this is only a reflection of the falling growth rate of population observed in the state.

Woman Headed Households.

Information on the sex of the head of the household was noted in the listing schedule and hence available from 2000 households in each centre. The is furnished in table 2.5. On an average 13percent of the households in Trivandrum (Urban) and 9percent of the households in Vembayam (Rural) are headed by women. In both the centres, woman headed households are low in the case of Hindu forward community. Percentage of woman headed households is high in the case of Muslim and Christian communities, mainly due to migration of larger number of men in these communities to gulf countries for employment.

Marital Status

The marital status of each individual member was recorded in Schedule II and details are available on items like never married, currently married etc. The data are available for approximately 200 households each in the two selected centres viz Trivandrum and Vembayam. Table 2.6 indicates the percentage of males and females currently married in the relevant age groups separately for each centre. Corresponding figures available for earlier surveys are also provided in the same table.

2.6 Percentage of persons currently married (in each age group)

Locality	Year	Males aged			Females aged		
		20 – 24	25 – 29	30 – 34	15–19	20 – 24	25 - 29
Trivandrum	1986-87	6.40	34.80	77.30	1.90	34.30	73.60
	1990-91	2.10	33.30	69.70	7.40	28.80	51.60
	1996-97	1.80	30.60	68.90	4.90	36.20	74.00
	2003-04	2.2	22.58	92.31	2.56	38.30	70.59
Vembayam	1986-87	4.50	48.10	82.90	15.50	63.00	85.40
	1990-91	4.50	48.10	82.90	7,.10	54.70	85.00
	1996-97	3.20	31.30	86.20	4.50	53.40	90.30
	2003-04	3.57	50.00	85.19	13.33	70.27	90.91

For males, the data are presented in the age groups 20 – 24, 25 – 29 and 30 – 34 for both Trivandrum and Vembayam. In Trivandrum, there is a slight increase in currently married people in the age group 30 – 34 while minor variations are noticed in other age groups. For females, in Trivandrum centre, a slight increase in the percentage of currently married is seen in the age group 20 – 24, while for other age groups currently married recorded a marginal fall. In the rural centre of Vembayam, in the case of males percentage of currently married has shown an increase in the age groups 20 – 24 and 24 – 29, while a marginal decline is noticed in the upper age group of 30 – 34. In the case of females in this centre, the percentage of currently married has shown an upward trend in the age groups 15 – 59 and 20 – 24, while the percentage is almost steady in the higher age group of 25 – 29.

Health Condition

In the listing schedule, the number of births in the household during the previous one year, the number of deaths during the previous one year, the number of infant deaths (below one year of age) during the previous one year and the number of days of illness during the previous one week were recorded. These data were collected from 2000 households in each centre, and covered a population of nearly ten thousand.

The birth rates and death rates as obtained from the present survey are given in table 2.8 below :

Table 2.8 Birth rates and death rates obtained from 2003 - 04 survey

Locality	Birth rates	Death rates
Trivandrum	11.02	3.35
Vembayam	17.90	4.54

[obviously, the above rates are high in rural centres compared to the urban localition. Similarly infant mortality rates and morbidity prevalence rates are the lowest in Trivandrum compared to rural centre, Vembayam] These key variables, over years, have shown a notable decline, there by signifying an improvement in health conditions over time. This is evident from the data presented in the following table :

Table 2.10 Indicators of Health Statistics

Locality	Year	Birth rate per 1000 population	Death rate per 1000 population	Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births	Morbidity prevalence rate per 1000 person days
Trivandrum	1986-97	13.70	5.20	7.10	15.80
	1990-91	15.40	6.50	11.00	15.80
	1996-97	14.20	3.40	10.70	18.90
	2003-04	11.02	3.35	10.87	18.85
Vembayam	1986-97	18.00	5.10	28.20	22.20
	1990-91	17.70	5.50	11.00	19.10
	1996-97	18.00	5.00	12.80	18.40
	2003-04	17.90	4.54	13.70	18.30

As regards number of days of illness, the presence of subjective errors cannot be eliminated since it is difficult to have an absolutely objective definition of illness. The instruction given to the field staff was that a person has to be considered ill on a day if he / she was unable to perform his / her normal activities on that day on grounds of illness. The total number of days of illness during the week divided by 7 times the population was multiplied by 1000 to give the morbidity prevalence rate per 1000 person days. The figure thus obtained would give the average number ill on a day per 1000 persons. One drawback in this method is that, even if an illness had extended for more than a week, the number of days ill would be recorded only as seven. To that extent the prevalence rate obtained would be an under estimate.

Chapter III

Housing conditions

3.1 Important features regarding the quality of housing are collected in the listing schedule and hence available for 2000 households in each centre. Important characteristics for which data was collected are: type of house, whether electrified or not, source of drinking water and type of sanitation.

3.2 Type of House: Type of house is recorded in codes indicating five categories: Thatched roof with wall made of flimsy material (code 1), unburnt brick or soft wood (code 2) thatched roof with wall made of stone or burnt brick (code 3), tiled roof (code 4) and concrete roof (code 5). Results of the survey in two centres are furnished in table 3.1(Annexure). Out of the five categories, the first one is just a hut. The second and third type of houses can be combined, similarly the fourth and fifth can be combined to get the number of moderately good houses. On this basis, houses are classified into three categories. The results of the present survey (2003-04) and also the results obtained in the previous surveys are presented in table 3.2 below:

Table 3.2 Trends in the percentage distribution of households by type of house.

Locality	Year	Huts	Other thatched roof houses	Tiled/concrete houses	All	Total No of households
Trivandrum	1986-87	1.50	28.10	70.40	100.00	2000
	1990-91	3.70	21.00	75.30	100.00	2420
	1996-97	4.00	13.70	82.30	100.00	3000
	2003-04	1.34	7.40	91.26	100.00	2013
Vembayam	1986-87	3.80	73.20	23.00	100.00	2227
	1990-91	2.00	65.10	32.90	100.00	2998
	2003-04	2.05	25.01	72.14	100.00	1999

The first category is merely a hut and usually the occupants are in the lowest strata of society. A comparison of distribution of households by type of house obtained from previous surveys is also presented in the above table. The survey results clearly indicate that in the two centres selected, the percentage of households living in tiled or concrete roofed houses has increased. The percentage of households residing in huts is not only low in both centres, but also exhibits a declining trend. The percentage of households residing in the second category of houses has also come down in both the centres. The trends clearly indicate an improvement in housing facilities in both the centres covered by the survey.

Results of the survey in two centres relating to housing condition by religion are furnished in table 3.2(a) below :

Table 3.2(a) Percentage distribution of households by type of house and by religion 2003 - 04

Locality	Religion	Huts	Other thatched roof houses (Semi - pucca)	Tiled / Concrete houses (Pucca)	All
Trivandrum	Scheduled Caste	2.94	13.24	83.82	100.00
	Scheduled Tribe	0.0	75.00	25.00	100.00
	Hindu Backward	1.21	12.56	86.23	100.00
	Hindu Forward	0.25	2.46	97.29	100.00
	Christian	2.73	6.67	90.30	100.00
	Muslim	2.61	10.46	86.93	100.00
	Total	1.34	7.40	91.26	100.00
Vembayam	Scheduled Caste	10.30	28.48	61.22	100.00
	Scheduled Tribe	0.0	21.05	78.95	100.00
	Hindu Backward	2.81	28.90	68.29	100.00
	Hindu Forward	1.96	28.70	69.34	100.00
	Christian	2.68	27.68	69.64	100.00
	Muslim	1.61	14.49	83.90	100.00
	Total	2.85	25.02	72.13	100.00

The first category is merely a hut and less than 1.5 percent of the total household in Trivandrum and less than 3 percent of households in Vembayam come under this category. When households by religion is considered, nearly 3 percent of Scheduled Caste, Muslims and Christian communities live in this type of house. In the second

category (ie. Thatched roof with unburnt bricks / wood etc.) viz. semi-pucca houses less than 10 percent in Trivandrum and 25 percent in Vembayam live in this type of houses. When religious break-up is taken, in Trivandrum centre, except in the case of Scheduled Tribe, the survey results showed that 75 percent of the households come under this category (Semi-Pucca). In the case of tiled / concrete houses, (ie. Pucca houses) 91 percent in Trivandrum and 72 percent in Vembayam of the total houses surveyed came under this category. When religion - wise break -up of the type of house is examined 97 percent of the Hindu Forward families live in Pucca houses (Tiled / concrete) followed by Christians (90 percent). Nearly 87 percent of the Hindu Backward and Muslim houses belong to tiled or concrete roof category while 83 percent of the Scheduled Tribe families also live in this type of houses. Only 25 percent of the Scheduled Tribe families in Trivandrum are reported as staying in tiled or concrete houses.

In the case of Vembayam (rural centre), the percentage distribution of household by type of house is slightly different. All religions combined, nearly 3 percent of the total number of houses surveyed came under the category of huts while 25 percent of the houses belong to semi-pucca type. Pucca houses (tiled / concrete) constitute 72 percent of the total number surveyed. But when type of houses by religion is examined the position is as follows : [See table 3.2(a)]

Slightly more than 10 percent of the Scheduled Caste households live in huts, while less than 3 percent of Hindu Backward and Christian communities live in this category of house. Only less than 2 percent of the Hindu Forward and Muslim communities occupied huts as revealed from this survey conducted in Vembayam Panchayat. Except in the case of Muslims all other communities occupying semi-pucca houses came to nearly 30 percent, while in the case of Muslim community alone it is less than 15 percent. Among the households surveyed in Vembayam panchayat, nearly 84 percent of the Muslim households come under pucca houses (ie, tiled or concrete). In the case of all other communities except Scheduled Tribe families the percentage occupation of pucca houses came to nearly 69 percent. In the case of Scheduled Tribe

families, the percentage occupation of pucca houses came to nearly 78 percent [see table 3.2 (a) above].

3.3. Electrification

Table 3.3 provides information on the percentage of households reporting electric connection.

Table 3.3 Percentage of households reporting electric connection.

Locality	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Hindu Backward		Hindu Forward		Christian		Muslim	
	1996-97	2003-04	1996-97	2003-04	1996-97	2003-04	1996-97	2003-04	1996-97	2003-04	1996-97	2003-04
Trivandrum	68.2	89.7	100.0	75.0	90.4	95.3	97.7	99.0	90.8	96.4	89.2	99.0
Vembayam	25.8	55.7	87.5	78.9	55.6	70.4	56.5	71.8	47.7	64.3	70.4	86.3

The improvement in electrification over the period in the case of all communities is visible from the above table. Exception is noticed only in the case of ST families. Table 3.4 which provide data regarding overall improvement in the two selected centres also reveals the progress achieved in the case of electrification in the two selected centres :

Table 3.4 Trend in the percentage of households reporting electric connection.

Locality	Year			
	1986-87	1990-91	1996-97	2003-04
Trivandrum	83.7	87.9	91.6	97.3
Vembayam	32.6	40.3	55.6	72.9

3.4 Source of Drinking Water.

This information was also collected in the listing schedule. Source of drinking water is classified into pipe inside premises, pipe outside premises, protected well inside premises, protected well outside premises and unprotected sources. Results of the survey for the two selected centres are given in table 3.5. (See Annexure) Progress over the years and results obtained from previous surveys are indicated in table 3.6 below :

Table 3.6 Percentage distribution of households by source of drinking water – Trend

Locality	Year	Percentage of households			
		Piped supply	Protected well	Unprotected source	All sources
Trivandrum	1986-87	83.30	16.70	-	100.00
	1990-91	90.90	9.10	-	100.00
	1996-97	93.30	6.70	-	100.00
	2003-04	87.03	12.97	-	100.00
Vembayam	1986-87	0.50	84.60	14.90	100.00
	1990-91	0.10	91.10	8.80	100.00
	1996-97	-	96.00	4.00	100.00
	2003-04	0.90	96.70	2.40	100.00

Progress in this essential facility can be seen from the above data. Progress in the availability of piped water and protected well was clearly revealed in Trivandrum centre. No dependency on unprotected sources has been reported in the survey. In the case of Vembayam, a very small percentage of households depend on piped water. Majority have the facility of protected well. Here, use of unprotected sources (though small) has come down.

Availability of drinking water by source and by religion are presented in table 3.6 (a)

Table 3.6(a) Percentage distribution of households by source of drinking water and by religion 2003 - 04

Locality	Religion	Source of drinking water					All Sources
		Pipe inside premises	Pipe outside premises	Protected well inside premises	Protected well outside premises	Others	
Trivandrum	Scheduled Caste	47.06	36.76	14.71	1.47	0.00	100
	Scheduled Tribe	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
	Hindu Backward	80.36	7.89	9.11	2.63	0.00	100
	Hindu Forward	92.60	4.44	2.84	0.12	0.00	100
	Christian	68.79	10.61	13.94	6.67	0.00	100
	Muslim	61.11	6.21	29.74	2.94	0.00	100
	Total	79.28	7.75	10.68	2.29	0.00	100
Vembayam	Scheduled Caste	0.00	0.00	44.24	49.09	6.67	100
	Scheduled Tribe	0.00	5.26	57.89	31.58	5.26	100
	Hindu Backward	0.38	1.13	67.73	27.95	2.81	100
	Hindu Forward	0.00	0.18	82.17	15.69	1.96	100
	Christian	0.00	2.68	70.09	24.11	3.13	100
	Muslim	0.40	0.00	85.71	13.28	0.60	100
	Total	0.20	0.70	74.49	22.21	2.40	100

From the above table, it is revealed that even the backward communities like Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families do not depend on unprotected Source of drinking water in Trivandrum centre (urban). But the survey results in this case from Vembayam (rural centre) show that a small percentage of households from all religions depend on unprotected source of drinking water. The percentage varying from 2 to 3 in the case of Hindu Forward, Christians and Muslim households to nearly 7 percent in the case of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families. This implies that even in rural centres majority of the households (even those belonging to socially backward communities) has access to protected source of drinking water.

3.5 Sanitation

This information was also available in the listing schedule and recorded in codes 1 to 5, representing flush, ESP (Environmental sanitary protection – bore hole with water

seal), covered pit without water seal, open air and others. The results in this regard obtained from the present survey are furnished in tables 3.7 and 3.8. (See Annexure for details). Table 3.7 revealed that in Trivandrum centre, 99percent of the households use flush, whereas in Vembayam (rural) centre, 92percent of the households use either flush or ESP (bore hole with water seal). 8percent of the households still resort to open air facility. The progress in the case of sanitation over years is indicated in the following table.

Table 3.8 Trend in the distribution of houses by type of Latrine.

Locality	Year	Percentage of households				
		Flush	ESP	Pit without water seal	Others	All types
Trivandrum	1986-87	61.1	27.0	-	9.9	100.00
	1990-91	63.4	30.3	-	6.3	100.00
	1996-97	88.2	9.5	-	2.3	100.00
	2003-04	98.6	0.05	-	1.19	100.00
Vembayam	1986-87	10.5	18.1	-	71.4	100.00
	1990-91	15.7	27.9	-	56.4	100.00
	1996-97	21.4	43.4	-	35.7	100.00
	2003-04	18.8	72.7	0.05	8.4	100.00

Trend in sanitation facilities in the two selected centres clearly showed a marked improvement, the percentage of households with good sanitation (flush and ESP) has gone up while people having poor sanitation has come down remarkably, in the case of Trivandrum this is practically nil.

Sanitation facilities available to various households by religion are presented in table 3.8(a).

Table 3.8(a) Percentage distribution of households by religion and type of Latrine - 2003 - 04

Locality	Religion	Type of Latrine					All Types
		Flush	Borehole with water seal (ESP)	Covered Pit	Open air	Others	
Trivandrum	Scheduled Caste	94.12	0.00	1.47	2.94	1.47	100
	Scheduled Tribe	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
	Hindu Backward	97.17	0.20	0.00	2.43	0.20	100
	Hindu Forward	99.75	0.00	0.12	0.12	0.00	100
	Christian	97.88	0.00	0.00	1.82	0.30	100
	Muslim	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
	Total	98.66	0.05	0.10	1.04	0.15	100
Vembayam	Scheduled Caste	1.21	72.73	0.00	26.06	0.00	100
	Scheduled Tribe	21.05	68.42	0.00	10.53	0.00	100
	Hindu Backward	13.13	80.68	0.00	6.19	0.00	100
	Hindu Forward	14.97	77.01	0.18	7.84	0.00	100
	Christian	9.82	75.45	0.00	14.73	0.00	100
	Muslim	39.03	58.35	0.00	2.62	0.00	100
	Total	18.81	72.74	0.05	8.40	0.00	100

The data presented above clearly revealed that households from all communities enjoy good sanitation facilities especially in the urban centre, Trivandrum. Only 3 percent of the households surveyed lacked proper sanitation facilities and among the religious groups worst affected are Scheduled Caste, Hindu Backward and to some extent Christians. But in Vembayam (rural centre) the sanitation facilities available are not that good. 8.4 percent of the total households surveyed lacked this facility. Among religious groups, 26% of SC and 10% of ST families lacked this sanitation facility. A small percentage of other religious groups like Hindu Backward, Hindu Forward, Christians and Muslims also do not possess proper sanitation arrangements.

Good/Quality Housing facilities.

One important point to be observed here is that type of house (concrete, tiled etc) depends on the resources of the household while electricity, drinking water and sanitation depend on the facilities available in the locality. Satisfactory housing condition is taken as those households having tiled or concrete roofed houses, provided with electricity with protected source of drinking water such as piped water supply or protected well within or outside premises and with flush or bore hole with water seal. The percentage of households with each of these facilities as defined above in the two selected centres as obtained from the present survey and surveys carried out in earlier years is presented in the table below:

Table 3.9 Trend in the percentage of households with good housing facilities

Locality	Year	Tiled or concrete roof houses	Houses with electricity	Protected drinking water	Good sanitation
Trivandrum	1981-82	62.30	75.20	100.00	85.00
	1986-87	70.40	83.70	100.00	90.10
	1990-91	75.30	87.90	100.00	93.70
	1996-97	82.30	91.60	100.00	97.70
	2003-04	91.26	97.94	100.00	98.71
Vembayam	1981-82	14.20	25.40	86.80	14.00
	1986-87	23.00	32.60	85.10	28.60
	1990-91	32.90	40.30	91.20	43.60
	1996-97	50.40	55.60	96.00	64.80
	2003-04	72.14	72.94	97.60	91.55

There is all round visible improvement in the case of the four selected indicators of good housing, both in Trivandrum (urban) and Vembayam (rural) centres over the period of 20 years covered by these studies.

In the table below the four selected indicators of good housing are again examined with reference to certain religious groups to find out the exact percentage of households having good housing facility among various religions.

**Table 3.9 (a) Distribution by quality of dwelling units in each locality by religion
2003-04**

Locality	Religion	Distribution of dwelling units			Percentage distribution of dwelling units	
		Good	Not good	All types	Good Facilities	Not good facilities
Thiruvananthapuram	SC	36	32	68	52.94	47.06
	ST	1	3	4	25.00	75.00
	HB	402	92	494	81.38	18.62
	HF	745	66	811	91.86	8.14
	CH	250	80	330	75.76	24.24
	Muslim	249	57	306	81.37	18.63
	Total	1683	330	2013	83.61	16.39
VBM	SC	34	131	165	20.61	79.39
	ST	8	11	19	42.11	57.89
	HB	241	292	533	45.22	54.78
	HF	300	261	561	53.48	46.52
	CH	98	126	224	43.75	56.25
	Muslim	350	147	497	70.42	29.58
	Total	1031	968	1999	51.58	48.42

The above data revealed that on an average 84% of the households surveyed in Trivandrum centre possess good housing facilities where as in Vembayam (rural centre) good housing facilities are available only to 52% of the total number. The availability of dwelling units by religion in rural and urban areas gives a slightly different picture. More than 80% of the houses belonging to Hindu backward, Hindu forward, Christians and Muslims in Trivandrum centre enjoy good housing facilities. Contrary to this, only 25% of the ST families and 52% of the SC families possess good housing facilities in

Trivandurm centre. The survey results also showed that housing facilities are relatively bad in rural centre, Vembayam. Only 20 to 40% of the SC and ST households have access to good housing facilities. In the case of other communities like Hindu backward, Hindu forward, Christians and Muslims nearly 50% of them live in good houses.

Chapter IV

Education

The educational level of each member of the household was recorded in detailed survey (Schedule II) and is available for 200 households in two selected centres.

Literacy

Table 4.1 gives the affective literacy rates (based on persons aged 5 and above) as obtained from the present survey. Similar data obtained from previous surveys are also shown for comparison.

Table 4.1 Literacy among persons aged 5 and above

Locality	Year	Percentage of literate			Number	
		Male	Female	All	Male	Female
Trivandrum	1981-82	90.10	82.50	86.20	474	478
	1986-87	91.90	86.00	88.90	456	473
	1990-91	95.20	90.80	92.90	440	466
	1996-97	97.60	94.10	95.80	592	623
	2003-04	97.65	95.15	96.35	383	412
Vembayam	1981-82	86.10	72.30	79.30	460	464
	1986-87	88.10	74.80	81.20	429	465
	1990-91	90.70	80.60	85.20	396	458
	1996-97	95.60	90.60	93.00	565	604
	2003-04	96.73	91.60	92.47	367	377

The data presented above clearly indicate that there is an improvement in the literacy rate in the case of both males and females in Trivandrum and Vembayam centres, although the improvement is only marginal. It is also seen that male literacy rate is higher compared to females in both the centres.

Literacy among persons aged 5 and above is analysed in terms of religion also and the details are presented in table 4.1 (a) below.

Table 4.1(a) Literacy among persons aged 5 and above – Religion-wise 2003-04.

Locality	Religion	Percent literate		
		Male	Female	All
TVM	SC	95.50	91.25	94.90
	ST	97.00	95.45	96.65
	HB	96.97	94.87	95.83
	HF	99.38	96.61	97.93
	Christian	97.06	97.33	97.20
	Muslim	94.74	87.50	91.43
	Total	97.65	95.15	96.35
VBM	SC	97.14	85.71	91.43
	ST	92.00	90.25	91.55
	HB	99.02	90.48	94.69
	HF	96.81	94.32	95.60
	Christian	95.12	93.75	94.38
	Muslim	94.32	90.43	92.31
	Total	96.73	91.60	94.09

The above figures in urban centre Trivandrum clearly revealed that the difference in percentage literacy among various religious groups is very marginal. In most cases the literacy percentage varies from 95 to 97%. Only Muslim communities have literacy rates around 94%. Among the various religious groups also female literacy is less than that of males. Effective literacy rates among various religions in rural centre Vembayam also showed very narrow differences. Compared to urban centre, the literacy rates in this centre are slightly low with respect to all religions. Here also female literacy rates (for all religions) are low when compared to male literacy. The literacy rates are the lowest among SC & ST communities (91%) followed by Muslims (92%). For all other communities, the literacy rate ranged from 94 to 95%.

To study another aspect of literacy, it is worthwhile to examine the percentage of persons who have passed matriculation or equivalent. These rates worked out from the present survey are furnished in table 4.2 below:

Table 4.2 Matriculate and above among persons aged 15 and above

Locality	Year	Percentage of matriculate and above			No of persons 15+	
		Male	Female	All	Male	Female
Trivandrum	1981-82	37.60	30.10	33.70	356	401
	1986-87	45.10	35.90	40.40	357	384
	1990-91	45.50	35.90	40.30	358	392
	1996-97	51.60	49.30	50.40	490	513
	2003-04	54.13	54.49	54.32	327	356
Vembayam	1981-82	12.60	8.70	10.70	353	357
	1986-87	17.20	14.60	15.80	349	364
	1990-91	19.40	18.10	18.70	324	382
	1996-97	22.20	22.20	22.20	467	492
	2003-04	24.04	23.51	23.76	287	319

In the two selected centres mentioned above, (both urban and rural) the matriculation rates have increased over the period both for males and females alike, the rates being higher in the case of males.

The matriculation rates are also analysed with regard to various religions and presented in table 4.2(a) below :

**Table 4.2(a) Matriculate and above among persons aged 15 and above- religion-wise
2003-04**

Locality	Religion	Percent matric and above		
		Male	Female	All
Trivandrum	Scheduled Caste	50.00	36.36	42.11
	Scheduled Tribe	50.00	49.50	49.80
	Hindu Backward	56.14	53.03	54.47
	Hindu Forward	60.43	57.32	58.78
	Christian	50.88	50.00	50.42
	Muslim	42.19	38.60	40.50
	Total	54.13	54.49	54.32
Vembayam	Scheduled Caste	12.50	10.34	11.48
	Scheduled Tribe	20.00	18.00	19.00
	Hindu Backward	29.11	28.89	28.99
	Hindu Forward	20.00	17.72	18.87
	Christian	22.58	27.03	25.00
	Muslim	30.00	25.00	27.14
	Total	24.04	23.51	23.76

The difference in percentage matriculates among various religions are clearly seen from the data presented above. In Trivandrum centre SC&ST families have lowest percentage of matriculates followed by Muslim community. For other communities, the percentage matriculates varied from 50 to 58%. Here also the percentage of matriculates are high with respect to males uniformly in the case of all religions.

Compared to Urban centre, Vembayam (rural) recorded a very low percentage of matriculates which is true with regard to various religious groups also. The percentage of

matriculates varied from 11 in the case of SC families to 28 in the case of Hindus and 27 in the case of Christian. Here also, the percentage of matriculates is high among males.

The number of students in each household is recorded in Schedule II and available for 200 households in each locality. The percentages of students in the two selected centres are given in table below :

Table 4.3 Student percent in Trivandrum centre (Urban)

Locality	Age group	1986-87		1990-91		1996-97		2003-04	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Trivandrum	5-9	79.5	89.8	97.5	100.0	97.6	93.6	100.0	100.0
	10-14	96.4	100.0	92.9	95.7	96.8	100.0	100.0	95.8
	15-19	65.2	53.7	60.0	55.6	68.0	67.2	89.7	87.2
	20-24	14.9	17.9	14.9	19.2	25.5	26.1	31.1	34.0

Table 4.4 Student percent in Vembayam centre (Rural)

Locality	Age group	1986-87		1990-91		1996-97		2003-04	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Vembayam	5-9	92.5	93.5	100.0	100.0	97.9	98.5	90.2	88.0
	10-14	97.5	94.5	94.9	100.0	96.7	98.0	97.4	100.0
	15-19	57.4	42.3	46.3	55.4	63.9	83.3	76.7	60.0
	20-24	9.0	-	8.5	1.6	11.3	12.1	14.3	10.8

The percentages of students in different age groups for males and females separately for Trivandrum (urban) and Vembayam (rural) centres are given above. The figures show that in 2003-04 in Trivandrum centre nearly 100 percent among males in the age group 5-9 and 10-14 are students. Among females also, 100 percent in the age group 5-9 are students, while in the age group 10-14, there was a marginal decline in the student percentage. But in the age group 15-19 and 20-24, for both males and females in Trivandrum centre there was an increase in student percentage. In the rural centre Vembayam, among males in the age group 5-9 there was a fall in student percentage.

But in all the other age groups 10-14, 15-19 and 20-24, male population showed an increase in the student percentage. Among females, the trend observed during 2003-04 is slightly different. Except in the age group 10-14, the percentage of students in all the other age groups recorded a nominal fall. In the age group 10-14, female student percentage has reached 100.

Chapter V

Employment and Unemployment

Labour force and employment

The usual activity of each individual was recorded under thirteen categories of activity as shown in Schedule II (Appendix) , namely self employment in agriculture – full-time and part-time, self employed in non-agricultural activities – full-time and part-time, regular paid employees – full-time and part-time, casual wage workers, - seeking work and not seeking work, students – seeking work, not in labour force. The data are thus available for 200 households in each of the two centres. Table 5.1(Annexure) gives the labour force percent of population aged 15 and above and employed and unemployed as percent of labour force for each locality (for males) in 1986-87, 90-91, 96-97 and 2003-04. Table 5.3(Annexure) gives data for males and females combined. These rates were worked out on the basis of usual status. Casual and part-time workers were treated as employed. Among housewives, those who had registered with Employment Exchange were treated as unemployed. Other housewives and all students were treated as neither employed nor unemployed and thus out of the labour force.

Table 5.1 shows that the male labour force constituted 78.29 percent of the male population aged 15 and above in 2003-04 in Trivandrum as against 79.8 percent in the previous round (96-97) . The trend is same in Vembayam, where 85.37 percent of the male population constituted the work force as against 85.7 percent in 96-97. The unemployment rate among males in 2003-04 is 14.06 percent of male labour force in Trivandrum showing a marginal decrease over the rate (14.3 percent) that prevailed in 1996-97. In Vembayam also there is a decrease in unemployment among males and the percentage in 96-97 and 2003-04 are 11.00 and 10.2 percent respectively of the male labour force. In general compared to 96-97 the labour force as percentage of the

population has shown a marginal decrease in 2003-04 in both the centres studied and the trend in unemployment rate is also the same.

The picture is different in the case of female population (Table 5.2). The labour force as percent of population in the case of females is 40.45 percent in 2003-04 as against 39.2 percent in 96-97 in Trivandrum, while the corresponding figures for Vembayam is 41.38 percent and 40.9 percent respectively. Hence, in both centres the labour force percentages of population have increased marginally.

The percent of employed females among the female labour force is much lower than the corresponding figure among males. In Trivandrum and Vembayam, the labour force among women has increased marginally whereas unemployment rate percent of labour force among women has decreased marginally. The unemployment rate as percent of labour force has come down substantially from 40.8 in 96-97 to 37.5 in 2003-04 while the corresponding percentages for Vembayam are 47.8 and 43.94 respectively.

Labour force employed and unemployed out of population aged 15 and above by religion with break up for males and females are given in table 5.1 (a) and 5.2(a) respectively.

Table 5.1(a) Labour force, employed and unemployed out of population aged 15 and above – males by religion 2003-04.

Locality	Religion	Male population 15+	Labour force percent of population 15+	Employed		Unemployed	
				Percent of Population 15+	percent of labour force	Percent of Population 15+	percent of labour force
TVM	SC	8	87.50	75.00	85.71	12.50	14.29
	ST	2	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
	HB	57	87.72	84.21	96.00	5.26	6.00
	HF	139	74.10	62.59	84.47	9.35	12.62
	CH	57	77.19	61.40	79.55	21.05	27.27
	MU	64	78.13	65.63	84.00	10.94	14.00
	Total	327	78.29	67.28	85.94	11.01	14.06
VBM	SC	32	84.38	81.25	96.30	3.13	3.70
	ST	5	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
	HB	79	82.28	75.95	92.31	6.33	7.69
	HF	80	95.00	81.25	85.53	12.50	13.16
	CH	31	90.32	80.65	89.29	9.68	10.71
	MU	60	73.33	65.00	88.64	10.00	13.64
	Total	287	85.37	76.66	89.80	8.71	10.20

Table 5.2(a) Labour force, employed and unemployed out of population aged 15 and above – females by religion 2003-04

Locality	Religion	Female population 15+	Labour force percent of population 15+	Employed		Unemployed	
				Percent of Population 15+	percent of labour force	Percent of Population 15+	percent of labour force
TVM	SC	11	27.27	18.18	66.67	9.09	33.33
	ST	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	HB	66	39.39	21.21	53.85	16.67	42.31
	HF	157	47.77	31.21	65.33	16.56	34.67
	CH	62	45.16	29.03	64.29	17.74	39.29
	MU	57	21.05	12.28	58.33	8.77	41.67
	Total	356	40.45	25.28	62.50	15.17	37.50
VBM	SC	29	48.28	41.38	85.71	6.90	14.29
	ST	4	75.00	75.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
	HB	90	42.22	18.89	44.74	23.33	55.26
	HF	79	39.24	18.99	48.39	20.25	51.61
	CH	37	54.05	35.14	65.00	18.92	35.00
	MU	80	32.50	17.50	53.85	15.00	46.15
	Total	319	41.38	23.20	56.06	18.18	43.94

The above tables provide religion-wise data on labour force as percentage population for both males and females separately. From table 5.1(a) relating to males by religion it is seen that in Trivandrum centre for Sc & ST and Hindu backward communities labour force constituted more than 87% of the population. For Hindu forward, Christians and Muslims workforce constituted around 75% only. But as regards SC, ST and Hindu backward groups male employed population constituted slightly more than 86% of the labour force in Trivandrum centre. Employed persons in other communities like Hindu forward, Christians and Muslims account for nearly 85% of the labour force. Regarding unemployed, males account for nearly 15% of the labour force in Trivandrum centre with respect to majority of the religious groups.

Table 5.2(a) presents data on women employment and unemployment out of population aged 15 and above as per various religious groups. It is revealed that women labour force constituted nearly 40% of the female population above 15 years in Trivandrum centre. This proportion is almost the same in the case of rural centre Vembayam also. Labour force as percentage of population varies from 21 in the case of Muslims to 48 with respect to Hindu forward. Similarly variation is also seen among religious groups in the case of employed women as a percentage of (i) total population as well as (ii) total labour force. In the case of SC & ST population, nearly 65% of the labour force is employed. This proportion in the case of Muslims is 58% and 53% in the case of Hindu backward. Again employed as percentage of population as well as labour force in rural centre. Vembayam displayed a slightly lower figure compared to urban centre.

Table 5.3(Annexure) gives information regarding labour force, employment and unemployment for males and females together. The decline in labour force is more among females and this fact naturally would influence the picture regarding males and females as reflected in table 5.3. The labour force percent of population and the percent of labour force unemployed in Trivandrum has come down from 59 percent in 96-97 to 58.57 percent in 2003-04 and 23.3 percent in 96-97 to 22.50 percent in 2003-04 respectively. The corresponding reduction in labour force percentage and unemployment percentage in Vembayam are 62.7 in 96-97 to 62.21 percent in 2003-04 and 23.3 percent in 96-97 to 21.75 percent in 2003-04 respectively.

Activity of the Employed.

The activity of the employed persons categorised as self-employed in agriculture, self-employed in non-agriculture, regular paid employee or casual worker, as obtained from the surveys carried out in 90-91, 96-97 and 2003-04 is given in Table 5.4(Annexure)separately for males and females. In Trivandrum regular paid employment was predominant in 96-97 (53.1 percent), while according to the present survey the share of regular paid employees has come down to 50.38 percent in 2003-04. The above reduction has been caused due to the increase in the share of self-employed in non-agriculture, viz. 35 percent in 96-97 to 37.22 percent in 2003-04. The reduction in the percentage of regular paid employment is mainly on account of reduction in the number of males in this category. In Vembayam the percentage of casual workers among employed persons has increased from 33 percent in 96-97 to about 36.36 percent in 2003-04. The above increase has been possible due to reduction of percentage in all other categories.

Table 5.4(a) Activity status of employed persons – 2003-04(By Religion)

Locality	Religion	Percentage of Employed Persons											
		Self-employed in agriculture			Self-employed in non-Agriculture			Regular paid employees			Casual worker		
		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
TVM	SC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	66.67	100.00	75.00	33.33	0.00	25.00
	ST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
	HB	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.24	33.33	40.82	35.14	66.67	42.86	21.62	0.00	16.33
	HF	0.00.	0.00	0.00	30.95	33.33	31.48	55.95	62.50	57.41	13.10	4.17	11.11
	CH	0.0	0.00	0.00	34.29	18.75	29.41	54.29	75.00	60.78	11.43	6.25	9.80
	MU	0.0	0.00	0.00	66.67	33.33	62.50	26.19	50.00	29.17	7.14	16.67	8.33
	Total	0.0	0.00	0.00	39.81	28.33	37.22	45.63	66.67	50.38	14.56	5.00	12.41
	VBM	SC	10.71	0.00	8.11	35.71	0.00	21.62	17.86	33.33	21.62	35.71	66.67
ST		20.00	0.00	12.50	0.00	33.33	12.50	40.00	66.67	50.00	40.00	0.00	25.00
HB		10.29	0.00	8.64	25.00	38.46	27.16	33.82	30.77	33.33	30.88	30.77	30.86
HF		21.43	11.11	20.25	18.57	22.22	18.99	24.29	33.33	25.32	35.71	33.33	35.44
CH		4.35	18.18	8.82	26.09	27.27	26.47	21.74	18.18	20.59	47.83	36.36	44.12
MU		19.51	54.55	26.92	34.15	9.09	28.85	19.51	18.18	19.23	26.83	18.18	25.00
Total		15.91	16.07	15.94	22.73	21.43	22.46	25.00	28.57	25.72	36.36	33.93	35.87

The data presented above may be please be seen. In urban centre, Trivandrum the activity relating to self-employed in agriculture is totally absent with respect to all communities. Self-employed in non-agriculture constitute 37% on an average but this percentage varies widely among different communities as revealed from the above data. Nearly 62% of the Muslim households are engaged in this activity while in the case of Hindu backward the percentage engaged in this sector came to 41% only. In the case of Hindu forward and Christians, the percentage engaged in this sector is less than 32. No SC & ST family is reported to be engaged in this activity. In the category of regular paid employee, on an average in Trivandrum centre nearly 50% are reported to be engaged. Here, the community wise break up showed that 75% of the SC families come under regular paid employees category. Nearly 60% of the Hindu forward and Christians come under this activity while Muslims in this category constitute only 29%. It is also seen that in Trivandrum centre casual worker category on the whole constitute only 12%. Religion-wise break-up also showed that for most of the communities except SC & ST, the percentage engaged in this trade is less than 15. But in the case of SC families 25% are reported as casual workers while 100% of the worker in ST families are seen as casual workers in Trivandrum centre.

But in Vembayam (rural centre) the break-up of activity status among religions is slightly different. On an average 16% of the employed is engaged in agricultural pursuits. Among various religious groups, about 20% of the male population in SC & ST and 4 to 22% among men in other groups like Hindu backward, Christians and Muslims are engaged in various jobs under agriculture sector. Survey results also reveal that 12 to 27% of the employed persons among various religious groups are engaged in non-agriculture in Vembayam.

As regards the category of regular paid employees, it is seen that nearly 2.6 percent of the employed workers are dependent on this sector. Religion-wise break-up revealed that 20 to 50 percent of the SC & ST communities, 33 percent of Hindu Backward, 26 percent of Hindu Forward and a slightly lesser proportion of Christian and muslim communities depend on this sector for employment. In Vembayam centre casual worker category on an average constitute nearly 36 percent. Religion-wise break-up also showed that for most of the communities except Scheduled Caste, the percentage of

casual workers constituted around 43. For Scheduled Caste nearly 42 percent are reported as casual workers. It is also seen from table 5.4 (a) that in rural centre, Vembayam the percentage of casual labourers is more among males than females. Among various religious groups also, male participation is more dominant than females except in the case of Scheduled Castes.

Employment Rate

The employment rate defined as the number employed expressed as percent of the total population was worked out for each locality for males and females on a community basis and is given in table 5.5. As may be expected there is difference between the male and female employment rates. The employment rate in Trivandrum is 31.55 percent in 2003 - 04 while in the Vembayam centre, the rate is slightly higher (34.12 percent).

The community - wise employment rates, also given in table 5.5(Annexure) show that the employment rate is highest for Hindu Backward (39.0 percent) in Trivandrum and lowest for Scheduled Tribe (28.00 percent), other communities such as Scheduled Caste (28.2 percent) , Hindu Forward (31.44 percent), Christians (28.21 percent) and Muslims (28.48 percent) falling in between. In Vembayam centre Scheduled Tribes have the highest employment rate (50 percent) and Muslims the lowest (25.5 percent), other communities such as Scheduled Castes (44.74 percent), Hindu Backward (31. 88 percent), Hindu Forward (38. 78 percent) and Christians (40.63 percent) falling in between. Among Muslims fewer females work and the percent of children out of the population is higher than in other communities. The result is that the employment rate becomes comparatively low.

Economic Dependency Ratio

The economic dependency ratio defined as the ratio of the number of dependants to the number employed was worked out on a household basis by subtracting the number employed from the household size and then dividing by the number employed.

Table 5.6(Annexure) gives the average dependency ratio for each locality together with the average income per employed person, household income and per-capita income including remittances. The average dependency ratio in Trivandrum is 2.37 while the corresponding ratio for Vembayam (2.27) is slightly lower. The marginal increase in the dependency ratio in the two centres may be due to increase in the aged dependants in these centres. The average annual income per employed person in Trivandrum (Rs. 73980) is nearly three times the average annual income per employed persons in Vembayam (Rs. 25720) centre. The above difference is mainly on account of the difference in the nature of employment in the two centres. Pre-dominant occupation in Vembayam is agricultural labour while the employment in Trivandrum is mainly in the government / semi-government sector where the income as well as rate of growth in income is much higher than that in the agricultural sector.

Average dependency ratio together with the average income per employed person, household income and percapita income for urban and rural centres with break-up for various religious groups are presented in table 5.6(a) below :

Table 5.6 (a) Number of Employed, Average household income and dependency ratio by various religions - 2003 - 04

Locality	Religion	No. of households	Persons enumerated	Employed			Annual income by employment (Rs)	Remittance (Rs)	Average annual household income (Rs)	Per capita income (Rs)	Average annual income per employed person (Rs)	Dependency ratio	Remittance as percent of total income
				Male	Female	Total							
Trivandrum	Scheduled Caste	68	290	75	23	98	5756280	48000	85357.06	20014.76	58737.55	1.96	0.83
	Scheduled Tribe	4	19	6	1	7	252000	0	63000.00	13263.16	36000.00	1.71	0.00
	Hindu Backward	494	1973	529	99	628	40734480	1003200	84489.23	21154.42	64863.82	2.14	2.40
	Hindu Forward	811	3115	719	231	950	84643416	2970084	108031.44	28126.32	89098.33	2.28	3.39
	Christians	330	1332	277	112	389	30318960	2242800	98672.00	24445.77	77940.77	2.42	6.89
	Muslims	306	1623	367	37	404	21468480	3072000	80197.65	15120.44	53139.80	3.02	12.52
	Total	2013	8352	1973	503	2476	183173616	9336084	95633.23	23049.53	73979.65	2.37	4.85
Vembayam	Scheduled Caste	165	703	194	61	255	5204280	72000	31977.45	7505.38	20408.94	1.76	1.36
	Scheduled Tribe	19	81	19	7	26	1204080	120	63378.95	14866.67	46310.77	2.12	0.01
	Hindu Backward	533	2129	555	122	677	18103620	1568400	36908.11	9240.03	26740.95	2.14	7.97
	Hindu Forward	561	2216	588	101	689	18378720	1045200	34623.74	8765.31	26674.48	2.22	5.38
	Christians	224	839	228	58	286	6874080	252000	31812.86	8493.54	24035.24	1.93	3.54
	Muslims	497	2190	482	76	558	14312040	5063400	38984.79	8847.23	25648.82	2.92	26.13
	Total	1999	8158	2066	425	2491	64076820	8001120	36057.00	8835.25	25723.33	2.27	11.10

It is seen from the above table that the average dependency ration in Trivandrum is 2.37 while that for Vembayam is 2.27 only for the year 2003-04. But slight variation in dependency ratio among various religious groups is seen in the case of both these urban and rural centres. In Trivandrum centre this ratio varies from 1.71 in the case of Scheduled Tribe families to 3.02 noticed among Muslim households. For other religious groups, this ratio varies in between. In the case of rural centre Vembayam, the average dependency ratio is slightly lower ie. 2.27 only. Here also the variation in dependency ratio among various religions groups is marginal and the overall trend noticed is the same as in Trivandrum. Here also, the dependency ratio various from 1.76 in the case of Scheduled Tribe families to 2.92 with respect to Muslims. For other religious groups this ratio varies marginally in between the above mentioned figures. The average annual income per employed person in urban centre. Trivandrum is Rs. 73,980 while the corresponding figure for rural centre is far less, only Rs. 25,723. This difference as mentioned is the above para is mainly due to the difference in the nature of employment in the two centres. The above table also gives information on the average annual income per employed person among various religious groups in the two selected urban and rural centres. In Trivandrum it is seen that the average annual income varies from Rs. 36,000 for Scheduled Tribes to Rs. 89,098 for Hindu Forward community. For other religious groups the average annual income per employed person varies between these two levels mentioned above. For rural centre Vembayam, the average annual income per employed person, though low compared to urban centre, varies marginally among different religious groups from the overall average for the centre, viz. Rs. 25,723. The exceptions are Scheduled Caste with a very low average of Rs. 20,408 and Scheduled Tribes with a high average income of Rs. 46,310. This variation is mainly because the predominant occupation in Vembayam is agriculture labour.

Composition of employed persons by sex and income

An analysis was carried out to relate the income to the sex composition of the employed persons. Tables 5.7 and 5.8(Annexure) give locality – wise the number of households with a specified male-female composition of employed persons, the average

annual income and the per-capita income exclusive of remittance. More than 50 percent of the households have only one employed and that is a male, while in 1543 households only males are employed.

It is seen from table 5.7 relating to Trivandrum that the average household income is highest among the households with one male employed person and one female employed person (excluding one household with 4 male employees having an annual income of Rs. 6 lakhs). Similarly, if we exclude the single household with annual income of Rs. 6 lakhs, the average per-capita income is optimum at the 'one-male - one-female combination in Trivandrum centre and the per-capita income for this category is Rs. 155425/-. This must have been due to the fact that the household size in urban area is comparatively small and the husband and wife sufficiently qualified to get high-income employment.

The above presumption, however, does not apply to the Vembayam locality where opportunities for high income employment are rare. Another point noticed here is that when the number of either male or female workers increases there does not appear to be a systematic increase in the average household income.

Chapter VI

Income

Household Income

Household income data were collected both in the listing of 2000 households and in the detailed study of 200 households in each of the centres. From both these monthly income is available. For the present analysis figures are taken from listing schedule, where data is available for a larger number of households. The household income includes income from all sources such as salaries and wages, pensions and income from property but excludes remittances. Tables 6.1 and 6.2(Annexure) give the percentage of households falling in specified monthly income groups.

Of the two centres surveyed Trivandrum appears to be more prosperous with 74.47 percent of the households in the highest income group of Rs 4000 and above in 2003-04 as against 31.6 percent in 1996-97 where as in Vembayam only 19.96 percent are in this category in 2003-04 as against 15.7 percent in 96-97. Similarly in the lowest income group of below Rs 1000, Trivandrum has only 1.09 percent in 2003-04 as against 14.3 percent of the households in 1996-97 whereas the corresponding percentage for Vembayam are 5 percent and 6.4 percent respectively. The percentage of households with household income Rs 2000 or more is also more in Trivandrum (95.14 percent) than in Vembayam (80.94 percent). Employed persons in Trivandrum are mainly from govt./semi govt. sector where as in Vembayam the employment is mainly from the less remunerative agriculture sector and this may be the reason for the above difference.

A community-wise comparison of household income is possible from the data given in tables 6.1 and 6.2. In Trivandrum 81 percent of Hindu Forward and 76 percent of the Christians are in the income group of Rs 4000 and above where as there are only 50 percent of Scheduled Tribes, 51 percent of Schedule Castes and 68 percent each of Muslims and Hindu Backward class households in this group. If the households with income above Rs 2000 is considered, nearly 95 percent of the households of each

community is in this group. However much significance cannot be given to the figures in respect of scheduled tribes since this is based on a very small number of households.

The figures of community-wise distribution of households according to income in Vembayam show a picture different from that in Trivandrum. Communities in high income group (Rs 4000) in Trivandrum are Hindu Forward (81.87 percent) Christian (76.36 percent) and Hindu Backward (68.62 percent). But in Vembayam Scheduled Tribes (31.58 percent), Muslims (24.95 percent) and Hindu Backward (21.20 percent) are in this category. In the lower income category (less than Rs 2000), Hindu Forward with 26.74 percent of the households are in the lead followed by Christians (25.89 percent) and Scheduled Tribes (21.05 percent).

Per capita income

The monthly per capita income was obtained by dividing the household income by the household size from the data available in the listing schedule. Table 6.3(Annexure) gives the percent of households falling in specified per capita income groups. In the earlier studies also per capita income was obtained on the same basis. Remittances have not been included in working out the per capita income.

According to figures presented in table 6.3, Trivandrum with only 3.93 percent households having per capita income below Rs 500 and 72.98 percent having per capita income Rs 1000 and above is better off than Vembayam with 18.21 percent and 24.16 percent respectively in the corresponding low income and high income categories.

The distribution of households by per capita income groups is also worked out according to various religious groups and presented in table 6.3 (a) below :

Table 6.3 (a) Distribution of households by per capita income groups - Religion wise 2003 - 04

Locality	Religion	No.of House holds	Per cent of households by monthly per capita income				
			Below Rs.300	Rs.300 - 499	Rs.500 - 999	Rs.1000 - 1499	Rs.1500 & above
Thiruvananthapuram	Scheduled Caste	5	1.47	0	42.65	22.06	33.82
	Scheduled Tribe	2	0	0	50.00	25.00	25.00
	Hindu Backward	38	1.42	2.43	25.71	22.87	47.57
	Hindu Forward	88	0.99	1.60	15.29	15.41	66.71
	Christian	40	1.21	1.82	21.82	19.70	55.45
	Muslim	27	4.25	4.90	36.27	22.22	32.35
	Total	200	1.64	2.29	23.10	19.23	53.75
Vembayam	Scheduled Caste	19	5.45	18.18	60.61	14.55	1.21
	Scheduled Tribe	4	0	21.05	36.84	21.05	21.05
	Hindu Backward	55	3.19	9.94	60.41	19.32	7.13
	Hindu Forward	51	5.17	17.29	52.41	17.83	7.31
	Christian	24	5.80	14.73	56.25	17.41	5.80
	Muslim	47	2.62	13.28	60.97	15.49	7.65
	Total	200	4.05	14.16	57.63	17.36	6.80

The data presented above clearly indicates that in Trivandrum city only 3.93% of households on an average have per capita income below Rs.500. But this % varies according to different religions. In the case of Muslims slightly more than 9% of the households come under per capita below Rs 500. 2.59% of Hindu forward, 3.85% Hindu backward and 3% of Christians come under per capita income below Rs 500 in Trivandrum. On an average 54% of the households have monthly per capita income Rs 1500 and above in Trivandrum centre. But wide variations are seen among different religions in this matter. The variation is from 25% in the case of Schedule tribes to 67% with regard to Hindu Forward communities.

The position is altogether different in the rural centre Vembayam. The percentage of households having monthly per capita income below Rs 500 on an average constitute slightly more than 18%. But with regard to various religious groups this varies from 13% in the case of Hindu Backward and 16% in the case of Muslims to 21% in the case of Schedule tribes and 23% in the case of Schedule caste communities. Contrary to the position in urban centre, in the rural centre Vembayam only 7% of the households on an

average has monthly per capita income Rs 1500 and above. Community-wise break up also indicates that except in the case of SC & ST, the % of the households having per capita income above Rs.1500 constitute only 6 to 7% in this rural centre.

A reference to Table 6.4(Annexure)indicates that in both the centres, the first quartile, the median and the third quartile have shown an improvement during the period 1996-97 to 2003-04. The figures show that there has been an all round increase in the income of the low income, the middle income and the high income groups and the improvement is remarkable in Trivandrum Centre.

Inward Remittance.

As part of the present survey, data were collected on the number of households receiving remittance and the amount of remittance during the previous one year. Such data are available for about 2000 households in each locality. The figures for each of the two centres in respect of remittances from other places with in Kerala, from other states in India, from the gulf countries and from other foreign countries are given in table 6.5(Annexure). In Trivandrum 139 (8.8 percent) households have received remittance and the corresponding figure for Vembayam is 296 (13.9 percent) households. Though the number of reporting households in Trivandrum is less than half the number in Vembayam, the amount of remittance in Trivandrum centre (Rs 93.36 lakhs) is nearly 17percent more than the amount received (Rs 80.01 lakhs) in Vembayam. In both centres bulk of the remittance comes from the Gulf Countries both in terms of number of households receiving remittance and in terms of the amount of remittance. In Trivandrum 106 households get remittance from Gulf countries, the corresponding figure for Vembayam being 260 households. Similarly regarding the amount of remittance, out of the total remittance received in Trivandrum (Rs 93.36 lakhs), Rs 75.82 lakhs (81 percent) are from Gulf countries while in Vembayam 91 percent (73.04 lakhs) of the total remittance (Rs 80.01 lakhs) are from Gulf countries. There is marked decline in the number of households that received remittance in both centres and the households

reporting remittance from Gulf countries decreased from 180 in 1996-97 to 106 in 2003-04 and the corresponding figure for Vembayam are 320 and 260 respectively.

As regards the average quantum received by a household getting remittance, the pattern is clear. The lowest figure is for remittance from within Kerala, followed by remittance from outside Kerala within India, the Gulf countries come next and the remittance from foreign countries other than the Gulf countries is the highest. The reasons are not far to seek. The income levels in Kerala and in India (outside Kerala) are far less than for corresponding income in the Gulf countries. Between the Gulf countries and other foreign countries, a larger proportion of the emigrants to the latter are professionals and business people who get much higher income than the emigrants to the Gulf countries who are predominantly skilled/unskilled workers and tradesmen. Out of the total remittance received by the entire sample population, 3.2 per cent is from within Kerala, 8.5 per cent from within India outside Kerala, 85.8 per cent from the Gulf countries and 2.5 per cent from other foreign countries.

Table 6.5(a) provides data on remittances received by households community-wise.

Table 6.5(a) Remittances received by households, Religion wise 2003 - 04

Locality	Religion	Kerala			India - outside Kerala			Gulf			Other countries			All sources			Total households surveyed
		Reporting households		Amount Rs.	Reporting households		Amount Rs.	Reporting households		Amount Rs.	Reporting households		Amount Rs.	Reporting households		Amount Rs.	
		No	Per cent		No	Per cent		No	Per cent		No	Per cent		No	Per cent		
Thiruvananthapuram	Scheduled Caste							2	2.94	48000				2	2.94	48000	68
	Scheduled Tribe																4
	Hindu Backward	2	0.40	9600	1	0.20	54000	15	3.04	939600				18	3.64	1003200	494
	Hindu Forward	6	0.74	186084	16	1.97	768000	25	3.08	2016000				42	5.18	2970084	811
	Christian	4	1.21	52800	1	0.30	36000	28	8.48	2022000	2	0.61	132000	35	10.61	2242800	330
	Muslim	3	0.98	66000	2	0.65	168000	36	11.76	2556000	2	0.65	282000	42	13.73	3072000	306
	Total	15	0.75	314484	20	0.99	1026000	106	5.27	7581600	4	0.20	414000	139	6.91	9336084	2013
Vembayam	Scheduled Caste	1	0.61	24000	1	0.61	12000	2	1.21	36000				3	1.82	72000	165
	Scheduled Tribe	1	5.26	120										1	5.26	120	19
	Hindu Backward	4	0.75	48000	3	0.56	84000	57	10.69	1436400				63	11.82	1568400	533
	Hindu Forward	14	2.50	148200	12	2.14	255000	32	5.70	636000	1	0.18	6000	56	9.98	1045200	561
	Christian				2	0.89	78000	8	3.57	174000				10	4.46	252000	224
	Muslim	1	0.20	18000	1	0.20	12000	161	32.39	5021400	1	0.20	12000	163	32.80	5063400	497
	Total	21	1.05	238320	19	0.95	441000	260	13.01	7303800	2	0.10	18000	296	14.81	8001120	1999

The data on remittances for each of the two centres (religion-wise) from various sources are given in the table above. In both the centres, the bulk of the remittances came from Gulf countries and the amount remitted also varies with in a very narrow margin. Religion-wise break up of the remittance received in Trivandrum centre showed that Hindu forward obtained the maximum amount as far as the amount coming from other places with in Kerala as well as from other states in India. But when remittances from Gulf countries are considered, religious groups like Hindu forward, Christians and Muslims share almost the same quantum, though Muslims received slightly more in urban centre Trivandrum. Remittances from other sources are reported from Christian and Muslim households in the urban centre.

Remittances received by households in rural centre Vembayam also displayed almost the same trend as is seen in the case of Trivandrum. Remittances from other places in Kerala and from other states in India, a significantly larger share is obtained by Hindu backward and Hindu forward communities. Regarding remittances from Gulf countries to this rural centre, the major recipients are Muslims, Hindu backward and Hindu forward communities. Remittances from other sources to Vembayam are seen negligible.

Chapter VII

Expenditure

Household expenditure data on selected food and non-food items was collected in the detailed survey and the details are available for about 200 households in each locality. Tables 7.1 and 7.2(Annexure)give the per capita expenditure per week on various food and non-food items for each locality. In these tables almost all food items have been included. Expenditure on items such as condiments, soft drinks, alcoholic drinks, health drinks, biscuits, chocolates etc which are not listed separately will come under “others”. As regards the non-food category, expenditure on items such as fuel,cosmetics,clothing,footwear etc have been considered. “Others” under non-food would include items such as rent, electricity, water and other house maintenance charges, expenditure on recreation and expenditure on social and religious affairs.

It is seen from table 7.1 that the per capita expenditure per week in Trivandrum centre has increased from 215.08 in 96-97 to 247.17 in 2003-04. The expenditure on food items increased by 45 per cent from Rs 122.2 in 96-97 to Rs170.8in 2003-04. However, the over all percentage increase in expenditure has come down to 15 per cent as a result of a 22per cent decrease in expenditure on non-food items ie., Rs 92.9 in 96-97 to Rs76.4 in 2003-04. Increase in expenditure in the food group is mainly for Rice, Pulses, Tapioca, Fish, Meat and for eating out, while in the non-food group decrease is mainly under other items.

As regards Vembayam, the per capita expenditure shows a 43percent increase over 96-97 (from Rs 124.95 in 96-97 to 178.33 in 2003-04). Unlike in the Trivandrum centre, here there is increase in expenditure on both food items (from Rs 83.64 to Rs 130.28) and non-food items (from Rs41.31 to Rs 48.55). The increase under food items is mainly for Rice, Cereals, Pulses, Fish, Meat and eating out where as under non-food

category increase is mainly under other items. Details of expenditure are presented in Table 7.2

In Trivandrum expenditure on Rice accounts for 10.47 per cent of the expenditure on food, while the corresponding percentage for Vembayam is 19.3. The study reveals that eating out has become common not only among urban households but also among rural households. The expenditure for eating out is 16.49 percent of expenditure on food in Vembayam while in Trivandrum the corresponding percentage is 18.38. For milk also expenditure is more in Trivandrum than in Vembayam. Expenditure on non-food items as percentage of total expenditure in Trivandrum centre has come down from 43.1 per cent in 96-97 to 30.9 per cent in 2003-04 while the corresponding figures for Vembayam are 33.06 and 27.15 respectively.

Household expenditure data on selected food and non-food items as per various religious groups for the two selected centres are furnished in tables 7.1 (a) and 7.2 (a) below :

Table 7.1 (a) Per capita consumption per week (Rs) of selected food and non - food items - Religion wise - Thiruvananthapuram - 2003 - 04

Item	Schedule d Caste	Schedule d Tribe	Hindu Backwar d	Hindu Forwar d	Christia n	Muslim	Total
Rice	24.16	16.43	18.03	18.20	18.39	15.49	17.88
Cereals	3.59	5.64	4.28	5.18	6.73	4.80	5.23
Pulses	1.71	7.14	5.06	6.32	5.85	5.05	5.67
Tapioca	1.43	3.14	3.44	2.69	2.41	2.07	2.63
Vegetables	10.00	3.86	12.60	11.30	14.53	6.56	11.17
Milk	14.48	18.57	19.43	23.34	18.39	13.65	19.70
Sugar	2.68	4.43	3.60	5.16	3.64	3.24	4.18
Tea	2.52	6.00	3.15	3.83	3.99	3.29	3.52
Coffee			1.68	1.72	1.40	1.33	1.30
Fish	26.00	10.00	18.93	19.23	27.24	20.91	21.31
Meat	10.00		10.95	8.69	11.38	9.23	7.00
Egg	3.33	2.57	3.60	3.11	3.35	2.85	3.22
Cooking oil	6.08	10.43	6.94	7.50	8.72	6.49	7.43
Coconut	6.60	7.86	6.21	6.51	6.22	5.07	6.16
Eating out	20.83		26.34	37.59	27.63	23.57	31.39
Others	38.25	26.92	29.49	18.19	26.98	19.23	23.00
Total Food	171.67	122.99	173.74	178.57	186.85	142.83	170.79
Fuel	4.98	8.13	7.92	10.10	9.71	6.54	8.76
Cosmetics	5.02	6.98	5.53	6.49	6.39	4.74	6.23
Clothing	4.75	10.42	10.69	11.44	12.35	11.34	11.77
Footwear	1.27	1.93	1.96	2.43	2.62	1.66	2.03
Chewing			1.83	0.35	1.00	0.50	0.46
Smoking	0.83		2.38	2.43	1.44	1.47	2.01
Others	17.94	29.70	37.01	45.87	53.16	30.20	45.12
Total Non - food	34.79	57.16	67.32	79.12	86.66	56.46	76.38
Total	206.46	180.15	241.06	257.69	273.51	199.29	247.17
Percent: Food	83.15	68.27	72.07	69.30	68.31	71.67	69.10
Percent: Non-food	16.85	31.73	27.93	30.70	31.69	28.33	30.90

It is seen from the above data that food items constitute 68 to 83 percent of the total per capita consumption of various religious groups in Trivandrum centre. The highest percent on food, viz. 83 was reported from SC Community , Hindu Backward, Hindu Forward, Christians and Muslims spent almost the same proportion (nearly 70 percent) on food items. Among the food items, the major share is absorbed by items like rice, milk, fish and eating out. This is true with regard to all communities but there are variations among communities in expenditure under these items. Highest rice consumption is seen in the case of Scheduled Castes while it is lowest with respect to Muslims. In the case of milk, the highest per capita expenditure is by Hindu Forward and lowest again is by Muslim community. In the case of fish, the highest expenditure is reported by Christians, followed by Scheduled Castes and Muslims. Eating out is now common and most of the communities except Scheduled Tribes reported relatively high expenditure in this item. Hindu Forward communities reported highest expenditure under this item among various religious groups. For non-food items, there is not much variation among communities (around 30%) in Trivandrum except in the case of Scheduled Castes.

Table 7.2 (a) Per capita consumption per week (Rs) of selected food and non - food items - Religion wise - Vembayam - 2003 - 04

Item	Schedule d Caste	Schedule d Tribe	Hindu Backwar d	Hindu Forwar d	Christia n	Muslim	Total
Rice	24.91	25.79	24.70	25.57	26.14	24.69	25.11
Cereals	2.73	3.88	2.43	2.52	3.92	2.31	3.78
Pulses	2.43	5.63	3.18	4.15	2.90	3.44	3.49
Tapioca	4.25	2.25	4.54	2.62	2.68	3.50	3.53
Vegetables	4.80	16.93	7.92	7.53	5.47	6.37	7.04
Milk	7.88	13.04	10.82	12.77	9.05	10.54	10.98
Sugar	1.63	2.24	2.08	2.37	2.03	2.58	2.23
Tea	2.11	3.14	2.42	2.94	2.63	2.70	2.62
Coffee		1.50	1.25	1.36		0.33	1.14
Fish	12.11	16.79	13.81	15.13	14.70	14.54	14.30
Meat	0.75	2.00	0.50	0.50	2.00	2.25	1.44
Egg	1.66	1.96	1.45	0.94	1.41	1.71	1.25
Cooking oil	2.60	4.76	3.55	4.17	3.33	3.47	3.60
Coconut	6.38	7.18	6.97	7.89	6.64	7.42	7.22
Eating out	32.70	46.43	19.36	25.40	16.68	12.56	21.45
Others	15.38	30.19	23.53	25.52	16.41	16.52	21.10
Total Food	122.30	138.68	128.50	141.37	116.00	114.94	130.28
Fuel	1.99	4.09	4.30	2.97	3.05	3.18	3.39
Cosmetics	1.48	2.72	1.80	1.88	1.59	1.55	1.72
Clothing	3.83	5.94	4.60	3.61	3.77	3.85	4.02
Footwear	1.52	3.35	1.96	1.95	1.61	1.93	1.89
Chewing	1.40		1.23	2.01	0.30	1.04	1.42
Smoking	2.39	0.50	1.90	2.44	3.00	2.43	2.27
Others	19.99	39.01	31.87	31.78	31.91	45.02	33.84
Total Non - food	32.61	55.61	47.65	46.64	45.22	59.02	48.55
Total	154.91	194.29	176.15	188.01	161.22	173.96	178.83
Percent: Food	78.95	71.38	72.95	75.19	71.95	66.07	72.85
Percent: Non-food	21.05	28.62	27.05	24.81	28.05	33.93	27.15

It is revealed from the above data that food items constitute 66 to 79 percent of the total per capita consumption of various religious groups in rural centre, Vembayam. The highest percentage of expenditure on food was recorded in the case of Scheduled

Caste families (79%) while Muslim communities spent the lowest(66%) on food. All other religious groups spent roughly 72 to75 % on food. In the case of rural centre Vembayam, the major items under food are rice, milk, fish and eating out. The expenditure on rice in weekly per capita expenditure is more or less the same among different communities. For milk, the highest expenditure is recorded among Hindu Forward community while the lowest is recorded in the case of Scheduled Caste. Expenditure on fish is more or less the same among communities with minor variation. It is also seen from the above data that 'eating out' is equally popular in this rural centre also and the amount spent is also of the same magnitude. As regards expenditure on non-food items, Muslims spent the highest share (34 percent) in Vembayam against 28 percent in Trivandrum while the lowest expenditure is recorded from Scheduled Caste families both in Vemabayam (21 percent) and in Trivandrum centres (17 percent).

Household expenditure on Education.

The information about the expenditure on Education was collected in the detailed survey and the same is available for about 200 households in each locality. For this purpose, schools were classified as Govt. schools and private schools and the data tabulated separately for primary middle and secondary levels. However, data available from the survey is not sufficient for an in depth analysis focussed exclusively on the subject. The details of average expenditure per student on institution fees, private tuition fees, books & stationery and others are worked out separately.

Table 7.3(Annexure) gives the household expenditure per year per student in primary and middle school classes in each locality. Even though school education upto and including higher secondary classes is free in government schools and government aided schools, such schools collect special fees on different accounts such as games fees, library fees, parent teacher association fees, etc. The figures bring out that between government and private schools, the expenditure under each head is higher in private schools and that between the urban (Trivandrum) and the rural (Vembayam) centres the expenditure under each head is more in the urban locality (Trivandrum). The average

household expenditure per student in private schools (primary and middle) is seen to have increased from Rs.3078 in 1996-97 to 4103 in 2003-04 in Trivandrum, while in Vembayam the expenditure increased from Rs.1497 in 1996-97 to Rs.2260 in 2003-04. In government schools the corresponding increase in average expenditure per student is from Rs.1265 to Rs.1448 in Trivandrum and Rs.492 to Rs.846 in Vembayam. In both centres the increase in average expenditure has been more in private schools than that in government schools. In Trivandrum, the increase in government schools is 15 percent compared to 33 percent in private schools while the corresponding percentages for Vembayam are 49 percent and 51 percent respectively.

Household expenditure per year per student in primary and middle school classes in each locality by various religious groups is furnished in Table 7.3 (a) below:

Table 7.3(a) Average expenditure (Rs.) on education per student per year in primary and middle classes in government and private schools - Religion wise 2003 - 04

Locality	Religion	Institution fee		Private tuition fee		Books & stationery		Other expenses		Total expenses	
		Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private
Thiruvananthapuram	Scheduled Caste			266.67	500.00	43.33	212.50	133.33	450.00	443.33	1162.50
	Scheduled Tribe					250.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	750.00	0.00
	Hindu Backward	25	1919.23	475.00	376.92	288.33	726.92	591.67	3473.08	1380.00	6496.15
	Hindu Forward	16.67	1367.50	422.22	750.00	342.78	500.14	861.11	2857.36	1646.11	5475.00
	Christian	60	1294.76	375.00	547.62	275.00	521.43	715.00	2167.38	1365.00	4531.19
	Muslim	9.3	713.64	412.50	81.82	241.88	262.73	912.50	621.36	1566.88	1679.55
	Total	49.67	1315.90	420.00	594.78	264.88	502.65	714.33	1690.00	1488.33	4103.55
Vembayam	Scheduled Caste					150.00	174.00	250.00	398.00	400.00	572.00
	Scheduled Tribe		166.67	120.00		100.00	133.33	150.00	150.00	370.00	616.67
	Hindu Backward	31.54	275.00	173.08	262.11	217.31	258.16	309.00	1949.03	778.46	2703.33
	Hindu Forward	24.30	130.43	42.86	255.56	146.43	236.11	283.08	1423.33	482.20	1556.54
	Christian	40.00	211.76	140.00	133.33	50.00	410.00	350.00	2125.00	581.25	3095.00
	Muslim	11.76	180.00	91.18	60.00	245.29	365.00	421.76	1545.00	770.00	2258.00
	Total	38.44	150.48	135.56	140.07	205.44	300.86	351.16	1669.13	730.60	2260.54

Data relating to household expenditure per year per student in primary and middle school classes in each selected locality for various religious groups are presented in the above table. Data presented in earlier tables clearly showed that expenditure under each head is higher in private schools and also in urban locality, Trivandrum. In the above table we examine the variations in expenditure in primary and middle classes among various religious groups both in Trivandrum and Vembayam centres. In urban centre, Trivandrum the average annual expenditure in Govt schools for primary and middle classes came to Rs 1450 while that for private schools amounted to Rs 4100. The break-up of expenditure in Govt schools by various religions indicates that the highest expenditure of Rs 1643 was incurred by Hindu Forward while the lowest expenditure of Rs 143 is seen incurred by Scheduled caste community. The total expenses incurred by other communities varied between the above mentioned limits. In the case of private schools in Trivandrum the total expenses (average) incurred is more than 3 times that of govt schools, viz., Rs.4100. Here also expenses incurred vary from one community to another, the highest expense (Rs.6496) is incurred by Hindu backward followed by Hindu forward and Christian communities. The lowest expense is incurred by Scheduled caste community (Rs.1162). Among communities also variations in different items of expenditure like institution fees, private tuition fees, books and stationery, other expenses etc., are seen reported from Trivandrum centre.

In rural centre, Vembayam the average expenditure per year on primary and middle classes in Govt schools is reported as Rs 731 and for private schools as Rs 2260. But there are variations in average expenditure among different communities both in govt and private schools. In govt schools, the expenditure varies from Rs 370 incurred by ST communities to Rs 778 for Hindu backward and Rs 770 for Muslims . The average expenditure in Govt schools incurred by other communities like Hindu forward and Christians varies in between the above limits. The average expenditure in private schools though very high in absolute terms also varies among different communities. The lowest expenditure recorded is Rs 572 in the case of Scheduled caste families while the highest expenditure (Rs.3095) is seen incurred by Christians. Variations in expenditure are also noticed among communities on different items of expenditure like institutional fees,

private tuition fees, books and stationery, other expenses etc. Variations are significant in the case of private tuition fees, books and stationery etc for which communities like SC & ST spend relatively small amount.

Table 7.4(Annexure) gives the household expenditure per year per student in higher secondary classes. Here also the average expenditure per student under each head is more in private schools compared to government schools and the average expenditure per student in Trivandrum (urban) locality is more than that in Vembayam (rural) locality. The average is Rs.2648 and Rs.6285 respectively for government and private schools in Trivandrum (urban) locality and Rs.1502 and Rs.1536 respectively in the Vembayam (rural) locality. During the period 1996-97 to 2003-04 there was steep increase in the expenditure on education. In Trivandrum (urban) locality the expenditure per student in government schools increased by 56 percent and the corresponding increase in private schools is 66 percent. Similarly during the above period in Vembayam (rural) locality also the expenditure increased by 82 percent and 99 percent respectively in government and private schools.

Average expenditure on education per student per year in secondary classes by various religious groups is indicated in table 7.4 (a) below :

Table 7.4 (a) Average expenditure (Rs.) on education per student per year in secondary classes in government and private schools - Religion wise - 2003 - 04

Localit y	Religion	Institutional Fees		Private Tution Fees		Books and stationery		Other expenses		Total expenses	
		Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private
Thiruvananthapuram	Scheduled Caste	0.00	0.00	0.00	4000.00	416.67	675.00	1033.33	1166.67	1450.00	5841.67
	Scheduled Tribe	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Hindu Backward	113.64	0.00	1140.91	0.00	727.27	0.00	631.82	0.00	2613.64	0.00
	Hindu Forward	121.50	1758.33	1300.00	2375.00	580.00	837.50	765.00	1783.33	2766.50	6754.17
	Christian	200.00	3060.00	1500.00	1087.50	1057.50	922.54	635.00	1676.83	3392.50	6746.88
	Muslim	56.25	833.33	1462.50	0.00	443.75	1433.33	968.75	1083.33	2931.25	3350.00
	Total	96.00	2010.67	1222.83	1785.00	622.39	914.85	707.00	1585.00	2648.22	6284.85
	Vembayam	Scheduled Caste	61.11	0.00	20.00	0.00	391.11	200.00	406.11	350.00	878.33
Scheduled Tribe		0.00	0.00	2500.00	0.00	500.00	350.00	250.00	280.00	3250.00	630.00
Hindu Backward		52.46	306.17	526.92	783.33	334.62	429.17	476.92	650.00	1390.92	2168.67
Hindu Forward		63.20	369.14	720.00	300.00	520.00	356.86	270.00	467.86	1573.20	1493.86
Christian		20.00	108.00	610.00	200.00	345.00	346.00	561.00	908.00	1536.00	1562.00
Muslim		58.47	267.86	417.65	614.29	448.53	471.43	955.88	582.14	1880.53	1935.71
Total		45.84	253.19	450.60	315.00	383.00	389.00	623.60	581.67	1502.20	1535.67

As in the previous case here also the average expenditure per student under each head is more in private schools than in govt. institutions in Trivandrum centre. But in rural centre, Vembayam such variations are only marginal. In urban centre, Trivandrum, the average expenditure in private schools (Rs.6285) is 3 times more than that incurred in govt.schools. Only minor variations are reported in average expenditure in Trivandrum among various communities in govt. schools except in the case of SC & ST families. Expenditure in private schools (though much higher) vary marginally among communities like Hindu forward and Christians. But in the case of Scheduled Tribes, Hindu backward and Muslims the cost incurred in private schools is reported to be much less. Variations are also seen in Trivandrum centre in the case of different items of expenditure like private tuitions, fees, books and stationery etc between govt and private schools and also among different religious groups.

It is also revealed from the above table that though the average expenditure in Secondary classes is low in Vembayam centre compared to Trivandrum, the variations between govt and private institutions are only marginal viz. Rs 1502 for govt schools and Rs 1535 for private institutions. But among communities, differences are pronounced especially in the case of Hindu backward, SC and ST groups. Minor variations are also noticed among communities and also between govt and private schools regarding different items of expenditure.

Household medical expenditure.

The medical expenditure incurred by the household during the previous quarter was recorded in the detailed survey and is thus available for 200 households in each locality. Percent of households incurring expenditure on medical treatment and the average expenditure under different systems of medicine, for Trivandrum and Vembayam centres are presented in table 7.5(Annexure). This is given separately for Government and Private institutions. There are cases of the same household taking treatment from more than one system.

In Trivandrum 65.5 percent of the households have incurred expenditure on allopathic treatment, 3 percent on Ayurvedic treatment and 5 percent on Homoeopathic treatment. The corresponding figures for Vembayam are 42 percent, 3.5 percent and 0.5 percent respectively. In general the average expenditure per household in Trivandrum (urban) is greater than that for a household in Vembayam (rural). On an average an urban (Trivandrum centre) household spends Rs.996 and a rural (Vembayam) household Rs. 449 per quarter on medical treatment, the bulk of the amount (97 percent in Trivandrum and 93 percent in Vembayam) spent on allopathy.

Average medical expenditure community-wise in Trivandrum is presented in table 7.5(a)

**Table 7.5(a) Average medical expenditure of the house holds in
Thriuvananthapuram - Religion wise 2003 - 04**

Stem of medicine	Type of Institution	Scheduled Caste			Scheduled Tribe			Hindu Backward		
		Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure	Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure	Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure
		No	per cent	Reporting households	No	per cent	Reporting households	No	per cent	Reporting households
Allopathy	Govt	1	20.00	2300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11	28.95	1405.09
	Pvt	3	60.00	583.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	11	28.95	4840.00
	Total	4	80.00	1012.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	22	57.89	3122.55
Ayurveda	Govt	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	2.63	500.00
	Pvt	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
	Total	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	2.63	500.00
Homeopathy	Govt	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
	Pvt	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	5.26	200.00
	Total	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	5.26	200.00
All	Govt	1	20.00	2300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12	31.58	1329.67
	Pvt	3	60.00	583.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	13	34.21	4126.15
	Total	4	80.00	1012.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	25	65.79	2783.84

System of medicine	Type of Institution	Hindu Forward			Christian			Muslim		
		Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure	Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure	Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure
		No	per cent	Reporting households	No	per cent	Reporting households	No	per cent	Reporting households
Allopathy	Govt	15	17.05	908.33	10	25.00	1287.50	10	37.04	1014.00
	Pvt	39	44.32	1280.00	21	52.50	1032.71	10	37.04	1185.60
	Total	54	61.36	1176.76	31	77.50	1114.90	20	74.07	1099.80
Ayurveda	Govt	2	2.27	825.00	1	2.50	80.00	1	3.70	540.00
	Pvt	1	1.14	1700.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
	Total	3	3.41	1116.67	1	2.50	80.00	1	3.70	540.00
Homeopathy	Govt	3	3.41	216.67	0	0.00	0.00	1	3.70	200.00
	Pvt	1	1.14	220.00	2	5.00	137.50	1	3.70	150.00
	Total	4	4.55	217.50	2	5.00	137.50	2	7.41	175.00
All	Govt	20	22.73	796.25	11	27.50	1177.73	12	44.44	906.67
	Pvt	41	46.59	1264.39	23	57.50	954.87	11	40.74	1091.45
	Total	61	69.32	1110.90	34	85.00	1026.97	23	85.19	995.04

It is seen from the above data that in Trivandrum on an average more than 95% of the medical expenditure both in govt and private is incurred for allopathic treatment. Among various religious groups also, this preference for allopathic system is clearly seen. The percentage of expenditure recorded for allopathic treatment among various religious groups are: 100% in this case of SC, 99% for Hindu backward and Christians, 94% for Hindu forward and 96% for Muslim community. The average expenditure per year (all systems combined) varies from Rs 995 in the case of Muslims to Rs 2783 in the case of Hindu backward. The average medical expenditure reported by other communities like Hindu forward, Christians and others ranged between Rs 1000 to Rs 1100.

Average medical expenditure (Religion-wise) of selected households in Vembayam centre is presented below :

**Table 7.5(b) Average medical expenditure of the households in
Vembayam - Religion wise 2003 - 04**

System of medicine	Type of Institution	Scheduled Caste			Scheduled Tribe			Hindu Backward		
		Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure	Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure	Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure
		No	per cent	Reporting households	No	per cent	Reporting households	No	per cent	Reporting households
Allopathy	Govt	3	15.79	266.67	1.00	25.00	1415.00	24	43.64	1318.38
	Pvt	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	3.64	655.00
	Total	3	15.79	266.67	1.00	25.00	1415.00	26	47.27	1267.35
Ayurveda	Govt	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	3.64	1500.00
	Pvt	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	3.64	825.00
	Total	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4	7.27	1162.50
Homeopathy	Govt	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
	Pvt	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	1.82	300.00
	Total	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	1.82	300.00
All	Govt	3	15.79	266.67	1.00	25.00	1415.00	26	47.27	1332.35
	Pvt	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5	9.09	652.00
	Total	3	15.79	266.67	1.00	25.00	1415.00	31	56.36	1222.61

System of medicine	Type of Institution	Hindu Forward			Christian			Muslim		
		Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure	Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure	Households reporting expenditure		Avg expenditure
		No	per cent	Reporting households	No	per cent	Reporting households	No	per cent	Reporting households
Allopathy	Govt	17	33.33	817.94	7	29.17	650.00	25	53.19	1074.40
	Pvt	3	5.88	586.67	1	4.17	1010.00	1	2.13	250.00
	Total	20	39.22	783.25	8	33.33	695.00	26	55.32	1042.69
Ayurveda	Govt	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
	Pvt	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	3	6.38	433.33
	Total	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	3	6.38	433.33
Homeopathy	Govt	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
	Pvt	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
	Total	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
All	Govt	17	33.33	817.94	7	29.17	650.00	25	53.19	1074.40
	Pvt	3	5.88	586.67	1	4.17	1010.00	4	8.51	387.50
	Total	20	39.22	783.25	8	33.33	695.00	29	61.70	979.66

The above data clearly shows that in Vembayam centre (Rural) also medical expenditure incurred for allopathic treatment is found to be more than 95% and in certain cases even 100 percent. The average expenditure (all systems combined) varied from Rs 267 in the case of SC families to Rs 1400 recorded for Scheduled Tribes. The average medical expenditure with respect to other communities varied from Rs 700 to Rs 1220 annually.

Smoking

Table 7.6(Annexure) gives the percentage of households incurring expenditure on smoking as obtained in 1981-82, 86-87, 90-91, 96-97 and 2003-04. While the 96-97 figures are based on 3000 households in each locality, results in the other years are based on 2000 households in each locality. In Trivandrum centre, the percentage of households incurring expenditure on smoking has come down from 31.2 percent in 96-97 to 30 in 2003-04. But in Vembayam the percent of households incurring expenditure on smoking increased marginally from 47 percent in 96-97 to 47.5 percent in 2003-04. However there has been marked decline in the percentage of households incurring expenditure on smoking during the period 81-82 to 2003-04. In Trivandrum centre the percentage declined from 58 to 30, the corresponding decline for Vembayam being from 73 to 47.5 percent. In general, the smoking habit is on the wane, but in the rural areas (Vembayam) the percent of households with smokers has not decreased as much as in the urban centres, may be due to less awareness of the harmful effects of smoking.

The percentage of households Incurring expenditure on smoking by various religious groups is indicated in table 7.6 (a)

Table 7.6 (a) Per cent households incurring expenditure on smoking - Religion wise 2003 - 04

Locality	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Hindu Backward	Hindu Forward	Christian	Muslim	Total
Thiruvananthapuram	20.00	0	36.84	25.00	40.00	22.22	30.00
Vembayam	73.68	25.00	43.64	56.86	29.17	34.04	47.50

It is seen from the above table that the percentage of smokers reported from selected households is more in the case of rural centre Vembayam than in urban centre Trivandrum. This as reported earlier, may be due to lack of awareness regarding its harmful effects in the rural area. On an average 30 percent of the households in Trivandrum and 47 percent of the households in Vembayam reported expenditure on smoking. But the data also reveal that the percentage of smokers among various religious groups also vary. The lowest percentage of households reported expenditure on smoking in Trivandrum belong to Scheduled Caste and Muslim communities. The highest percentage is reported from Christian community. In Vembayam (rural centre) though the percentage of households reported expenditure on smoking is comparatively high, there are variations among different religious groups with respect to smoking habits. The lowest percentage (25 percent) of households is seen in the case of Scheduled Tribe while the highest percentage is reported from Scheduled Caste (74 percent) households.

Use of footwear.

This information is available for 200 households in each locality in the present survey. Since use of footwear is an important hygienic protection, it was recorded whether the members of the households are regular users of footwear. Table 7.7(Annexure) gives the percentage of persons using footwear on a regular basis. The figures show that during 2003-04, 96.5 percent of the households in Trivandrum centre are regular footwear users and that there is steady increase in this respect over the years. In Trivandrum, the percentage in respect of males increased from 62 to 98 percent and that for women from 43 to 96 percent. In Vembayam also, the percentage of persons using footwear increased from 33.6 percent in 81-82 to 93.4 percent in 2003-04. In Vembayam the increase in respect of women from 23.8 percent in 81-82 to 92.5 percent in 2003-04 is remarkable. The male- female gap in this regard has considerably declined in both the centres. .

Religion - wise break up of of persons using foot wear in Trivandrum and Vembayam centre is indicated in table 7.7 (a) below

Table 7.7 (a) Per centage of persons using footwear - Religion wise 2003 - 04

Religion	Thiruvananthapuram			Vembayam		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
Scheduled Caste	100	92.86	96.00	100	82.05	90.79
Scheduled Tribe	100	100	100	100	100	100
Hindu Backward	95.59	91.57	93.38	92.98	89.57	91.27
Hindu Forward	100	94.12	96.88	94.90	91.84	93.37
Christian	97.30	96.34	96.79	93.18	94.00	93.62
Muslim	98.77	95.71	97.35	93.75	99.04	96.50
Total	98.51	94.33	96.32	94.44	92.49	93.45

It is seen from above data that 96 percent of the persons surveyed in Trivandrum and 93 percent in Vembayam are regular foot wear users. It is also evident that percentage of foot wear users are more among males than females in both the centres. Variations among religious groups in the use of footwear (presented in the above table) are only marginal in Trivandrum centre, percentage varying from 93 to 100, where as in Vembayam variation among religious groups in this respect ranged from 90 to 100.

Newspaper readership.

Whether a person reads newspaper on a regular basis was recorded in the detailed survey for each person aged 10 and above. Table 7.8(Annexure) gives the figures for the two centres as obtained in 2003-04 survey, together with the results from the earlier surveys. During the period between 1981-82 and 2003-04, there has been substantial improvement in the percentage of persons reading newspaper both in Trivandrum and Vembayam. In Trivandrum centre the percentage of newspaper readers among males increased from 59.5 percent in 1981-82 to 65.2 persons in 2003-04, while the corresponding increase in respect of females (from 44.4 percent in 1981-82 to 61.2 percent in 2003-04) is more remarkable. But in the rural area (Vembayam), improvement in newspaper readership has been found to be less compared to the urban area, both

among males and females. In Vembayam, the percentage of males reading newspaper has increased from 26 in 1980-82 to 46.5 in 2003-04, while the corresponding percentages for females are 8.9 and 23.2 respectively. The gender gap appears to be persisting and the gap is much higher in the rural (Vembayam) locality (23 percent) compared to that in Trivandrum centre (4 percent).

News papers readers among various religious groups are presented in table 7.8 (a)

Table 7.8 (a) Per centage of persons reading newspaper - Religion wise 2003 - 04

Religion	Thiruvananthapuram			Vembayam		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
Scheduled Caste	45.45	50.00	48.00	24.32	2.56	13.16
Scheduled Tribe	100	0	28.57	57.14	71.43	64.29
Hindu Backward	60.29	54.22	56.95	47.37	32.17	39.74
Hindu Forward	69.88	71.66	70.82	58.16	29.59	43.88
Christian	74.32	65.85	69.87	40.91	16.00	27.66
Muslim	53.09	42.86	48.34	43.75	15.38	29.00
Total	65.17	61.22	63.11	46.46	23.24	34.61

An analysis of data presented above revealed that 63 percent of the persons in selected households in Trivandrum are regular news paper readers while the percentage of readers of the rural centre, Vembayam is only 35. It is also seen that news paper readers among males are much more than females in both the centres, though the gender gap is much wider in the rural centre. Religion-wise break-up of readers in both the centres reveal that in Trivandrum centre 71 percent of the persons from selected households are news paper readers. This percentage is as low as 28 in the case of Scheduled Tribe. Among Scheduled Caste and Muslims only 48 percent are news paper readers. 60 percent readership is reported in the case of other religions like Christians and Hindu Backward. In the case of Vembayam the percentage of news paper readers varied from 13 in the case of Scheduled Caste, 28 percent and 29 percent in the case of Christians and Muslims, 44 percent in the case of Hindu Forward to 64 percent in the case of Scheduled Tribes.

Table 7.9(Annexure) gives the percentage of households possessing durable goods such as Motor Car, Two-wheelers, Cable TV connection, VCR/VCP, Radio, Refrigerator, electric fan, electric iron, watch/clock, gas/electric stove, computer, phone, mobile phone, washing machine, etc. based on the data collected in the detailed survey.

The survey shows that there is an increase in the number of households possessing almost every item mentioned above. A reduction is noticed only in the respect of percentage of households possessing by-cycles in Trivandrum centre. There has been increase in the percentage of households possessing motor car and motor cycle in both centres. The possession of TV has increased from 76.7 per cent in 1996-97 to 87.5 percent in 2003-04 in Trivandrum while the corresponding percentages for Vembayam are 29.9 and 50 per cent respectively. In the case of cable TV connections also, Vembayam with 5.5% is much behind Trivandrum where 61.5 percent of the households are having cable TV connection. During the period 1996-97 to 2003-04, remarkable increase in the percentage of households possessing Motor Cycle (4.0 to 9.5), Television (30 to 50), VCR/VCP (1.7 to 8), Refrigerator (5.7 to 14.5), Gas/Electric stove (3 to 19), Sewing machine (7.7 to 11.5) took place in Vembayam.

The percentage of households possessing important durable goods according to various community groups is presented in table 7.9 (a). (For detailed list of items see the table in Annexure)

**Table 7.9 (a) Percentage of households with Durable possessions -
Community -wise - 2003-04**

Items	Community	Thiruvananthapuram	Vembayam
Motar Car	Scheduled Caste	0.0	0.0
	Scheduled Tribe	0.0	0.0
	Hindu Backward	10.5	5.5
	Hindu Forward	14.8	0.0
	Christian	27.5	0.0
	Muslim	3.7	4.3
	Total	14.5	2.5
Motor Cycle / Scooter	Scheduled Caste	0.0	0.0
	Scheduled Tribe	0.0	25.0
	Hindu Backward	26.3	10.9
	Hindu Forward	34.1	13.7
	Christian	37.5	8.3
	Muslim	22.2	6.4
	Total	30.5	9.5
Radio	Scheduled Caste	60.0	36.8
	Scheduled Tribe	0.0	50.0
	Hindu Backward	81.6	54.5
	Hindu Forward	88.6	54.9
	Christian	80.0	54.2
	Muslim	74.1	53.2
	Total	82.0	52.5
T V	Scheduled Caste	80.0	51.5
	Scheduled Tribe	50.0	57.0
	Hindu Backward	81.6	54.5
	Hindu Forward	93.2	56.9
	Christian	85.0	45.8
	Muslim	88.9	51.1
	Total	87.5	50.5
Computer	Scheduled Caste	0.0	0.0
	Scheduled Tribe	0.0	0.0
	Hindu Backward	0.0	0.0
	Hindu Forward	2.3	2.0
	Christian	10.0	0.0
	Muslim	3.7	0.0
	Total	3.5	0.5
Telephone	Scheduled Caste	20.0	5.3
	Scheduled Tribe	0.0	75.0
	Hindu Backward	36.8	30.9
	Hindu Forward	58.0	33.3
	Christian	57.5	20.8
	Muslim	44.4	51.1
	Total	50.5	33.5

Refrigerator	Scheduled Caste	20.0	0.0
	Scheduled Tribe	0.0	50.0
	Hindu Backward	34.2	14.5
	Hindu Forward	50.0	15.7
	Christian	60.0	8.3
	Muslim	29.6	19.1
	Total	45.0	14.5
Electric Fan	Scheduled Caste	60.0	10.5
	Scheduled Tribe	50.0	50.0
	Hindu Backward	86.8	58.2
	Hindu Forward	97.7	58.8
	Christian	95.0	50.0
	Muslim	96.3	66.0
	Total	93.5	54.5
Gas Stove / Electric Stove	Scheduled Caste	20.0	5.3
	Scheduled Tribe	0.0	50.0
	Hindu Backward	63.2	23.6
	Hindu Forward	84.1	17.6
	Christian	77.5	8.3
	Muslim	55.6	23.4
	Total	72.5	19.0
None	Scheduled Caste	0.0	10.5
	Scheduled Tribe	0.0	0.0
	Hindu Backward	0.0	10.9
	Hindu Forward	0.0	5.9
	Christian	0.0	8.3
	Muslim	0.0	4.3
	Total	0.0	7.5

Percentage of households community-wise possessing important durable goods are indicated in the above table. A brief description regarding the community-wise and item-wise possessions are presented below; First item is Motor car which is not a luxury now but considered as a necessary item by middle class families and above. On an average 14.5% of the total households in Trivandrum and 2.5% of the total households in Vembayam have this possession. But community-wise break-up showed that in Trivandrum 27.5% of the Christians households, 14.8% of the Hindu forward and 10.5% of the Hindu backward households possess Motor car. Only 3.7% of the Muslim households reported owning Motor car. In Vembayam centre the community-wise

possession of Motor car is entirely different. Only 4% of the Muslims and 5% of Hindu backward families own Motor cars. Ownership of Motor/Cycles/Scooters also vary from 22% with respect to Muslims to 37% regarding Christians. But in Vembayam the ownership among different communities varies from 6% to 25%. More than 80% of the households in Trivandrum and 50% of the households in Vembayam reported possession of Radios. T.V has now become an essential item of entertainment of every family both in urban and rural areas alike. In Trivandrum nearly 88% of the household own this item while only 50% of the household in Vembayam reported this item of entertainment. Community-wise break-up of the ownership of T.V also presents almost the same picture in these two centres, but the percentage of ownership in both places is slightly more. Only 3.5% of the households in Trivandrum and less than 1% of the households in Vembayam own computer at home. Community-wise break-up of this ownership in Trivandrum indicates that only Hindu forward, Christians and Muslims own this item, the percentage of ownership varies from 2 (Hindu forward) to 10 (Christians). But in Vembayam 2% of the Hindu forward only possess computer. Telephone has become a necessity now and 50% of the households(all communities combined) own this item while in Vembayam only 34% of the households possess telephone. Community-wise break-up of telephone connection in Trivandrum indicates that only 20% of the SC households have this facility while for Hindu forward households the percentage ownership has come to 58. In Vembayam the percentage ownership of Telephone varies from 5.3 (Schedule castes) to 51% (Muslims). Refrigerator, though a costly item is possessed by 45% of the households in Trivandrum and 15% in Vembayam. Community-wise possession of this item shows that 20% of the SC households, 34% of Hindu backward, 50% of Hindu forward and 60% Christian households own this item. In Vembayam, the percentage of ownership is much less and it varies from 8.3% in the case of Christians to 20% in the case of Muslims. Electric fan, though a common item is owned by 93% of the total households in Trivandrum and 55% in Vembayam. Community-wise possession of this item ranged from 50% in the case of ST families to 98% with respect to Hindu forward. In Vembayam, the percentage of ownership varies from 10.5 in the case of ST families, 59 reported by Hindu forward. Gas stove, though very popular in urban centres, has not established its importance in rural areas as evident

from the survey results. 72% of the households in Trivandrum reported possession of this item while its ownership is around 20% only in rural centre, Vembayam. The ownership varies from 20% in the case of SC families to 84% with respect to Hindu forward community in Trivandrum. In Vembayam ownership of the Gas stove ranged from 5.3% to 50% among different communities. The households which do not possess any of these items mentioned above is nil in Trivandrum, while the selected households in Vembayam which do not possess any of these items comes to nearly 11%.

Chapter VIII

Quality of Life - Summary

I General

This report is based on a pilot study carried out in two selected centres in Trivandrum district viz. Trivandrum corporation (urban) and Vembayam (rural) to assess the quality of life based on certain selected indicators pertaining to demographic characteristics, housing, education, employment, income and expenditure. The indicators used in the present study are the same as those adopted for the previous surveys of a similar nature conducted by this Institute.

As far as the present study is concerned this comparison has only a limited validity, since this is a pilot study carried out in 2 centres only in Trivandrum district. Inter- locality comparison is, therefore, confined to comparing the results obtained from the present survey in these two centres. Though these indicators from the present study have been furnished in earlier chapters, a summary version is presented in the following paragraphs to obtain an overall view of the level of development in the two selected centres revealed from table 8.1(a) furnished below:

Table 8.1 (a) Salient features of living conditions in the localities surveyed - Religion-wise - 2003 - 04

Locality	Religion	Good housing (percent households)	Matric (per cent persons 15+)	Economic dependency ratio	Per capita monthly income below Rs. 500 (per cent households)	Per capita weekly expenditure on food items (Rs)	TV (percent house holds)	No durable possessions (percent households)	News paper readership (per cent persons)
Trivandrum	Scheduled Caste	52.94	42.11	1.96	1.47	171.67	80.00	0.00	48.00
	Scheduled Tribe	25.00	20.00	1.71	0.00	122.99	50.00	0.00	28.57
	Hindu Backward	81.38	54.47	2.14	3.85	173.74	81.58	0.00	56.95
	Hindu Forward	91.86	58.78	2.28	2.59	178.57	93.18	0.00	70.82
	Christian	75.76	50.42	2.42	3.03	186.85	85.00	0.00	69.87
	Muslim	81.37	40.50	3.02	9.15	142.83	88.89	0.00	48.34
	Total	83.61	54.32	2.37	3.92	170.79	87.50	0.00	63.11
Vembayam	Scheduled Caste	20.61	11.48	1.76	23.64	122.30	51.50	10.53	13.16
	Scheduled Tribe	42.11	33.33	2.12	21.05	138.68	57.00	0.00	64.29
	Hindu Backward	45.22	28.99	2.14	13.13	128.50	54.55	10.91	39.74
	Hindu Forward	53.48	18.87	2.22	22.46	141.37	56.86	5.88	43.88
	Christian	43.75	25.00	1.93	20.54	116.00	45.83	8.33	27.66
	Muslim	70.42	27.14	2.92	15.90	114.94	51.06	4.26	29.00
	Total	51.58	23.76	2.27	18.21	130.28	50.00	7.50	34.61

(i) Good housing facility:

Data provided in Table 3.9 clearly revealed that in the two selected centres, there is all-round visible improvement as regards " good housing facilities " as judged by four selected indicators, viz. tiled or concrete roof houses, houses with electricity, protected drinking water and good sanitation.

But when community-wise break-up is examined as provided in table 8.1(a), it is seen that though 84% in general have good housing facilities in Trivandrum and 52% in Vembayam centres, there are a lot of variations among communities in this basic facility. To cite few examples, in Trivandrum centre only 25% of ST households and 53% of SC households have good housing facility where as this is available for 92% of Hindu forward, 81% each for Hindu backward and Muslim communities. It is also seen that only 76% of Christian community has this facility. In the case of rural centre, Vembayam the housing facility available is far below urban standards. Only 53% of the Hindu forward families have access to good housing, where as 70% of the Muslim communities enjoy good housing facility. Good housing is recorded for only 20% for SC and 42% for ST households. The data presented in earlier chapters clearly brings out centre-wise variations as well as community-wise variations within each region.

(ii) Percentage of persons aged 15 and above who have passed matriculation.

The relevant data are presented in table 4.2. In both the centres selected, there is marginal increase in the percentage of persons aged 15 and above who have passed matriculation. In the case of both males and females, this improvement is visible.

Though there is marginal increase in the percentage of persons aged 15 and above who have passed matriculation, there is wide variation among communities in this respect as revealed from table 8.1(a). In Trivandrum centre, the average rate of matriculation of persons aged 15 and above is 54%. But community-wise break-up revealed that only 20% of the persons among ST have passed matriculation while the corresponding figure for SC is 42%. The Hindu forward has the highest percentage of matriculates (59%) followed by 54% for Hindu backward, 50% and 40% respectively for Christians and

Muslim communities. In rural centre, Vembayam, the percentage of matriculates reported is far less with respect to all communities, Scheduled castes being the lowest with 11%. The percentage of matriculates among different communities ranged from 11% to 33%.

(iii) Economic Dependency Ratio:

This ratio indicates the number of dependants (both unemployed and outside labour force) to the number of employed. The data in this regard are provided in table 5.6. It is seen that the dependency ratio, compared to previous years, has shown a marginal increase in both the selected centres. This probably may be due to the increase in the aged dependants.

As mentioned already the economic dependency ratio is slightly increasing over years owing to the increase in aged dependents. But community-wise variation is also significant in both urban and rural centres as is seen from the data presented in table 8.1(a). The overall dependency ratio for Trivandrum is 2.37, while it is slightly less 2.27 for Vembayam. The community-wise variation of this important indicator is also significant. In Trivandrum, the highest ratio is recorded for Muslim (3.02) community while the lowest is seen in the case of Scheduled Tribes (1.71). For other communities like Hindu forward, Christians etc., it varied between these two limits. In the case of Vembayam also the highest dependency ratio is reported for Muslims(2.92) followed by 2.22 for Hindu forward, 2.12 for Scheduled tribes and 1.76 for Scheduled casts.

(iv) Percentage of Households with average per capita monthly income below Rs.500.

Percentage of households with average per-capita monthly income below Rs. 500 (Table 6.3). This is an obvious indicator of economic progress. Data from the present survey revealed that percentage of households with per-capita income below Rs. 500 had drastically fallen in both the centres selected.

This is obviously an important economic indicator. It is already evident that this indicator had fallen sharply over years. Data provided in table 8.1(a) indicate that there are nearly 3.9% of the households in Trivandrum with per capita monthly income below Rs 500. The corresponding figure for rural centre Vembayam is as high as 18%. The community-wise variation in Trivandrum is of the following magnitude: 9% of the Muslims community households are below per capita monthly income Rs 500. This is followed by 3.85% for Hindu backward, 3.03% for Christians, 2.59% for Hindu Forward and 1.47% for Scheduled caste. In rural centre, Vembayam 24% of the SC households is below per capita monthly income below Rs 500. This is followed by 21% for ST, 22% for Hindu forward, 20% for Christians and 16% for Muslims.

(v) Per capita weekly expenditure on food items:

This also is another indicator of the level of living of the people. Survey data showed that, in both the centres, per-capita weekly expenditure had gone up compared to previous years. Rate of increase registered was more in the case of the urban centre, Trivandrum.

Though there is an increasing trend in per capita weekly expenditure on food items over years on both centres, there is variation in per capita expenditure among different communities in both places as revealed from table 8.1(a). In Trivandrum centre, though the average weekly expenditure is Rs 171/-, most of the religious groups per capita weekly expenditure are above this average. The exceptions noticed are Scheduled Tribes with per capita expenditure of Rs 123/- and Muslims spending only Rs 143/- per week. The average per capita expenditure reported from Vembayam is much lower than Trivandrum viz. Rs 130. An important feature worth mentioning in this context is that most of the communities except ST and Hindu forward reported a per capita weekly expenditure lower than the overall average for the centre.

(vi) Percentage of Households possessing Television:

Percentage of households possessing Television (Table 7.9). Both the centres have displayed a remarkable increase in the percentage of households possessing TV. In Trivandrum, the increase was from 76.7 percent in 1996-97 to 87.5 percent in 2003-04. The corresponding increase for Vembayam was from 29.9 percent to 50 percent during the same period.

Table 8.1(a) presents community-wise break-up of households possessing T.V. Though on an average 80% of the households in Trivandrum and 50% of the households in rural centre Vembayam possess this facility, wide variations are seen among communities regarding its possession in both the centres. In Trivandrum, only 50% of the Scheduled Tribe households have this facility while more than 93% of the Hindu forward communities are having T.V. sets at home. Roughly 80% of the households belonging to other communities have reported this facility in Trivandrum. In rural centre, Vembayam slightly more than 50% of the households from all the religious groups reported possession of T.V. sets at home.

(vii) Percentage of Households with no consumer durable possessions

In this case, the present survey recorded no household in Trivandrum centre while for Vembayam 7.5 percent of the households were recorded under this category.

Locality-wise progress.

(i) Household size (See Table 2.1)

Data collected from the present survey as well as the results of the previous surveys clearly indicated a fall in household size over the years. In Trivandrum centre (Urban) it has come down from 5.5 in 1981-82 to 4.12 in 2003-04, while in Vembayam (Rural), the fall was from 5.3 in 1981-82 to 4.07 in 2003-04.

(ii) Age composition (See Table 2.5 and 2.6)

The percentage of population below 15 years of age has exhibited a fall, over the period in the two selected centres. Similarly the percentage of population aged 60 and above, has shown an increase in both Trivandrum and Vembayam. This trend is only the reflection of the falling trend in birth rates and the increase in the number of aged.

(iii) Education (See Table 4.1)

The literacy rate among persons aged 5 and above had improved in Trivandrum compared to previous years. It was almost stationary in the rural centre – Vembayam. The male literacy is slightly more than female literacy in both the centres. The present survey results also reveal that compared to previous years, there was no significant change in the literacy rates in both the selected centres.

The present survey results indicate that the percentage of persons aged 15 and above who have passed matriculation (Table 4.2) had gone up in the selected centres (Trivandrum and Vembayam) compared to previous years.

The percentage of students out of the population in various age groups (Table 4.3. and 4.4) available from the present survey also indicated an increase in the selected centres compared to previous years for which data are available. This also showed the increasing importance people attach to education.

Labour force and unemployment (Refer Table 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3)

Survey results for the current year revealed that male labour force remained more or less stationary at 85 percent of the population aged 15 and above in Vembayam (rural) while for Trivandrum (urban) there is a slight fall in the percent of labour force. Employed males as a percentage of labour force was also stationary in both Trivandrum and Vembayam. The percentage of employed (males) was slightly high in Trivandrum (11percent) compared to Vembayam (8.7 percent). Among females also the percentage of labour force obtained from the present survey was almost the same for Trivandrum and Vembayam (41percent). Women employed as a percentage of labour force is high in Trivandrum (62 percent) compared to Vembayam (56 percent) and unemployed women

as a percentage of labour force is low in Trivandrum (37.5percent) compared to Vembayam (43.9percent).

Income

An all round increase in per capita income was clearly visible from the results of the present survey. (See Table 5.6). In Trivandrum centre, the per capita annual income had gone up to Rs 23,000 in 2003-04 from Rs 9690 in 1996-97. Similarly per capita income for the rural centre, Vembayam had gone up from Rs 7353 to Rs. 8835 during the same period.

Smoking

The percentage of households incurring expenditure on smoking has come down marginally in Trivandrum centre. The fall was from 31.2 percent in 1996 - 97 to 30 percent in 2003 - 04. But in Vembayam centre (rural) the percentage of households incurring expenditure had shown a marginal increase, from 47 percent in 1996 - 97 to 47.5 percent in 2003 - 04. Compared to data in earlier periods, Trivandrum centre exhibited a fall from 58 percent in 1981 - 82 to 30 percent in 2003 - 04. But the decline in Vembayam centre in the corresponding period was from 73 percent to 47.5 percent.

Use of Foot Wear

The percentage of persons using foot wear has increased substantially in the two selected centres, Trivandrum (urban) and Vembayam (rural). In Trivandrum centre, the percentage of males using footwear had increased from 62 percent to 98 percent while the percentage of women users had gone up to 96 percent from 43 percent. In Vembayam the increase in the case of foot wear users (men and women) was from 33.6 percent in 1981 - 82 to 93.4 percent in 2003 - 04. Another aspect noticed in this regard is that the male - female gap in the use of foot wear had considerably narrowed down in both these centres.

News Paper Reading

The percentage of persons aged 10 and above reading news papers on a regular basis has increased in both the selected centres. Figures obtained in 2003 - 04 survey showed that in Trivandrum, the readership among males had increased to 65.2 percent from the earlier position of 59.5 percent recorded for the period 1981 - 82. The corresponding increase in respect of females was more pronounced, ie. from 44.4 percent in 1981 - 82 to 61.2 percent in 2003 - 04. In Vembayam centre, the male newspaper readers had increased from 26 percent in 1981 - 82 to 46.5 percent in 2003 - 04, while for females the corresponding increase was from 8.9 percent to 23.2 percent. The gender gap in this respect is much higher in rural centre Vembayam compared to urban locality.

Possession of Consumer Durable goods.

The percentage of households having specified durable consumer items such as motor cycle, scooter, car, radio, T.V. refrigerator, fan, gas/electric stove etc had increased in both the centres selected for the study. The survey results for 2003-04 had shown that the percentage of households possessing almost every item mentioned above had gone up in both the centres. A few examples are: households possessing motor car and motor cycles in Trivandrum centre had increased from 76.7percent in 1996-97 to 87.5percent in 2003-04, while the percentage increase for the same item in Vembayam was from 29.9percent to 50percent. Increase was also recorded in the possession of TV (30 to 50percent), Refrigerator (3.7 to 14.5percent) and gas/electric stove (3to 19percent) in rural centre, Vembayam.



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