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PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT BASED ON DEVELOPMENT INDICES A STUDY ON INDIGENIOUS PEOPLE IN KERALA

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ABSTRACT:

In Kerala socio economic conditions of indigenous people are far below than that of the other communities. So it needs to identify the reason why it happens like that and how it can be improved which calls for allocation of funds on the basis of the human development of the various primitives groups in Kerala. It is surprising to note that there is a wide variation in the Human Development Index of different social groups in the State. The efficiency of planning and implementation of tribal welfare schemes are measured through the allocation of plan funds and expenditure incurred against these allocations both quantitatively and qualitatively . The plan funds are allocated by The Planning Board to the



Department of Scheduled Tribes for the development of indigenous groups resides in various districts of Kerala. In this context it is imperative to have inputs for future strategies of tribal development with a human face and measures for strengthening the planning processes for the ultimate human development drawing inputs from the planning strategies towards which there has neither been any attempts nor any studies and hence this study.

KEYWORDS: socio economic conditions , human development , tribal development.

INTRODUCTION :

The Constitution of India has provided many privileges to the Scheduled Tribes considering their complex problems in terms of geographical isolation, socio-economic backwardness, distinctive culture, poor infrastructure facilities, language and religion, exploitation by various groups. Tribal population is the aboriginal inhabitants of India who have been living a life based on the natural environment and have cultural patterns congenial to their physical and

social environment. Concerted efforts were started by the Central and State Governments for the formulation of separate development strategies for the development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the Fifth Five Year Plan and subsequent plans. Since the formation of Kerala, the State Government has been formulating a series of development programmes addressing poverty, land alienation, education, health care, employment, social development and welfare programmes well in advance of the Millennium Development Goals. In spite of the various welfare measures initiated and the constitutional protection given, the

Adivasis group of Kerala has been subject to various forms of deprivation, oppression and poverty. The incidence of poverty among the adivasi group of Kerala is half that of all India. It is seen that efforts are initiated by the Government for improving the existing conditions of the tribes in Kerala through the decentralized planning process by means of human development index. It is surprising to note that there is a wide variation in the Human Development Index of different social groups in

the state as observed by the Kerala Human Development Report 2005 even though the Government takes serious efforts for developing the primitive tribes in Kerala.

In Kerala socio economic conditions of indigenous people are far below than that of the other communities and it needs to identify the reason why it happens and how it can be improved which calls for allocation of funds on the basis of the human development of the various primitives groups in Kerala.

In this context it is imperative to have inputs for future strategies of tribal development with a human face and measures for strengthening the planning processes for the ultimate human development drawing inputs from the planning strategies towards which there has neither been any attempts nor any studies and hence this study.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The report on the Socio Economic Status of STs (2013)¹ by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department reveals that the population pyramid of STs population in Kerala is that of a pyramid which resembles the one that a developed economy is having that is, very high birth rate and low life expectancy. One of the Characteristics of the pyramid is that the sex ratio is symmetrical to some extent. The pyramid indicates that potential of working age population to be tapped through meaningful intervention by the government to reduce the dependency syndrome. Nalinam (2013)² 'Depopulation of Koraga Tribes in South India' gave a very good picture about the present status of Koraga tribes of south India. Niju.P (2013)³ in an article on..... described the socio-economic conditions of primitive tribal group of Kerala, problems faced by them and measures to provide educational facilities to the primitive tribal areas have been taken by government. Rajasenan D and Rajeev B (2013)⁴ a report on the 'Development dynamics Involved in Tribal Sub Plan' published by Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), Cochin University of Science and Technology perceived that CL-PA the TSP has not yet fulfilled the desired objectives since the tribes are still lagging behind in most of the socio-OSI \ economic indicators. Only development in education and health can act as a preamble to development among the tribes. Dropouts from education appear to be the foremost reason for poverty and social exclusion of the tribes. Rajasenan D and Nikitha P M (2013)⁵ in their study on the 'Vicious Nexus of Land Alienation and Housing Segregation of Tribes in Kerala' published by the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy observed that land alienation and housing segregation are two challenges faced by the STs in Kerala and the action and activities undertaken by the government in the form of development and welfare oriented schemes have had only limited impact in changing the quality of life of the tribes and improving their socio-economic set up. Devath Suresh (2014)⁶, in a study on Tribal Development Through Five Year Plans In India focused on the efforts of five year plans and unsolved problems and their status after the 66 years of independence of India. Sujith A.V, Reejo R J, Dhanush D M, Richard Scaria (2014)⁷ in a study focused on the Development status of tribes using HDI and GDI. The investigations were carried out in Attappady Block, Palakkad District, Kerala, which is one of the three major tribal centre of the state.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In Kerala there are group of communities that are not reached at the main stream even though the government initiate several measures for their welfare and development. Even after earmarking and expending large amounts in various Five Year Plans for the comprehensive development of Scheduled Tribes, there exists wide gap between the socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes and other sections of the society. The efficiency of planning and implementation of tribal welfare schemes are measured through the allocation of plan funds and expenditure incurred against these allocations both quantitatively and qualitatively. The plan funds are allocated by The Planning Board to the Department of Scheduled Tribes for the development of indigenous groups resides in various districts of Kerala. In this context it is imperative to have inputs for future strategies of tribal development with a human face and measures for strengthening the planning processes for the

ultimate human development drawing inputs from the planning strategies towards which there has neither been any attempts nor any studies and hence this study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The following are the objectives set for the study:

1. To study the existing practice of implementing plan schemes of the state for Human Development of Indigenous people in Kerala; and
2. To construct Tribal Specific Human Development indices

Methodology: Method of Study :

The method of research is Exploratory in nature.

Data Source :Data for the present study have been collected from both Secondary and Primary sources.

Secondary Data: It includes various publications of Tribal Department of Government of India and Kerala, National Planning Commission, State Planning Board, Books, Reports, Journals, Periodicals, Published and unpublished research reports, Working papers ,dailies and web site.

Primary Data: A Total sample of 300 respondents from whom data was collected by using purposive sampling technique.

Sample Design: Primary data have been collected from respondents selected for the study by using Purposive Sampling Technique. There are 34 Scheduled Tribes Communities in Kerala .On an analysis it is observed that 90 per cent of the tribal population in the State were distributed among 12 tribal communities, viz, Paniyan, Adiyar, Kurmer, Kurchian, Urali, Kattunaikan, Muduvan, Iruler, Malayarayan, Karirivikaran,Ulladan and Mannen. Therefore, in order to have a fair representation of Scheduled Tribes Communities these 12 communities forming 90 per cent of population has been identified for the study. These 12 communities are spread over in Four (4) Districts such as Wayanad, Palakkad, Idukki and Thiruvananthapuram and hence these Four Districts were identified as sample districts for the study. Since the tribes are settled in forests and inaccessible areas, the data collection process was done by distributing the Interview Schedule in the Tribal Development Offices concerned and Grama Panchayats (Oorukootoms). Twenty Five (25) respondents each from each of the 12 communities forming a total of 300 which is 20.6 per cent of the population is the sample (1458).

DATA ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Personal Profile

i. **Gender Composition:** Out of the 300 respondents , 174 (58 per cent) are Males and 126 (33 per cent) are Females.

ii. **Age Composition:** A large majority , 59 respondents (20 per cent) are in the age group of 25 and 50 years .

iii. **Academic Qualification:** A large majority of the respondents in the sample, 204 respondents (68 percent) are having primary education.

iii. **Community :** A greater number of 90 is from Ulladan (30 per cent) in which 17 per cent are males and 13 per cent are from females, followed by Paniyan (24 per cent) , Karimpalan (15 per cent), Muthuvan (11 per cent), Kattunaik (9 per cent) , Kurumar (6 per cent) and Malayarayar (5 per cent) respectively.

Plan Fund Allocation to various Schemes

The various schemes for which fund allocation is made by the State is divided for the study into Five major heads . They are Education, Health, Employment Generation (Income), Housing and Infrastructure in which in all most all the districts in Kerala the amount allocated was utilised fully .

Analysis of Scheme wise Allotment and Utilisation of Funds and Development Index

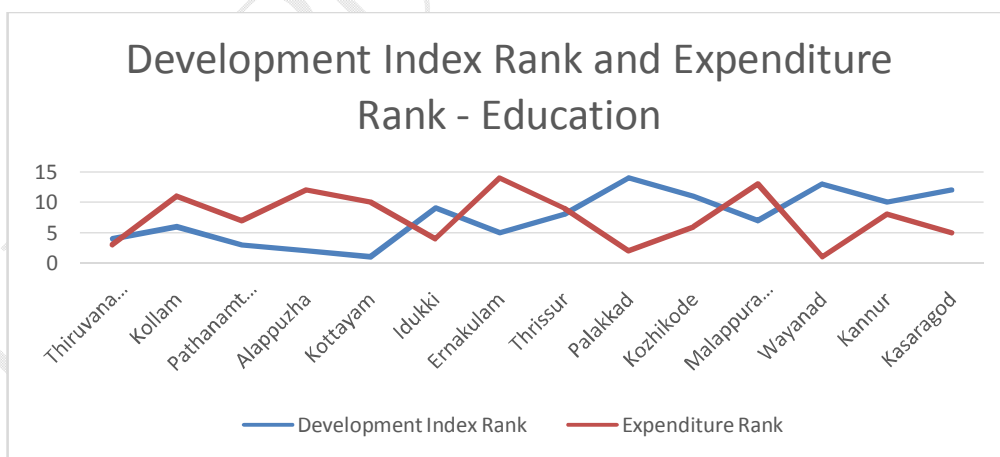
The human development is assessed based on considering the variables which are taken by the Census Authorities while preparing the development index of the Tribes. So the same variables are assessed in order to know the variation in allotment and spending for the human development of the indigenous people in Kerala. The important variables evaluated are Facilities for Education ; Facilities for Housing ; Facilities for Drinking water; Facilities for electricity and Lighting; and Facilities for Sanitation. It is seen from the analysis that the amount allocated are utilised fully in all district and in certain cases the amount utilised was higher than the allotment and in certain other cases it is less than.

Development Index and Cost Analysis

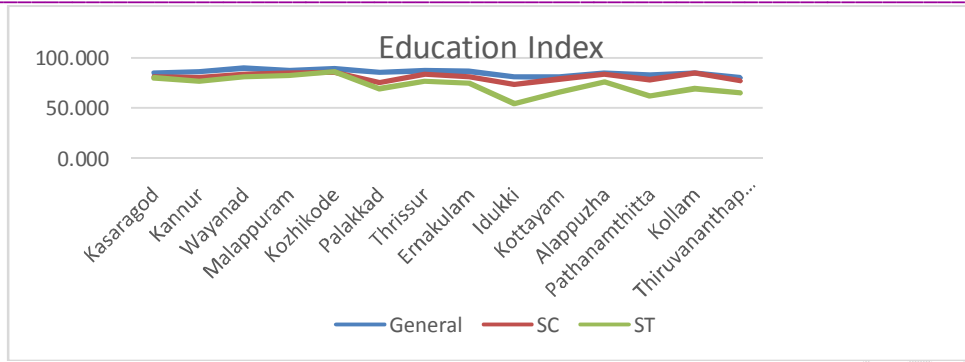
An assessment as to the level of development in core areas such as Education, Quality of Housing, Accessibility to drinking water, Electricity and Lighting and Sanitation has not factored in for *inter se* distribution among the districts and as a result there are areas which were highly developed, moderately developed and less developed and the development is a lopsided one. In this context an assessment as to the development in respect of certain key areas is made with the help of development indices viz , (i) Education (ii).Housing Quality , (iii) Access to drinking water, (iv) Electricity and Lighting and (v) Quality of Sanitation.

- i. **Education Index :** The analysis on the amount spend for education in various districts of Kerala differ irrespective of the development index. In some districts the amount actually spend is in accordance with the development attained and in some other cases the amount falls short of the development attained.

Observation: Observation: Education index of different districts in Kerala in respect of Tribal communities reveals a discouraging picture in many districts as there is spending of plan fund without considering the development occurred in various regions. The correlation coefficient of the development index as computed from 2011 Census and the developmental expenditure made by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department (STDD) after 2011 till 2015 is worked out at Correlation = -0.55377 which signifies that there is a significant inverse relationship between the development index and the total spending pattern.

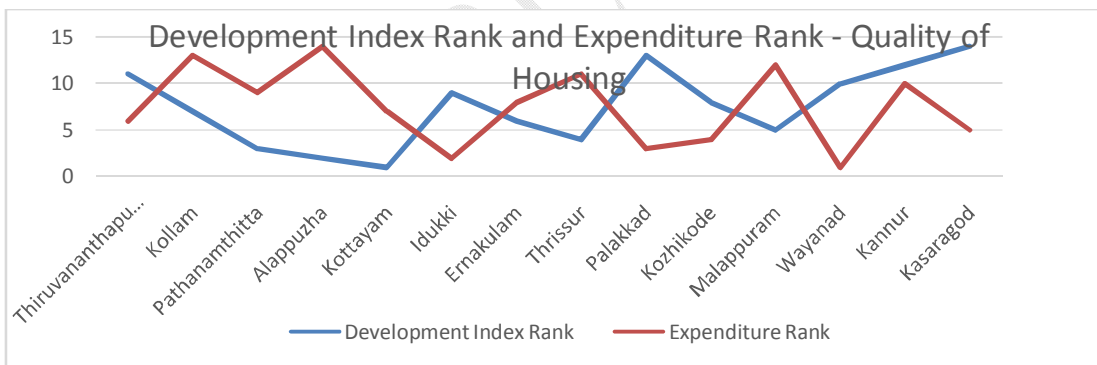


Education Development Index of Different Social Groups : There exists disparity in the development indices in respect of quality of education as far as different social groups are concerned . The pictorial representation of the same is e Communities viz, General, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities as regards education are:.

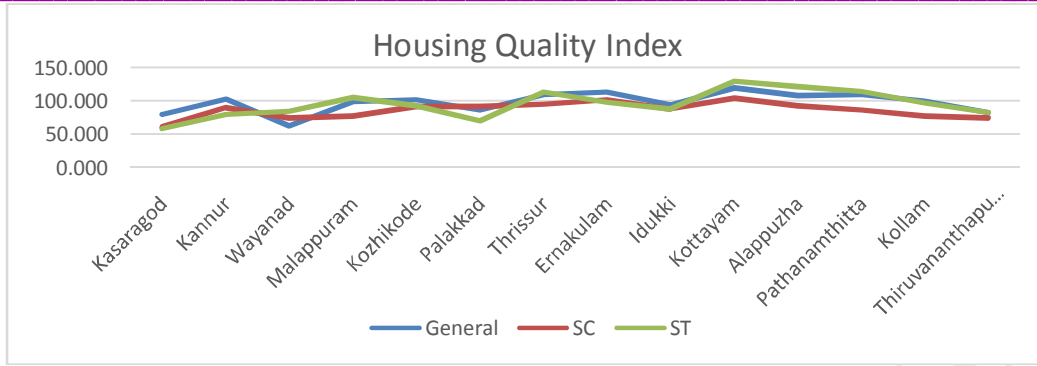


ii. **Housing Quality Index:** The analysis on the amount spend for housing in various districts of Kerala differ irrespective of the development index. In some districts the amount actually spend is in accordance with the development attained and in some other cases the amount falls short of the development attained. A wider disparity in between the amount spend and the development index is seen noticed in the districts like Kasaragod, Kannur, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kozhikode in Kerala.

Observation: Housing quality index of different districts in Kerala in respect of Tribal communities reveals a discouraging picture in many districts as there is spending of plan fund without considering the development occurred in various regions. The correlation coefficient of the development index as computed from 2011 Census and the developmental expenditure made by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department (STDD) after 2011 till 2015 is worked out at - 0.34 which signifies that there is a significant inverse relationship between the development index and the total spending pattern.

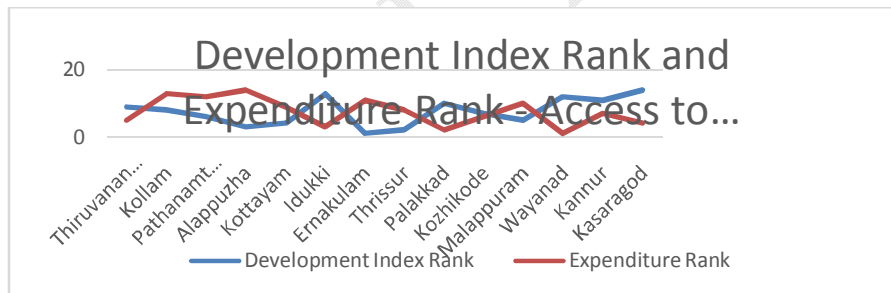


Housing Development Index of Different Social Groups : There exists disparity in the development indices in respect of quality of housing as far as different social groups are concerned . Trend line on index of three Communities viz, General, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities in Kerala

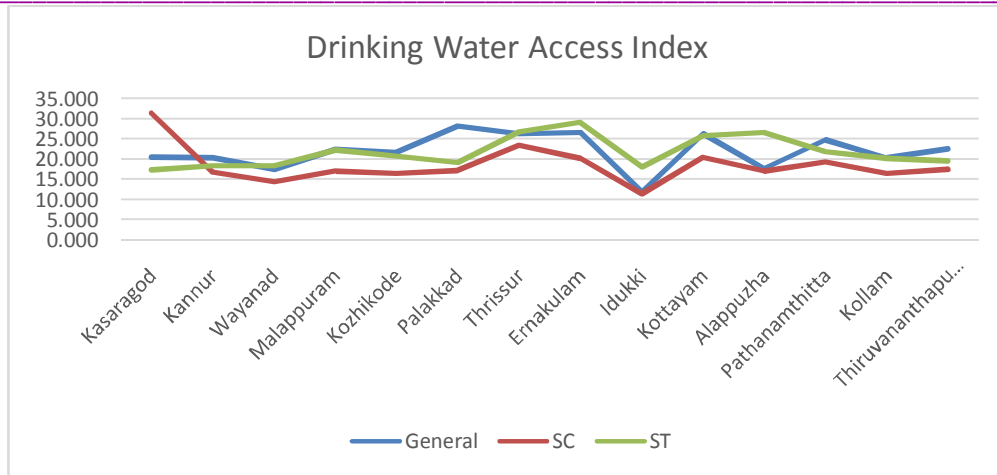


iii. **Drinking Water** : The analysis on the amount spend for drinking water and its accessibility provided to scheduled tribes communities in various districts of Kerala differ in the index of development and allotment but in certain districts the allotment is made exactly on the basis of the development attained.

Observation: Drinking water index of different districts in Kerala in respect of Tribal communities reveals a encouraging picture in many districts as there is spending of plan fund in due consideration with the development occurred in various regions. The correlation coefficient of the development index as computed from 2011 Census and the developmental expenditure made by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department (STDD) after 2011 till 2015 is worked out at - 0.52 which signifies that there is a very high significant inverse relationship between the development index and the total spending pattern.

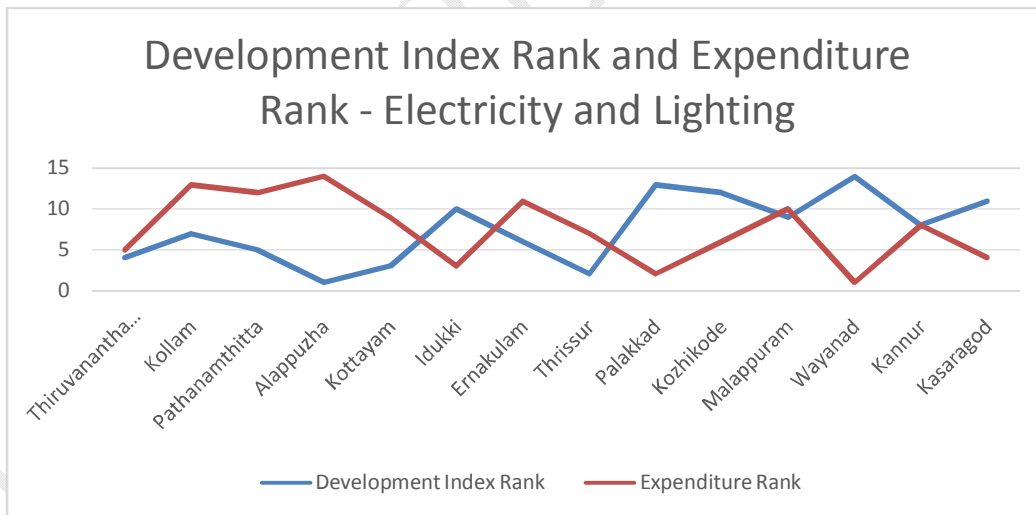


Drinking water Index of Different Social Groups : In certain other districts a higher development index is seen as regards tribes communities compared to other social group general Viz, Wayanad (18), Ernakulam (28), Idukki (17), Alapuzha (26) Whereas a lesser development index than other social groups (general) compared to tribes communities in certain districts namely, Thiruvananthapuram but higher than Scheduled caste (19), Pathanamthitta (21) , Kottayam(25.72), Palakkad (19), Kozhikode (20), Kannur (18) and Kasaragod (17).

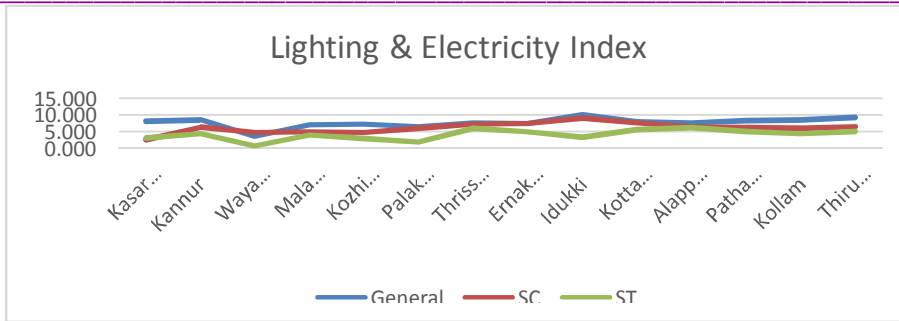


iv. **Electricity and Lighting Facilities:** In this case the spending is aptly suited to the development .

Observation: Electricity and lighting index of different districts in Kerala in respect of Tribal communities though reveals a discouraging tendency, the efforts put forth by the planning machinery seems highly purposive as is evident from the coefficient of correlation of -0.82 which is a very high significance in its maximum extents and having an inverse relationship between the development index and the total spending pattern. It is an indication of need based allocation of plan funds in tune with the development indices of different districts in electricity and lighting and its accessibility of Scheduled Tribes in Kerala.

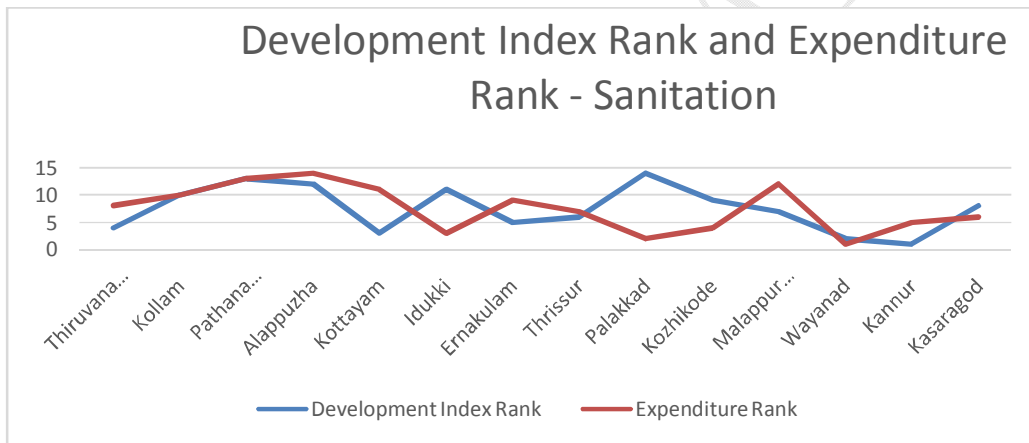


Electricity and Lighting Index of Different Social Groups : Index of electricity and lighting and its accessibility is compared with the other social groups (Scheduled tribes with General Communities) reveals that there exists a wide variation among all districts in Kerala that the index of the general communities is much above than that of scheduled tribes.

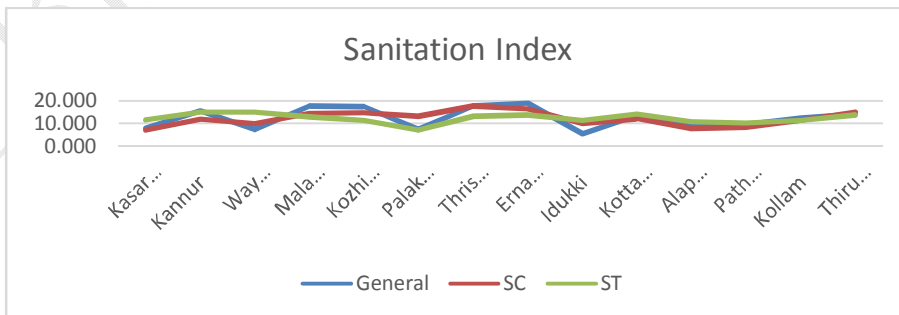


v. **Sanitation Facilities** : In this case the spending is aptly suited to the development except Kollam district.

Observation: The index in respect of Sanitation facilities to the Tribes in Kerala in different districts reveals a discouraging tendency, the efforts put forth by the planning machinery seems highly defective as is evident from the coefficient of correlation of 0.12 which is significance in having a inverse direct relationship between the development index and the total spending pattern.



Sanitation Index of Different Social Groups : Index of sanitation facilities is compared with the other social groups (Scheduled tribes with General Communities) reveals that there exists a wide variation among all districts in Kerala that the index of the general communities is much below than that of scheduled tribes. The same trend is continued in the case of Scheduled Caste as well.



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