



## The Scope and Relevance of a Socioeconomic Survey - A Case Study in Sustainable Development of Selected Localities in Village

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### ABSTRACT:

In order to comprehend the complexities of rural living and create focused interventions for sustainable development, the scope and applicability of a socioeconomic survey of a village are of utmost importance. These surveys cover a wide range of topics, such as social indicators, economic activity, infrastructure, education, and health. The survey focuses light on the difficulties faced by rural communities and identifies areas for improvement through a combination of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The scope of the survey covers an in-depth analysis of the village's economic activities, identifying livelihood sources, and assessing income levels. The relevance of such surveys lies in their potential to inform policymakers, governmental bodies, and NGOs about the specific needs of the village. The present case study aims to analyze the socioeconomic status of villages in Region Kannidumkuzhi, Illappunkal and Mahanimala locality of Naranganam and Mukkattupady and Aramala Locality, Thrickodithanam Village in Kerala, with a particular focus on various indicators such as income, education, healthcare, employment, and access to basic services. By examining these aspects, we seek to understand the prevailing living conditions, identify potential disparities, and suggest recommendations for sustainable development and upliftment of the communities.

**Keywords:** Socioeconomic survey, scope, relevance, social indicators

### 1.1 Introduction

A socioeconomic survey is a methodical, thorough study that gathers, examines, and interprets information on various aspects of people's and households' financial situations, levels of education, employment status, living standards, and social characteristics within a given population or community. Understanding the complex interactions between social and economic elements and providing insight into the general development and well-being of the population being surveyed is the main goal of a socioeconomic survey.

Understanding the complexities of socioeconomic determinants has become essential for forming policy decisions, promoting equitable growth, and addressing societal challenges in a world that is rapidly changing. A socioeconomic survey is an effective tool for gathering in-depth information and insights on the numerous facets of a population's well-being, economic progress, and social structures. This study explores the many facets of people's lives, including their living standards, employment status, educational attainment, and access to healthcare.

A socioeconomic survey's reach goes much beyond numbers and statistical illustrations. It aims to grasp the intricacies of human existence and offers a comprehensive view of how various variables interact to affect the standard of living. These surveys give policymakers, academics, and organizations the ability to pinpoint the main causes of inequality and social exclusion and take appropriate action by closely examining income inequalities, employment trends, and educational attainment discrepancies.

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of a socioeconomic survey in modern society. Data-driven insights are crucial as nations work toward sustainable development and raise the living standards of their inhabitants. The findings of these surveys are used by governments and international organizations to develop fact-based policies that can close gaps, encourage inclusivity, and advance economic development. Additionally, companies and investors use this information to make wise choices regarding the distribution of resources, market penetration, and social responsibility programs.

### 1.2 Objectives:

The goals of examining the breadth and applicability of socioeconomic surveys span a variety of areas including research, policy, and societal development. The following is a summary of these goals:

- a) *Understanding the Socioeconomic Landscape:* Gaining a thorough grasp of the socioeconomic environment within a certain group or community is the main goal of looking at the socioeconomic survey's scope. Researchers and policymakers can pinpoint the possibilities and problems that people and households experience by looking at data on income, education, employment, health, and living circumstances.
- b) *Identifying Inequalities and Disparities:* Socioeconomic surveys make it possible to pinpoint discrepancies and inequalities between various societal groupings. Researchers can identify regions where particular population segments may be at a disadvantage by looking at demographic characteristics and socioeconomic indicators, such as gender-based disparities, income disparity, or educational discrepancies.
- c) *Monitoring Progress and Development:* Socioeconomic surveys are crucial tools for tracking development objective progress. Policymakers can monitor long-term changes in socioeconomic indicators and evaluate the efficacy of policies and programs by conducting periodic surveys.
- d) *Supporting Sustainable Development Goals:* The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations are greatly aided by socioeconomic surveys. These surveys offer vital data for formulating plans to fight poverty, advance healthcare, advance education, and encourage social inclusion.

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### 1.3 Scope and relevance of socioeconomic study of village

Understanding the social and economic factors that affect the development and well-being of the community living there depends on the breadth and applicability of a socioeconomic study of a village. These studies offer important insights into the villagers' living circumstances, economic activities, and general standard of living. The range and importance of a socioeconomic study of a village are broken down as follows:

#### 1.3.1 Scope of the Study:

1. *Demographics:* Analyzing the demographics of the village, such as its population size, age distribution, gender ratio, and migration patterns, is helpful in determining the makeup of the neighborhood.
2. Examining the numerous economic activities that the villagers engage in, such as agriculture, raising livestock, commerce, providing services, or any other means of subsistence.
3. *Income and Employment:* Analyzing the various households' income levels and sources of revenue as well as the kinds of jobs that are offered in the village.
4. *Education and Literacy:* Examining the village's educational facilities, literacy rates, and ease of access to them.
5. *Health and Healthcare:* Researching the villagers' health conditions, the accessibility of medical facilities, and the frequency of diseases.
6. *Infrastructure:* Examining the state of the built environment, including the roads, the electricity, the sewage system, and the availability of potable water.
7. *Social Indicators:* Researching many facets of society, such as caste and ethnicity dynamics, community involvement, and social support networks.
8. *Government Programs:* Analyzing the viability of local government initiatives and programs.
9. *Environmental Impact:* Examining how economic activity affects the environment and the village's overall ecological balance.

#### 1.3.2 Relevance of the Study:

1. *Policy Formulation:* Policymakers can use the study's findings to create specialized, practical policies for the development of the village.
2. *Resource Allocation:* The information gathered may be used to allocate finances and resources for various village development projects.
3. *Identifying Challenges:* By highlighting the socioeconomic problems the village is facing, stakeholders are better able to come up with solutions.
4. *Tracking Progress:* The research offers baseline information that can be utilized to track the advancement of developmental activities over time.
5. *Empowerment:* By including the villagers in the data collection process and encouraging them to take part in decision-making, a socioeconomic research can empower the locals.
6. *Sustainable Development:* Promoting sustainable development methods and reducing negative environmental effects require an understanding of the socioeconomic dynamics of the village.
7. *Investment Possibilities:* The study may encourage individuals or groups interested in social development to fund initiatives that address the needs of the hamlet.
8. *Academic and Research Goals:* These studies advance academic inquiry by giving researchers new perspectives on sociology, economics, and rural development.

In order to understand the complex tapestry of rural life and to spur good change, the scope and relevance of a socioeconomic study of a village are of the utmost importance. Such investigations offer a thorough comprehension of the village's economic, social, and cultural dynamics, capturing the difficulties faced by its citizens and the possibilities for advancement.

The study's scope includes a wide range of aspects, including social, economic, and infrastructure indices as well as demographic and economic factors. This all-encompassing strategy guarantees that no facet of village life is ignored, allowing for a full evaluation of its well-being.

Such a study is important because it has the potential to provide policymakers, governing bodies, and development organizations with information about the particular needs and goals of the village community. With this information, stakeholders may create focused and effective interventions that deal with the underlying causes of problems, promote sustainable growth, and improve the villagers' quality of life.

Additionally, the socioeconomic study promotes empowerment. The study amplifies the villagers' voices and fosters a sense of ownership in the development process by involving them in the data collection process and promoting their active participation in decision-making. This collaborative approach not only produces better results but also strengthens the sense of community togetherness and solidarity.

The study's results also advance our understanding of rural sociology, economics, and development studies. For academics and researchers, they provide insightful information that helps them comprehend the nuances of rural living and how those aspects affect larger societal challenges.

Recognizing the importance of rural communities to a country's overall progress is crucial as we move forward. The breadth and applicability of socioeconomic studies of villages must be acknowledged to guarantee that development initiatives are inclusive, equitable, and long-lasting. We can unleash the potential of these thriving communities and promote a brighter and more promising future for everyone by investing in targeted policies, resources, and collaborations.

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#### **1.4 Case Study:**

The Naranganam Village, Pathanamthitta and Thrickodithanam Village in Kerala which includes various rural localities, is distinguished by its varied topography and cultural wealth. The socioeconomic standing of these localities has a significant impact on the citizens' general growth and well-being. This study explores the main elements that affect the socioeconomic standing of these villages and identifies problems and areas for development.

The socio-economic survey is conducted with the help of Naranganam and Thrickodithanam Grama Panchayat and Department of Forestry, DIBNS, Dehradun. The questionnaire is specifically designed to accomplish the objectives of the survey. The questionnaire is divided into 10 different sections to obtain the social, economic and cultural status of the villagers. The last section of the questionnaire consists of observer's view and feedback. The questions are based on the social and economic issues of the villagers, their education, professions, income level, expenditure, composition of family, fuel use etc

##### **1.4.1 Methodology:**

Primary data was gathered by household surveys, which were carried out using a stratified random sample technique to ensure representation from different communities. The survey's questionnaire asked questions about basic amenities, infrastructure, and aspects of income, education, healthcare, and employment and also impact of climate change.

Secondary Data: Information was gathered to supplement and validate the original data from census statistics, government publications, and other pertinent sources.

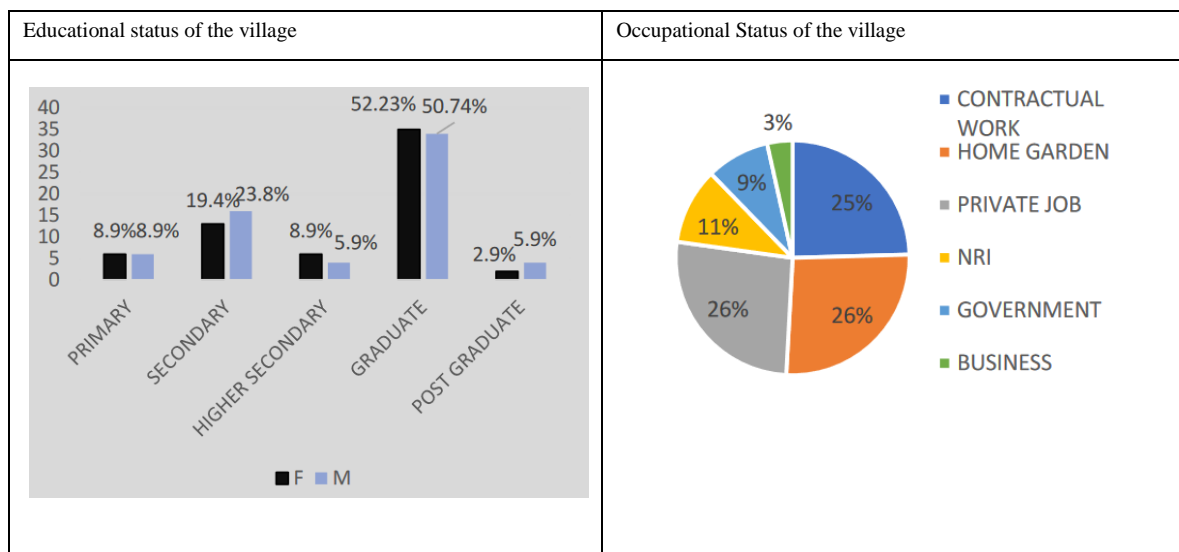
Analysis: MS Excel was used to analyze the data gathered from the community, and algorithms and mathematical operations were employed to draw conclusions. The study used qualitative analysis as well to comprehend the underlying factors that contribute to socioeconomic disparities.

##### **1.4.2 Findings of Kannidumkuzhi, Illappunkal and Mahanimala locality of Naranganam Village, Pathanamthitta, Kerala**

Demographic status:

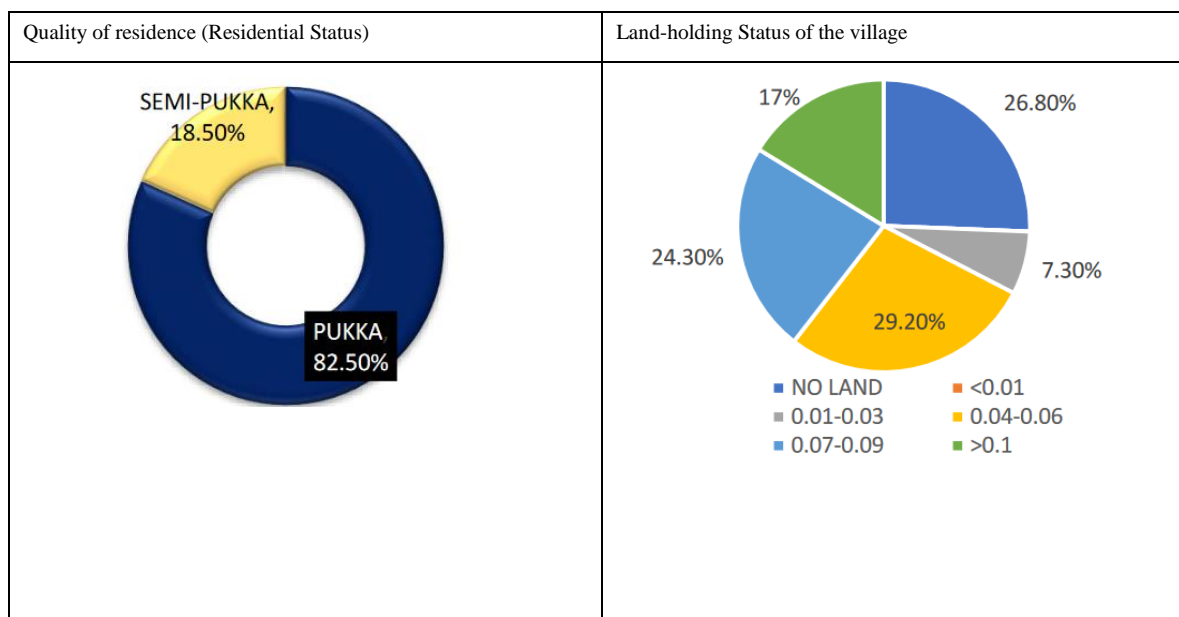
- I. *Sex Ratio:* From the surveyed household, 50% of the population is male and the other 50% is female population, thus depicting an equal sex ration that is 1000 females for 1000 males. The data obtained is less than the state average but greater than the national average.
- II. According to the report, adults (aged 18 to 59) make up the bulk of the population (64.35%). Children come in second at 9.55%, followed by seniors at 23.65%. When it comes to children and adults, the female population makes up a bigger percentage, but the male population takes the lead when senior citizens are mentioned.
- III. 100% of the male and female inhabitants in the surveyed localities of village of Naranganam are literate, according to a socioeconomic survey that was conducted there.
- IV. In educational institutions, the percentage of females is higher than that of males up to the graduate level but falls to a low (2.9%) level beyond that. The village is equipped with high-quality educational institutions, such as a one kindergarten and one primary school.

V.



VI. *Medical facility:* Due to the village's proximity to the district's administrative center, Pathanamthitta, there are numerous hospitals nearby. There is a government-run Ayurvedic dispensary by the village and a government-run primary health care center. Pathanamthitta, the district seat, is home to the Government Medical College Hospital, which is easily accessible from the village via metal roads. Additionally, there are a large number of privately run medical facilities.

VII.



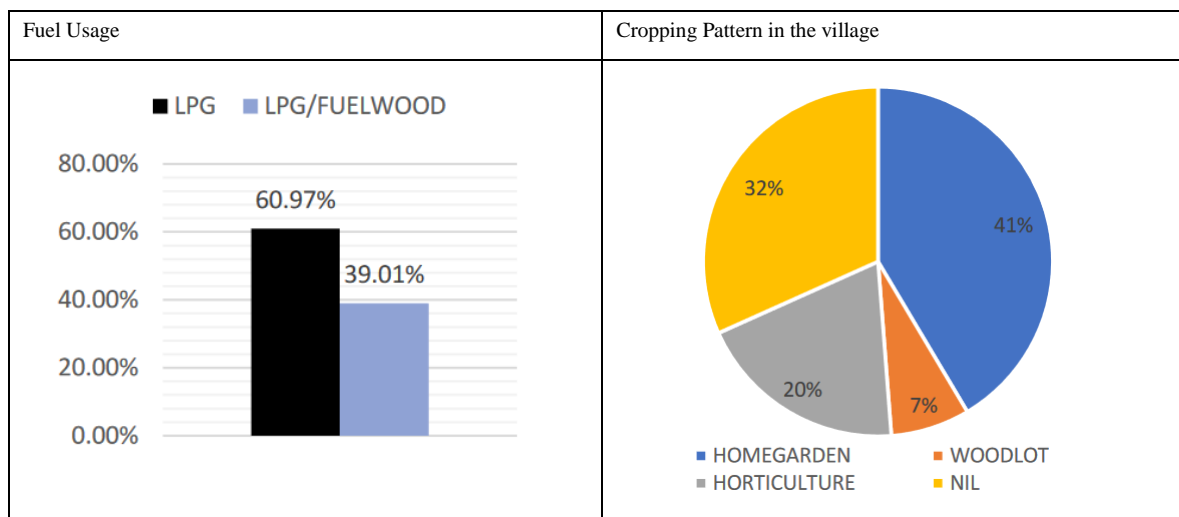
VIII. *Water Source :*

The Achankovil river serves as the village's primary source of water through the Municipal water supply. The populace also relies on groundwater that is naturally accessible through wells. The village panchayat makes sure there is a sufficient supply of water to meet demand during the dry months. The farmers with woodlots (*Hevea brasiliensis*) have rainwater pits on the land to recharge the ground water to deal with the water scarcity in summers. The villagers with pukka-type dwellings are expected to equip the house with a proper rainwater harvesting system.

IX. *Road Quality:*

The village's access road is a metal road in good shape, about 50 feet wide, and well connected to other areas of the district, making it easier for locals to travel and stay connected. As the town is in the path of the National Highway leading to Sabarimala, the roadways of the community are both metal and cement in good shape.

X.

XI. *Livestock Status:*

Because their improved breed of cow is their secondary source of income and is thought to produce more milk, the villagers have invested in it. Due to its high viability and daily egg production, the turkey hen and rooster as well as other regional varieties like Grama-priya make up the majority of the poultry population. In general, general stores in the hamlet offer feed and fodder for cattle and poultry, respectively, at subsidy rates.

XII. *Climate Change:*

The villages have reportedly been suffering the effects of climate change in the form of increased rainfall during the monsoons and excessive temperatures during summers, according to the population questioned. The village has made steps to mitigate the effects of climate change, including ensuring that there is an adequate supply of municipal water during the summer. In an effort to slow down the effects of climate change, rainwater harvesting systems are being installed in homes and rainwater collection pits are being built in plantation areas.

XIII. *Problems Faced by the villagers:*

The climate issues that affected and altered the village's social and economic status were the main issues that the residents encountered. Conflicts between wildlife and croplands constitute another issue.

XIV. *Result:* More than the national average of 77.70%, 100% of the male and female population in Naranganam village were literate. It is commendable that all kids go to school. Due to the village's proximity to the district headquarters, 26% of the population relies on private employment, followed by contractual employment (25%), for their livelihood. The government runs a Primary Health Center in the village, and there are other privately run hospitals and clinics nearby as well as the Government Medical College Hospital. 18.505% of the population lives in semi-pukka houses, compared to 80.50% who live in pukka houses. The Municipal water supply is used to meet the village's water needs through pipelines. Additionally, they rely on natural resources like wells.

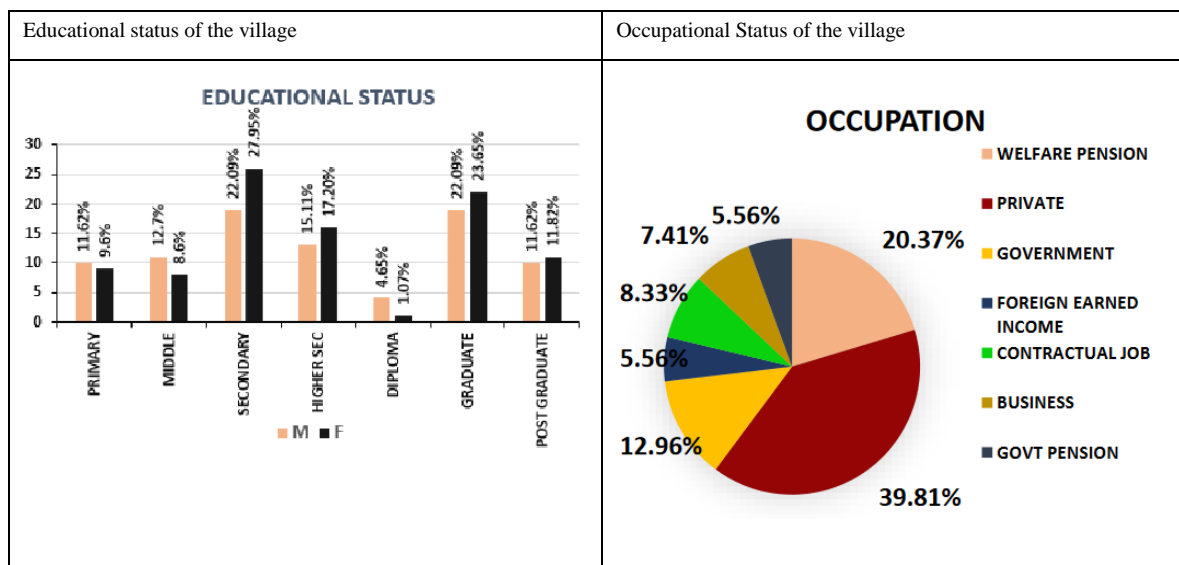
The village's access road is a well-maintained, metallic road with a width of roughly 20 feet. Additionally, it has good access to other areas of the district. Only 60.97% of people use LPG for fuel. LPG and fuelwood are used by 39.01% of the population's fuel demands. The source of the fuelwood is mostly from the home gardens, however occasionally it is purchased at the market. The majority of farmers are small-scale or marginal farmers who also have secondary sources of income. People see participation in the forest as a good source of employment and are well aware of the forest laws, acts, and rules.

#### 1.4.3 Findings of Socio-Economic Survey of Mukkattupady and Aramala Locality, Thrickodithanam Village

Demographic status:

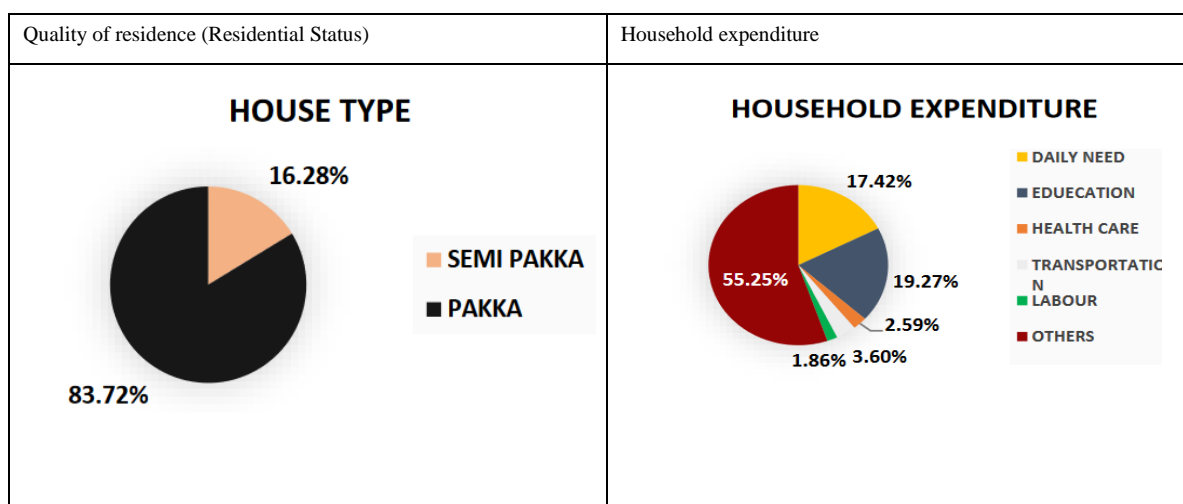
- I. *Sex Ratio:* The location has a larger proportion of females(52.43%) than males(47.57%) in its population. There are 1102 females for every 1000 males, which is more than the state average and significantly more than the national average.
- II. Although not precisely uniform, the population's distribution among the various age groups reveals a rather even distribution. The majority of the villagers (30.81%) fall into the category of youth (18 to 40 years old), while the minority (19.4%) are children (under 18 years old). Although there is a significant likelihood that the number of children will rise in the next years due to the high population of people who are able to reproduce.
- III. No of their caste, creed, or religion, all villagers, regardless of age, are literate. A fairly large portion of the population had access to secondary education or higher.
- IV. The village has 3 Anganawadis, 2 Govt. Primary Schools and 1 Govt. Secondary School.

V.



VI. *Medical facility:* The Family Health Care Center (Allopathy) is housed in a village with well-built infrastructure. For primary medical care, the community also boasts a government-model homeopathy dispensary and an ayurvedic dispensary. Since they are all operated by the State Government, the public is given free consultation.

VII.



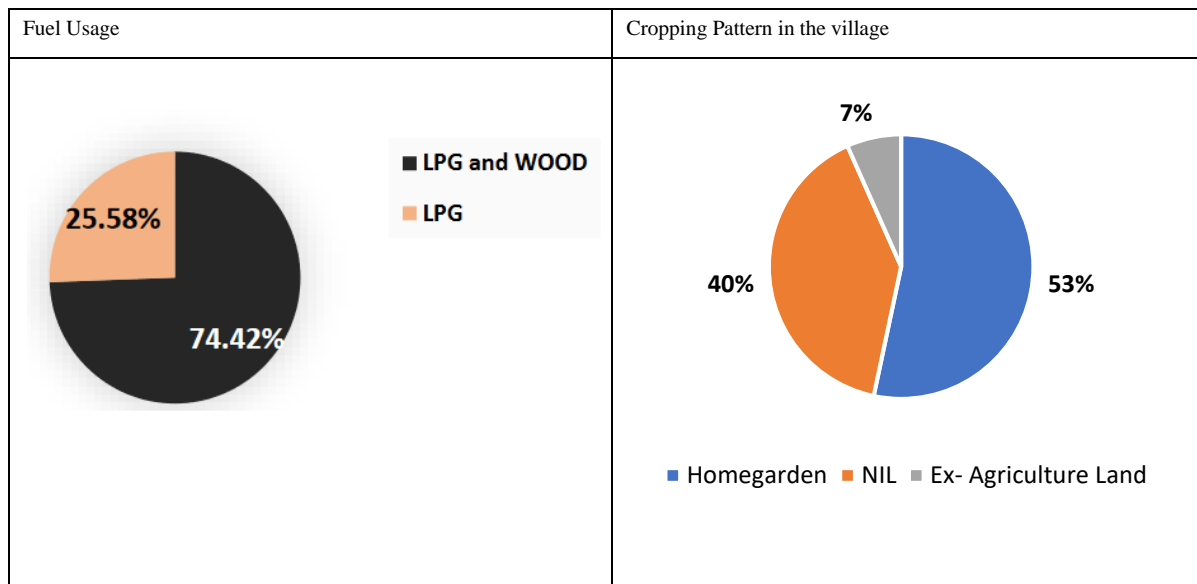
VIII. *Water Source :*

Since there is an excess of water in the village's ground water table, access to clean drinking water is said to be the least of its difficulties. Traditional wells, which are individually excavated at each house at the start of construction, are frequently used by the villagers. Water scarcity has never before existed in the village. Even though it is seen that the wells' water levels drop at the height of summer, they never drop much.

IX. *Transportation and Connectivity:*

The community is well developed with road connectivity and public transit to the town due to its proximity—just 3 km—to Changanassery. Additionally, there is a State Highway 2 km away that makes it simple to go to other regions of the state and the nation. In addition to being close to Changanassery Railway Station, the location has both public and private bus services, making intrastate and interstate travel simple. While the roadways leading into and out of the community are entirely made of metal, the roads within the village are partially made of concrete.

X.

XI. *Livestock Status:*

Because their improved breed of cow is their secondary source of income and is thought to produce more milk, the villagers have invested in it. Due to its high viability and daily egg production, the turkey hen and rooster as well as other regional varieties like Grama-priya make up the majority of the poultry population. In general, general stores in the hamlet offer feed and fodder for cattle and poultry, respectively, at subsidy rates.

XII. *Climate Change:*

People who have lived there for nearly 60 years claim that the area has been impacted by climate change, and this is supported by local meteorological data.

- Throughout the year, it gets more difficult to tell the seasons apart.
- Traditionally seasoned rains (South-West monsoon and North-east monsoon) are now being gradually replaced by non-seasonal year-round sprinkles;
- Extreme weather conditions (temperature) are being observed in recent years, in contrast to the moderateness throughout the year in the past.

XIII. *Problems Faced by the villagers:*

The main issues the villagers face are:

- A lack of physical labor because of the high literacy rate.
- Lack of agriculture, which increases imports.
- No cattle present.
- The speed of urbanization.
- Removal of historical natural vegetation for infrastructure purposes

XIV. *Result:*

In the settlements of Mukkattupady and Aramala, there are more women than men (sex ratio: 1102). With a 100% literacy rate, irrespective of caste, creed, or religion.

The people who live in the village do so in semi-pakka and pakka dwellings, all of which have power connections. It should be mentioned that the type of dwellings in the village can be related to the population's economic situation, indicating that there is not a lot of poverty there.

People have moved away from agriculture and toward the service sector to earn their living because of improved access to markets and towns as well as the gradual division of big collective holdings.

Since agriculture has been abandoned, people have progressively switched to subsistence farming techniques including home gardens.

Drinking water is abundant throughout the community thanks to unique natural wells in each home. Additionally, the hamlet is home to a large number of public amenities, including a library, an art and sports club, a children's park, recreational parks, gas stations, supermarkets, jogging trails, etc.

Through State Highway, the area is well connected to other significant cities in the state and the nation. Additionally, there is a nearby railroad station, and the area is bustling with people.

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### Conclusion:

The socioeconomic survey carried out in the two villages has offered insightful information about the extent and importance of comprehending the economic and social dynamics of rural communities. The survey uncovered significant information and patterns that provided insight on the villagers' living circumstances, income levels, levels of education, access to healthcare, and other important aspects affecting their well-being.

The socioeconomic survey's purpose went beyond only gathering data because it also assisted in recognizing the opportunities and problems that both villages were now facing. Policymakers, researchers, and local authorities can devise focused initiatives to raise the standard of life and promote sustainable development in these communities by examining the data acquired.

The survey's applicability comes from its capacity to solve certain problems the villagers are having. Authorities can undertake targeted policies and measures to combat poverty, unemployment, and a lack of basic services by knowing the socioeconomic realities. The poll also helps in identifying the important fields that need focus, including infrastructure, healthcare, education, and economic diversification.

The case study method made it possible to thoroughly analyze the distinctive qualities of each hamlet, highlighting the fact that a one-size-fits-all strategy is ineffective for rural development. Instead, specialized approaches are necessary to deal with the various issues and build on each community's current advantages.

In conclusion, the socioeconomic survey and case study of the two villages have shown the significance of comprehending the various elements impacting the growth of rural communities. The information and conclusions drawn from this study can be used as a foundation for evidence-based policy decisions, promoting fair and sustainable growth in the villages and, possibly, in similar rural communities throughout the country or area.

### Acknowledgement:

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