
A paradigm shift occurred in 1990s in Andhra Pradesh where women constitute nearly half of the population and Empowerment of women was recognized and accepted. The paper analyses the status of women with respect to social, economic and human development. It also reviews various welfare programmes for women and their impact on development. The women’s movement in 1970’s and 1980’s lead to formation of autonomous women’s group (AWG) which resulted as an effective pressure group for institutionalizing the women’s movement. By 1990’s state had effectively taken over the women’s movement. The data has been taken from Census publications of 1981, 1991 and 2001 which depicted that half of the population comprises of women. Sex ratio in AP in 2001 was 978 per 1000 males. Nizamabad, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts recorded a different picture having sex ratio of more than 1000 while Hyderabad was at bottom rank with sex ratio of 933. As a measure of women’s health life expectancy has shown a steady increase from 49.3 years to 65.0 years in 2001-06. Literacy rate has gone up from 31% in 1991 to 51% in 2001, but in rural areas especially in less privileged classes it is low in comparison to urban areas. Economic position and empowerment is depicted by Work participation rate (WPR) as it is an important step towards raising household income and economic development. Female WPR in AP is higher than all India average as depicted by NSS data (2004-05). However, the nature of work is unsecured and unskilled and half the women workers are casual labour and about 47% are self employed. Political participation has increased in AP by 33% representations for women in local bodies. GEM (gender empowerment measure) shows varied results in different districts. AP is one of the few states where various policies, several programmes are specifically designed to eradicate poverty and provide education to women i.e. NPEGEL, Andhra Pradesh women’s Cooperative Finance corporation, Mahila Coir Yojna etc. The state empowerment policy tried to achieve its objectives of gender equality, gender justice, social security.

The study makes a comprehensive evaluation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. It also examines whether the alternative delivery mechanisms such as offering food stamps or income transfer to targeted recipients are feasible or not in the Indian context. The other objective is to test whether or not the meals offered through MDM scheme provide sufficient nutrition, food safety, and convenience and variety to the targeted children. The study has demonstrated that the food stamps alternative or the direct income support is not feasible because it may lead to adverse consumption choices by the targeted households. This issue has been analyzed by using indifference curve analysis. To address the food quality aspects, field visits are conducted to some of the participating schools from different wards in Ahmadabad. Three participating schools and an NGO involved in preparation and distribution of meals have been visited. The nutritional delivery through the meals is low in comparison to the daily requirements and much lower in nutrients such as protein, fat, iron and iodine in relation to the meal quality. The presence of uric acid and aflatoxin observed in the food grain procured for the scheme. The study indicates that the implementation of the scheme may be wanting on the grounds of nutrition delivery, food safety, variety and the study-time meant for student-teacher engagement. The study has made certain suggestions to address the above issues such as i) to engage private agencies which would be expected to follow certain hygiene norms for food preparation, ii) meals could be complemented by giving chikki, sukhdi, an occasional nutritional bar and fruits on some days. This will add variety and assured nutrition to the children. iii) public-private partnership may be considered for delivery of nutrition bars.

This study measures the contribution of education to economic growth in India over a period of more than 50 years. The objectives of the study are to analyse the trends in the education and allocation of resources to education sector in India and estimate the contribution of education to economic growth. All the variables are based on secondary data sources. It took time series data of Gross Domestic Product, Gross Domestic Capital Formation and Public expenditure on Education from the sources like, RBI handbook of statistics on the Indian Economy, Economic Survey, Budgetary Resources for Education 1951-52 to 1993-94 and analysis of Budget Expenditure on Education. The selection of sample period was from 1950 to 2006. This study uses aggregate production approach to study the relative contribution of human capital and physical capital to economic growth in India by fitting Ordinary Least Squares method. Granger causality test has also been used to make the relationship more meaningful. The study found that the gross domestic product is significantly influenced by both physical and human capital. The co-integration factor shows that there is a long term relationship among the variables. The stability test also proves that the estimated parameters are stable. The granger causality test reveals that it is expenditure that causes the gross domestic product and it is gross domestic product that causes expenditure.


Education is vital for multidimensional growth of both individual and society. It has been widely acknowledged that the socio-economic conditions in India have constrained the process of education and social inequalities of caste, class and gender have been identified as the major cause of educational deprivation among the people. This paper is an attempt to explore the level of
educational development with special emphasis on female education by religion at a micro level (block) and to find the various factors behind the emergence, growth and disparities in the field of education among different socio-religious communities. The present study is based on primary data generated through stratified random sampling with the selection of 80 villages at 5% from rural areas. The selection was on the basis of size of the population of the village, distance from the nearest town, accessibility and connectivity depicting full representation of the blocks and seven mohallas from urban areas of Malda district during January to June 2009. A total of 10% households (2,390 rural and 200 urban) were surveyed through interview method. The educational attainment in Malda district at Block level is analysed with special emphasis on females (literacy rate, educational attainment and enrolment). The study reveals that bulk of Muslims study upto secondary level and dropout rate of Muslim student from schools and other institutions is high, although the enrolment figure is same for both the communities as of ignorance and illiteracy. At every level of education, both in the rural and urban areas, there was a gap in the percentage of the educational level between Muslims and Hindus and even at gender level Hindu women have better educational status. Blocks with high literacy rates have a low Male- Female literacy gap in both the religions. The female enrolment rate is below the male rate in spite of universalization of primary education and provision of mid day meal scheme. The paper concludes that a socio-religious norm hinders women’s education. Progress in women’s education and among Muslims with SC’s and ST’s has been achieved through government programmes and NGO’s effort with their family with a multi-pronged strategy.

This paper investigates the observed paradox of gender differential in health in India. It is presumed that morbidity would result in mortality, higher morbidity results in higher mortality rate. In India there has been a mismatch between gender differential in mortality and morbidity, females experiencing a low rate of mortality despite being confronted with a high level of morbidity compared to males particularly from the age of 30 years. To analyse gender differential, various factors like disease patterns, severity of illness and distribution of causes of death, health care utilization, food consumption and risk behaviour in terms of smoking, consumption of alcohol and chewing tobacco. Data for study was drawn from National Sample Survey 16th round, National family and health survey second and third round between January 2004 and June 2004 comprising issues on morbidity and health care. A sample of 3,83,338 household has been taken. The NFHS-3 data is used to understand the gender differential in the nutritional status as the survey provides information on food consumption and height and weight of both sexes. Bi-variant has been used to estimate disease specific prevalence rates, severity in illness etc. and multivariate-logistic regression model has been used to understand the impact of risk behaviour on gender differential in the prevalence of two life threatening diseases - tuberculosis and asthma. The result shows that except childhood female experience greater morbidity than males. Barring injury they are more prone to communicable and non-communicable diseases. But when it comes to diseases that cause death male is frontrunner. Cardiovascular diseases, diabetes etc and higher risks of accidents lead to higher mortality of males in comparison to females have been observed. Risk behaviour of females is lower than males as the consumption of alcohol and tobacco and smoking is less prevalent in females, thus prevalence rate of asthma and tuberculosis is less among them. In conclusion even females experience higher levels of morbidity with regard to less life threatening diseases while reverse is the case for male.

Expenditure on health is often unexpected and catastrophic. Poor living conditions resulting in ill health put the poor further into the cycle of poverty. The study focuses on health care expenditure and standard of living of the urban poor. It is an attempt to show the interrelationship between living standard, health care expenditure and debt trap of urban poor, particularly of the slum dwellers. The study is based on primary data collected from two slums of Sambalpur town of Odisha during 2004. Multi-stage random sampling technique was used for selection of households. Forty five percent of the total households in each of the two slums were selected. The information was collected from 7 days and 30 days recall period. Information on food items were collected from seven days recall whereas fuel, light, rents and other non-food items were collected from thirty days recall period. Principal Component Analysis has been used to index the standard of living of the household. Linear regression is used to explain the determinants of out of pocket health care expenditure. The study found that standard of living of the urban slum dwellers is very miserable and they spend a high percentage of non-food expenditure, particularly on health care. The study also found a significant positive relationship between consumption expenditure and standard of living. Increase in living standard causes proportional reduction in expenditure on health care.


How health influences the labour market and economic outcomes have been an inquiry in the development research since many years. This article addresses the research question, how does general physical health status influence the labour supply behavior and labour to explain the productivity. It focuses on the definition and
measurement of health, theories that the health productivity linkages, followed by empirical studies that address the issue at both micro and macro level. There are two broad ways through which health – productivity linkages has been examined in the literature: one is micro level study showing the effect of health status on labour productivity and labour supply decision at the individual or household or community level, and another shows the impact of improved health on productivity growth and its sustainability at the macro level. The study concludes first that, the efficiency with which a society organizes its currently healthy workers is affected by adult health. Secondly, at the familial level much of the cost of the coping with adult ill-health falls on children.


Declining infant mortality rate is an important indication of population stabilization. According to 2006 estimate, one-fifth of children dying before their fifth birthday belong to India. The study examines the trend in infant mortality rate (IMR) in sixteen major states in India from 1972 to 2007 and see the possibility for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It also relates decline in IMR with the socio-economic factors (monthly per capita consumption expenditure and literacy. High IMR, poor standard of living and low literacy coexist in a few states in the country. There is great need of attention in the state of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh where not only literacy rate is low but also the rate of reduction of IMR too is slow. The situation is more or less similar with Haryana, Rajasthan and Bihar. Poor performance of the some of these states can be reflected in the unsteady decline in urban areas. The significant association of IMR with MPCE and literacy rate shows that IMR continues to an important indicator for the overall development of the society. The study also shows that the pattern of IMR seems to be shifting towards early ages.
In 2001, the proportion of elderly people above the age of 60 has increased three times from 1901. The decline in fertility coupled with continuing and steady decline in mortality had resulted in significant changes in size and structure of population. The Indian aged population is currently second largest in the world. The age-sex pyramid in Punjab shows that the proportion of elderly is growing rapidly, which is a growing concern. This paper attempts to examine the health status, economic dependency and living arrangements of elderly in India and in Punjab particular. For the purpose, data from Census of India and NSSO (52th and 60th rounds) has been used to examine the status of elderly people. NSSO conducted a survey on aged persons in its 42nd round (July 1986-june 1987) along with survey on social consumption. A national sample of 34,831 persons (aged 60 years and above) was interviewed of which 1,315 were from Punjab. The major results shows that around 63% of respondents are young and old (60-69 years) age group, majority of them are illiterate (69%) and 66% of them are currently married and living with their children. Only 3% of elderly are living alone. About 55% of elderly were economically dependent on others for their day to day requirements. The situation is worse for elderly females as the widowhood and dependency goes up along with increase in age. Major health problems of elderly people are hypertension, bronchial asthma, disorders of joints and bones, diabetes and heart problems. Nearly 3% are confined to bed and 20% of the aged perceive their health condition is poor. An increasing number of elderly necessitates various socio-economic measures and support mechanisms to address the concerns of elderly. In Punjab, large scale migration of working population adds another dimension to the welfare and care of the aged left behind. Government needs to respond quickly by formulating policies to the welfare of aged to address their economic dependency, health conditions and living arrangements.

This paper measures the “impoverishing” effect of healthcare payments by calculating the number of households below the poverty line (BPL) before and after healthcare payments. The underlying idea is that healthcare payments are involuntary or non-discretionary and in the absence of these payments household’s non-medical consumption would go up by the same magnitude as the healthcare payments. High private healthcare spending as well as high out of pocket spending in India is placing a considerable financial burden on households. The 60th national morbidity and healthcare survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation provides an opportunity to examine the impoverishing effect of healthcare spending in India. This paper also presents some new approaches to correct some of the biases in previous assessments of the “impoverishing” effect of health spending. Despite these corrections, the results suggest that the extent of impoverishment due to healthcare payments is higher than previously reported.

The study estimates that around 63.22 million individuals or 11.88 million households were pushed to BPL due to healthcare expenditure in 2004 using the National Sample Survey Organisation’s (NSSO) morbidity, healthcare survey. Similarly, as a percentage of population, impoverishment is higher in rural than that in the urban areas. This paper contributes some new evidence and estimation methods to calculate impoverishment related to out-of-pocket (OOP) health expenditure. The study also links household out-of-pocket (OOP) spending on health with India’s poverty line and calculate increase in poverty headcount related to health spending. Financial risk protection for health through health insurance still has very low coverage and the paper suggests that it is not very successful in providing that protection. While more analysis is needed to examine these assumptions to improve the effectiveness of risk protection schemes, this paper provides some useful observations in that direction.

The market friendly approach adopted under globalisation holds both threats and opportunities to higher education. Based on this opinion, the study made an attempt to examine temporal response of higher education to globalisation for 25 years (1981-82 to 2004-05) and discuss the changes there in. The statistical techniques like the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) and correlation analysis have been applied. The data have been collected from the Central Statistical Organization, Reserve Bank of India and Asian Development Bank. The study takes higher education as the education outlay for the post-secondary education including professional higher education. The globalisation impact is measured in terms of average share of the sum of imports and exports in GDP. The study also finds that globalisation provided the country not only with the necessary inputs to sail in the global economy, but also helped country in the real competitiveness in higher education. But the empirical analysis based on regression results show that there is insignificant and fragile impact of globalisation and GDP growth (at lag-one) on higher education. The paper concludes that the rising globalisation in the country failed to provide impetus to higher education, thus creating an unfavourable gap between globalization and higher education. In order to meet the challenges of globalisation, it has been suggested a fair controlling policy which monitors the quality of education and training with education oriented and employability.


Even after 60 years of freedom the task of compulsory education remained unaccomplished. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (universalization of elementary education programme) launched in 2003 with a target of all the children in the 6-14 age group to be
enrolled in school in 2010 is still not able to achieve the target. Who are these out of school children? How many they are? Why they are out of school? This paper is an attempt to investigate these questions through a field survey of children in urban slums of Dehradun city in the state of Uttarakhand. It tries to establish household socio-economic factors that influence school dropout of pupils despite various incentives such as free education, uniform, scholarships, books and midday meals under ‘Pahal’, an initiative of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Uttarakhand for providing school education to urban, deprived, out of school children (6-14 years) such as rag pickers, scavengers and street beggars. In total, 85 households were selected through a two-stage random sampling. A detailed questionnaire was designed to collect information on demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Specific information in the age group 6-14 years for at least one child was collected from the parents. The results shows that on the whole 75.5% of children in the age group 6-14 years were going to schools and 24.5% in this age group were either not enrolled at all or had dropped out of schools. The proportion of out of school is 13% higher in the earlier age group of 6-9 years compared with the age group of 10-14 years. Gender-wise proportion of out of school children is particularly high among girls compared to boys. Incidence of dropouts is high among below poverty line (BPL) households to almost 80%. Almost every dropout child in the slums worked for the survival of families, girls are compelled to work as domestic servants and boys as rag pickers or in the labour market. Low socio-economic status, parent’s employment in less paid work significantly impacts the children’s schooling in slums. Unable to cope up with modern education and parent’s perception of uselessness of education also results in dropout of child from school.


The present study makes an account of the hierarchical distribution of education in India. The hierarchical distribution of education is captured by computing the transition rate of enrolment at successive
levels of education. The objective is to find out the transition rate of enrolment at various levels of education. States and union territories are grouped according to the order of transition rates and their literacy rates are computed. Enrolment at four level of education primary, middle, secondary and higher secondary is considered for the calculation of transition rate. On the basis of the computed values, comparison is made across regions and probable implications are drawn. Since the study considered four level of education, three transition rates are computed for different states and union territories. The paper finds a steady improvement in the transition rates. Boys experience greater transition rates than girls in most of the states and union territories. The transition rate at lower level of education is less than the upper level. It also finds glaring differences between better and poor performing regions in several socio-economic and institutional parameters. The states and union territories showing poor performance are faced with low per capita income, high poverty, and poor public expenditure on education, high pupil-teachers, and inadequate female and trained teaches and low literacy rates. The study also finds inadequate public action for social sector development and lack of awareness that deter these states to perform on the educational front. The paper concludes by saying that there is strong logic for the universalisation of elementary education in India.

The study analyses the inter-linkages amongst agricultural productivity, rural poverty and nutritional security in India using micro level case study undertaken in Bagalkot district of Karnataka state. It is based on well structured and pre-tested schedule using personal interview method. Multistage sampling procedure was adopted to select the sample households. The sample consisted of 120 households spread across 20 villages in two talukas of Bagalkot district in Karnataka. The data have been analysed using ratios, frequencies, percentages, regression analysis and probit model. The results of the study are a) rural poverty is significantly and negatively influenced by agricultural productivity at the micro level. Higher the poverty, lower is the nutritional security and vice versa. b) Agricultural credit is an important aspect of productivity, suggesting that appropriate steps should be undertaken to increase access of rural households to financial institutions. The firm credit may be liberalized and its effective utilization be monitored. c) More than half of the respondents are nutritionally insecure in the study area and agricultural productivity and literacy could enhance nutritional security, while the consumption units in the households could reduce. The study suggests that effective poverty alleviation programmes should be launched and monitored by the government and NGOs in order to upgrade the nutritional status of the respondent in the regions.


This study attempts to observe the development programmes and examine the participation of the tribals in Kanksa block, Burdwan district of West Bengal. Based on the eclectic method, 175 tribals have been interviewed in seven Gram Panchayat areas of the block.
The study found that the development programs under the schemes like JRY, SJGSY, IAY, TSP implemented in this area are primarily non-entrepreneurial, distributive and time-consuming. The development programmes especially focused on construction and repair works have just improved the consumption needs of the tribals, and not saving and investment. They are not able to develop the infrastructural base of the area in respect of irrigation, land development, credit and marketing etc. The study also found the regular persistence of indebtedness arising because of non-productive purposes like marriage ceremonies and consumption needs. The large level of indebtedness led to culmination of four interrelated consequences: deterioration in resource base, technology change without change in the quantum of total resources, stagnation in production relation, and stagnation in resource position, technology and productive relation. There has been negligible participation of tribals in the development programmes ICDS and IRDP. The majority of people participated are females, married, illiterate and above 20 years. Due to their economic hardship, they think children as the means of immediate return. Lands situated in this area have no irrigation and no timely supply of inputs. Agriculture is the major source of income.

I.3- MANIKLAL ADHIKARY AND RITWIK MAZUMDAR


The broad objective of the paper is to contrast the poverty and income inequality figure for SCs and STs in comparison to other groups in the population. Interstate variations in poverty and inequality indices are also examined. The work is based on data collected from a rural sample of 33230 households drawn from 16 states in a survey conducted in the year of 1994 by NCAER. It is better known as benchmark NCAER/ HDI survey. Out these surveyed households 7943 were SC households and 4220 were ST. The study is based on data collected from nine states where 75 percent of India’s SC/ST population lives. The sampling technique NCAER adopted was stratified multistage sampling procedure. Income inequalities in
these states are measured through Gini Coefficient, Theil’s entropy measure and the squared coefficient of variation. Similarly, poverty indices were measured through three alternative measures like head count ratio, Sen’s index and Foster-Greer-Thorbeck index. The study found that income among SCs and STs is distributed in more egalitarian manner in comparison to non SCs and STs. The per capita income for non-SCs and STs is higher in rural India in comparison to SCs and STs in urban areas. Every alternate person in rural India is poor among the SCs and STs as compared to every third person not belonging to either SCs or STs. Though there is higher incidence and intensities of poverty among all the population groups, it is more severe among the SCs and STs in the state of Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. However, the poverty gap in terms of head count ratio between SC/ST and non SC/ST is distinctly high in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Lastly, the incidence and intensity of poverty are strongly correlated.


This paper examines the incidence and dynamics of poverty over a period of three decades from 1970 to the end of 1990s. Determination of poverty in terms of income or expenditure status of households generally requires that the same households be tracked over time through a panel data set. This study deals with the incidence of poverty at a point of time, and also the movement of households into and out of poverty over time across discrete poverty status categories. The study uses panel data that longitudinally track households in rural India to provide an initial identification and understanding of the characteristics of households that exhibit mobility out of poverty and of those that simply stay poor. The paper further presents an analysis of the growth rate of per capita expenditure for the same set of households over time to supplement the understanding of poverty dynamics emerging from the discrete classification of households into “poor” and “non-poor” categories. The study is based on the data collected by the National Council of
Applied Economic Research (NCAER) through household surveys conducted in three rounds in 1970-71, 1981-82 and 1998-99. An important limitation of the data used in the analysis is that the households may not remain “representative” of the entire population in rural India after the first round of the survey, if the situation in the rural economy across the country changes significantly. However, because of its spread across the country, the sample still covers a large enough canvass of rural India. The study observes that a higher proportion of severely poor remained severely poor between 1970 and 1981 (41.84%) as compared to the period between 1981 and 1998 (34.91%). Similarly, from 1970 to 1998, 57% of moderately poor and 44% of severely poor households moved out of poverty but 43% of moderately non-poor and 31% of non-poor moved down in the expenditure categories. Though some of the poverty is transitory in nature, the problem of chronic poverty is significant as 56% of severely poor either remain poor or become poor again, after a period of transitorily moving above poverty line, even after 28 years (1970 to 1998). Forty-three per cent of moderately poor either have the same status or become severely poor over the same period. An important trend emerging from the study is the slower rate of decline in rural poverty in the second period (1981-98) of the survey as compared to the first (1970-81). This was also the pattern indicated by the national surveys of consumption expenditure. The period from 1970 to 1981 was better for poverty reduction than the later period of 1981 to 1998 in the sense that the rate of poverty reduction was faster. The study concludes by suggesting that economic growth has not been adequate to ensure faster poverty and inequality reduction during the second period.


The present study highlights the seriousness of the disjunction between actual and officially measured urban poverty in India. The official claim is that head count urban poverty has reduced steadily from 49.2% in the base year to 25.7% by 2004-05. This claim is untenable, for comparability over time and across states at a point
of time, is as compromised in the official urban estimates as in the rural estimates. We cannot compare 49.2, 42.2, 32.6 and 25.7% officially poor in 1973-74, 1983, 1993-94 and 2004-05, respectively, and claim that poverty is continuously declining, because these poverty percentages have been derived by applying poverty lines which allowed respectively 2000, 1905, 1885 and 1795 calories daily intake and the consumption standard at the poverty lines is not held constant over time but has been going down more and more relative to the nutrition norm.

The paper presents the estimates for urban areas at the all-India level and individual states. The official method has been underestimating actually existing urban poverty in the same manner that rural poverty has been underestimated. Urban poverty, when directly measured by counting the persons unable to access the official nutrition norm of 2,100 calories through their total monthly spending on all goods and services, declined between 1983 and 1993-94, but rose substantially between 1993-94 and 2004-05 while poverty depth has increased. This is particularly evident in states with conurbations of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, while states with smaller urban centres have fared better. The energy intake accessible at the all-India official urban poverty line has fallen to 1,795, but in many states it is below 1,450 calories at the state-specific official poverty lines. The data also record a small decline in average protein intake and a small rise in fat intake per capita over the same period. The author concludes by arguing that the Tendulkar Committee has thrown away the valuable opportunity it had to correct the basic methodological error preventing valid comparison over time which underlay previous estimates on poverty.


Poverty has been a rural issue. But the urban share in total number of poor increased over the years as poor urbanized in a faster rate and also the new economic opportunities in urban areas attracted migrants. In this context, this paper provides empirical evidence
on the extent of disparities in rural and urban poverty in India with a special focus on Tamil Nadu state. Cross sectional secondary data from various survey rounds pertaining to seven time points from 1973-74 to 2004-05 has been utilized for this analysis. The study finds a wide-spread disparity in rural-urban poverty in all districts of Tamil Nadu except one. The urban poverty was found to be higher in 72 per cent of the districts including most of the industrialised districts as urban centres attract poor and poverty is becoming urbanized. The study underlines the positive impacts of irrigation facility on rural poverty by revealing that the incidence of poverty is significantly less in the district having higher irrigation facility than the state’s average level and vice versa. Also the study argues that the availability of irrigation reduces urban poverty and hence has positive impact on the disparity of rural-urban poverty. Therefore, assured irrigation facility tends to reduce simultaneously both rural and urban poverty. It suggests a part of the allocated fund for rural development should be diverted to the construction and development of irrigation infrastructures.


The Public Distribution System (PDS), an important institutional intervention for maintaining food security was introduced in almost all the states of India. The study has special focus on the Kerala’s PDS and compares it with the major states for the period 1971-72 to 2004-05. The study deals with four key issues of food security: food deficiency, food availability, impact of open market price on the food deficit, and per capita cereals and calories consumption. The statistical techniques viz. correlation coefficient and regression analysis have been used. It has been found that the per capita consumption of cereals from PDS which was more than four kg from 1986-87 to 1999-2000 has declined in 2004-05. It has also been observed that all the states except Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh are facing chronic food deficiency (per capita production less per capita consumption). The district-wise analysis shows that there have been high levels of annual rice
deficit in all the district of Kerala in 2002-03 to 2003-04. There are significant and positive association between rice deficit and open market price from 2000-01 to 2004-2004 among the entire district. The regression results show that rice deficit has significant and positive impact on its open market price in all the four years. The low level of per capita cereals and calorie consumption has been observed in the state. The paper reveals a near breakdown of the system in Kerala after the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System and points out its wide ramifications. The study strongly recommends an immediate need to strengthen the institution of PDS in the state.