

New studies on Kerala

Young Scholars' Forum, GIFT

Economics

Articles in Scopus indexed journals

1. Agarwal, B. (2020). Does group farming empower rural women? Lessons from India's experiments. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 47(4), 841-872.<https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2019.1628020>

Abstract: Efforts by governments in developing countries to economically empower rural women rarely focus on farming, an occupation in which the majority have experience. Those that do are typically directed at women within family farms, rather than at creating group-based alternatives outside the familial domain.

In this context, two state-level initiatives in India, launched in the early 2000s, stand out, for their innovative experiment in group farming. They encouraged women to collectively cultivate leased land and become farm managers in their own right.

Based on the author's detailed quantitative and qualitative surveys in the states of Telangana and Kerala, this paper analyses whether farming in groups empowers women economically as well as socially and politically.

2. Barlow, M., & Drew, G. (2020). Slow infrastructures in times of crisis: unworking speed and convenience. *Postcolonial Studies*, 1-22.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13688790.2020.1804105>

Abstract: In this paper, we highlight two forms of slow infrastructure that provide possibilities for rearranging our infrastructural orientations: composting and rainwater harvesting.

Drawing on fieldwork conducted in 2018 and 2019 in Kochi, Kerala, this research asserts that in order to do infrastructure differently, an unworking of convenience and speed is required. This unworking can be achieved through an attunement to multi-species and more-than-human relations, matched with a distributed ethic of maintenance and care. Our ethnographic examples, one from a hospital and another from a hotel, suggest that slow infrastructures can meaningfully offset the threat of disfunction and 'urban failure' that confronts cities increasingly marked by turbulence and uncertainty.

Other journal articles

1. Joseph, J. (2020). Economic Impact of Tourism in Kerala, India. *European Online Journal of Natural and Social Sciences*, 9(3), 610- 617. <http://european-science.com/eojnss/article/view/6082>

Abstract: Kerala is one of the prominent tourist destinations and National Geographic's Traveller magazine listed Kerala in the 'Ten Paradises of the World' and '50 must visit places of a lifetime'. Tourism is one of the few sectors where Kerala has clear competitive advantages as the state is considered as nature magic ranging from the Western Ghats covered with dense forests to the backwaters to the Arabian Sea. This paper is an overview on the economic impact of tourism in Kerala. The findings of the paper revealed that the economic impact of tourism in Kerala is very significant.

2. Parida, J. K., John, M. E., & Sunny, J. (2020). Construction labour migrants and wage inequality in Kerala. *Journal of Social and Economic Development*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40847-020-00104-2>

Abstract: This study explores the patterns and determinants of construction-led migration and measures the existing wage differential between migrant and native workers in Kerala using both secondary and primary data.

It is found that the pattern of internal migration is changing in Kerala with a declining share of migrants from neighbouring states, along with the corresponding upsurge in the inflows from far-off states like West Bengal, Assam and Bihar.

Though poverty and rising unemployment at the place of origin are the pushing factors, relatively higher wages and availability of employment throughout the years are the main pulling factors of in-migration to Kerala.

Given the importance of these low-skilled migrants in sustaining the long-term economic growth in Kerala, their poor and unhygienic living arrangements should also attract the attention of the policymakers.

3. Thrishma, S. P., & Veerakumaran, G. (2020). A Study on Financial Performance of Kerala State Co-operative Federation for Fisheries Development Limited (MATSYAFED). *Shanlax International Journal of Economics*, 8(4), 59-67. <https://doi.org/10.34293/economics.v8i4.3285>

Abstract: Fishing is a traditional activity in Kerala because from time immemorial fishermen community involved in both marine and inland fishing for their livelihood. To develop the fishermen community and to solve their socio-economic problems, fisheries co-operatives were established. MATSYAFED is acting as the apex level institution for all the primary level fishermen co-operatives in Kerala. An attempt was made to conduct a study on "Financial Performance Evaluation of Kerala State Co-operative Federation for Fisheries Development Limited (MATSYAFED)" to evaluate its financial performance.

Sociology and human development

Articles in Scopus indexed journals

1. Ajay, A. (2020). Differentiation of femininities in contemporary Kerala: Evidence from left-behind families of women transmigrant workers. *Migration and Development*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21632324.2020.1806604>

Abstract: This article explores a largely understudied aspect of women's transnational labour migration: how localised frameworks of feminine ideals and subjectivities interact with women's migration. It is based on a mixed-methods field research conducted in 2016 in a village in Central Kerala with a long history of women's labour migration.

The paper concludes by demonstrating how globalising processes like women's international labour migration interact with localised gender, caste and class structures to produce new and unequal categories of femininities.

2. Chacko, M. A. (2020). English-Educated as 'Ready-Made' Leaders: Re-Inscribing Distinction through the Student Police Cadet Project in Kerala, India. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 43(4), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2020.1775356>

Abstract: This ethnographic study of a police cadet programme in government high schools in Kerala describes how efforts to develop future leaders dovetail with educational strategies for acquiring class distinction in liberalising India.

3. Kumar TKV. (2020). The Influence of Demographic Factors and Work Environment on Job Satisfaction Among Police Personnel: An Empirical Study. *International Criminal Justice Review*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1057567720944599>

Abstract: Job satisfaction among employees is important for police organisations. Low job satisfaction may result in poor organisational commitment, unsatisfactory job performance, and absenteeism.

Analysing survey data of 6,041 police officers, the study finds that while demographic factors and job characteristics impact job satisfaction, organisational characteristics have the greatest influence.

Articles in other journals

1. Jain, S. (2020). Human Development, Gender and Capability Approach. *Indian Journal of Human Development*, 14(2), 320-332. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0973703020944754>

Abstract : This article critically reviews the Human Development Report (HDR) 2019 that calls for addressing inequalities that are beyond income, beyond averages and beyond today. Inequalities result from differential exposure to opportunities and constraints during a life cycle.

One way in which power relations are exhibited is through gender norms. The article discusses the advancements made in the capability approach using the gender lens and the policy framework intended to address gender inequality. It also discusses the case of Kerala state to understand the complex nature of human development. The state made strides in education and health, but rising inequalities, gender violence and ecological changes remain major concerns.

2. Sabu V.G., & Manoj M. (2020). The Effect of Employee Desire and Employee Engagement on Organizational Performance: Evidence from ICT Sector in Kerala, India. *Management and Labour Studies*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0258042X20939020>

Abstract: This study analyses the multivariate effect of employee desire (ED) and employee engagement (EE) on organisational performance (OP). The analysis

revealed that OP is positively influenced by ED and EE. The study further confirms the mediation effect of EE in the relationship between ED and OP.

Edited volumes and chapters

1. Cherian, J. A., & Varghese, J. M. (2020). A Study on the Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment with a Special Reference to Kerala State. In T. Rahman (Ed.), Women Empowerment- Awakening of a New Era (PP 34- 40). Empyreal Publishing House.

Abstract: This study attempts to answer the need, hindrance and challenges faced in the state with regard to women empowerment. This study also facilitates to analyze the factors influencing the economic empowerment of women, available government schemes for women empowerment and the trivialities in the path of empowering the women community. Reprehensible utilization of educational qualification, Gender discrimination, financial constraints, family responsibility, low mobility and the ability to bear risk are the major concerns faced by the women population in Kerala. The study suggests that the first and the foremost priority should be given to the education of women

History and culture

Articles in Scopus indexed journals

1. McKee, G. (2020). Mission, Empire, and the Ultimate Good: Colonel John Munro, Benjamin Bailey, and the Church Missionary Society "Mission of Help" to Travancore (1816-18). *Mission Studies*, 37(2), 218-241. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15733831-12341716>

Abstract : The links between mission and empire cannot be reduced to seeing mission as a mere handmaiden to imperial concerns, although empire certainly provided a context to missionary endeavour throughout the imperial period. In this specific instance, it was the forceful personality of Colonel John Munro who ensured that the

Mission of Help became more intertwined with empire than might otherwise have been the case. Another effect of this imperial context for the Mission of Help was that the nature and scope of mission inevitably ended up being broadened to include aspects of societal transformation. It is shown that Benjamin Bailey was not primarily motivated by such concerns, yet was not unconcerned about them. Bailey's thinking through these tensions perhaps provides a way to think today about the links between the 'Great Commission', the 'Great Commandment', and cultural transformation.

2. Roopesh, O. B. (2020). Temple as a site of modern contestations: Kshetra punarudharanam in postcolonial Kerala. *South Asian History and Culture*, 11(3), 300-316. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2020.1797362>

Abstract: This article argues that religion has been a significant strand in modern-day Kerala and that it has interfaced intimately with various secular progressive and developmental articulations of this region. Even when secular progressive sections mounted profound criticisms against faith and ritual, temples continuously reinvented and reshaped their relevance. Further there was a significant simultaneity in the powerful critiques of religion/religiosity on the one hand, and the various calls for kshetra punarudharanam on the other.

Health

Articles in Scopus indexed journals

1. Krishnan, T.S., Reddy A.R., & Ramana M.V. (2020). Impact of Natural Background Radiation on Health Understanding the Debate. *Economic & Political Weekly*, 55(37), 39- 43. <https://www.epw.in/journal/2020/37/insight/impact-natural-background-radiation-health.html>

High natural background radiation is a constant presence in the lives of those inhabiting some coastal regions of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. While there is agreement about the existence of radiation, some studies claim that it has no impact on the health

of the population, while others disagree. There is a need to examine these findings critically, because of implications for public health, and to understand some of the technical reasons for why some papers appear to find no support for evidence (lack of statistical significance) of impact on health due to high levels of background radiation.

2. Ghosh, S.M., & Qadeer, I. (2020). Public Good Perspective of Public Health. *Economic & Political Weekly*, 55(36), 40-48. <https://www.epw.in/journal/2020/36/special-articles/public-good-perspective-public-health.html>

Abstract : India's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is linked to its abandonment of the welfare state, marginalisation of public good principle and collapse and fragmentation of the public health system. As COVID-19 cases surge, many states could barely treat patients needing medical support due to bed shortages and poor infrastructural facilities. The overwhelmed system disrupted routine and emergency non-COVID services as well. The interstate differences in coping with COVID-19 are rooted in the public sector health infrastructure, investment in rural services and disease control programmes. A comprehensive healthcare system is needed as COVID-19 is not the end of the problem of the globalisation of epidemics

Others

Articles in Scopus indexed journals

1. Deepa P.K., & Abdul Azeez T. A. (2020). Scholarly Use of Web-Based Information Resources and Services in University Libraries in Kerala (India). *International Information & Library Review*, 52(2), 117-29. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10572317.2020.1769420>

Abstract: The study analysed the services and resources in the libraries, which are provided through the medium of the internet and also the usage patterns of web information services by the scholars of the selected universities. The analysis reveals

that most of the university libraries have implemented web-based information services. However, the extent of usage is not to the expected level, and this is due to the lack of sufficient awareness about the usage methods of web resources and services. The study recommends user education and training programmes for proper use of library resources, including web-based services.

2. Halliburton, M. (2020). Hegemony versus pluralism: Ayurveda and the Movement for Global Mental Health. *Anthropology & Medicine*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13648470.2020.1785842>

Abstract: This study examines efforts by ayurvedic practitioners to expand access to ayurvedic mental health services in Kerala, and profiles a rehabilitation center which combines biomedical and ayurvedic therapies and has been a key player in efforts to expand the use of Ayurveda for mental health. The paper argues for maintaining a pluralistic healing environment for treating mental illness rather than displacing other healing modalities in favor of a biomedical psychiatric approach.

3. Masiero, S. (2020). Biometric Infrastructures and the Indian Public Distribution System. *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*, (23). <https://doi.org/10.4000/samaj.6459>

Abstract: This paper reflects on the author's nine-year research on the transformation of India's Public Distribution System (PDS) enacted through digital technologies first and, more recently, through Aadhaar's biometric infrastructure. Based on the experiences of two states, Kerala and Karnataka, which adopted biometric identification in their ration shops, the paper illustrates the effects of the transition to an Aadhaar-based PDS, on both program governance and recipients' entitlements. It argues that, while designed with the objective of combating the rice mafia resulting in foodgrain diversion, a biometric PDS does not prevent the exclusion errors pervading the program, and supports the transition to a cash transfer system whose developmental outcomes are still uncertain.