

CDS M.PHIL THESES
(1975/76 – 1989/90): A REVIEW

VOLUME 1

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1996

Acknowledgements

In the completion of the project on “CDS M.Phil Theses (1975/76 – 1989/90): A Review”, I incurred a debt of gratitude to a number of people. Foremost among them are the Ph.D scholars of the Centre, who had prepared the initial drafts of the abstracts for nearly half of the Theses. I thank them for their enthusiastic assistance. The encouragement and moral support I received from Dr. Chandan Mukherjee, Director, CDS is gratefully acknowledged. The difficult task of typing the various illegible manuscripts was initially carried out by Ms. Jyothi Lekshmi T and Ms.Radhamoni K. Later, Ms. K.E.Vijaya Kumari took over and brought out the subsequent drafts of the study. Ms. Lekha Anand saw it through in the final phase. I put on record my appreciation of their sincerity and hard work.

Prof. K.N. Raj was gracious enough to go through the penultimate draft and offer a word of cheer and encouragement. Shri P.K.M. Tharakan, Chairman, Publications Committee and Shri Tilak Baker, Publication Officer have offered me sincere advice and enthusiastic support. But for their ready help this study could not have been published in such a short time. To all of them I owe a debt of gratitude.

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110. P.E.Chерian,
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Thesis Supervisors: K.Pushpangadan and P.K.Michael Tharakan.

111. Helen Mary Jacqueline,
“Some Aspects of Changes in the Structure and Growth of the Manufacturing Sector in Tamil Nadu 1973-74 to 1986-87”, 1991.
Thesis Supervisors: Raman Mahadevan and K.Pushpangadan.
112. Jaya Mohanty,
“Intersectoral Resource Flows in India 1971 to 1983-84”, 1991.
Thesis Supervisors: Sakthi Prasad Padhi and G.N.Rao.
113. J.K.Mallik,
“Import Liberalization, Industrial Growth and Structural Change in India: 1973-74 to 1986-87”, 1991.
Thesis Supervisors: Chandan Mukherjee and M.R.Narayana.
114. Saikat Sinharay,
“India’s Exports of Capital Goods, 1965/66 to 1984/85”, 1991.
Thesis Supervisors: K.K.Subrahmanian and P.Mohanan Pillai.
115. S.Sunanda,
“Institutional Credit for Agriculture in Kerala: A Disaggregated Analysis”, 1991.
Thesis Supervisors: K.P.Kannan and K.Pushpangadan.
116. M.N.Sudhakaran,
“Diffusion of Improved Chulahs: A Study with Reference to Kerala”, 1991.
Thesis Supervisors: T.M.Thomas Isaac and Sakti Prasad Padhi.
117. Sunny Jose,
“Group Farming in Kerala: An Illustrative Study”, 1991.
Thesis Supervisors: P.K.Michael Tharakan and Mridul Eapen.
118. C.Upendranath,
“Growth of Education in Andhra Pradesh: A Study of Regional Disparities”, 1991.
Thesis Supervisors: G.N.Rao and P.K.Michael Tharakan.
119. K.Vaijayanti,

“Decentralised Planning and Resource Transfers in Karnataka: A Case Study of Dharwad Zilla Parishad”, 1991.

Thesis Supervisors: K.P.Kannan and M.R.Narayana.

INTRODUCTION

An M.Phil Programme in Applied Economics, affiliated to the Jawaharlal Nehru University, has been underway at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram ever since 1975. The programme was designed to provide a broad-based understanding of the Indian economic problems as well as an adequate analytical basis for research in applied economics. As part-fulfilment of the requirements of the M.Phil Degree, the students submit their dissertations. Thus, over time a number of M.Phil theses have been completed at the Centre. The quality of these theses is generally rated high and academic community at large has been expressing its appreciation of the same.

Under its Publication Programme, the Centre has so far brought out a few M.Phil theses in the form of Occasional Papers. But as the output is large, publication of all the good theses became a difficult proposition in terms of finance and time. Hence, it was decided that as a supplement to that effort, abstracts of all the M.Phil theses completed during the second decade of the Centre i.e., from 1981 to 1990 may be compiled and edited in a volume. Such a volume, it is hoped, would not only indicate the range of research themes undertaken, hypotheses verified and broad contours of the research findings obtained by young researchers, but also help find out the gaps in the state of knowledge so as to identify areas of potential research. The Centre has assigned me the task of co-ordinating this activity by seeking the assistance from the Ph.D scholars.

1. The Quantitative Dimensions

In all about 89 dissertations were completed in 1980s. Given the time constraint, the Ph.D scholars of the Centre could prepare abstracts only for 57 M.Phil dissertations. Hence, abstracts for the remaining 32 theses of the 1980s had to be prepared. As I was carrying on this task, it occurred to me that it is more logical and meaningful to put together abstracts of all the 119 theses submitted during the first 15 year period of the M.Phil Programme i.e., from 1975/76 to 1989/90. About 30 dissertations were completed by the first five batches of students i.e., during the period 1975/76 to 1989/90. In other words, to fill-up these gaps, I had to prepare abstracts for about 62 dissertations. Thus, the initial task of preparing the abstracts was almost equally shared between me and the Ph.D scholars.

Table 1

CDS M.Phil Theses: Batch-wise, (1975/76 to 1989/90)

Themes	1975/76	76-77	77-78	78-79	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	84-85	85-86	86-87	87-88	88-89	89-90	Total
Agri.	3	1	1	1	3	-	4	2	2	1	2	-	2	1	3	26
Indus.	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	3	1	2	2	2	1	-	2	17
Pop & Lab	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	-	12
Eco.his	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	1	1	2	-	11
Soc.sec	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	6
Mac.eco	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	6
Bank & Fin.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	-	6
Exte.se	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	6
Fish.	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Infra.s	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	4
Forest.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
Emergy	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Dairy/F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Eco.leg	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Consu.s	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Reg.pla	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Pov.all	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Eco.pol	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Tribal	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	7	3	7	8	6	5	7	7	8	7	10	12	10	9	13	119

Editing the abstracts took more time than I had initially anticipated. This was so because of the differences in the length and contents of the initial abstracts prepared by different Ph.D scholars. In some cases one had to go back to the M.Phil theses in the course of editing the drafts.

Between 1975/76 and 1989/90, the M.Phil dissertations completed (119) had a whole range of research themes. For analytical purposes these themes have been classified under 19 headings. (See Table 1)

Themes:

- Agriculture
- Industry
- Population & Labour
- Economic History
- Social Sector
- Macro Economic Issues
- Banking and Finance
- External Sector
- Fisheries
- Infrastructure
- Forestry
- Energy
- Dairy Farming
- Economic Legislation
- Consumption Studies
- Regional Planning
- Poverty Alleviation Programmes
- Economic Policy
- Tribal Economy

Of the total 119 M.Phil theses completed, as many as 26 were on Agriculture. Industry (17), Population and Labour (12) and Economic History (11) were the other major areas of interest of the M.Phil students. Social sector, Macro Economic Issues, Banking and Finance and External Sector claimed six these each. The rest of the themes have theses ranging from five to one. Thus, theme-wise Agriculture, Industry, Population and Labour and Economic were more popular among the research scholars, during the first 15 years of the M.phil programme.

2. Spread of Research Themes

In terms of spread of research themes overtime, again the four themes mentioned above assumed importance (See Table 2). In other words, students continued to retain their interest on these themes across batches. Research on Social Sector, Macro

Economic Issues and Banking and Finance began to assume some importance only from the late 1980s.

Table 2
Distribution of M.Phil Theses across Themes and Batches
(1975/76 to 1989/90)

Themes	No. of Theses	M.Phil batches (No.)
Agriculture	26	13
Industry	17	10
Population & Labour	12	10
Economic History	11	8
Social Sector	6	6
Macro Economic Issues	6	4
Banking and Finance	6	3
External Sector	6	5
Fisheries	5	5
Infrastructure	4	4
Forestry	4	4
Energy	3	3
Dairy Farming	2	2
Economic Legislation	2	2
Consumption Studies	2	2
Regional Planning	2	2
Poverty Alleviation Programmes	2	2
Economic Policy	2	2
Tribal Economy	1	1
Total	119	15

-

3. Theses with Macro Dimensions

Of the total 119 M.Phil theses, about 36 have macro dimensions bearing relevance to issues of the national economy. The themes of these theses are Macro Economic Issues, Agriculture, Banking and Finance, External Sector (6 each), Industry (5) and so on (See Table 3).

Table 3**M.Phil Theses with Macro Dimensions
(1975/76 – 1989/90)**

Themes	Number of Theses
Macro Economic Issues	6
Agriculture	6
Banking and Finance	6
External Sector	6
Industry	5
Population and Labour	3
Economic Policy	2
Energy	1
Economic History	1
-	-
Total	36

4. Regional Studies

Of the total regional studies (83) as many as 53 were on Kerala. Way below were the studies on Tamil Nadu (11), Andhra Pradesh (6), Orissa (4) and so on (See Table 4). Thus, among the regional studies research on Kerala occupied a place of prominence. About 64% of the regional studies were related to issues of the Kerala economy.

Table 4**Theme-wise distribution of the M.Phil Theses on States/Regions
(1975/76 to 1989/90)**

Themes	Kerala	T.N.	A.P.	Karn.	Mahara.	Orissa	W.Bengal	U.P.	Punjab	Total
Industry	6	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	12
Agriculture	12	3	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	20
Dairy Farming	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Fisheries	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Forestry	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Infrastructure	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
Energy	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Social Sector	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
Population & Labour	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Economic										
Legislation	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Consum. Studies	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Regional Planning	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Poverty Alleviation	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tribal Economy	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Economic History	4	-	3	-	-	1	1	1	-	10
Total	53	11	6	3	1	4	3	1	1	83

Theme-wise, from among the regional studies agriculture claimed the largest number (20). Next in importance were the studies on Industry (12), Population and Labour (10) and Economic History (10). Fisheries and Social Sector claimed five studies each. (See Table 4).

4. An Overview of the Research Themes

Macro Economic Issues which interested the M.Phil scholars were the following: Resource Flows between Agriculture and Non-Agricultural sectors, Trends in Commodity Transfers, Trends in Inter and Intra-Sectoral Distribution of Income and Trickle Down Hypothesis, Structure of Public Investment and Impact of Import Liberalization Measures on the Economy. Broadly they reflected some of the contemporary issues in the Indian economy, which were under debate.

There were only a couple of explicit studies on Economic Policy: one on sugar policy of the government of India during the regime of Partial Decontrol and the other, a theoretical study on the impact of the expansionary policies of investment on exports and profit income shares. Thus, economic policies as areas of studies did not seem to hold much attraction for the scholars.

There were six studies on Banking and Finance. The themes taken up for research were the Growth of Deposits with the Non-Banking Companies, Bank Credit Policies, Composition of Internal and External Sources of Funds to the Private Corporate Sector, Allocation of Resources between the Government and the Private Sector, Investible Funds and Asset Allocation of the Commercial Banks and Expenditure Pattern of Three City Corporations in Kerala. Studies in Banking and Finance were mostly carried out by students who were deputed to the CDS M.Phil Programme by the Reserve Bank of India, Bombay.

There were five studies on Indian industry. The themes of these studies were: Growth Pattern of Capital Goods Industries both at Aggregate and Disaggregate Levels, Industrial Sickness and Reconstruction Strategies, Sources of Demand for Machine Tools, Determinants of Productivity Growth at Firm Levels and Physical and Financial Performances of the Public Sector Enterprises in India. The six studies on Industry on Kerala were on Electricity and Electrical Goods Industry, Handloom Industry, Sub-contracting in Television Industry, Private Corporate Sector and Performance of the Manufacturing Enterprises.

There were three studies on Industries in Tamil Nadu. They include studies on Decentralised Power Loom Sector, Structure and Growth of Co-operative Spinning Mills as also the Total Manufacturing Sector in the state.

The two studies on industry in West Bengal enquired into Regional Differentiation in Growth Rates and Sub-contracting in the Footwear Industry. There was a lone case study on Bicycle Industry in Punjab.

About 26, or more than one-fifth of the total 119 theses were on issues in agriculture – both at national and regional levels. The themes taken up for studies were Rural Wealth, Agrarian Markets, Specific Crops, Input-use, Agricultural Credit, Price determination in Food Grain Sector, Flow of Subsidies, Agricultural Performance, Agricultural Wages, Irrigation, Peasant Immigration and Sugar Co-operatives. Thus, agriculture attracted the attention of a good many young scholars. As many as 20 out of the total 26 studies on agriculture were regional studies. And 12 out of these 20 regional studies were on Kerala. There were a couple of studies on Dairy Farming, one on Cross Breeding Technology and Dairy Development in Kerala and the other on Structure of Milk Production in Tamil Nadu. All the six studies on Fisheries pertain to the state of Kerala. Issues such as Technological Change, Marine Products Exports and Incomes of the Fishermen were taken up in these studies.

The four studies on Forestry analyse, Forest Projects, Patterns of Investment in Forestry, Deforestation and People-Forest Interaction.

There were four theses on infrastructure, viz., Idukki Hydro-electric project, the Public investment in Irrigation Project, the Cochin Port and Floods and Flood Control Policies in Orissa.

Theses on energy analyse the Changing Pattern of Energy Consumption in Indian Railways, Patterns of Domestic Energy Consumption in Rural Areas and Diffusion of Improved Chulahs in Kerala.

Theses on social sector included studies on Child Health Status, Rural Drinking Water Supply, Choice of Technology in Construction, Morbidity and Use of Health Care System and Growth of Education.

Dissertations on Population and Labour, analysed Fertility, Household Size and Unemployment, Attached Labour in Agriculture, Labour Migration, Employment and Earnings in Non-Agricultural Activities, Urban Casual Labor Market, Agricultural Wages, Industrial Distribution of Work Force, Labour Markets and Industrial Disputes.

The two studies each on Economic Legislation and Consumption Behaviour relate to Kerala. There were only a couple of theses on Regional Planning, one on Kerala and the other on Karnataka. Again, there were only two studies on Poverty Alleviation Programmes. And during the first 15 days, the M.Phil programme could throw up only one single study on Tribal Economy.

Of the eleven theses in Economic History, only one was carried out on macro issues, the rest formed the regional studies, with four on Kerala, three on Andhra Pradesh, and one each on West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. The issues taken up for study were the European Managing Agencies, Peasant-Migration, Each Industrialisation through Missionaries, a case study of a Co-operative industry, Urbanization, Land Transfers, Commercialization of Agriculture and Agrarian Change, Growth of Market Towns, Land Relations and Labour and Product Markets.

There were six studies on External Sector. The themes chosen for analysis were Foreign Collaboration, Marine Product Export, India's External Commercial Borrowings, Export Trade in Spices and Exports of capital goods.

To sum up, during the first fifteen years of the M.Phil programme at the Centre, the research scholars showed interest in varied themes. For analytical purposes we have classified these themes into 19 categories. But among them, it was Agriculture, Industry, Population and Labour and Economic History which attracted the scholars' attention most. Together the theses on these four themes claimed as many as 66 or well over 55 percent of the total number of theses. There were in all 36 theses dealing with macro issues while 83 turned out to be regional studies. In other words, an overwhelming 70 per cent of the M.Phil theses were on regions/states. Within the regional studies there was of course a skewed distribution, heavily in favour of the southern states in general and Kerala in particular. As many as 73 out of 83 regional studies on the four southern states of Kerala (53) Tamil Nadu (11), Andhra Pradesh (6) and Karnataka (3). Thus, in terms of number, studies on Kerala occupied a prominent place amongst the M.Phil dissertations at the centre.

Whereas the unevenness across research themes was partly conditioned by the availability of the faculty experts to guide the theses, the higher incidence of regional studies on the southern states – especially Kerala – and to a lesser extent Eastern India can be explained by the fact that these two regions became over time, important catchment areas for admissions into the CDS M.Phil programme.

M.PHIL ABSTRACTS

1

MACRO ECONOMIC ISSUES

- 1 .Ashoka Mody, "Resource Flows Between Agriculture and Non-Agriculture. With Special Reference to India Since Independence", 1979, pp.130.

Thesis Supervisor: K.N. Raj

The focus of the study is primarily on the resource flows between agriculture and non-agriculture in India since independence. The thesis critically examines the viewpoint of an earlier study that there had been a resource flows away from agriculture since about mid-1950s.

The study examines the possible errors of the earlier study on commodity flows. The estimates of consumer goods flows are very sensitive to definitional changes and hence to data biases. These biases in data lead to an under estimation of the net flow of consumer goods into agricultural sector.

The present exercise estimated only the financial flows. It is stated that net financial flows through 1950s and 1960s, were entering into agricultural sector. Although, there was no significant trend in the terms of trade movements in 1950s, in 1960s they shifted in favour of agriculture. It is concluded that there was a resource flow into agriculture on all accounts.

The capital flows on private account formed a significant proportion of the capital formation in agriculture. The Indian Post-independence story is not contrary to the historical experience of the now developed countries. The difference, however, is that the Indian situation is characterized by the existence of vast resources of surplus labour and a rapid rate of population growth. The resource flows into agriculture are necessary for capital intensive investments in agriculture (irrigation, drainage, flood control etc.), which in turn are the necessary prerequisites to the introduction of technical change and consequent productivity increases in agriculture. Besides, credit flows into agriculture have generated for helped in the realization of a demand for industrial goods. This is especially true in the case of fertilizers and agricultural machinery which have important backward linkages.

The broad conclusion which can be drawn from the study is that the inflows on the government account are necessary to create capital intensive investments in

agriculture. There, however, exists a savings potential in agriculture which needs to be tapped.

2. M.H.Suryanarayana, "Growth and Income Distribution in India: A Study of the Trends in Inter-sectoral Disparities and Inter sectoral Distributions Based on the NSS Data", 1980, pp.120 + Appendices.

Thesis Supervisor: A.Vaidyanathan

The thesis attempts to analyse the trends in inter and intra-sectoral distribution of income in a slow growing economy in general and India in particular. A framework has been developed within which patterns and changes in the pattern in income distribution may be analysed.

The NSS estimates are found to show a decline in per capita consumption till mid-sixties and recovery back to the early sixties' level during the late sixties and early seventies, in all the sectors of the Indian economy. Inequalities in consumption are found to have registered a significant trend increase in the cities while no significant trend is discernible in the case of urban, non-metropolitan urban and rural segments. It is found that the relative consumption level has declined and that of inequality increased in the city-non-city urban context and no significant trend is visible in relative consumption and inequality levels in the urban-rural context. Further, the consumption distribution behaviour in the non-city urban and rural sectors are found to be more or less parallel, implying possibly, a relatively closer extent of integration and similarity in income structures, between them.

Unlike the all-India picture, it is found that there has been a significant trend increase in consumption in the urban sectors of Kerala, Punjab and Haryana and a significant trend decline in consumption in general in Tamil Nadu. No significant trend is found for the other states. Ahluwalia's Trickle Down hypothesis is not borne out by the empirical evidence in several respects.

3. Haseeb Drabu, "Structure of Public Investment and Industrial Deceleration in India", 1988.

Thesis Supervisor: Chiranjib Sen and Gita Sen.

The thesis questions the accepted hypothesis of a decline in public investment leading to the deceleration in industrial out-put in the post-1965/66 period. Arguing that it is not the rate of growth alone but also the structure of investment which is important in so far as the impact on growth is concerned, it documents the changes in the structure of investment in India over the period 1950-1983.

On the basis of the theoretical framework developed in the thesis, it empirically shows that the structure of public investment in India had changed such that even with low rate of growth of public investment higher rates of growth out out-put could have been expected. The empirical analysis was carried out at two levels of disaggregation viz., type of asset and industry of use.

4. G.Sakuntala “Price Determination and Behaviour of Mark-up in Indian Industries from 1959 to 1985-86”, 1990, pp.103.

Thesis Supervisors: K.Pushpangadan and Gita Sen

The major objective of the study is to analyse the factors affecting industrial prices and the inter-temporal behaviour of the mark-up in certain selected industries in the registered manufacturing sector. The price-determination model for the study tested for the period 1959-1985 analysing for sugar, paper, textiles, iron and steel, chemicals, general engineering, tobacco and bicycles. From the analysis it comes out that in a majority of the cases the price determination is predominantly based on the cost of factor. However, industries like sugar and heavy vehicles show neither cost for demand factor to be significant.

It is argued in the study that the liberalisation measures have reduced the level of mark-up in some of the industries. Majority of them show a constant mark-up. Specifically, without periodisation, sugar, drugs and pharmaceuticals and heavy electricals show a negative trend in mark-up. Fertilisers and pesticides is the only industry which shows a positive trend in mark-up, while for the rest, the trend remains constant. When periodisation is introduced, industries like fertilisers and pesticides show constancy, whereas iron and steel, heavy vehicles and bicycles and motor cycles show a negative trend in the mark-up.

5. Jaya Mohanty, “Intersectoral Resource flows in India 1971 to 1983-84”, 1991, pp.109.

Thesis Supervisors: Sakthi Prasad Padhi and G.N.Rao.

The changing economic conjecture, in terms of the agriculture industry linkages, the declining agricultural input use coefficient, and the adverse terms of trade call for a fresh look at the inter-sectoral resource flows in terms of the commodity transfers and financial flows. The data for the analysis are drawn up from the Census of India, the various rounds of the NSS consumption surveys, the Input-Output matrices, National Accounts Statistics (various issues), Livestock Census, Reserve Bank of India, Debt and Investment Surveys etc.

The trends in commodity transfers indicate that agriculture has remained a net importer of consumer goods, though the magnitude of imports is declining. Evidence on the flow of producer goods is mixed. While for the early part of the seventies, agriculture remained a net exporter of producer goods, in the early eighties it tended to become a net importer. The financial flows indicate that there is a growing inflow into agriculture though there has been no corresponding rise in private investment in it. This along with the fact that the real public investment in agriculture is also declining calls for a restructuring of resource allocation in favour of agriculture. Further, there is also an increasing need to formulate industrial prices to give a boost to employment with a view to strengthening the agriculture-industry linkages.

6. Jayantha Kumar Mallik, "Import Liberalization, Industrial Growth and Structural Change in India: 1973-74 to 1986-87", 1991, pp.128.

Thesis Supervisors: Chandan Mukherjee and M.R.Narayana.

This study examines some of the direct and indirect impacts of import liberalization on the growth of domestic industry in India. Sources of output growth are analysed using a comparative static inter-industry framework in terms of the contributions of domestic demand expansion, export expansion, import substitution and technical change. Import liberalization, defined in terms of growth of import (negative import substitution), is shown to have a significant negative contribution to output growth. Considered in a dynamic situation, import liberalization is found to have a stimulating impact on the growth of domestic industry. By easing the supply constraints and keeping the domestic price low, it has helped boosting demand and a rise in output. The absolute size of the market available to the domestic producers has increased even in the face of significant import penetration. This is examined with specific reference to the capital goods sector. The study provides evidence on production and demand aspects of structural change in the economy attributable to import policy changes. The inter-industry analysis also shows some aspects of structural change defined as non-proportional growth of different sectors. It also shows the technical change reflected in the changes in the input output coefficients. Significant changes in these coefficients are observed during the post-liberalization period. Productivity analysis also suggests a technical progress in the economy.

ECONOMIC POLICY

1. Sanjaya Baru, “Sugar Policy during the Regime of Partial Decontrol: An Analysis of its Objectives and Implications”, 1978, pp.55.

Thesis Supervisor: N. Krishnaji

For the first two decades after independence, the government of India had experimented with controls and decontrols alternately with a view to establishing sugarcane and sugar production and offering the cultivators, the manufacturers and the consumers a “fair” deal. It was later believed that the Regime of Partial Decontrol offered the solution by affording the manufacturer an opportunity to pay remunerative price for cane, making sugar available at a `reasonable’ price to the consumers (through the ration shops) and finally assuring the industry a `decent’ rate of return from sales on the open market. The study examines whether or not these expectations had been realized in practice during the regime of partial decontrol during the period 1967/68 to 1975/76.

After the initial unsettling years of 1968/69 and 1969/70 when the industry was faced with an unprecedented volume of production and stocks forcing prices down, the sugar economy had been controlled fairly “efficiently” so as to maintain prices at a high level. In spite of comfortable production, the open-market prices were consistently rising. Despite the fact that nearly two-thirds of the total output was sold through the Public Distribution System the open market dependence of the average urban and rural consumer was still fairly high.

The sugar policy of the government of India during the regime of Partial decontrol had clearly been in the interests of the industry and trade. To some extent, the big growers, who control co-operative factories had also benefited but by and large the interests of the small and medium growers and the consumers were left unprotected.

2. Anil Mascarenhas, “Some Exercises in Policy Analysis Using a SAM and a Macro Model”, 1991, pp.93.

Thesis Supervisors: Chandan Mukherjee and P.Nandakumar.

This study deals with social accounting metrics and macroeconomic models and concentrates on the examination of the effects of various government policies on the functional income distribution in India. It seeks to analyse how the shares of agricultural, wage and profit incomes behave under different macroeconomic policy regimes.

A similar exercise is carried out with respect to balanced budget policies such as a simultaneous increase in (1) indirect taxes and transfers as well as in (2) profit taxes and transfers. The macroeconomic effects resulting therefrom are observed on the relative shares of agricultural, wage and profit incomes.

Under expansionary policies of investment and export increases, profit income shares are invariably observed to either rise or remain stable. Any fall in the share of profit income is at best marginal. The share of wage incomes generally declines. Interestingly, wage-increase, far from enhancing the share of wage-earners actually reduces it in favour of the share of agricultural income. Agricultural income is invariably observed to increase at the expense of wage incomes.

Under expansionary policies of a balanced budget involving simultaneous increases in the profit tax rate (or the indirect tax rate) and transfers, agricultural income is always observed to rise. Profit and wage income shares, however, decline.

Under deflationary conditions of import increases, agricultural income share falls owing to the depression of agricultural prices. Wage income share rises and profit income share generally remains stable. It is particularly noteworthy that agriculture gets the lion's share of any expansion in the total output. This is because agricultural prices are very sensitive to increases in demand as agricultural output is fixed in the short-run. Prices in other sectors do not rise as much as agricultural prices do as they are characterized by quantity adjustments.

BANKING AND FINANCE

1. Sudip K. Ghose, "Savings of the Household Sector in India in Financial Assets, 1970-71 to 1984-85", 1988, pp.99.

Thesis Supervisors: Gita Sen and K.Pushpangadan.

This study uses National Accounts Statistics (NAS) data for the period 1970-71 to 1984-85 to generate financial savings of the household sector. The study investigates the inter-relationship of financial savings and other important macro-economic variables. The broad objectives of the study are to examine critically the data-base and existing methodology of financial savings in India for the period 1970-71 to 1984-85 on the basis of a new methodology and to find out the important determinants of financial savings in India, both at disaggregate and aggregate levels using own estimate of financial savings.

The study observes that there is no clear pattern in the series of differences between official estimates and the estimates made by the author, both at aggregate and disaggregate levels. However, the official and author's own estimates confirm a sharply rising trend in savings rate till 1978/79. The trend analysis in the study has revealed that during the period 1970/71 to 1984/85 the growth of deposits with the non-banking companies was the fastest and this was followed by that in the Units of Unit Trust of India, while the comparative share had the lowest growth. It is found that there was a deceleration in the growth of bank deposits and total financial savings but an acceleration in the growth of UTI units. At the aggregate level the study found three factors i.e., (1) personal income, (2) NDP price deflators as a proxy for inflation rate and (3) the number of commercial bank branches as being important in explaining financial saving behaviour of the household sector. At disaggregate level the study finds income as a significant variable in respect of deposits with non-banking companies

2. L. Anitha Kumari Amma, "Urban Finance in Kerala: A Study of Municipal Corporations, 1965-66 – 1984", 1981, pp.121.

Thesis Supervisors: P.K.Michael Tharakan and K.K.Subrahmanian.

The study analyses the financial position of urban local bodies in Kerala focusing mainly on three municipal corporations of Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut during the period 1965/66 and 1984/85. It analyses the trends in finances, and the relationship

between financial characteristics and expenditure patterns. It also examines the question of adequacy or otherwise of grants-in-aid to the municipal corporation.

It was found that Cochin and Calicut are multifunctional (service-cum-industrial cities) and Trivandrum a mono-functional (service) city.

The rate of growth of receipts at current prices was relatively high during the initial phase in Trivandrum and Cochin Corporations. In terms of constant prices, rate of growth receipts decreased in Trivandrum and Cochin whereas for Calicut, it remained the same. Subsequently, the tax receipts increased both in Trivandrum and Calicut whereas in Cochin their growth rate had declined. In all the municipal corporations, the share of the entertainment tax in total had increased.

The Cochin corporation had registered the highest average annual growth rate. It was found that the functional characteristics of cities had influenced their expenditure patterns. The study observes that the existence of mismanagement along with the absence of well-defined functions, lack of finance and rigid rules and regulations of government reduce the efficiency of urban local bodies.

- 3 K.S.Ramachandra Rao, "Demand for Commercial Bank Credit, 1970/71 to 1984/85" A Study of Selected Industries", 1988, pp.ii+179.

Thesis Supervisors: Gita Sen and Chiranjib Sen.

This study examines the hypothesis of a positive relationship between growth in industrial output and increase in demand for bank credit, specifically commercial bank credit at a disaggregate level. However, it is observed that the share of industry in total bank credit recorded a decrease during the period 1973 to 1985. This had given rise to doubts whether sufficient credit was extended to the industrial sector to meet their targets. This study therefore tries to seek an explanation about the validity of this hypothesis both for the subsequent period as also at the disaggregate industry level.

The specific objectives of the study are to (i) identify the factors determining demand for bank credits, (ii) to investigate the relationship between bank credit and size of industrial unit; (size and profitability and bank finance, classified by the size of the firm); (iii) to analyse the distribution of bank credit among different size classes of firms for the selected industry groups; and (iv) to examine; further, the factors affecting the demand for bank credit from size classes of the selected industries. This study is based on the data culled out from the various publications like the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), Basic Statistical Returns (BSR) Trend and Progress of Banking in India and Public Enterprises Survey and also from various annual reports covering the period 1970/71 to 1984/85. In addition to manufacturing industry, this study has chosen sugar and other food products industry, textile, chemical and pharmaceutical (other than

petroleum, coal products, fertilizers and insecticides) industry and engineering industry (excluding basic metals). To analyze the data the study has used Herfindhal Index, Entropy Measure, Lorenz Ratio and Multiple Regression method.

The empirical findings of the study highlight the inter-industry variations of the demand for bank credit suggesting the importance of industry-specific credit planning to attain the production targets at industry level. The study finds that the large companies dominate both in market as well as credit receipt. It stresses the need for restructuring the bank credit policy favouring the small and the growing companies.

4. B.M.Misra, "Financing of Private Corporate Sector in India, 1961-62 to 1985-86", 1989, pp.153.

Thesis Supervisors: K.K.Subrahmanian and K.Pushpangadan.

This study analyses the trends in the mobilization of financial resources by the corporate sector, to comprehend the changing composition of different sources of funds and bring out its economic significance. It traces the trends in the pattern of financing the private corporate sector in India both at the aggregate as well as industry – group levels through the period of 1961-62 to 1985-86. It analyses the changing pattern of financing at further disaggregate level of firm size-classes of selected industries and the impact of macro economic variables and interest structures upon the aggregate corporate financing behaviour. It also analyses the behaviour of retained profits and borrowing of the private corporate sector. The primary source of data for this study has been the company finance studies like Finances of Medium and Large Public Limited Companies of R.B.I. and Department of Statistical Analysis and Computer Services (DESACS) of R.B.I.

The study identifies three distinct phases of cyclical trend in the composition of internal and external sources of funds which correspond, in some way or other, to the cyclical growth pattern of the industrial economy during the period 1961-62 to 1985-86. It points out that the private corporate sector has been changing its sources of funds which, to a large extent, are conditioned by the process of development of a growing economy. In the case of internal funds it was found that the fiscal policies on depreciation allowable and corporate tax played a crucial role in determining the level of internal sources of funds for the corporate sector. The external sources of funds reveal that the pattern of financing marked by higher level of borrowing coupled with low level of equity in the capital structure led to a significant rise in the debt ratios. The study finds capital structure of the Indian corporate sector as unbalanced and having tilted more towards borrowing than equity. It suggests that a restructuring of policy instruments particularly, the fiscal and monetary policies, would check the tendency towards borrowing and encourage greater reliance on internal sources and equity by the private corporate sector.

5. Charan Singh, "Growth of Total Internal Debt in India: Dimensions and Implications", 1989, pp.viii+188+Appendix.

Thesis Supervisors: T.N.Krishnan and Chiranjib Sen.

The objective of the study is to probe into the rising trend and implications of growing internal debt of the Central Government in India for the years 1950/51 to 1987/88.

The public debt of India rose from 31 per cent of the G N P in 1951 to 65% by March 1988. The total internal debt accounted for more than 88% of the total debt outstanding in March 1988. The high reliance on domestic borrowings is the result of the rise in expenditure unmatched by a similar rise in the revenue to the government, especially since the early Eighties. The expenditure on Reserve Account rose faster than on Capital Account. The Revenue Account has been in deficit since 1979/80. The expenditure on non-developmental and non-capital formation recorded the largest hike. The expenditure on account of interest payments and subsidies rose at a high rate, both in absolute and relative terms but the ratio of expenditure on defence declined over the period. Also, the consumption expenditure on the government's own account was also very high. To meet the high expenditure, domestic borrowings are being used by the government as a substitute for revenue receipts.

The government borrowing does reallocate resources between the government and the private sector and it does not lead to build up an inflationary pressure in the economy. The borrowings from non-banking sector, are central to inflation. On the other hand, small savings and Provident Funds exhibit a negative relationship with the price level.

6. Mausumi Manna,, "Development Financing by Indian Public Sector Banks: A Portfolio Analysis, 1970 – 1985", 1990, pp.107.

Thesis Supervisors: Gita Sen and Chandan Mukherjee.

The study analyses the structure of bank portfolio allocation subject to the post-nationalization policy constraints. The optional allocation of bank portfolio, depends on the availability of investible fund, the rates of returns net of liquidity, costs of the competing costs in the portfolio, and the policy constraints imposed by the monetary authority.

The estimated results of the analysis show the volume of investible fund to be the most significant factor in determining the asset allocation of the commercial banks. For the banking community as a whole, high proportion of priority advances have a negative impact on allocation of the asset portfolio in favour of total advances. This may be taken as an yield-responsiveness of the banks towards such loans. The banks are also observed

to respond negatively to an increase in cost of borrowing net of return by reducing the volume of allocated asset.

The point of departure of this study has been that money supply, and thus the process of credit creation have important roles to play in affecting the real variables. The Indian banks have two objectives viz., maximization of expected earnings for a given level of risk and/or minimization of risk for a given expected earnings. The second objective appears to be more acceptable to the banks. But in attaining these objectives the banks fail to maintain their level of expected earnings. Banks are observed to be responding well to the policy of credit expansion to the priority sectors, though with full guarantee on the security of such loans. But a falling trend of the loan portfolio leaves the future of credit expansion to the deserving sectors in doubt. At the same time, a constant upward revision of SLR not only reduces the volume of investible fund, but probably explains the declining trend of investment portfolio.

The policy of increasing reserves requirements to balance uncontrolled government expenditure stands in contradiction to the objectives of social control of the commercial banks.

INDUSTRY

(a) INDIA

1. R. Ramana, "An Analysis of the Growth of the Capital Goods Sector in India (1955 to 1979)", 1984, pp.vi+164.

Thesis Supervisors: Prabhath Patnaik and K.N.Raj.

The main objective of the study is to analyse the growth pattern of capital goods industries both at aggregate and disaggregate levels and explore the factors influencing their growth pattern during 1955 to 1979. This study is based on secondary data from various sources. It finds that the capital goods sector had shown higher rates of growth during the first phase and deceleration during the second phase. It argues that the deceleration in the rate of growth of output of the capital goods sector is related to casual factors such as, the exhaustion of the import-substitution process in some of the important industries of the capital goods sector and a slowing down in the growth of public investment. The reason for the differences in the rates of growth of output of basic intermediaries and machinery and equipment after the mid-sixties is that the growth of household investment, especially investment in pucca construction, has given rise to demand for basic intermediaries. It has been argued, that the "demand-based" or "market-based" hypothesis is applicable to the entire capital goods sector, though public sector participation in this sector is quite substantial, it also argues for greater and sophisticated machining operations in the machine tool industry. Finally, it is argued that the changes in the composition of the capital goods sector, with the production of more complicated machine as well as the faster growth of technologically intensive consumer durables after the mid-sixties, required greater precision in machining operations and this had induced technological changes in the machine tool industry towards sophistication.

- 2 .Cherian Samuel, "Some Aspects of Industrial Reconstruction in India", 1986, pp.195.

Thesis Supervisors: D. Narayana and Sudipto Mundle.

The study analyses industrial sickness and alternative reconstruction strategies with reference to state intervention and market solutions. Based on twelve case studies it assesses the appropriateness and identification of the problems of revival strategies, and evaluate the outcome of the reconstruction efforts. Absence of a detailed data source on sick units has led to a selection of sample units from the portfolio of Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India and the Government of West Bengal.

The analysis emphasises the need for a reorganisation of the current statistics on industrial sickness and publication of reports of the concerned enquiry committee prior to the takeover of management under the IDR Act. The study suggests a direct linkage between industrial sickness and factors internal to the domestic of technological upgradation. Managerial default has been mostly in the realm of technological upgradation. Incidence of decline is greater amongst older firms. Problems such as the severe erosion of profitability, liquidity and solvency have been observed in all cases. There has been a general shift from state management to non-state management. The hardships on account of sickness have been maximum for labour and financiers. Default of statutory payments was widespread. The IDR Act has been invoked without definite economic rationale, largely due to political compulsions. The Board of Management has been found to be least effective as proper guidelines and institutional backing are not forthcoming. Efforts of IRCI have been a failure in general. Despite good financial support from banks, funds have not been properly utilised. The general approach of the bankers lacked economic considerations. The study finds that no legislation exists for direct state intervention in sick SSI units. It suggests the induction of a new management with fresh equity participation.

3 J.Srinivasan, "An Analysis of Production and Consumption of Machine Tools in India, 1960-80", 1986, pp.179.

Thesis Supervisors: P.Mohanan Pillai and K.K.Subrahmanian.

An attempt is made in this study to determine the source of demand for machine tools and its reflection on the Indian machine tool industry for the period 1960-80. The machine tool industry did not show any spectacular gains in factor productivities. Growth in capital industry of investment was higher in sixties as compared to the seventies. This was responsible for the real absolute growth in value added during the former period. Productivity growth, however, was negative for capital during the sixties, whereas, it was positive in the case of labour. In other words, the rate of addition to output was lower than the rate of addition to capital invested to produce it. The contribution to be growth in value added was largely made by capital accretion and only marginally by labour.

The priority to develop machine tool industry in the sixties was found to be expensive. More capital (investment) elicited more value added but assuredly not at a commensurate rate. The study underlined the weakness in the planning of the machine tool industry, promoted as an essential component of the heavy industry strategy of growth. The weakness was chiefly reflected in the mismatch between the ex-ante expectations of capacity creation and ex-post pattern of performance.

4. R. Anandraj, “Firm Level Analysis of Productivity Change in the Cotton Textile Industry in India: 1965/66 – 1978/79”, 1987, pp.691

Thesis Supervisors: K.Pushpangadan and Chiranjib Sen.

This study analyses the effects of aggregation problem on productivity growth and explores the possible determinants of productivity growth at firm level. The objectives of the study are to analyse the following: regional differences in total factor productivity growth (TFPG); product mix and its effects on TFPG; relationship between age of the firms and TFPG; inter-sectoral differences in TFPG; the role of demand and supply factors in TFPG; and wage rate and its relationship with TFPG. The study is on cotton textile industry which is the only industry which provides company wise balance sheet at firm level. In addition to employment data, data on net sales, wages and salaries, breakup of inventories and gross fixed assets, depreciation, raw materials and paid up capital etc. are collected from the compiled annual balance sheet of medium and large public limited Joint Stock Companies published by the Bombay Official Stock Exchange Directory. The study takes these companies as firms. The non-availability of data restricted the study to the period 1965/66-1978/79. Three measures of total factor productivity growth (TFPG) (such as Kendrick, Solow and Translog) have been used to estimate the firm level productivity. The Diewert method of aggregation is applied to study the sensibility of aggregation problem in computing industry level TFPG and also multiple regression analysis is used to explore the determinants of TFPG. The study suggests that the sluggish growth in output and total factor productivity is not due to effects of region, product mix and age, of the machines but due to sector specific problems.

5. Radhika Srinivasan, “Public Enterprises in India: An Enquiry into Some Aspects of Physical and Financial Performance”, 1988, pp.140.

Thesis Supervisors: Gita Sen and Mridul Eapen.

The evaluation of the performance of public sector enterprises needs to be carried out in the context of the macro economic environment within which they operate. The micro and macro aspects are interactive such that the macro role enforces certain constraints on the operation of the public sector firms. While the impact of the macro economic linkages in operational terms is itself determined by certain micro variables at the enterprise level. Accordingly, an analysis of public sector performance has been carried out at both micro and macro levels, making use of physical (Total Factor Productivity and Capacity Utilization) and financial (Gross Margin/Capital employed entities).

The study relates to 26 manufacturing enterprises under the Union Government producing raw materials and capital goods such as steel, coal, minerals and metals,

chemicals, pharmaceutical and fertilizers, heavy engineering, medium and light engineering and transportation equipment. The study is based on information drawn mainly from the annual Public Enterprise Surveys of the Bureau of Public Enterprises and Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General and Committee of Public Undertakings. The study observes that the non-departmental enterprises are resource-deficit and this is indicated by the investment-savings gap. Whereas there is a significant correlation between productivity and profitability, such a strong relation between capacity utilization and profitability is not observed. As regards the factors that lie behind the discrepancies between the indicators within the same firm, 10 out of 26 firms exhibited anomalous behaviour, which could be due to price intervention via administered prices. It is suggested that a policy of selective interaction based on firm and sector specificities vis-à-vis the macro economic constraints and policies is called for.

(b) KERALA

1. Hanumantha Charya, "Some Aspects of Electricity and Electrical Goods Industries in India", 1980, pp.92.

Thesis Supervisor: A.V.Desai.

The study takes the determinants of electricity supply as those affecting the capacity utilisations. The Power Economy Committee did the analysis of capacity utilisation and plant availability by taking individual plant-wise data for five years along with other technical information. The present study, on the other hand, has taken data for 15 years by type of the plant and analysed factors affecting the capacity utilization. The analysis is restricted to steam plants. The objectives of the study are to analyse (i) the impact of age distribution of capacity and (ii) the effect of the consumption pattern of electricity on capacity utilization of steam plants.

The analysis is carried out on the determinants of consumption of electricity in 30 energy intensive manufacturing industries. In the recent past, the percentage share of electricity consumption in total energy consumption has increased in the manufacturing sector. Electricity consumption for irrigation purposes increased from 4.2 percent in total consumption in 1951 to 12 percent in 1973.

The study also tried to estimate the demand for some electrical goods namely conductors, transformers, and electrical bulbs. All the aspects of the study stand on their own individually and are not admittedly integrated.

2. V.Rajagopalan, “Handloom Industry in North and South Kerala: A Study of Production and Marketing Structures”, 1986, pp.130.

Thesis Supervisors: Mridul Eapen and Raman Mahadevan.

The study attempts to analyse the regional variations in the structure and functioning of handloom industry in Kerala to ascertain the dynamics of the industry. It attempts to investigate the factors which account for the differences in performance of the industry in North and South Kerala regions. It also assesses the relation between production and marketing structure. The secondary data used for the study are taken from censuses of handlooms conducted by the Directorate of Handloom in 1968, 1976 and 1981 as also other publications like the committee reports of the government of India. Annual reports of Hantex and Hanveev, State Planning Board, Directorate of Handlooms and Bureau of Economics and Statistics. To supplement the secondary data a sample survey was conducted in both the locations to understand changes in product strategy, product mix and so on. Oral information from people associated with the industry was also used to substantiate the information from the secondary data.

The study notes that the varied historical developments of the industry in the two regions get reflected in the type of industry, the loomage composition of the work force and the degree of co-operativisation which in turn led to a divergence in the organisation of production and marketing channels. The crisis of the industry in the different regions is often obscured by the official data, the authenticity of which is questionable. The partial shift of the export-oriented handloom sector in Cannanore to Tamil Nadu and the increasing reliance of the central handloom marketing cooperatives on rebate sales are identified as causes of concern. The study observes that the increasing competition from handloom produced in the neighbouring states poses a threat to the handloom industry in Kerala.

3. Annvajhula J.C.Bose, “Sub contracting in Television Industry. A Case Study of Keltron’s TV Factory and its Small Scale Sub Contractors”, 1987, pp.v+294+Appendices.

Thesis Supervisors: Raman Mahadevan and K.K.Subrahmanian.

The study aims at analysing the organisation of production of a particular “integral” product, namely television manufactured by Keltron. It examines “industrial” and “commercial” sub-contracting and splitting of production cycle by the main TV making plant of the parent firm.

The study concentrates on three essential features viz., (a) the factors governing the decision to sub-contract out (b) sub-contracting as a means to several ends from the

point of view of parent firms, and (c) sub contracting as largely asymmetrical, unsymbiotic and unstable relationship as far as the sub-contractors are concerned.

The extent of vertical integration or its reverse sub-contracting option is affected by scale economies. Larger firms derive their discretionary powers from their sub contracting relations with smaller firms such as overcoming the capacity or space constraints, reduction in fixed and variable costs, supply generated competitive pressure exerted on the sub-contractors and so on.

Although Keltron took advantage of differentials in hourly overheads and labour costs through industrial sub-contracting, its capacity to penetrate the markets in the country was found to be weak due not only the aggressive price competition but also non-price competition from many other TV manufacturers.

2 Alice Albin, "Manufacturing Sector in Kerala: A Study of Scale, Structure and Growth", 1988, pp.161.

Thesis Supervisors: K.K.Subrahmanian and P.Mohanan Pillai.

This study explores the structural and regional patterns of growth of a region taking Kerala as a case study. The growth experience of the manufacturing sector in Kerala is analysed in comparison with other regions in South India and all India.

The analysis shows that Kerala's growth reveals different pattern from that of all India. The study observes that the growth has not been as rapid as it is in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh or other states which started with a low level per capita manufacturing value-added as compared to Kerala in the Sixties. A disaggregated analysis of the growth of value added and employment in the factory sector in Kerala showed a decline in the growth rate since the seventies in a majority of industries in terms of employment as well as value added. It is observed that compared to all India and other southern states the structure of manufacturing in Kerala in terms of employment showed that the proportion of employment in the household sector in Kerala is the lowest. The non-household employment in Kerala grew at a slower pace when compared to all India. Within the non-factory sector it is found that in Kerala as compared to Tamil Nadu the share of directory manufacturing establishments which constitute the modern small sector is low. It is observed that the lower growth rate in employments is accounted for more by 'regional' factors like wage rates and labour disputes which have been constraining the industrial growth process in Kerala.

5. Nirmala Padmanabhan, “Private Corporate Sector in Kerala: A Study on Growth and Financial Performance in Manufacturing Industry”, 1989, pp.ii+106.

Thesis Supervisors: K.K.Subrahmanian and P.Mohanan Pillai.

In the context of the backwardness and slow growth of manufacturing industry in Kerala, the present study seeks to examine the working of private corporate sector in the state.

The analysis of growth dynamics with respect to sample companies reveals that the growth of the firm was related to the level of profitability, though not in the direct sense of high net profit and large retention of surplus leading to rapid growth through internal self-financing. On the contrary, the high correlation with debt-equity suggests that growth has taken place mainly through external borrowing coupled with efficiency in total resource use.

The analysis of financial performance of sample companies indicates that the rate of return on funds invested in the manufacturing private corporate sector in the state remains low as compared to that of all-India. The analyses of the cost-structure of sample companies as a whole, as well as industry-wise, suggest that the high wage-cost hypothesis which is generally put forward to explain the poor performance of the industrial sector in Kerala has no strong empirical base. Evidently, causative factors of poor performance seem to come from other directions such as old and obsolete capital equipment, inefficient production techniques, raw material disadvantage, high interest cost etc. the last factor being the most notable. The high interest cost arising from a highly debt-oriented capital structure, renders the net return to investors less attractive than the alternate avenues and depresses the climate for the growth of the private corporate sector and of the manufacturing industry in the state.

6. P.L.Beena, “Performance of Manufacturing Enterprises in State Sector in Kerala: A Comparative Study”, 1991, pp.122.

Thesis Supervisors: P.Mohanan Pillai and K.K.Subrahmanian.

The purpose of this study is to understand the physical performance of state public sector as compared to the private sector in Kerala on the basis of the comparative analysis of a representative sample of 14 public enterprises from the former and 21 from the later category for a period of 14 years from 1975-1988. The main objectives are to analyse the growth trends in output, gross value added, fixed capital stock, employment, capacity utilisation, productivity and factor use efficiency and the financial performance in terms of the profitability levels. The analysis clearly showed that state level public

sector enterprises as a whole put forth relatively better performance than the private sector with respect to several physical performance indicators. Coming to the productivity trends the public sector units registered a better performance in terms of the growth of both partial and factor productivity. However, the productivity ratio was very low in the public sector as compared to the private sector. Growth of capital intensity was not found to be associated with change in labour productivity. But both in the public and private sectors, the variation in labour productivity was explained by the difference in the value added. The decomposition exercise shows that the contribution of capital to output growth was more than that of labour in almost all industries in both sectors. The contribution of TFPG as compared to that of labour and capital was higher in state public sector except in the chemical industry viz., electrical, agro-based, and ceramics it was the capital which made a relatively higher contribution. On the whole, the contribution of labour to output growth was the least and it was basically capital augmentation that contributed to the growth-though marginal-to output and income in both public and private sectors. Overall, the public sector scored over the private sector in the physical performance when viewed in terms of capacity utilisation indices during the period of analysis.

Thus, the structure of the public sector units demonstrated a high gearing ratio and correspondingly a high interest burden which in turn rendered the net return low and in some cases even negative. This led to a vicious circle that further eroded the profitability resulting in larger net losses and accumulated negative net-worth.

(c) TAMIL NADU

1. Sukumar Muraleedharan, "The Decentralised Powerloom Sector of the Textile Industry: Some Issues Concerning its Growth and Official Policy", 1987, pp.156.

Thesis Supervisors: Mridul Eapen and Raman Mahadevan.

This study examines the reasons for the growth of the decentralised power loom sector, in aggregate terms, as also the regional variations. It is argued that the regional growth patterns are capable of offering some significant insights into the possible reasons for the significant growth of power looms in the post-independence period. The study on Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu offers interesting contrasts since the former had been a traditional home of the decentralised power loom and the latter of the handloom.

In Maharashtra there has been a growing locational and functional integration between the power loom sector and the organised textile industry. The power loom sector, is found to be an outgrowth of the organised textile industry.

Tamil Nadu has shown a lot of dynamism in later years in the matter of power looms installations. The traditionally dominant business interests in the textile sector of

the state, have been the agents of power loom development. The state government itself is favourably disposed towards the powerloom sector.

2. P.Manickavasagam, “Structure and Growth of Co-operative Spinning Mills in Tamil Nadu: A Critical Study of their role vis-à-vis Yarn Requirements of Handloom Co-operatives, 1973-74 to 1983-84”, 1987, pp.120.

Thesis Supervisors: Mridul Eapen and Raman Mahadevan.

The study assesses the functioning of the co-operative spinning mills in Tamil Nadu during the period 1973-74 to 1983-84. The performance of the co-operative spinning mills is evaluated both in terms of the institutional factors and also with regard to internal factors such as pattern of production, costs and prices. The production pattern is critically assessed with reference to the yarn requirements of the handloom co-operatives. The study is based on the secondary sources of data, like the annual reports of the All India Federation of co-operative Spinning Mills both at the state and unit level. The statistical statements relating to the co-operative movement in India published by the Reserve Bank of India, published pamphlets and reports of the Directorate, books and articles in standard journals. Primary data have also been collected from the unpublished records and correspondence of the directorate, co-optex, Afcospin and two sample co-operative spinning mills.

The study reveals that in practice, the present organisational arrangements are unable to co-ordinate the demand and supply of yarn and serious limitations arise both in procurement and marketing of cotton yarn. Similarly the count-wise production pattern showed significant discrepancies between production of cotton spinning mills and requirements and availability and consumption of yarn by handloom co-operatives. The reason mentioned in the study is that the raw cotton costs have risen much sharper for lower counts of yarn while selling prices have increased by the same rate for all varieties of yarn.

3. Helen Mary Jacqueline, “Some Aspects of Changes in the Structure and Growth of the Manufacturing Sector in Tamil Nadu 1973-74 to 1986-87”, 1991, pp.173.

Thesis Supervisors: Raman Mahadevan and K.Pushpangadan.

The present study is an attempt to examine the growth performance of industrial sector in Tamil Nadu, with focus placed on changes in the structure and spatial dimension.

The study revealed that the industrial sector of Tamil Nadu witnessed a higher growth as compared to the rest of India. But this growth was not accompanied by any

substantial changes in its structure, so far as composition of industries was concerned traditional industries continued to dominate. While, there has been a growth of reasonably diversified modern industrial complex in the recent past, yet as a process it has not been strong enough to alter the pre-existing industrial structure. Consequently, there was no significant structural linkages and agglomeration in the industrial development. This had adverse implications on the factor-use efficiency.

The regional level analysis indicated that the industrial growth observed in the state was spatially concentrated in the traditional industrial centres like Coimbatore, Madras and Chengalpattu, the latter being a case of spillover from Madras. The emergence of a few new industrial centres (Dharmapuri, Tiruchirapalli, Salem, etc.) has not brought any significant change in the spatial concentration of industries.

The study unfolds several shortcomings such as lack of diversification in product-mix, inefficiency in factor-use, limited labour absorptive capacity, and spatial concentration in the process of industrialisation of Tamil Nadu in recent years. All these, which are connected with lack of dynamism in the structural change, are matters of serious concern and in the context of the present strategy of industrial development of the state call for necessary policy intervention.

(d) WEST BENGAL

1. Tirthankar Roy, "Inter-State Variations in Industrial Growth in India, 1950-1979/80", 1984, pp.134.

Thesis Supervisors: D.Narayana and Sudipto Mundle.

This study enquires into regional differentiation (levels of growth and factors explaining the divergence) and changes in growth rates across periods, as well as nature and extent of inter-state differences concerning industrial growth in the major states. The main source of data is the Annual Survey of Industries, census sector. For explaining the region specific issues, West Bengal is taken as a case study. The study observes that the regional differential patterns are explained neither by agricultural growth nor structural factors during 1965-74. In general the state did not have distinctly 'favourable' or otherwise structures in 1960. Sharp inter-state differences exist in growth rates within each industry, and particularly those with a substantial base in West Bengal. The varying state-wise growth rates between four sub-periods could be understood with reference to stability in specific product groups, mainly chemicals. The spurts in engineering goods industry particularly in Tamil Nadu and Punjab-Haryana could be consequent upon overall industrial decline in West Bengal (due to regional factors) and subsequent fall in metal and metal-based industry. The relative stability in growth rates in sample states (except West Bengal) was partially attributable to low but stable growth rates in the cotton textiles industry. It is observed that the stagnation in West Bengal has been traced to structural factors external changes in specific products. The decline of big

trade and a slowing down of agriculture mainly due 1965-69 had also contributed to a deviation from the natural growth rate in the mid-sixties.

2. Rita Mukherjee, "Sub-contracting in the Footwear Industry: A Case Study of Bata", 1986, pp.217.

Thesis Supervisors: T.M.Thomas Isaac and C.Ram Manohar Reddy.

This is a study on sub-contracting in the footwear industry in India, taking the case of Bata India and its sub contractors in Calcutta as a case study. It is based on a field survey conducted at three levels of sub-contracting in Calcutta, by Bata India. More selective in-house production and a new emphasis on the luxury market made Bata to go in for sub-contracting.

The study suggests that the possibility of controlling and exploiting the cheap and fragmented labour force is the major economic justification for the agent to undertake sub-contracting. However, the role of sub-contracting in the development of small scale industries has been well established in the present study. The study emphasises the importance of a further enquiry at the level of individual industries in this area to know as to how much growth potential can be tapped through sub-contracting. The factors instrumental for the sub-contracting in Bata are found to be government policy and Bata's own internal crisis. This impact was evident in the sub-contracting of Hawaii and the development of satellite projects like 'Dolly shoe',. And for some ladies' foot wear.

(d) PUNJAB

1. Sukhpal Singh, "Bicycle Industry in India: A Study of Localisation, Production and Market Structure", 1988, pp.104.

Thesis Supervisors: Raman Mahadevan and Mridul Eapen.

This study focuses on the locational shift of the bicycle industry within the country, from metropolitan regions to some non-metropolitan areas. It traces the historical growth and decline of the metropolitan bicycle industry and its relocation in Northern India, mainly in Punjab. Since the locational set up and concentration is a part of the study of industrial organisation, the study aims at an analysis of the market concentration and the production structure in the country. The study is based on secondary sources of data which are supplemented by information gathered through a primary survey of small scale units in Ludhiana.

It is observed that the bicycle industry, though initially had evolved without any substantial government patronage, grew mainly under the policy of tariff protection and

import substitution during 1940's and 1950's. The study states that during 1940-60 period the process of locational shift of the industry began to assume a significant shape, under which the centre of the industry tended to shift from the metropolitan regions to the up country areas, especially in Punjab. During 1960's the study observes that certain improvements were noted in the product of the large scale manufacturers, though the industry was lagging far behind in bicycle technology when compared to U.S.A., the trend had changed dramatically wherein upcountry manufacturers had grown and started dominating the industry. On the whole it finds that the bicycle industry is now geared to meet the growing internal demand.

AGRICULTURE

(a) INDIA

1. A.D.Neelakantan, "Rural Wealth in India: Inter-regional Variations in its Distribution Among Cultivator Households", 1976, pp.46.

Thesis Supervisor: N.Krishnaji.

The study examines the hypothesis that inequalities in wealth-holding have increased at different rates in different regions mainly due to differential rates of growth in productivity. The latter were a consequence of new technology in agriculture which is region-specific. These differential rates of growth of productivity led to inter-regional variations in the form of increase in land prices and thereby value of land.

Disparities between top groups and bottom groups increased in areas where productivity has increased significantly and they did not, in areas where productivity increases are small. Thus, in the explanation for the above inequalities, adoption of new technology is given primacy of importance.

In areas where Green Revolution is effective, there has been a phenomenal increase in average value of assets owned by rural households. The significant feature of the Sixties was the high rate of growth of asset values in the wheat-region as against a very low rate of growth in the Southern Rice-region. Also, in areas where "new technology" was effective, there was a tendency for inequalities between the top and bottom groups of cultivators to widen. On the contrary, where it was less effective, there was a slight decrease in inequalities as it was the case in the Southern Rice-region. The disparities between regions and between top and bottom groups were found mainly in productive physical assets.

2. Narendar Pani, "Some Aspects of the Fluctuations and Trends in Wheat Productivity in India, 1964/65 to 1970/71", 1977, pp.53.

Thesis Supervisor: N.Krishnaji.

Between the period 1964/65 and 1970/71 wheat production in India registered a sharp increase. However, this increase was not uniform across all the wheat growing regions, but was restricted only to a few regions with a high initial productivity.

The bulk of the increase in wheat productivity, was due to the irrigation potential created by the government. Since technological improvements are required to increase production on irrigated land, private investment became a critical factor.

Lack of private investment cannot always be explained away in terms of lack of profit motive or the size of the farm. The share of the produce going to the cultivator is suggested as a factor which needs to be considered. This share is likely to depend upon the relationship between the owner and the cultivator. Hence, the relations of production play an important role.

Private investment could also play a crucial role in the development of small scale industries. Also, fluctuations in productivity, incomes and hence demand assume importance. There can be a rise in these factors only if there is growth in productivity.

3. Nata Duvvury, "A Study of the Jowar Market with Special Reference to Price Behaviour", 1978, pp.53.

Thesis Supervisor: N.Krishnaji

Coarse cereals are those which are generally grown in dry areas and hence production of these grains is subject to wide fluctuations. They are also region-specific and are in fact cultivated in areas which are identified as pockets of poverty. The grains are basic to wage goods in rural India. The present study examines the fluctuations in the price behaviour of jowar, one of the major coarse cereals in India.

It is postulated that the usual demand supply factors do not adequately explain the variations in the prices of jowar. On the other hand, it is suggested that in an environment of rising price expectations, there is a tendency to exhibit a perverse behaviour which is manifested in a positive correlation between output and prices. It is argued that in periods of rising prices, the above correlation is a consequence of a rise in demand for stocks.

The study comes to the conclusion that jowar which is normally taken as a subsistence crop and raised for domestic consumption by the farmers, is on the contrary a commercial crop as it is raised not only for the market but also disposed in it.

Hoarding plays an important role in the jowar market. Demand factors such as increase in demand due to population growth and substitution demand, though important, could not fully explain the rise in the price of jowar. Therefore, it is inferred that stocks play an important role in the jowar market.

The market functioning of jowar is similar to that of rice and wheat, i.e. the demand for stock has a crucial role to play in the determination of the price.

4. Rayaprolu Nagaraj, "Determinants of Fertilizer Use and its Growth: An Analysis", 1980, pp.136.

Thesis Supervisor: A.Vaidyanathan.

India's agricultural development programmes assigned a high priority to growth of fertilizer usage. However, notwithstanding the rapid growth of irrigation and spread of HYVs, a distinct decline in growth of fertilizer consumption is discernible over the period 1951-52 to 1977-78. And there is no evidence to suggest that this deceleration was caused by supply and distribution bottlenecks.

The factors determining cultivator's fertilizer use are technological/physical, economic and institutional. The correlation and regression analyses made in the study show that rainfall in any of its dimensions is a relatively unimportant variable in explaining observed variations in fertilizer use. Irrigation is uniformly a dominant influence. Proportion of area under HYV's and fertilizer intensive crops are found to have a positive effect on fertilizer consumption. Fertilizer use and relative price, as expected, are inversely related in a number of cases but the relation is found to be weak.

It is hypothesized that the deceleration in use of fertilizer consumption was a reflection of the persistently lower yields as well as high variability of the responses under conditions of mass application of fertilizers compared to those achieved in demonstration and experimental conditions. Further more, lack of access to credit and its high costs could curtail the diffusion of fertilizers.

5. Reshmi Melhotra, "Flow of Subsidies to the Agricultural Sector in India, 1968-69 to 1987-88", 1990, pp.v+236.

Thesis Supervisors: Chiranjib Sen and S.P.Padhi.

This study examines the basic trend in input subsidies across regions and states. All the indicators adopted by the study viz., relative shares in total subsidies, subsidy per unit of gross cropped area, gross irrigated area and in relation to SDP from agricultural sector establish the point that it is the prosperous regions and states which have been the beneficiaries of subsidies. And the backward regions and states lagged considerably behind. The reasons for this lagging behind lie in their governance by agricultural backwardness due to structural bottlenecks, institutional rigidities, organisational constraints and economic hindrances. The low absorption capacity of the peasantry in the Eastern and Central regions was stated to be a product of multitude of factors.

The electricity subsidy which is implicit had increased faster than the explicit fertilizer subsidy. The concessional interest rate policy had not favoured agricultural sector in the early seventies, though admittedly the interest rate differential started widening from 1974/75 onwards. Interestingly, increased disparities over the years were

observed in the flow of interest rate subsidy per hectare. The power tariffs to agricultural sector are significantly below the costs incurred on generation and supply of electricity.

6. Ajay Ranjan Singh, “Aspects of Price Determinants in the Foodgrain Sector: India 1951 – 1989”, 1991, pp.89.

Thesis Supervisor: T.M.Thomas Isaac.

The study starts by taking a brief look at the production performance of foodgrains and the scale and nature of government intervention in the foodgrain market. Price formation in particular markets are looked at to decipher the analytic of government intervention and foodgrain prices. For this exercise, markets situated in regions with contrasting production performances and differing nature of government intervention, have been picked up. The markets are: (1) Barnala in Punjab, (2) Patna in Bihar, (3) Nagpur in Maharashtra and (4) Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. Based on the emerging analysis, an econometric model of the determinants of foodgrain prices is set up and estimated. The important findings of the model are the following:

- (i) The increasing share of internal procurement in public distribution of foodgrains has resulted in an upward trend in foodgrain prices over time.
- (ii) In markets where the procurement price has been operational during some period of the crop cycle, the main dynamic to prices has been provided by high and rising procurement prices.
- (iii) In markets where the procurement price has not been operational, though the essential dynamic has been provided by excess demand, increased bullishness due to rising procurement price does appear responsible for accelerating price increases.
- (iv) There exists a variable which is very significant in explaining the level of foodgrain prices and whose relationship vis-à-vis the prices of foodgrains has changed since 1975. While the study is able to point out the existence of this variable, it has not been able to identify it.

(b) KERALA

1. Arabinda Bhattacharya, “Some Aspects of the Rubber in Kerala”, 1976, pp.90+A-38.

Thesis Supervisor: I.S.Gulati.

The study attempts to provide an economic evaluation of the new subsidy scheme for rubber plantation proposed by the Rubber Board, India.

There has been a phenomenal growth in the area under rubber, especially since 1950-51. As the area under rubber expanded, the small holder sector became more and more important in terms of its share in total area under rubber. In 1950-51 they accounted for 97 per cent of the units engaged in rubber cultivation, but occupied less than one-third of the total area. In 1969/70, the small holdings accounted for two-thirds of the area under rubber. Of the total additional area brought under rubber, 85% were accounted for by small-holdings.

A significant portion of the area under small holdings is under the low yielding varieties. The supply of HYVs is limited. Replacement of low yielding varieties by the HYVs might also imply loss of income. In 1957 a subsidy was introduced to encourage rubber growers to replace LYV with HYV. A new subsidy scheme is sought to be introduced in 1978/79 and the duration of their project will be 30 years. The scheme is divided into two parts. One part covers replantation under the Board's normal programme and the other part deals with replantation under the acceleration scheme.

The study made an economic evaluation of the subsidy scheme on the basis of UNIDO guidelines for the small holdings. An alternative subsidy scheme has been suggested for the small holdings.

2. Jacob Mathew, "Trend and Fluctuations in Prices of Coconuts and Coconut Oils", 1978, pp.57.

Thesis Supervisor: N.Krishnaji.

The study is undertaken mainly to examine the trends in the prices of coconut products since 1950s and the related factors thereof. The markets for coconuts and coconut products are well integrated. The price of coconuts and copra are determined by the coconut oil prices. The differential behaviour in price movements could be explained to a large extent by the trends in imports of coconuts and coconut oil into the country.

At the all-India level, the price movements of coconut oil could not be satisfactorily explained by the levels of production alone. Other factors representing excess demand, such as imports and income influence the price behaviour of coconut oil to a considerable extent.

World markets for coconut oil appear to be well integrated. Shortage in one or more of the oil seeds in the world market has its effects on the domestic coconut oil market also.

In Kerala, while the intra-state variation in prices of coconut oil tended to diminish with increase in prices in the early 'seventies', an opposite trend is noticed in the case of coconuts. Since the oil markets are well integrated, inter-district variations in that commodity are negligible. With the increase in prices, though the pattern of

seasonal variation remained more or less the same, the amplitude of the fluctuations had increased, in the case of prices of coconut oil and coconuts.

Seasonal indices for coconut oil prices are found to be influenced by the availability of oil in the markets and those for coconuts are influenced by the demand for coconuts from copra makers and oil mills, which in turn depended on the pattern of rainfall. The influence of supply factors on the prices of coconuts is of limited nature.

3. Jeemol Unni, “An Analysis of Change in the Cropping Pattern of Kerala with Particular Reference to the Substitution of Coconut for Rice, 1960-61 to 1978-79”, 1981, pp.124.

Thesis Supervisor: K.N.Raj.

An attempt is made in this dissertation to find out the reasons for the shift in cropping pattern from rice to coconuts during the period 1960/61 to 1978/79. Net area under rice declined, whereas area under coconut increased phenomenally. The relative profitability of coconut cultivation is found to be much higher than that of rice cultivation. It is also seen that single cropped paddy lands are more likely to be converted to coconut gardens than the double cropped lands.

The difference in the profitabilities in the cultivation of coconut and rice is located in the greater labour and fertilizer costs involved in rice cultivation. The fluctuating paddy prices and rising input-costs worked together to make rice cultivation a less profitable venture. On the other hand, the consistent rise in coconut prices and smaller quantum of labour and fertilizer use in coconut cultivation have increased the profitability of the latter.

4. Sunil Mani, “An Analysis of the Indian Natural Rubber Market”, 1983, pp.173.

Thesis Supervisors: Chiranjib Sen and P.K.Michael Tharakan.

The study explores prices and marketing structures of natural rubber (NR) in India. Data were collected from Rubber Board, International Rubber Study Group, Association of Natural Rubber producing countries and a field survey conducted at a particular centre in Kerala, (Mundakayam). Beginning with a historical evaluation of NR market in India since 1902 the analysis shows that from being primarily an export commodity the market for rubber has become mainly domestic. Further, the institutional environment (price agreements, price constraints, etc.) has also changed, due mainly to government policies. An analysis of price behaviour of NR (monthly variations) since 1969 has been done using an econometric model with production, consumption and buyers' (rubber product manufactures) stocks as explanatory variables. This brings out

the fact that since 1973, the degree of market uncertainty and instability has increased significantly. Building buffer stocks is suggested as an effective measure to achieve price stability. The main finding of the study is that even small growers, retain a major share of the buyer's rupee. Hence, the traders margins are very low. The scope for manipulative practices by intermediaries is insignificant. Terms offered by the cooperative marketing have been unattractive to the growers. The advantage of the estates sector over small growers lies not in obtaining higher prices for comparable forms of NR (ribbed smoked sheet), but in their ability to produce technically specified rubber. Finally it is observed that though the trader's margins are low, their rate of return on working capital is high.

5. P.K.Sivanandan, "Kerala's Agricultural Performance: Differential Trends and Determinants of Growth", 1985, pp.172.

Thesis Supervisors: P.G.K.Panikar and P.S.George.

The deceleration in Kerala's agricultural growth rate had begun some time during the 1975/76 and became negative from 1978/79 onwards. Between 1960 and 1974/75 the growth rate in area contributed to more than two-third and yield to a little less than one-fourth of the growth rate in the production of all crops. Between 1974/75 and 1982/83, a sharp decline in the growth rate of area and a mild decline in that of yield contributed to a negative growth rate in production.

Food grains and non-food grains sectors showed widely different growth trends. Between 1960 and 1974/75 the growth rate in the non-food grain sector was found to be double that of food grains. In the subsequent period i.e., 1974/75 to 1982/83, there was a sharp fall in the growth rates of production in both the sectors, but the fall was sharper in the non-food grain sectors. Area and cropping patterns showed negative growth rates in both the sectors.

The analysis of growth was also carried out crop-wise and district-wise for the major crops. The impact of high yielding varieties in pushing up yield is visible only for rubber. Relative price movements were able to explain the crop shifts. Insufficient use of irrigation, and inputs like fertilizer and credit and lack of a long term investment in land were found to be some of the reasons for the decelerating trends in productivity.

6. K.J.Joseph, "An Analysis of the Marketing and Price Formation of Cardamom in Kerala", 1985, pp.106.

Thesis Supervisors: P.K.Michael Tharakan and D.Narayana.

Cardamom is known to have been a commodity of international commerce since ancient times. At present, it is a major foreign exchange earner for the central exchequer.

The ever green forests in the Western ghats of southern India are the traditional home of cardamom. Kerala accounts for 60 per cent of the cardamom area and 70 per cent of its production in the country. The present study focuses on the marketing and price formation aspects of cardamom in Kerala.

The study analyses the evolution of cardamom cultivation and marketing in Kerala, the structure of the marketing system and the price formation at the primary (auction) level taking into account variations across sellers, and buyers. Information collected from one of the major cardamom auction centres in India constitutes the central data-base of the study. This is supplemented with the data obtained from the publications of the Cardamom Board. The historical evolution of cardamom cultivation and marketing in Kerala is traced from various reports of the government of Travancore and `semi-official' literature like the Travancore State Manual. The study notes that cardamom was a major source of revenue to the state by way of export earnings even during the pre-independence period. The study observes that towards the end of the nineteenth century state monopoly of cardamom was lifted, thus giving way to private trading and sale through auctions. The study notes that the Cardamom Board was set up in 1966. In 1977 the Cardamom (licensing and Marketing) Rules were passed with a view to regulating the functions of the different participants in the market such as cardamom growers, auctioneers and dealers. It is found that most of the auctioneers are growers. Some of the dealers are exporters, and some both growers-cum-exporters. There is also a heavy concentration of market power in cardamom trade.

The study also shows that the present market structure with its concentration of market power significantly influences the price. Also, the present market structure tends to foster a positive relation between lot size and price. The study suggests that the price variation across different lots is higher during the peak seasons and years of peak production.

7. A.A.Baby, "Trends in Agricultural Wages in Kerala, 1960-1980", 1986, pp.89.

Thesis Supervisors: P.G.K.Panikar and D.Narayana.

This study is an extension of earlier analyses on the movement of agricultural wages, in different directions. One obvious extension relates to the time span covered. It has taken up the period up to 1980-81 whereas the earlier studies covered the period till 1972-73. This study also attempts to make necessary corrections to the three sources of data, viz., the National Sample Survey (NSS), Studies in the Economics of Farm Management (SEFM) and Agricultural Wages in India (AWI). An examination of the relative movement of money wage and cost of living indices is also attempted in sufficient detail. The female labour and a few specific operations of labour are excluded from the analysis due to paucity of data. The study observes that there is a general pattern in the movement of money wages from 1960-61 to 1980-81 characterised by cyclical fluctuations. The trends in the movement of retail price of rice shows five

phases of upswings and downswings which had more or less synchronised with the movement of the money wages. Further, the inter district variations in the retail price of rice also showed similar systematic patterns of upswings and downswings. It is observed from the cyclical patterns, that the end-point comparisons are meaningless. The study suggests an alternative method based on economic variable. A comparison of the findings of this study with those of the earlier ones revealed a marketed contrast, mostly due to the differences in the methodology.

8. P.K.Hameed Kutty, "Market Structure and Interlinking of Markets: A Study of Coconut Marketing in a Village in Kerala", 1986, pp.118.

Thesis Supervisor: D.Narayana.

The study focuses on the structure of coconut market and its inter-linkages with the credit market. It begins with an analysis of the production structure of the crop and proceeds to analyse its impact on the market structure. Further, the inter-linkages between product and credit markets are analysed by examining the various indigenous modes of relationships existing in the coconut sector and the structure of interest rates. Also, the question of trade-off between rates of interest and price differential has been analysed. Besides, the study also analyses the institutional intervention keeping in view the role of the co-operative marketing which was introduced in the state in 1960.

The study is based on information gathered from a village in Kerala where coconut is the predominant crop. A survey covering households producing coconuts as well as coconut traders in the village was conducted. Records of co-operative credit societies in the village were perused. Besides, data from official sources like Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Coconut Development Board etc. were also used. The study shows that productivity per acre and per palm display an inverse relationship with the size of the holding. Roughly a quarter of the production is consumed by the grower-households themselves. The marketed proportion of production increases with the size-class of holdings. The production as well as marketed surplus depict marked seasonality, with a higher concentration for both during the peak season. The study points out that the period of coconut and coconut products such as copra and coconut oil have been showing an upward trend since the 'fifties', although with occasional fall. The study points out that the co-operative marketing experiment has not met with success. The managing committees of the co-operative marketing societies are dominated by the large-farmers and often there is collusion between traders and employees of the societies. Further, caste divisions represent another factor that tended to undermine the success of the system. In sum, the study points out that marketing of coconuts does not operate efficiently at the village level.

9. T.A.Varghese, "Land Market in Kerala, With Particular Reference to Transfers in Three Villages", 1987, pp.220.

Thesis Supervisor: P.G.K.Panikar.

Establishment of ownership rights and growth and diffusion in the number of ownerships are found to be the two basic conditions identified for supply of land. Factors affecting the supply of land are: growth of population, changes in inheritance system, development of commercial cultivation, migration of land owners and migration for employment and inflow of remittances.

Differences are found in the extent of areas transferred and land prices among the sample villages selected from Low land, Mid land High land Divisions. Inheritance system was found to affect both supply and demand for land in the market in all the three villages surveyed. Differences in cropping system, size of land ownership, inflow of remittances, inheritance system etc. are also reflected in land prices.

Most of the land transfers were between the same group of land owners. This was partly explained by the intra-family transfers. Land prices in such cases were found to be much lower.

Participation of the scheduled castes in the land market is found to be low. Small land owners have not been gaining land through the land market.

10. T.Paranjothi, "Supply and Utilization of Long-term Institutional Credit for Agriculture. A Study with Reference to Trichur District in Kerala", 1987, pp.iv+174.

Thesis Supervisors: Sakthi Prasad Padhi and G.N.Rao.

An attempt is made in the study to combine an analysis of the operations of the major short-term and long-term institutional credit agencies in Trichur district of Kerala with a village level survey of the beneficiary households, as a case study.

It was found that the number of borrowing members had not increased steadily and the average amount of long-term credit per borrower remained stagnant even in nominal terms. Minor irrigation, for which most of the loans were given, declined not only in terms of percentages but also in absolute terms. As the amount of overdues was well within the limit of 25%, the Land Mortgage Bank came under the category of unrestricted lending. The Bank was able to cover the small farmers without any significant increase but at the same time the percentage of small farmers seems to have been over-estimated since medium and large farmers got recorded as small farmers.

The relative importance of short-term credit agencies came down and even the growth rate was found to be negative in real terms. As credit absorption had not been

increasing, there was a stagnant demand for credit from the institutional agencies. The land holdings were predominantly small and marginal. The main sources of finance for these land holders are commercial banks and/or own funds. The physical distance between the land mortgage bank and the farmers-respondents' residential areas was on a higher side. Besides, the procedures of the Land Mortgage Bank were found to be time-consuming and cumbersome.

11. S.Sunanda, "Institutional Credit for Agriculture in Kerala: A Disaggregated Analysis", 1991, pp.193.

Thesis Supervisors: K.P.Kannan and K.Pushpangadan

In this study an attempt is made to analyse the mismatch between the upward trends in the disbursements of formal agricultural credit and stagnant agricultural performance in Kerala. The study also examines the changes in the pattern of agricultural credit before and after stagnation as also the socio-economic background of banking in Kerala.

In the examination of the socio-economic background of the development of banking in Kerala, we found that the possible favourable factors were the large scale subdivision of holding due to the changing property right regulations, the large-scale reclamation of land, commercialization of agriculture and the sporadic development of agro-processing and trading activities along with the help of sound transport facilities. The analysis of the growth rate of total institutional agricultural credit shows that the quantum of credit disbursed by them has increased manifold during the period of analysis in the state as a whole (1961-62 to 1985-86) and also in the districts/group of districts (1964-65 to 1985-86). The institution-wise growth rate of agricultural credit shows accelerated phase in the credit expansion especially during the second period. From the point of view of inter-institutional comparison, it is observed that commercial banks are performing better than the co-operative institutions. However, co-operatives still dominate agricultural credit in almost all places in Kerala, except Trivandrum.

In the term-wise analysis, it is revealed that in the state as a whole and across districts the short-term loans occupy a high proportionate share in the total credit. Finally, in the use-wise analysis, it can be seen that total non-agricultural credit of PACSs has recorded the highest growth rate during this period. The share of short-term agricultural loans has decreased significantly over the period of analysis. Recovery performance of total agricultural credit shows that it is more than 50 per cent across the districts for all the institutions during the period 1987-89. Among the institutions the recovery position of PACSs is the best, followed by that of the Primary Agricultural Development Banks.

12. Sunny Jose, "Group Farming in Kerala: An Illustrative Study", 1991, pp.153.

Thesis Supervisors: P.K.Michael Tharakan and Mridul Eapen.

Group Farming in paddy cultivation was introduced in Kerala in 1989. This system of farming which is distinct and different from co-operative and collective farming, has the following objectives: (a) to reduce cost of production through collective management and sharing of common benefits, (b) to facilitate effective management of the resources by pooling the individual resources for purposes of management, (c) to promote individual incentives and enterprise by retaining individual ownership of land/capital, and (d) to strengthen the linkages between production, technology transfer, input supply and marketing. In the first year of the programme (1989-90) itself it was spread over 1.7 lakh hectares, which is about 30 per cent of the total area under paddy in the state. Official sources have claimed significant improvement in production and reduction in cost of cultivation due to the Group Farming Programme.

It has been found that the performance of group farming in the five Padasekharams in a Panchayat of Trivandrum district has been quite uneven. While measurable impact has been observed in two Padasekharams, in the other three it has failed to take-off from the initial stage of forming the Padasekharam committees.

In the two Padasekharams where group farming has progressed there has been significant reduction in the cost of cultivation. It is in the cost of labour that the reduction has mainly registered. This reduction was greatly assisted by innovations like mechanized tilling and chemical weed control introduced under group farming.

(c) **TAMIL NADU**

1. S.Ramanathan, "Tank Irrigation in Tamil Nadu: A Case Study with Special Reference to Productivity Gains and Maintenance of the System", 1985, pp.144.

Thesis Supervisors: G.N.Rao and D.Narayana.

The allocation of irrigation water and maintenance of physical facilities, in a community irrigation source such as tank imply social activities which would be governed by definite social rules, and irrigation organisation. Given irrigation source, the irrigation organisation determines the gains from and distribution of irrigation water. The question of productivity and equity is crucially linked to the irrigation organisation. The study analyses data collected from a village in Chingleput district of Tamil Nadu.

Under the Mirasi land tenure there were two groups viz., the land owners and landless labourers. And this division has been on communal lines, the "Upper Castes" owning land and the "Lower Castes" like Paraiyan providing labour.

In the post-independence period this caste balance has to some extent changed in favour of the “lower castes”. Yet the “upper castes” as a group still manage to control the irrigation source through their control over land. Hence, a major portion of the gains of irrigation in the village still accrue to the upper caste Naidus. The lower castes who are no more in a “dependency status” vis-à-vis the upper castes, have been unwilling to provide labour for the maintenance of the irrigation system.

The upper castes who are not willing to share the productivity gains of irrigation with the lower castes may invest in private sources of irrigation such as wells, to circumvent the irrigation organisation. Since technology is not scale neutral the lower castes who do not receive much of gains of irrigation may not be able to invest in wells. This would further exacerbate the prevailing inequity.

2. M.Udaya Kumar, “Irrigation and Cropping Intensity in Tamil Nadu. A District wise Analysis”, 1986, pp.114.

Thesis Supervisors: D.Narayana and K.N.Nair.

This exercise analyses the changes in cropping intensity in Tamil Nadu agriculture for the period 1951-52 to 1982-83. Growth of irrigation and changes in the cropping pattern have also been analysed.

During the three decades under study, the relative share of canals and tanks in the net irrigated area showed a decline and that of wells rise. However, all the three major sources of irrigation and contributed to the rise in the net irrigated area.

The development of irrigation (both in terms of level and composition) has not resulted in the increase in cropping intensity measured by the frequency with which the net sown area is cultivated or in the simultaneous effect of extension and intensity. Three factors namely, level of irrigation, intensity of irrigation and rainfall had largely accounted for the variations in the multiple cropping over the years across districts.

For the state of Tamil Nadu as a whole, surface irrigation sources have been exploited to the maximum. The exploitation of ground water has been more than what is recharged through natural precipitation. The demand for surface irrigation increased particularly after the Green Revolution. The surface irrigation sources, particularly tanks, are in disrepair in many districts.

3. Sudha Mahalingam, "Instability in Tamil Nadu Agriculture: An Inter-district Analysis of Paddy and Millets", 1987, pp.164.

Thesis Supervisors: Chiranjib Sen and Sakti Prasad Padhi.

In this study instability levels in paddy and millet outputs in Tamil Nadu are sought to be compared for the period 1951-52 to 1982-83. Compound growth rates are estimated and levels of instability measured separately for output, acreage and yields of the two crops. Yet another question on growth-instability for the periods before and after the Green Revolution is looked into. The possible causes of yield instability are also examined.

Districts within the same agro-climatic zones displayed differential patterns. And factors critical to fast growth and high productivity levels differed across zones. While technological upgradation might be critical in one zone, in another it could be the extent and quality of irrigation in determining growth rates and productivity levels. The millet yields responded far more readily to irrigation. But millets are found to be losing ground everywhere in the state.

Instability increased in the period of the innovative strategy. Yield instability could not be explained by yield growth, either for paddy or millets. Irrigation was found to have a stabilising influence on paddy yields. Also, interaction between acreage instability and yield instability was found to be mutually reinforcing in every district after the mid-sixties.

(d) KARNATAKA

1. Ananth S. Panth, "Growth Pattern and Determinants of Fertilizer Use: A Case Study of Karnataka", 1989, pp.iii+117.

Thesis Supervisor: P.S.George.

This study analyses the growth in consumption pattern of fertilizer in Karnataka between 1968-69 and 1986-87. It also tries to identify the major factors influencing the use of fertilizers and highlight the policy implications.

Physical, technological, economic and institutional factors are found to influence the use of fertilizers. The physical factors consist of rainfall, irrigation and cropping pattern. A negative relationship is observed between rainfall and fertilizer consumption. Irrigation and fertilizer consumption are found to be positively related. The use of HYV's is found to have a significant positive correlation with fertilizer consumption. Prices of fertilizers and harvest prices are the important economic factors influencing fertilizer consumption. There is a positive correlation between crop prices and fertilizer

consumption. Institutional crop loans, sale points, extension programme and agricultural markets are found to be the important institutional factors influencing fertilizer consumption. The government policies comprise of commodity, price fixation, fixation of fertilizers prices, subsidies etc. To increase the demand for fertilizer and its consumption, the study recommends the creation of potential demand and translate it into an effective one.

2. Gotla Nagaraju: “Pleasant Immigration and Agrarian Change: A Case Study from Raichur District of Karnataka”, 1989, pp.89.

Thesis Supervisors: S.P.Padhi and G.N.Rao.

The study attempts to understand the dynamics of “innovative migration”, which has been defined as “migration of persons as a means of achieving the new and which would be inherently different from labour migration in respect of causes, pattern and effects”. By using the induced innovation hypothesis the study tries to see whether or not the inducement mechanism in terms of both spatial and lateral diffusion processes have been at work at the point of destination. The role of migrants in the activation of agrarian markets is also analyzed. The dynamics of migration has been studied by considering the case of peasant immigration from Coastal Andhra Pradesh (with a long history of intensive, irrigated agriculture and wet cultivation techniques) into Raichur district of Karnataka with traditional dry land farming where new irrigation facilities were provided during the late 1940s under the Thungabhadra irrigation project.

The study is based on survey of two villages, Hebbala and Sriram Nagar in Gangavathy taluk of Raichur district. Information has also be collected from census of India and Indian Agricultural Statistics. The study observes that the peasant immigration into Raichur district has been in response to the perceived economic opportunities thrown up by irrigation. The expertise of the peasant migrants in irrigated farming techniques was another major factor that induced migration. It is found that the peasant migration has induced and facilitated the adoption of improved techniques to raise the physical productivity of the land with particular reference to wet rice cultivation. At the same time, induced innovation in terms of lateral diffusion of improved techniques to local farmers has been limited on account of the significant presence of peasant immigrants. As a result there has been an unequal participation between the immigrant and the local farmers as the growth prospects were opened up by the public irrigation system.

(e) ORISSA

1. Keshabananda Das, "Sugarcane Cultivation and the Cooperative Sugar Factory: A Case Study of Aska Region in Orissa", 1986, pp.216.

Thesis Supervisors: G.N.Rao and Sakti Prasad Padhi.

This study analyses the interrelationships in the production of an agro-industrial crop at two levels; viz., (a) between the growers (of cane) and the processors (initially, the foreign free merchants and later the co-operative sugar factory) and (b) within agriculture itself. This has been carried out with a historical perspective (covering the period 1840-1984). It is also based on detailed field surveys of two villages and the cooperative sugar factory. Following analyses of historical roots of commercial cultivation, agro-climatic conditions, variety of contractual relations and disaggregate costs or cultivation, this study reveals that high rent, lower yields and self-exploitation of family labour are the major drag on the predominantly small-peasant cultivation in the region. The 'democratic' cooperative factory, through both managerial manipulation and a set of formalised restrictions, exercises a comprehensive and total control over the small growers adversely affecting the growth possibilities in this peasant-based economy. Further, the peasants' option to go for gur making as a profitable commercial alternative, by which they could have weakened the grip of the factory on them, have been dwindling. The study traces the absence of state support, obsolete gur-making technology, unstable gur prices, indirect prohibition imposed by the factory, etc. By providing evidence for the control of the cooperative factory by a section of the agrarian and political elite, the study questions the nature and adequacy of state-aided cooperative capitalism supposedly concerned with the upliftment of the rural poor.

(f) ANDHRA PRADESH

1. Hrushikesh Panda, "Impact of Irrigation on Farmers' Acreage Response to Price: A Case Study of Andhra Pradesh", 1982, pp.123.

Thesis Supervisor: A.Vaidyanathan.

Most studies on acreage response of individual crops support the view that farmers in different regions of India respond to a price change positively. However, there are not many studies on aggregate acreage or yield response of agriculture.

An attempt has been made in this study to discuss the influence of three broad sets of factors viz., physical, input and output markets and institutions on farmers' responses to price changes both at the level crop and aggregate levels in Andhra Pradesh. It is argued that the acreage response would be restricted if total gross cultivated area

cannot be increased to take advantage of a favourable price movement. Similarly, if total expenditure on production of all crops cannot be increased, then the overall yield response would be limited. A large share of crop in total gross cultivated area would also restrict its acreage response. Irrigation is likely to act as a countervailing force to uncertain rainfall.

Among the market factors it is argued that access to and costs of inputs and credit would affect farmer's acreage and yield response. The degree of commercialization of a crop (and of all crops) is likely to have a positive effect on the output response of a crop (and of overall output). Imperfection in any market or interlocking of markets would tend to bring down farmers' output response to price. Tenant-farming is expected under certain conditions to affect output response adversely.

In Andhra Pradesh irrigation seems to shift the acreage response to ragi and groundnut. For jowar no such shift is noticed. For paddy, one does not get a very clear overall relationship between the extent of irrigation and acreage response, but in the low rainfall group one gets a significant association. In the high rainfall group, acreage response of paddy is in general found to be low.

As for paddy and groundnut in each pair of districts, the highly irrigated district has a higher acreage response than the district with low irrigation. For jowar, out of two pairs of districts, the price coefficient is significant in only one district, which has low irrigation. Comparing the irrigated and unirrigated areas under a crop in a particular district showed that for groundnut, in one case there is an autocorrelation problem and in the other, it shows higher acreage response for the irrigated area. Ragi, showed higher acreage response for irrigated area only in the case of two districts.

(g) MAHARASHTRA

1. Ignatius Chithelen, "Sugar Co-operatives in Maharashtra: A Study of Historical Origins and Trends in Cane Prices (1974-81)", 1982, pp.145.

Thesis Supervisors: Chiranjib Sen and P.K.Michael Tharakan.

The study is on the phenomenal growth of co-operative sugar factories in Maharashtra. In the main, it raises three questions: (i) What factors account for the growth of the sugar co-operatives? (ii) What are the major attractions for sugar cane growers to set up co-operative factories and (iii) What enabled the Maharashtra Sugar Co-operatives to achieve a rapid growth and contribute to over one-third of India's output within two decades of their origin?

The study focuses on the development of sugar co-operatives in Ahamednagar district in Maharashtra. It is based on secondary data except for the data relating to specific factories personally collected by the author. It shows that by the first decade of

the present century, a stratum of peasants mostly belonging to non-Brahmin upper castes (Marathas) began to dominate rural Western Maharashtra. The study observes that the spread of canal irrigation in the 1910's and 20's had enabled these peasants to raise high-value commercial crops, particularly sugar cane and co-operative societies that were emerging at the time provided the peasants an easy source of credit for this kind of capital-intensive farming operations. Further, in early 1940's cane was being processed into gur in power-driven factories, owned by some of the wealthy rich peasants. The study observes that the rise of rich peasantry was greatly facilitated, by the social reform movement under the leadership of non-Brahmin upper caste people. And from mid-1940's the peasants began to set up sugar factories on co-operative lines, realising that the greater economic advantage is to be reaped by processing cane into sugar rather than gur. It is noted that the sugar cane price received by the member-grower consisted of two parts: an official support price and a processing surplus price. While the farmer ensured a normal profit, the latter represented an additional profit, accruing from the net processing income reaped by the factory. Further, the government of India's sugar policy of partial decontrol and regulation of many realises resulted in the sugar factories earning a higher net processing income.

DAIRY FARMING

(a) KERALA

1. Thara S. Nair, "Cross-breeding Technology and Dairy Development: The Kerala Experience", 1988, pp.106.

Thesis Supervisors: K.Narayanan Nair and P.S.George.

The study examines the pattern and trends in the adoption of cross-breeding technology in Kerala. The specific objectives of the study are: (a) to evaluate the earlier attempts made by the state in popularising the cross-breeding technology and to examine the extent of its adoption at the farm level; (b) to examine the trends in the size and composition of the cattle population in the state and to analyse the effect of cross-breeding technology in bringing out the observed trends; (c) to determine the contribution of the breeding technology to a rise in productivity of milch animals and production of milk; and (d) to identify the specific factors that facilitated a faster adoption of technology in the state. The study is based on secondary sources of information like the Quinquennial Livestock Census Reports, annual reports of departments and agencies such as Dairy Development, Animal Husbandry and Keral Livestock Development and Milk Marketing Board and National Sample Survey Reports.

The study observes that the cross-breeding technology has significantly influenced the structure and composition of the cattle population in the state, especially since the seventies. The yield effect of cross-breed cows accounted for about 70 per cent of the increase in milk production.

The rapid adoption of cross-breeding technology in Kerala has been due to the interaction among a large number of factors. Apart from the cost-reducing nature of the technology, increasing demand for milk, high level of commercialization and increased organisational intervention in areas of procurement and processing and the favourable movement of milk prices relative to prices of concentrates made the production of milk profitable. On the other hand, demand for work animals has been declining in animal prices and maintenance cost. However, the future strategy for increasing milk production should be designed for a situation characterized by thousands of small and marginal farmers undertaking dairying under conditions of feed and fodder scarcity. The study purposes that the most appropriate strategy would be to increase the coverage and efficiency of the artificial insemination programme and enhance the production of feed and fodder by cultivating more coarse grains and incorporating fodder crops as inter-crops in garden lands.

(b) TAMIL NADU

1. Albert Christopher Dhas, “Structure of Milk Production in Tamil Nadu: An Analysis of Trends and Sources of Growth”, 1986, pp.125.

Thesis Supervisors: K.N.Nair and P.S.George.

Milk production in Tamil Nadu was found to be rapidly rising during 1960s and 1970s; the rate of growth however, was faster from mid-1970s onwards. As growth in milk production between 1966 and 1982 was decomposed it became clear that productivity changes accounted for 62% and changes in the milch animal population 21%. The remaining 17% was attributed to the interaction between changes in population and productivity.

The draught animal population in the state was found to be declining from the mid-1960s and the rate of decline became sharper from mid-1970s.

The intensity of agricultural mechanization had not contributed to a significant reduction in the draught animal population. But the small decline in the draught animal population was due to a sharp decline in the average size of land holdings in the seventies. There were only marginal changes in the cropping pattern in the state. The demand for milch animals was on the rise due to a rise in the demand for milk. But the growth in feed supply had not kept pace with the increased demand for milk. In order to meet the rising demand for milch animals, farmers started reducing their stock of draught animals in order to release more feed for rearing milch animals which in turn had induced a shift in the composition of the bovine herd in favour of females.

FISHERIES

KERALA

1. Valsala John, "The Marine Products Export Industry in Kerala: Some Aspects of its Structure and Backward Linkages", 1976, pp.iv+71.

Thesis Supervisor: I.S.Gulati.

The study sought to answer the following questions: was there any concentration in export earnings in the marine products export industry? If so, how had the extent of concentration changed over time? How were the export earnings related to their level of ownership or essential processing facilities?

To start with an attempt was made to analyse the semi-macro level of industry and then the attention was focused on the micro levels of two exporting firms in Kerala to highlight the salient points of departures between the two. Further the analysis was carried out to trace back the production process of the products which were finally processed and exposed by the two select firms, so as to get a complete picture of the different stages of production involved in the conversion of the new product that enters the foreign market.

Within Kerala, the location of the industry was concentrated in and around the region of Kochi, which in 1969, accounted for about 67% of the final number of exporters in the state. Next in importance comes the regions of Quilon, Alleppey and Calicut. In 1969, the large exporters who formed only 8.6% of the total number, accounted for as much as 44% of the total export earnings from this industry. Liquidation of some units, entry by new units, and upward and downward mobility of the units caused changes in the relative shares of different exporting groups.

2. Joseph Vattamattam, "Factors that Determine the Income of Fishermen: A Case Study of Poonthura Village in Trivandrum District", 1978, pp.54.

Thesis Supervisor: K.N.Raj.

The study seeks to gain insights into the mechanism of price fixation for fish in Poonthura, in terms of technology of fishing, patterns of ownership of fishing equipment and the related organizational arrangements, marketing system and the role of merchants and money lenders and a few institutional factors.

The fishermen in the village surveyed use traditional, non-mechanised fishing equipment. Their favourite craft is catamaram. They use a large variety of nets for catching various kinds of fish. There are about 3000 active fishermen in the village. But only about 35 per cent of them own any fishing equipment. The rest who do not own any equipment, hire out their labour to those who own the equipment. The fishermen who own equipment can be classified into three categories viz., the artisan fishermen who operate their equipment with the help of family labour, the master fishermen who use some additional hired labour and lastly those who lease out their equipment on rent.

The rent and wages are determined through a system of share-cropping based on the kind of equipment used and the terms of lease or employment as per norms established by a long-standing custom. The rent-share ranges from 25 to 40% of the total value of the catch.

The only mode of sale of fish at the beach market in this village is the system of auctioning. The system is made to work in favour of the big merchants who often succeed in bringing the auctioneer and secure his help in rigging the auction. A compulsory, contribution of the total value of the catch to the church called `Kuthaka` is yet another practice prevalent.

The more vulnerable class of fishermen are the artisan fishermen and the worker fishermen. They are constantly in need of credit for consumption purposes. They are constantly in need of credit for consumption purposes. About 80 per cent of the fishermen surveyed are reported to be in debt. As there are no dependable credit institutions, they have to borrow from the big merchants and money lenders. Thus, there exists interlocking of output and credit markets. Thus, there exist interlocking of output and credit markets. It is suggested that fishing economy is characterized by production and market relations which are feudal in nature.

3. V.M.Abdul Hakkim, "Mechanisation and Cooperative Organisation: Their Impact on Traditional Fishermen of Kerala", 1978, pp.97.

Thesis Supervisor: A.Vaidyanathan.

The bulk of the state expenditure on marine fisheries development during the decades upto mid-1970's was on account of mechanisation programme and the related construction of shore facilities. It was estimated that there were in all about 4900 mechanized boats in 1976. The boats supplied by government to fishermen were estimated to form about 25 per cent, a large number of which were subsequently alienated. Thus, the proportion of boats effectively owned and operated by traditional fishermen was really very small and hence their incomes accruing from mechanized boats were meagre.

The role of fishermen in the fishing related industries had also been quite insignificant. On average about 90 per cent of the investments made between 1956 and 1976 in activities like boat building, mechanized boats, transporting, marketing processing and export units of fisheries – all primarily concentrated on prawns – were made in the sector comprising of non-fishermen. The benefits of increase in production and export would therefore have gone to this new class of entrepreneurs.

The proportion of traditional fishermen in the mechanized boats employed as skilled personnel who get a higher proportion of the wage share had also declined over time.

The provision of mechanized boats had a dampening effect on the main form of organisation intended for them i.e., Fishermen Co-operatives. The state witnessed a mushrooming of MUCS, which were largely organised by non-fishermen.

The case study in Quilon district reflected malaise that crept into the fishery-cooperatives. The operations of privately owned boats were distinctly profitable. The MUCS were not genuine in origin and operations.

The effort to promote mechanized fishing through co-operatives, which put the fishermen under several technological and institutional constraints, failed to produce any significant impact on the traditional fishermen.

4. Bharat Bhushan, “Technological Change in Fishing in Kerala (1953-1977)”, 1979, pp.117.

Thesis Supervisor: K.N.Raj.

The technological change in fishing in Kerala, which began in the early nineteen fifties, had an unprecedented impact on the fish economy of the state and, thus, on all aspects of the lives of fishermen in Kerala.

The introduction of various types of mechanised boats, new methods of fishing, and development of new type of gear, were some of the features of this technological change. The mechanisation of fishing boats reduced the time taken to reach fishing grounds and made it possible to go greater distance into the sea, thus, increasing the fishing time of the boats. By making power available for fishing, it made greater depth range of operations possible, which enabled fishermen to fish much more higher valued species. These developments, along with the introduction of new methods of fishing and new types of gear, resulted in increased output and profits, and changes in the species-mix of the output of the fishing sector. More radical changes occurred in the organization of fishing as a whole. Technological change accentuate the division of labour on boats by formalizing the skill requirements of the fishing crew. The pattern of mechanization led to the emergence of a conflict between the mechanised and non-mechanised sectors because of the competition for the same limited resources. The

indiscriminate search for large and quick profits had given rise to fishing practices which were potentially harmful for the fish economy as well as the ecology of the sea in general.

5. Jessy Thomas, “Social and Economic Factors Influencing Educational Standards in a Marginalised Community: A Case Study on the Marine Fisherfolk of Kerala”, 1989, pp.121.

Thesis Supervisors: John Kurien and P.K.Michael Tharakan.

The study analyses the plausible relationship between education and economic conditions of a less privileged group in Kerala viz., the marine fisherfolk. It further probes into the various social and economic factors that are responsible for their low educational standards. The objectives of the study are to analyse the possible relationship that exists between education and economic development and to identify the influence of the social and economic factors within the village and the incentives and facilities provided by the state government and voluntary organizations for raising the educational standards of the fisherfolk.

The study is based on the primary survey conducted in three villages of Trivandrum, Alleppey and Malappuram districts. It observes that education has no significant direct influence on the skills of the people who are engaged in fishing and related activities. But the educated younger generation shows a preference to work on motorized crafts. It is found that internal and external factors are contributing to the educational improvements of the fisherfolk. The study observes that Christianity plays an active part in the promotion of education among the fisherfolk. It is also found that the influence of family background on education varied from village to village. The study concludes that the low financial capital, weak social and human capital of marginalised communities and unfavourable physical surroundings along with the low quality of education leave them as a socially and economically deprived class in the state.

FORESTRY

(a) KERALA

1. C.T.Sivasankaran Nair, “Application of Social Cost-Benefit Analysis to Forestry Projects. A Case Study of the Eucalyptus Project of the Kerala Project Development Corporation”, 1976, pp.106.

Thesis Supervisor: I.S.Gulati.

In this exercise, an attempt has been made to examine a forest plantation project in Kerala with particular reference to a specific question whether financial and economic analyses are useful in its evaluation.

It is suggested that if the project is to become commercially viable, the contracted price for the pulpwood would have to be fixed at or above the break-even price. If this is ruled out, then the project would not be seen as commercially feasible. It is further observed that a wider economic analysis taking into account all costs and benefits accruing to the society should be the basis for the selection of public investment projects.

On the basis of costs and benefits, the study comes to the conclusion that project yields high net aggregate consumption benefits even at every discount rates. Even without considering the indirect impact of development of infrastructure like roads etc. in the region, contribution of the project towards regional development is substantial. Socially the project was found to be quite viable.

The study comes to the conclusion that although commercially the project is not feasible, socially it satisfies a number of criteria. However, this exercise does not include the aspects of environmental effects.

2. Mammen Chundamannil, “Pattern of Investments in Forestry and its Implications on Sustained Yield Management in Kerala”, 1986, pp.120.

Thesis Supervisors: P.S.George and K.N.Nair.

The objectives of the study are (i) to examine whether the investment pattern in Kerala forestry have been consistent with the aim of a sustained development of the forestry and also (ii) to analyse the factors which have affected the investment policy between 1956 and 1980.

The study comes to the conclusion that the policy pursued on investment in Kerala forestry was weighed in favour of short term gains. The bulk of the investment was made on harvesting timber from the natural forests, while long term investments in regeneration were few.

The pattern of investment and development of forestry in the state were not consistent with the principles of sustained yield management. Maintenance of a sustainable level of timber harvest and revenue from the forests were compromised due to reduction in the forest area and degradation induced by fire and illicit felling. The problem was compounded by an insufficient investment in regeneration. It was suggested by the study that a continuous reliance on selection felling without ensuring regeneration adversely affects the future yields. The pattern of forestry development has also reduced the diversity in the growing stock and output stream.

3. Suresh Chand Joshi, "Deforestation in Kerala: Causes and Consequences", 1987, pp.167.

Thesis Supervisors: K.Narayanan Nair and Chandan Mukherjee.

The study analyses the factors governing deforestation in Kerala. It makes a departure from the earlier works on the subject, in that it looks at deforestation as an outcome of interaction among the factors governing agricultural expansion and forest land use on the one hand and nature and extent of forest resource management and utilization on the other. For the purpose of tracing the historical roots of deforestation, the geographical coverage of the study prior to independence is confined only to the former native state of Travancore. The study observes early signs of deforestation in Travancore during the second half of the 19th century. This was facilitated by the state policy of encouraging foreigners to raise coffee and tea plantations in the forested hills. This culminated in the immigration of Syrian Christians and Ezhavas into the areas in search of employment and cultivable land. Thus, encroachment of people on forest land for settlement and cultivation had begun. It is noted that during this period government began to extract teak and other royal trees for exports to augment the state income, whereas earlier this was confined only to procurement and export of cardamom. The study observes that the contract system introduced for this purpose resulted in large scale illicit felling of trees.

It is noted in the study that during 1890-1947, vigorous revenue increasing efforts, essentially through commercialization of timber and other forest produce were started. The Forest Department introduced the system of protection and reservation of forests so as to increase the extraction of saleable species of timber. The uncontrolled extraction of timber using methods like lumpsum sale resulted in continuous reduction in forest area. Agricultural expansion continued at a rapid rate during this period coupled with the problems of encroachment on forest land. The study observes that the genesis of this phenomenon could be traced to the state policies for encouraging the cultivation of cardamom and food crops.

It is noted that the various developmental and welfare schemes undertaken by the state contributed to a significant reduction in forest cover during the post-independence period and during the last thirty years the state witnessed very harmful changes in the management of forest resources. The study suggests that an integrated approach to the management of forest resources is necessary to curb the ongoing process of deforestation in Kerala. And it suggests that apart from specific policy changes it is necessary to modify the format and content of current working plans.

(b) ANDHRA PRADESH

4. A. Ravindra, "Forests, People and Environment: Dynamics of Interaction and Development", 1989, pp.149.

Thesis Supervisors: K.P.Kannan and John Kurien.

Maintaining that the tropical forest resource system is a diversified and an internally dynamic ecosystem that is being appropriated differently by different sets of population, this study tries to analyse the socio-ecological interaction/conflict concerning the forest use. Specifically it studies the changing forest use pattern and its impact upon and responses from the tribal economy in Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh. The study is based on departmental records, government reports, tour notes, census reports, newspaper clippings, pamphlets etc. Pointing to the 'use-exclusivity' of forest products for a given stratum of population, the existing 'sustainable use' models are found to be inadequate. The perception of the problem of physical degradation of forests would vary with different interest groups and it needs to be seen as a manifestation of conflicts in resource use. The emergence of state forestry as a 'dinubabt use' is a result of an intricate historical synthesis of such conflicts. Further, 'popular' debates concerning environmental protection (based on Chipco Movement and Draft Forest Bill, 1980) have been silent on the question of tribal access to forest land. The study questions the state control of forests following increased commercialization resulting in large scale distortions in the tribal economy. State forestry has failed to generate surpluses in the local economy. Even populist programmes like social forestry or Tropical Forest Action Plan represent both mis-directed environmentalism and misplaced emphasis. The study suggests forestry to supplement agriculture (provision of productive cultivable land to tribals being a precondition) and integrating the tribal economy with the forest product markets.

INFRASTRUCTURE

(a) **KERALA**

1. Thomas C. George, “Techno-Economic Analysis of Idukki Hydro-Electric Project”, 1986, pp. iii+190.

Thesis Supervisor: P.S.George.

The thesis makes a techno-economic analysis of the Idukki Hydro-Electric Power (IHEP) project with a view to indicate the various alternatives available for its implementation. Further, a social cost-benefit analysis is carried out on the power and irrigation components by examining the sensitivity of the project in relation to time and cost over-runs, changes in yield, price and other related matters.

The IHEP makes an important contribution to the economic development of Kerala, by supplying roughly 50 percent of power requirements of the state. The IHEP has three stages. So far only the first two stages have been completed.

The estimate of the project has been enlarged and raised many times upwards. Consequently there has been cost and time over runs. Labour problems design modifications, increased costs in materials like cement, steel and components of foreign machinery have contributed much to this cost escalation. The major direct benefits from IHEP are the availability of power, from the hydro electric component and water through Muvattupuzha Valley Irrigation Project (MVIP) for irrigation.

A project normally has a number of alternatives within and outside its framework. But the authorities of IHEP did not choose these alternatives like the use of less capital intensive techniques to provide more employment to people. However, by constructing an underground power station, considerable economy has also been affected in the use of scarce materials like cement and steel.

The net present value of the irrigation component of IHEP is Rs.1928.83 lakhs indicating a net benefit-cost ratio of 2.22. Usually, for the World Bank aided projects the social rate of return is above 10 per cent. Since MVIP is capable of generating more than 10 percent returns, the project considered to be socially viable.

Sensitivity analysis of the project indicated that the effective rate of return from the project is reduced when there are changes in combination of parameters like yield, capital cost, time-over run and price of paddy and also when theses are simultaneously changed. The project is essentially sensitive to cost escalation and time over.

2. V.Anil Kumar, “Performance of Productivity of Cochin Port 1970-71 to 1985-86”, 1988, pp.viii+179.

Thesis Supervisors: Chiranjib Sen and K.Pushpangadan.

In this study an attempt has been made to highlight the historical and political factors that contributed to the emergence of Cochin as a major port together with a detailed economic analysis of its present phase. The initial presentation gives a brief chronological description of the factors which influenced the growth and decline of the port in the earlier period, starting from 1540 A.D. In the analysis, periodisation is done so as to bring out the specific political and related factors which contributed to the development of the port. It is observed that more than political motives, the earlier trading communities were attracted to Cochin port due to its locational advantages and its vast hinterland potential, the two important factors which the present authorities failed to capitalize.

In the following sections a detailed analysis of the port’s performance with the generally accepted port-performance indicators is attempted. The period of study is limited to 1971-86 to limitations of data. The study followed the standard statistical techniques and the methodology used for the estimation of capital stock of Cochin port is also a well accepted one. It used the total factor productivity indices to bring on the efficiency of the port.

The analysis reveals that the port has been showing a poor performance both in its financial and operational aspects, and the total factor productivity growth is negative. This only points to the crisis phase that the port has been going through. The study also reveals that the capacity utilization of the port is not the reason for its decline. Therefore, the focus of the analysis should be on its lack of technological progress and the unsound labour relations prevailing in the port. From the policy point of view also the suggestions made such as acquisition of modern cargo handling equipments and better labour-management relations are crucial for regaining the lost glory of the port.

3. Nalini Netto, “Public Investment in Irrigation Projects in Kerala, An Analysis of Costs and Organisational Issues”, 1990, pp.iii+161.

Thesis Supervisors: K.P.Kannan and K.Pushpangadan.

The two major objectives pursued in this study are: (i) the problem of implementation of cost escalation and time-over run and (ii) the gap between the theory and practice in the planning and implementation of irrigation projects.

There is a conspicuous absence of a framework for planning and implementation of major and medium irrigation projects. Even the data base for the preparation of project reports is not only adequate but also of doubtful validity.

There is also the problem of choice of suitable sites. The major and medium products have to be located either in the resource forests or hilly areas which have been inhabited during the last two to three decades.

The irrigation projects in Kerala are intended basically to stabilise the existing level of output followed by increasing productivity. Very little has been achieved in terms of these objectives. This results in a reduction of incremental benefits in respect of areas falling within the *ayacut*. The high density of population, fragmented nature of holdings, the exorbitant cost of land and its scarcity-all make the state of Kerala a very difficult place for major and medium projects. These have resulted not only in cost escalations and delay in construction, but also in delay in utilisation of the potential created for want of proper irrigation channels or field *bothies*. In short, planning indicates the predominance of engineering structures to the relative exclusion of socio-economic problems. The search for a viable and economically attractive alternative is therefore imperative.

(b) ORISSA

1. Sadhana Satapathy, "Floods and Flood Control Policies: An Analysis with Reference to the Mahanadi Delta in Orissa, 1987, pp.114.

Thesis Supervisors: John Kurien and C.Rammanohar Reddy.

This study examines the role of flood control measures (specifically of the Hirakud Dam) and embankments, in checking floods and flood damages in the Mahanadi Delta. It also attempts to ascertain the factors – both inherent and autonomous-hampering the effectiveness of structural control measures. The data for the study are taken from colonial reports, contemporary official records, central and state government reports and census volumes. The study observes that the post-dam period has been reduction in incidence of large floods and an increase in that of low/medium ones. Whereas the average intensity of floods has declined the average duration of floods has increased. An increase in the situation in the river channels within the delta has weakened the ill-planned existing system leading to breaches in the embankments and made semi-protected and protected areas flood-prone. The study ascertains that the complete flood control by Hirakud Dam depends upon regular maintenance of embankments, comprehensive drainage scheme in the Mahanadi delta and afforestation and conservation of vegetation in the downstream catchment of the river. And excessive siltation warrants an additional site for damming the Mahanadi. However, the usefulness of this would largely depend on the extent to which deforestation and soil erosion are

arrested. The study observes that the afforestation and the soil conservation measures have been ineffective in checking increased deforestation. Central investment in flood control measures (which is a state subject) has been insignificant. The study finds that the structural control measures are not inherently inconsequential; rather the interplay of complex factors in changing conditions intensity flood damage and hinders the effectiveness of control measures.

ENERGY

(a) INDIA

1. S. Raju, "An Analysis of Energy Efficiency in Indian Railways: 1964-65 to 1982-83", 1985, pp.123.

Thesis Supervisors: Chiranjib Sen and P.Mohanan Pillai.

It has been observed that energy conservation in the Railways is very important for, by economising the scarce and non-renewable energy resources, the country can avoid the crisis of balance of payments deficit. These factors stress the need for railways to evolve comprehensive strategies to conserve energy. The study analyses the changing pattern of energy consumption in Indian Railways. It estimates energy use efficiency and energy cost per tonne km of Indian Railways from 1964-65 to 1982-83 and analyses its trends. It traces the factors affecting energy cost per unit of transport output and it also examines how and to what extent each of the factors influencing energy use efficiency on different types of tractions. In order to avoid confusion on variations in energy use it concentrates only on non-suburban traffic, which constitutes 100% of the freight traffic and 91.6% of the passenger transport. The major sources of data are the Annual Reports and Accounts Statements, Indian Railways Yearbooks, and unpublished information from the official records and files of the Railway Ministry.

The study treats financial and physical efficiency as interrelated aspects of energy efficiency. It confirms that the most efficient traction is electric, and the least efficient, the steam traction. It observes that energy use efficiency can be improved if the auxiliary activities can be reallocated from steam traction to electric and diesel traction. Further, the presence of a very high share of unproductive engine hours affect the energy intensities adversely. The study suggests some specific policy recommendations to improve energy use efficiency. It calls for a detailed analysis of different regions for passenger and freight traffic in the direction of energy use efficiency.

(b) KERALA

1. K.Balachandran Thampi, "Patterns of Domestic Energy Consumption in Rural Kerala: A Study of Selected Villages", 1983, pp.146.

Thesis Supervisors: K.P.Kannan and Chiranjib Sen.

The study estimates the quantity, type and sources of energy used for a typical eco-system, and analyses how the characteristics of the system influence the consumption or manifest themselves in the energy consumption patterns. An analysis of

dependence on coconut for domestic energy consumption is of special interest to the study.

Three villages, each representing a major ecological zone with distinct resource endowments and geographical features are selected. About 50 households from each village are selected from each village on a cluster sampling method.

Consumption of domestic energy was found to be influenced by the systemic characteristics. The per capita energy consumption did not show much variation across classes. The relative difficulty in procuring energy for domestic consumption was found to be increasing with decreasing fuel producing assets. The fuel producing assets were positively correlated to the distribution of land holdings.

The problem of domestic energy is related to natural and social factors. It can be addressed only in an overall developmental context which is a socio-structural phenomenon.

2. M.N.Sudhakaran, "Diffusion of Improved Chulahs: A Study With Reference to Kerala", 1991, pp.129.

Thesis Supervisors: T.M.Thomas Isaac and Sakti Prasad Padhi.

This is a study on the diffusion of improved chulah programme in Kerala. It analyses the programme in the context of the role of improved chulah in meeting the wood fuel crisis in the Third World countries and the ambitious programme for the diffusion of improved chulah technology in India.

The publications of the international and the Government of India agencies and departments are the main sources of secondary data used in studying the macro context. Data for Kerala are collected from the publications of the State Planning Board and Agency for Non-conventional Energy and Rural Technology. The primary data used in the study are collected from ANERT and the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad.

The study notes that the actual implementation of the chulah programme suffered from many limitations. The number of improved chulahs diffused is low compared to its potential. Fuel efficiency generally conforms to the specifications. The most important technical problem was the broken mould whose production was decentralised without any mechanism for uniform quality controls and checks. The price of the chulahs had important influence on the diffusion process and the regional variation in the incidence of chulahs was largely explained by the existence of free chulah programmes and higher subsidies in certain areas. The diffusion rate was lower among the poorer sections. The major limitation being the space restriction in the small kitchens and the type of fuel used. The price of fuel and its scarcity did not seem to exert any significant influence on diffusion of technology. Rather it was the institutional mechanism or the better voluntary organisations which played a more vital role in the diffusion of the chulahs.

The analysis points out the primacy of supply side factors in limiting the diffusion of the stove. The diffusion rate is basically a function of the efficiency of the extension agency and extension work. Evaluation of the programme and absorption of user-response is identified to be crucial to the success of the programme.

SOCIAL SECTOR

(a) KERALA

1. V.Ramankutty, “Socio Economic Factors in Child Health Status: A Kerala Village Study”, 1987, pp.161.

Thesis Supervisors: T.N.Krishnan and P.G.K.Panikar.

The study attempts to analyse the relation between socio economic conditions like level of education for women and the use of health care facilities and some of the deprivations imposed by poverty on the people in Kerala. It is observed in this context, that the modern health care facilities have contributed to the betterment of child survival in the state. The study is based on the primary survey of Nattika, a coastal village in Trichur district. The preliminary survey report of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme of the Government of India and the benchmark survey conducted by the Centre for Science and Technology for Rural Development (COSTFORD) provided the foundation on which the design for the detailed survey of a randomly selected sample of households was undertaken.

The study suggests that the utilization of health care facilities depend very much upon the income and social class of the individual concerned and the Socio-economic variables acting at the individual, household and community levels have been important in governing the health status of the children in the study area. At the community level the major factors seem to be the state policies regarding health and education and also peoples’ awareness of their rights. The important household level variables appear to be income or wealth. The individual level variables like breast feeding, early weaning, acceptance of small family norm and also mother’s education were found to be have the strongest influence in the village sample.

2. N.Niyathi, “Planning for Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme in Kerala: A Case Study”, 1988, pp.160.

Thesis Supervisors: K.P.Kannan and S.P.Padhi.

This study critically examines the functioning of a rural water supply scheme within the macro frame work of the important issues and policy considerations involved in planning such schemes. The case study approach is used to match the macro and micro aspects of the policy. The benefits from the rural water supply scheme are assessed and the magnitude of implicit subsidy calculated to examine the balance between costs and benefits. The study also spells out the policy implications. The secondary data used in the study are collected from the Plan documents and other

government publications and the primary data on two villages have been collected from a primary survey of 85 households.

The study reveals that since the Sixth Five Year Plan the nominal coverage of rural water supply schemes have increased substantially both in absolute and relative norms. To assess the extent of effective coverage and efficiency of water supply of water has been irregular and inadequate to meet the needs of the village. It is also found that the low asset and the low income classes do not get the benefits of the rural water supply scheme. The investigation of the pricing system revealed that the rates levied are inadequate even to meet the running costs of the scheme. Bringing out the policy implications, the study notes that the standardized design criterion for rural water supply schemes cannot be applied indiscriminately. The study suggests that the selection of scheme based on resource availability, realistic cost estimates and timely completion are essential to improve the effectiveness of the schemes. The study also observes that the selection of villages depending on availability of information at the local level, for which the participation of local people and decentralization of powers of the water supply is needed, is imperative if any break through in this direction is to be achieved.

3. K.T. Augusty, "Housing in Kerala: A Study of Some Aspects of Finance and Choice of Technology in Construction", 1990, pp.133.

Thesis Supervisors: P.K.M. Tharakan and P. Mohanan Pillai.

There are cumulative effects of "housing boom" and cost escalation in the economy of housing sector in Kerala. The rise in costs is due to an upswing in the value of land, rise in prices of building materials and increase in the money wages of the construction workers.

The demand for housing is influenced by sociological factors such as overseas migration and subsequent remittances, and the general improvement in the conditions of the poor (owing to land reforms, improved social facilities like medicine, education etc.). The social housing scheme launched by the state government, beginning with One Lakh Houses Schemes, is seen as a policy response to the changed conditions in the housing sector.

Of the three roofing technologies i.e., traditional, modern and innovative systems, the innovative system of tile-filler-slab is found to have advantages over others. A comparative analysis of the four mortar systems revealed that the lime and shurki based mortars are cheaper than the cement-based mortar both in financial and social cost considerations.

The chief features of the housing finance in Kerala are: (i) a high incidence of borrowing (institutional and private) to finance house construction by households, (ii) incidence of indebtedness due to such borrowing, (iii) the use of remittance from abroad

to construct houses and (iv) the inability of some house-owners to repair the houses or make additions.

The preference of the households for high cost technology, despite the knowledge of the cost saving aspect of the innovative technology, seems guided more by the considerations of social status and image associated with a large concrete house than by its structural advantages.

(b) ORISSA

1. Sakti Prasad Padhi, "Socio-Economic Change, Morbidity and use of Health-care Systems: A Comparative Study of Two Villages in Orissa", 1979, pp.98+Appendices.

Thesis Supervisor: P.G.K.Panikar.

In this study a hypothesis is sought to be tested whether there is a fairly substantial degree of inequality in the distribution of medical care expenditure. Further, a question is raised: health care treatment being free of money charges, why should those who are, on the whole, poorer appear to demand less (and the rich demand more) than one would predict simply on the basis of the prevalence of illness?

The study is based on data collected from two villages – one "advanced" and the other "backward". A more specific purpose of the study is to gain some insight into the distribution of morbidity (and of utilization of medical care systems) across socio-economic groups.

Socio-economic conditions become more important in the case of the 'advanced' village (which itself has undergone a certain process of 'semi-urbanisation' not in determining the morbidity patterns, but in becoming concurrent with a certain pattern of unequal distribution of morbidity, unlike in the case of the 'backward' village. However, various characteristics are not independent of one another, but are related to each other both casually and consequentially, thus giving an ultimate shape to the pattern of morbidity. The more 'advanced' village not only shows an inequality in the distribution of cost of ill-health, but also an inequality in the distribution of actual benefits accruing from the "formal" medical facilities. At a general level the study shows how the health problems become integrated in the general problem of planning the process of development. Hence, acceptability of the health care facilities by the people is an important factor. And acceptability depends on a complex of factors such as the attitude, response and values of the people, which are dynamically correlated with the process of economic development itself.

(c) **ANDHRA PRADESH**

1. C.Upendranath, "Growth of Education in Andhra Pradesh: A Study of Regional Disparities", 1991, pp.v+226.

Thesis Supervisors: G.N.Rao and P.K.Michael Tharakan.

An attempt is made in this study to understand regional disparities in the growth of education in Andhra Pradesh. The analysis starts with a premise that historical specificities of different regions play crucial role in determining the rate and type of educational progress of the regions.

The post-independence educational progress has been analyzed in terms of various indicators of educational development such as enrolments, public expenditure, stock of educated man-power, and wastage at the district level.

An analysis of the historical evolution and progress of education in different regions of the state, validates the hypothesis that the regional specificities and the earlier pattern of growth obtained shape up the contemporary educational progress.

District wise analysis of educational progress reveals that the improvement in Telangana districts is high as compared to that of the Andhra districts. The rates of growth of enrolment ratios, number of schools and teachers at all levels in Telangana have been higher.

In Andhra Pradesh, higher education is growing at a faster rate than school education, which again is in tune with the All India pattern. The state exhibits high educational wastage, though there have been an improvement in rate of retention at primary stage in recent times. We find an uneven expenditure pattern of education, higher-education getting priority over primary education.

The analysis of educational growth in Andhra Pradesh, points to a trend of reduction in regional disparities, in as much as the regions recognized as educationally backward, have been getting more governmental attention.

The analysis of the association between educational participation at elementary level and economic well-being of the family reflected in poverty levels, shows a negative relationship between the two variables. It is much more significant in the case of girls enrolment and rural poverty.

(d) TAMIL NADU

1. Surekha Garimella, "Utilization of Health Care Facilities by Household Characteristics: An Urban Slum Study", 1989, pp.142.

Thesis Supervisors: T.K.Sundari and T.N.Krishnan.

The study attempts to find how the differences in household characteristics influence health care utilization, the per capita income level of the sample household, the educational status of the mother and the gender of the child. The focus group of the study are children below six years of age as they form both absolute and relative majority of the population.

The urban slum Rathinapura in Coimbatore city has been taken up for the study. A primary level household survey is conducted by an oral questionnaire method. The study observes that the relationship of income and educational status of the mother to health care utilization is indirect and is mainly through the nature of the illness and health status of the child and education of the mother per se is not the only factor that determines the use of health care facilities. It has more to do with the general health status of the children and also the general awareness of the mothers. Differentials by gender favouring male are discernible both in morbidity status of the children and in seeking medical help, though no comparable differences are found in the types of facilities used. But it is found that there are stark differences as between male and female in seeking help immediately – while as many as 85% of the males got the help, among the females only 34% are successful. It is argued that more than the mother's education it is the associated differences in priorities and values that accompany an increase in income that have more telling influence on the differential treatment meted out to male and female children. The study notes that it is not in the lowest income/educational levels (where resource allocations are consciously made) that discrimination against female children in terms of immunization is more prevalent. The study suggests the need for making investments in the right areas and strike at the roots of the problem which is more due to lack of proper food and living conditions than poor educational status of the mothers and low use of health care facilities. Given the very high material mortality rates resulting from the continued poor health status of the female child, care must be taken so that it gets full benefit out of the existing health programmes in the country.

POPULATION AND LABOUR

(a) INDIA

1. C. Rammanohar Reddy. "Fertility, Household Size and Unemployment in Rural India: A Cross Sectional Analysis", 1979, pp.85.

Thesis Supervisor: N.Krishnaji.

This exercise indicates that fertility does respond to changes in the levels of employment. It is argued that it is erroneous to state that uncontrolled fertility as 'economically rational' in all situations. Given the uncertainty governing future mortality and the availability of work, even if fertility varies with economic conditions, it is highly improbable that any attempt to be economically rational in making fertility decisions would eventually turn out to be.

The phenomenon of fertility adjustment to changes in the availability of work is clearly best illustrated by a historical investigation at a micro level.

In discussing the response of the fertility to unemployment it is assumed that the extent of adjustment of fertility would not differ between classes. Such a view it is conceded, may be enormous as it is among classes who depend upon incomes from employment rather than from property that adjustment of fertility to the levels of unemployment would be most common.

2. Rakesh Basant, "Attached Labour in Indian Agriculture", 1981, pp.103.

Thesis Supervisor: A.Vaidyanathan.

The study analyses attached labour as a category of agricultural wage labour and its role in the functioning of the overall market for agricultural labourers.

As agriculture becomes commercialized, there is a tendency to move away from the labour contracts with less freedom to freer, more impersonal contracts. This freedom gets reflected both in the "entry" and the working conditions of the labour contracts.

In addition studies the "freedom" dimension gets mixed up with "duration" dimension. Therefore, it is suggested that a simple dichotomous classification of agricultural labourers into "attached" and "casual" workers is inadequate to capture the complexity of the labour market.

In the present day, an attempt has been made to identify the socio-economic variables affecting the use of “attached” labour on long duration contracts. It is suggested that the use of such labour is a demand-determined phenomenon primarily influenced by the level and seasonality in the wage labour requirements. Higher cropping intensity, skewed land distribution and higher productivity are found to encourage the use of labour or long duration contracts, while larger supply of labour relative to the requirements of big landholders in a region tends to discourage such employment.

The available data corroborate the proposition that the wage rates of the attached labourer are lower than those of the casual labour. However, on an a priori basis, the relative income (total or per capita) of these two categories of labourers cannot be predicted confidently.

3. S.Mohan Kumar, “Industrial Disputes in India 1951-65”, 1989, pp.141.

Thesis Supervisors: T.M.Thomas Isaac and Chandan Mukherjee.

Strikes and lockouts are important weapons in the hands of the employees and employers respectively in the functioning of collective bargaining. It has been said that the nature of labour protest undergoes drastic changes in the course of industrialization and that it is possible to distinguish the character of workers’ protest in the early and later stages of industrialization. This study analyses cyclical fluctuations in the dispute-pattern and observes that the economic variables are the crucial factors in this regard. Due to paucity of data it confines itself to an analysis of the industrial disputes in the organized sector of the Indian economy. This includes all the establishments in public sector employing ten or more persons. The major sources used in the study are, Indian Labour Statistics, Indian Labour Year Book and the primary data on industrial disputes collected by state labour departments and Regional Labour Commissioners. The examination of the trend in industrial disputes in the major industrial divisions presents a significant inter-divisional differences. Mining and quarrying and manufacturing have lost more days than the average for the organized sector. Similarly, they also have relatively higher ratios of dispute frequency and workers involved. Within the manufacturing division the textile industry accounts for between 30 to 40 per cent of the industrial disputes. It is found from the analysis that the industrial disputes in the major states in India, the West Bengal and Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu account for 70 per cent of the total days lost in the organized sector from lockouts and disputes. The study traces an inverse relation between days lost and the industrial growth in the state measured by the rate of growth in employment and value added of the manufacturing sector. It is observed in the study that the industrial deceleration and predominance of crisis-ridden and sunset-industries in West Bengal and Kerala are responsible for the higher incidence of disputes.

(b) KERALA

1. Raju Kurien, "Patterns and Effects of Emigration From Kerala", 1978, pp.99.

Thesis Supervisor: T.N.Krishnan.

This is a case study based mainly on information collected through field surveys in two villages, on the patterns of emigration from Kerala to foreign countries. It is hypothesized in the study that it is the initial resource position of a household that determines the extent and type of education, the type of job one secures, and the magnitude of the costs and the methods of financing of emigration. While the persons from the economically better-off families have higher levels of education and are able to receive better paid jobs, the poor and the less educated emigrants present an altogether different picture. They emigrate to work as construction workers, carpenters, masons, plumbers and even as casual labourers.

There are significant differences in the patterns of emigration from Elakamon and Koipram, the two sample villages selected for the study. The migrants from Elakamon have not only a wide range of countries of destination open to them but are also employed in better paid occupations, compared to emigrants from Koipram. This is mainly due to wide differences in the levels of education which in turn are accounted for by the resource or income positions of the households. The process of emigration is also different between the two villages.

The differences between the two villages are observable in the amount of inward remittances which get reflected in the bank deposits.

2. Nadelia Chandra Mohan, "Some Aspects of Employment and Earnings in Non-Agricultural Activities in Kerala and All India", 1978, pp.58.

Thesis Supervisor: A.Vaidyanathan.

Kerala's economy has some specific features which distinguish it from the rest of the country. Kerala has a high density of population. Agriculture in the state is highly commercialized. Non-agricultural (industrial) activities centre around the processing of commercial crops like coconut and cashew. Partly because of settlement patterns, Kerala is less urbanised than other parts of India. Small and medium towns predominate in Kerala. The differences in the structure of economic activity as between rural and urban areas of Kerala are much less sharp than those in the rest of India.

Agriculture and allied activities engage a much lesser percentage of the rural work force than in other parts of India, contrariwise, secondary and tertiary activities are more significant in rural Kerala. The value added per worker in manufacturing in Kerala

is much lower than in agriculture. In this respect the state presents a marked contrast with all-India pattern. The average product per worker in manufacturing is also barely half the national average. The worsening land-man ratio gave rise to a growing number of agricultural labourers dependent on wage-employment. Kerala has a high proportion of wage labour to total agricultural workers. The current open unemployment in Kerala is among the highest in the country. There is a relatively larger proportion of its non-agricultural work force in the unorganised sector (78%). Within the unorganised sector (establishment employing less than 10 workers) manufacture, trade and services account for the bulk of employment both in Kerala and in rest of India.

As for earnings, although the average wage rates in Kerala are much higher than the national average, the total annual earnings are only marginally higher than the national average. This is because the intensity of employment in Kerala is much lower. The inter-sectoral differences in the level of earnings have a much narrower spread in Kerala. The rural-urban differences are much less in the state. The level of earnings in the unorganised sector is one of the lowest.

3. A.J.Emam Beevi, "Impact of Minimum Wage Legislation on Cashew Industry", 1978, pp.62.

Thesis Supervisor: A. Vaidyanathan

The cashew industry in Kerala was started on a commercial level in 1925. Since then the processing was carried out in cottages as well as in factories. In 1957, the cashew industry was brought under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The minimum wage was fixed in 1953 and revised subsequently in 1960, 1967 and 1975. Finally there was a rise in the wage rates in the processing units. The units outside factory sector were not covered by the Act. In the absence of any technological improvement, the unit processing costs in the factory sector rose relative to those in the cottage sector. The comparatively lower wage rates in the cottage sector, therefore, gave incentive to the factory owners to shift processing to the former. The other strategies followed by the factory owners were either to close down the factories or adopt the putting out system by which the factory owners give a certain quantity of nuts to be processed in the households of workers. Often factories were declared "closed" but their premises were used for "cottage processing" under the control of the factory owners. Number of days of employment for the "factory workers" had thus declined. In 1967 a law was enacted for restricting the unregistered units. But the practice continued to exist till 1976.

The prohibition of unregistered units in Kerala led to an increasing diversion of the processing activity to Kanyakumari where, the wage rates in the shelling, peeling and grading processes were lower than those either in the factory or the "cottage" units of Quilon. Most of the factories in Kanyakumari were reported to be owned by the Kerala factory owners.

4. P.S.Vijayasankar, "The Urban Casual Labour Market in Kerala: A Study of the Headload Workers of Trichur" 1986, pp. 144+Appendix.

Thesis Supervisors: T.M.Thomas Isaac and P.K.Michael Tharakan

The focus of the study is on the casual wage labourers – with special reference to headload workers – in the urban tertiary sector in Kerala. The analysis is based on a case study of Trichur, an important commercial centre situated in central Kerala. An important feature of urban casual labour market in Kerala is the development of trade union movement. The study seeks to document the growth of trade union organization among the headload workers in Trichur. The study utilized both primary and secondary information. The primary data are collected through field interviews. The interviewees representatives of workers' unions, employers and government officials. Secondary data are drawn from trade unions' histories, government reports, files of trade unions, employers' co-ordination council and Kerala Headload Workers' Welfare Board. And back issues of local newspapers are also consulted. The study shows that remarkable changes have occurred in the casual labour market in Trichur within a span of twenty years. It is found that the formation of trade unions in the casual labour market and clear links with the tradition of working class movement in the region in the pre-independence period and the general radical political atmosphere in the state. The study observes that its early agitational phase, the union worked in tandem with other mass movements. Also, the policy of the police neutrality in trade union struggles, which was followed by the Left-Front Governments in the state facilitated the growth of the union. The study points out that initially, the important objective of the union was to gain formal recognition from the employers and government and the main issues taken up later by the unions were wages, bonus, conditions of work etc. The study indicates that the struggle of headload workers points to the limits of economistic trade union struggles.

5. K.N.Harilal, "Kerala's Building Industry in Transition: A Study of the Organisation of Production and Labour Process", 1986, pp.195

Thesis Supervisors: G.N.Rao and T.M.Thomas Isaac.

This study analyses the organisation of production and nature of work in building industry in Kerala. The nature of building process and its organisation, the factors which influenced the emergence of contract system, the background of the rapid spread of contract system into the household building sector activities etc. are analysed. It also analyses and identifies the intermediaries. It traces the evolution of modern trade unions and their performance in terms of redressing grievances of the workers. The study uses a variety of methodological tools ranging from close observation of the work in progress to a survey of sixty building sites and interviews with workers, contractors, trade union leaders and labour department officials. It is observed that the historical process that culminated in the break up of the traditional relations of production has contributed to

the emergence of the contract system. The “building boom” in 1970’s resulted in the spread of the contract system even into activities of the household building sector activities. The survey of the building sites in Trivandrum city revealed the existence of different intermediaries. The study observes that the direct employment of workers is limited to the case of small residential units. And there is also a shift in the composition of work force in favour of new trades associated with modern construction materials. It is noted however, that since the technological base has not registered any considerable progress, craft skills and hand power continue to play a crucial role. In the labour front the study observed an interplay of caste and class factors in the development of trade unions. The study observes that under the influence of socio-political movements at large, the artisans, and their unions increasingly took secular positions, thus breaking their links with caste.

6. Bina Mary Chunkath, “Industrial Distribution of Work Force in Kerala, 1961-1981”, 1989, pp.iv+129.

Thesis Supervisors: Chiranjib Sen and Mridul Eapen.

An attempt has been made in the study to analyse the form, content and the changes which have taken place in the distribution of industrial workers in Kerala.

In Kerala, it was plantation crops, coir, cashew and fish processing and foreign trade which held a key position in economic expansion. As a consequence, in Kerala there was much more labour intensive industrialisation and this explains, why the state which had a per capita income below the national average in 1961 and 1981, also had the lowest share of agriculture in working force. There was a structural shift from agriculture to manufacture and services. It would be facile to describe this shift as economic growth and without examining the character of activity.

Any decline or increase in employment in manufacturing needs to be examined closely. Decline in employment in manufacturing may be due to the fact that traditional manufacturing replaced by modern manufacturing sector. A rise in the share of manufacturing in the work force may be because the bulk of employment in that activity is already modern.

In Kerala, the product per worker in the tertiary sector is much lower than the All-India average. This is because the tertiary sector in Kerala has grown as a residual sector. Also, in the successive Five Year Plans a high priority has been given for social services, transport and infrastructure development. The basic development issue of Kerala is that the productive base of the primary and secondary sectors is weak, forcing Kerala to depend on imports of bulk share of food grains, consumer goods and other industrial products, from outside the state.

7. Shaji K. Francis, “Dynamics of Rural Labour Markets. An Analysis of Emerging Agricultural Labour Shortage in a Kerala Region”, 1990. Pp.iii+155.

Thesis Supervisors: K.P.Kannan and P.Sivanandan.

The study attempts to throw light on the size, structure and occupational diversity of agricultural labour households in Kuttanad. Further it analyses the seasonal harvest labour market, its dependence on migrant labour, non-monetized nature of the mode of wage payments etc. Primarily it addresses to the question of labour shortage during the harvest season.

An argument is advanced that an important contributory factor for labour shortage in Kuttanad is the reduced work participation of youth in agricultural activities. The work participation of the 16-30 age group in general and that of people in agricultural activities in particular have been found to be considerably lower than that of the higher age groups. Thus, the overall participation rate has come down. The youth have a clear preference for non-agricultural activities especially blue collar or service sector work. The relatively higher levels of education achieved by the youth further strengthen their aspirations on these lines.

The shortage of labour reported in Kuttanad is at present confined to the ‘kayal’ areas. The migration of labour from other sub-regions of Kuttanad and Kottayam taluks has been declining. Artisanal, casual and miscellaneous work are also found to be important activities. Yield and number of workers per unit of land have a vital influence on the per day paddy wage earnings of the harvest workers. The kind payment of wages still continues to prevail in Kuttanad as both cultivators and labourers are beneficiaries of this system.

(c) TAMIL NADU

1. S. Anand, “Migrant Construction Workers: A Case Study of Tamil Workers in Kerala”, 1986, pp.130.

Thesis Supervisors: C.Rammanohar Reddy and P.K.Michael Tharakan

Keeping in view the growing poverty and number of construction workers in urban areas, this study analyses working and living conditions of Tamil migrant workers in Kerala’s construction activity. It is based on a detailed field survey on the socio-economic aspects of migrant labour of a village (Reetapuram) in Kanyakumari district, and tracking them down to the construction sites in Kerala. The study used both primary and secondary sources of data and the latter are drawn mostly from census reports, government reports, newspaper clippings, etc.

The study observes that the stagnancy of productive sectors in the Kanyakumari district and the construction boom in Kerala in seventies (mostly due to substantial gulf remittances) forced labour to migrate in search of a better income. The seventies show a significant rise in the proportion of migrant labourers, who are mostly landless, unskilled, uneducated and had migrated in their teens. The study also notes the crucial role played by the jobber-cum-contractor, who despite the fact that he is from a similar social background, arranges a small group of workers (about 12), supervises them, pays wages and also acts as a sub-contractor to the local (Keralite) contractor in case of big projects. It also explains the mechanism of labour control. The study points to the strained relations between the jobber-cum-contractor and the workers arising mainly out of short and uncertain payment of wages, irregular maintenance of accounts and workers frequently shifting workplaces as a form of protest. Their annual incomes, though higher than those in their villages, do not help them build up capital assets in their villages. Although wages received are higher than those prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act, they are lower compared to what a Keralite worker receives at the same site. The study maintains that the violation of all legal Provisions to protect labour interest is quite common at the workplaces.

2. Sridhar Venkataraman, "Agricultural Wages in Tamil Nadu 1950/51 – 1980/81", 1987, pp.127.

Thesis Supervisors: D.Narayana and T.M.Thomas Isaac.

The primary concern of the study is the nature of wage response to prices. In pursuit of this basic objective, the study undertakes a detailed district level analysis of the movements of both wage and prices. The study compares movements of money wage rates with the results of a detailed analysis of the movement of cereal prices, which provides some valuable insights into not only the changes in the purchasing power of agricultural labourers but also the magnitude of wage response to prices. To overcome the methodological flaws the study gives importance to the behaviour of variables involved in the determination of real wages between end-points. The data for the study are based on the report of Agricultural Wages in India (AWI). The analysis on seasonal variation of wages shows that in 1970's seasonal variation tended to increase quite sharply for most agricultural operations. The exercise also proves the reliability of AWI data for analysing seasonal variation. In terms of seasonality as well as wage differentials across operations, the structure of agricultural wages has changed sharply in periods of falling or rising prices. Results of the analysis in the study on male-female wage differentials indicate that they tended to be higher for sowing as compared to harvesting. A comparison of tended movements of wages and prices shows that the money wages tended to move along with prices, both in periods of falling as well as rising prices. It is evident that there is a low resistance tow age cuts signifying poor bargaining power and weak trade unions of agricultural workers in Tamil Nadu. The study thus comes out with certain interesting aspects of the relationship between movements of prices and wages.

3. A. Anandhy, “Some Aspects of Capital and Labour in Brick Industry: A Case Study of Melpuram Block in Kanyakumari District”, 1988, pp.120.

Thesis Supervisor: T.M.Thomas Isaac and K.P.Kannan.

Brick-manufacturing, being complementary to the building industry, plays a major role in the process of urbanization and economic development. Brick workers are mainly migrant agricultural labourers seeking employment in brick kilns during off season, which is generally the busy season for brick manufacturing. Both direct and indirect recruitment systems are seen prevalent in the recruitment of migrant brick workers. Trade unionism is absent among them. This study explains the process of brick manufacturing and highlights the socio-economic features of the industry in terms of choice of technology, economies of scale and labour intensive and fool loose nature of the industry. It identifies the factors responsible for the growth of the industry. It analyses both direct and indirect production systems in the industry. It analyses both direct and indirect production systems in the industry. The study also deals with the marketing of bricks along with the socio-economic backgrounds of both the brick kiln entrepreneurs and workers and conditions of employment in their native villages. The study describes the process of seasonal migration of the brick workers from Melpuram block to Kerala and their working and living conditions at the work place. It is mainly based on the primary information gathered from the field survey. It finds the process of skills acquisition and occupational mobility of the workers within the industry as being minimum. It observes that the trade union movement in Kerala did not have any perceptible influence on the ordinary migrant workers. And the labour intensive brick making units in Melpuram with craft technology has been playing a vital role in the localisation of the industry.

ECONOMIC LEGISLATION

KERALA

1. Vincent Panikulangara, "Legislation for Social Change: Two Case Studies of Kerala", 1976, pp.40.

Thesis Supervisor: N.Krishnaji.

Legislative enactment is one of the major instruments relied upon in achieving the goals set in the Indian Five Year Plans. It is commonly accepted that there is a wide discrepancy between the objectives of the enactments and the achievements thereby. The scope of the present study is restricted to finding out the ways in which legislations are evaded by interest groups. The two case studies investigated are the (i) Procurement Act and (ii) Agricultural Workers' Act.

The quantum of paddy procurement in Kerala had declined continuously not only as a proportion of the production but also in absolute terms since 1969. This decline has been explained mainly in terms of the changes in the structure of levy rates applicable from time to time to holdings belonging to different size groups, the distribution of land as between these groups and the magnitude of evasion.

The Kerala Agricultural Workers' Act seeks to enforce a uniform minimum wage rate for agricultural workers under all land owners in the state and ensure security of employment to those who work under owners of more than one hectare of agricultural land. In practice, however, the wage rates continue to vary considerably from centre to centre and they are not influenced by the notified minimum wage rates. The available evidence showed that all the agricultural workers who are eligible to get security of work are not likely to get their rights established. Any attempt to enforce legal rights through litigation is both risky and expensive. The benefits the Act can confer on the agricultural workers are not many. Whereas the possibilities for the land-owners to evade the law are high, those for the agricultural workers to realise the benefits under the law are meagre.

2. N.K.Jayakumar, "Valuation of Land for Public and Private Purposes: A Study in Contrast", 1978, pp.vi+73.

Thesis Supervisor: I.S.Gulati

It is hypothesized in the study that it became a general practice among people are not to state the real consideration in the sale deeds when land is transferred from one person to another. This practice of underevaluation causes considerable loss of revenue

to the state by facilitating the evasion of wealth tax and stamp duty by the buyer. Also, undervaluation provides an outlet for black money.

The union and state governments have tried to counter the growing tendency of undervaluation. For instance, in Kerala state, a provision was inserted in the Stamp Act, (section 45 A) which provided for a reference by the Registering Officer to the Collector if he has reason to believe that the value of the property or the consideration, as the case may be, was not truly set forth in the instrument of transfer. The Collector may also proceed *sou motu* in the case of an instrument not transferred to him.

In the present study, about 88 instruments of transfer had been examined, of which land was found to be undervalued in the case of more than 61 per cent cases. In more than 70 per cent of the cases of undervaluation, the extent of undervaluation was also 90 per cent. In nearly 70 per cent of the cases, the extent of undervaluation exceeded 50 per cent of the market value.

The study comes out with a number of suggestions for amending the provision of Income Tax and Stamp Act.

CONSUMPTION STUDIES

KERALA

1. S.Sanandakumar, "Liquor Consumption in Kerala: A Study with Special Reference to Decline of Toddy", 1987, pp.110.

Thesis Supervisor: T.M.Thomas Isaac.

This study analyses the factors which influenced the decline in toddy consumption, namely its relative price as well as changes in income and consumption tastes of people. The supply constraints which restrain toddy consumption are also ascertained. The introduction of modern abkari system and the partial prohibition in the latter period are identified as the two major setbacks which causes a downtrend in the industry. The study investigates the significant inter-regional differences in the level of liquor consumption and also in its composition.

The study brings out the significant increase in total liquor consumption between 1971-72 and 1983-84 even when the share of toddy in the consumption declined by around two-thirds. It also notes that the inter-regional differences in alcohol consumption had narrowed down considerably during the period. The Administrative Reports of the Excise Department, Government of Kerala are the main source of secondary data used in this study. Primary data on market structure of the industry have been collected for a few time points for six southern districts from the Rent Roll Register of the Excise Department and this information has been supplemented with department officials and trade union leaders. The study observes that the price factor plays an important role in the trends in relative consumption of alcohol and toddy. The toddy prices increased significantly and it had a negative income elasticity. All these factors resulted in a shift of major liquor contractors away from toddy eroding the strength of trade unions and a resultant fall in the income of the workers.

2. K.P.Sunny, "Consumption Behaviour in Kerala: A Study of National Sample Survey Data", 1965/66 to 1983, 1988, pp.100.

Thesis Supervisors: P.S.George and K.Pushpangadan.

The major objective of the study are to analyse (i) the changes in the expenditure patterns in rural and urban Kerala overtime and to see in what way they differ from the all-India patterns (ii) to estimate expenditure elasticities for all the commodities in rural and urban Kerala using Engel functional forms and compare the consumption behaviour between

rural and urban consumer and (iii) to verify the validity of Engel's Law in the context of Kerala and to compare income and its elasticities with national and inter-national estimates and develop a method for recovering price elasticities from Engel functions using only two cross section data.

The study analyses per capita expenditure shares, expenditure elasticity estimates and price elasticity estimates for both rural and urban Kerala. For the expenditure (income) elasticity estimation linear, quadratic and double log functions have been tested. For the estimation of price elasticities, a new methodology has been developed which helps to recover price elasticities from Engel functions using two cross sectional data. The major source of data used in this study are the National Sample Surveys for the consumer expenditure. The study observes that clothing, milk and milk products are sensitive items in rural and urban Kerala. Compared to the elasticity estimates of all India, edible oil and meat, fish and egg show considerable differences in the expenditure elasticities in Kerala. The edible oil is a luxury item in Kerala whereas it is a necessary item in all-India. Meat, fish and egg are necessary items in Kerala whereas they are luxury items in all India.

The own price elasticities of cereals and cereal substitutes increased over the years. This implies that the consumers became more sensitive to market fluctuations. Sugar registered an inelastic demand while other food items exhibited more responsibilities. Clothing shows more than one price elasticity, but only in the rural areas.

REGIONAL PLANNING

(a) KERALA

1. Thomas George, "Regional Disparities in Kerala's Economic Development", 1988, pp.123.

Thesis Supervisor: P.S.George.

This study investigates the regional imbalances among the districts of Kerala. It attempts to quantify the extent of disparities between the different districts using twenty five different indicators pertaining to agriculture, industry, human resources, transport, banking etc. The study identifies the less developed districts and also suggests policy measures to reduce the regional disparities. The study used secondary data published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, State Planning Board and from other publications of the government. The coefficient of regional imbalance and composite index of development are calculated to ascertain the extent of regional imbalances. The imbalances between the different districts are the highest in respect of number of schools, colleges, commercial banks, electrified houses, vehicles, number of working factories, small scale units and workers in industry. However, no firm trend is visible as to the changes in the extent of disparities. Ernakulam, Trichur, Quilon, Alleppey and Trivandrum have the highest extent of balanced development while Malappuram, Idukki, Palaghat, Kottayam, Cannanore and Calicut have the least. The largest changes were registered in the backward districts of Malappuram and Idukki. The fast developing regions had a peculiar spatial spread; Calicut and Cannanore in the north, Ernakulam and Trichur in the centre and Quilon and Trivandrum in the south. Area based economic planning, which ensures the full use of the local resource base and infrastructural facilities is identified to be remedy for overcoming the disparities. It is pointed out that the decentralisation of planning process along with improvement in infrastructural devices is the solution to the imbalances in Kerala's economic growth. It leads to a balanced development.

(a) KARNATAKA

1. K.Vaijyanthi, "Decentralized Planning and Resource Transfers in Karnataka: A Case Study of Dharwad Zilla Parishad", 1991, pp.118.

Thesis Supervisors: K.P.Kannan and M.R.Narayana

The thesis examines empirically the operation of the scheme of decentralized planning in the Dharwad Zilla Parishad under the Karnataka Zilla Act, 1987. It limits

itself to one crucial aspect of the problem viz., the interrelationship and interaction between the process of decentralized planning and the process of resource transfer at the level of the Dharwad Zilla Parishad.

The primary data for this study are drawn from (1) official documents, papers, and reports, (2) field work observation and interviews with relevant actors. The secondary data are derived from the existing literature.

The focus of this study is on the pattern of resource transfer, the machinery for decentralized planning and the process of development, as they interact and intermesh in the working of the Dharwad Zilla Parishad.

Within the framework of its design and objectives, the thesis offers the following conclusions: (1) Resource transfers to Dharwad Zilla Prishad are mostly in the form of grants. (2) The grants are tied to specific sectoral schemes, (3) Given the above two facts, the Zilla Prishad institutions have very little financial autonomy and initiative, (4) If, therefore, decentralized planning is to overcome, the current structural barriers generated by the existing system of resource transfers critical structural changes in it are called for. Such changes would include the granting of a constitutional and statutory status to institutions of decentralized planning, increasing substitution of grants by tax-sharing and tax-raising, increased infrastructural facilities, and a general thrust towards financial and political economy for local level institutions.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

(a) KERALA

1. K.V.Soudamini, “Integrated Rural Development Programme: A Case Study of Arthat Village in Kerala”, 1987, pp.105.

Thesis Supervisors: P.S.George and P.G.K.Panikar.

The thesis analyses the impact of the Integrated Rural Development Programme on Arthat Village in Trichur district of Kerala. The important themes of the study are: (i) the process of identification of households in need of assistance, (ii) the major problems faced by the beneficiaries for the better utilization of the assets, (iii) the impact of the IRDP on income, especially of the SC/ST households and (iv) the proportion of households which could cross the ‘poverty line’. A total of seventy beneficiaries under five major schemes were chosen for the study.

The study comes out with the following findings. The proportion of ineligible beneficiaries is relatively high in Arthat village. The beneficiaries are generally unhappy with the inadequate loans for initial capital equipment, lack of working capital, poor infrastructural facilities, lack of demand for their products and poor quality of the assets received. A large proportion of beneficiaries have disposed of their assets, soon after receiving them. Although households which retained their assets could raise their overall incomes, those which are in greater need of additional/alternative incomes, are not able to utilize the IRDP assistance property. The impact of IRDP on households below the poverty line in the village has been insignificant.

(b) TAMIL NADU

1. M.Vamadevan, “Rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Repatriates in Tamil Nadu: An Assessment”, 1987, pp.147.

Thesis Supervisors: Chandan Mukherjee and G.N.Rao.

The study analyses the effectiveness of rehabilitation schemes implemented in Tamil Nadu in terms of their impact on the well-being of the Sri Lankan Repatriates. The study also attempts to trace the socio-economic characteristics of the Sri Lankan repatriates, with the following objectives: (i) to find the reasons for the differential performance of the components of assistance viz., Credit, Employment and Land; (ii) to examine the impact of the secondary assistance, such as provision of educational and

training facilities and housing; (iii) to compare the relative performance of the assisted and non-assisted groups; and (iv) to derive a few policy implications on the basis of the findings.

The rehabilitation programme has been viewed as an anti-poverty programme, with two major strategies, viz., (i) those which affect income generation and, (ii) those which influence the flow of income. The study finds that the income generation strategy has largely failed, while the strategy influencing the flow of income has proved to be a success to a certain extent.

The study attributes the failure of the programme to the lack of knowledge on the part of the government of the socio-economic characteristics of the Sri Lankan repatriates in the planning and implementation of the rehabilitation programme. Thus, the study emphasizes the need for a thorough restructuring in the formulation and implementation of the rehabilitation programme.

TRIBAL ECONOMY

KERALA

1. M. Kunhaman, "Tribal Economy of Kerala: An Intra-regional Analysis", 1982, pp.113.

Thesis Supervisor: K.N.Raj

The study examines the extent of intra-regional variations in the levels of socio-economic development of the hill-tribes of Kerala and the possible reasons for such variations.

The economic evolution of the hill-tribes of Kerala shows significant regional variations. The general socio-economic conditions prevailing in the three erstwhile political administrative units of Kerala viz., Malabar, Cochin and Travancore had moulded the course of this evolution.

In the Wynad region, with the development of capitalist agriculture, a process of proletarianization of the hill-tribes had begun in the early decades of the twentieth century. In the princely state of Cochin, after the establishment of state monopoly on forests, towards the end of the 18th century, the hill-tribes came directly under the control of the government. Some tribes in this state took to settled agriculture towards the end of 19th century. In Travancore, towards the end of the 19th century, all the tribes of the region were permanently settled as independent cultivators with inalienable land-ownership. Landlessness is very high among the tribal households of the northern districts while it is less problematic in Cochin and Travancore.

Across the three regions there are differences in the socio-economic indicators such as literacy, average area of land per household, degree of market participation, wage-rates, per capita incomes etc. These inter-regional differences which emerged in the course of historical evolution, have been perpetuated and possibly even aggravated, over time.

ECONOMIC HISTORY

(a) INDIA

1. Nitasha Devasar, “Dynamics of Foreign Control: A Study of European Managing Agencies in Late Colonial India”, 1990, pp.129.

Thesis Supervisors: Raman Mahadevan and K.K.Subrahmanian.

The study draws attention to the working of foreign capital in late-colonial India (1930-50). It also examines the functioning of the European Managing Agencies (EMAs). The study analyses the dominant trends in industrial investment in the late colonial economy. The data for the study are taken from Investors India Year Books, Reports on Joint Stock Companies, lists of Large Industrial Establishments, Census of Foreign Assets and Liabilities, Tariff Board Reports, and archival materials. Based on the criteria provided in Joint Stock Directory, various indices of control and performances are identified and examined with respect to four time points in the twenty year period 1930-50. EMA control – managerial, physical, financial – over major industries of the time is thus analysed. Also, the examination of the trends in EMA control over companies in terms of profitability, financial viability, pattern of investment serves to trace the growth dynamics of EMAs in this period. The study shows that even in 1950s European control over jute industry was quite marked in terms of ownership, financial and other performance indices. The study observes that even in Indian - `dominated' industry like cotton textiles in Bombay, the European presence was found to be quite significant. The newer industries show lower, though not insignificant foreign presence. In sum, in almost all cases, absolute decline in control by the EMAs is not observed. The implication of the study is that, in general the growth of Indian entrepreneurship does not seem to be at the expense of European interests as is sometimes believed. The study questions the contention of passivity of EMA as an institutional form during the late-colonial period. It tries to emphasise the various strategies and organizational changes with which the EMAs responded and adapted themselves in a changing environment. Further, it suggests that to some extent the explanation for the large business houses dominating the Indian industry after independence lies in this. Case studies of some industrial EMAs have also been attempted to illustrate these arguments.

(b) KERALA

1. P.K.Michael Tharakan, "Migration of Farmers from Travancore to Malabar, from 1930 to 1960: An Analysis of its Economic Causes", 1976, pp.58+Appendices.

Thesis Supervisor: K.N.Raj.

This study analyses the migration of farmers from Travancore and Malabar during the period 1930-1960 and the economic and demographic reasons for the same.

Migration of a few individual farmers in search of cultivable land began as early as in 1920's. It gained a momentum between 1930 and 1960. The majority of the migrants were small farmers. But from among the early pioneers, there were also some big farmers. From around 1940 onwards, more big farmers who had the experience in cultivating the plantation crops in Travancore, went to Malabar. Most of the Travancore migrants were attracted to the hilly tracts of Malabar. And a majority of the migrants were Christians belonging to the Syrian Catholic rites.

Pressure of population on cultivable land, the patrilineal tradition followed by the Christian farmers having to partition the family property among the sons, and the growth of commercial farming and the development of capitalist tendencies in agriculture were taken as some of the important explanatory variables for the peasant-migration into Malabar.

It was argued that as the commodity markets developed, the small farmers became vulnerable to price fluctuations, prompting them to out migrate from Travancore. By around 1930, nearly 45 percent of the total cultivated area was under cash crops in Travancore. The Great Depression in early 1930s had adversely affected the small farmers. This was one of the reasons for their migration. As for the migration by the big farmers, it was suggested that constraints on the reinvestment of their profits and expansion of holdings due to non-availability of land for plantation crops, restrictions on transfer of lands and absence of permanent tenancy etc. were some of the reasons.

2. Jaiprakash Raghaviah, "Basel Mission Industries in Malabar and South Canara: 1834-1914. A Study of its Social and Economic Impact", 1986, pp.v+128.

Thesis Supervisors: T.M.Thomas Isaac and P.K.Michael Tharakan.

Basel Evangelical Missionary Society, or Basel Mission as it was popularly called, started operating in the Madras Presidency from 1834 onwards. The present study analyses the industrial activities undertaken by this mission and their social and economic impact during the period 1834-1914.

It was suggested by the study that the influence of Calvinist ideology in shaping the world view of the Mission and the individual social background of the missionaries had interacted with the objective conditions prevailing in the Malabar and South Canara society, during the nineteenth century. The industrial activities of the Mission got stabilised in two lines of manufacture, viz., weaving and tile making. Success in weaving was achieved by technologically improving the handloom industry, achieving a wider product-mix and producing sophisticated articles for a narrow market in India and abroad. Rapid progress was achieved by the Mission in the tile manufacture after 1882.

The labour force working in the concerns of the Mission came from the converts with different caste backgrounds. For converts who came mostly from the lower castes, the conversion offered scope for social mobility and chances of observing basic literacy. The economic impact of the Mission industries was in the areas of transfer of technology, creation of skilled labour force and diversification of the economy. However, the industrial activity of the Basel Mission did not lead to subsequent industrial activity in the region. The reasons for this limited impact are located in the state of the economy and society of Malabar and South Canara, especially with land tenures and joint family system, lack of social mobility and colonial domination discouraging industrial entrepreneurship.

3. Pyarelal Raghavan, "Organisation of Production in the Beedi Industry: A Study of Cannanore District, 1920-1985", 1986, pp.123.

Thesis Supervisors: T.M.Thomas Isaac and Mridul Eapen.

The study analyses the dynamics of the lower forms of capitalist production organisation. Its focus is on the structural changes in the beedi industry at Cannanore over a period of more than half a century. Dealing with the broad contours of the evolution of industrial organisation in the beedi industry the study traces the growth of the industry from petty production to large scale establishments, the emergence of the indirect production system and the subsequent shift of beedi production to the households of the workers. The emergence of the co-operative sector has been the latest phase of the industrial evolution. The study helps to understand the logic of these transformations. The study is based on the secondary data from the decennial censuses, Government reports, pamphlets and souvenirs published by the trade unions and the Kerala Dinesh Beedi Workers Central Co-operative Society and the Mathrubhumi Newspaper.

The rationale behind the transformation of the industrial organisation of the beedi industry appears to be the efforts of the beedi firms to minimise production costs. These changes in the organisation of production enabled the beedi firms to evade the various legislations which regulated the functioning of the beedi industry and conferred statutory benefits on the workers. It also enabled the beedi firms to employ relatively unorganised workers especially women workers in the low wage areas. The emergence of the co-operative sector is attributed to the presence of a highly organised and hegemonic trade

union movement which secured the assistance of the government to develop the co-operative production organisation. The development of an effective co-operative framework and the building up of an efficient functional relationship between the different levels of the co-operative sector along with an efficient management contributed to the success of the beedi co-operatives.

4. T.T.Sreekumar, "Urbanisation in Kerala 1900 – 1981", 1988, pp.vi+76.

Thesis Supervisors: P.K.Michael Tharakan and P.Mohanan Pillai.

According to many studies, Kerala possesses certain problems in the very definition of an urban unit with its high rural density and big villages. This study looks at the origin and causes of this unique spatial formation.

It is observed in the study that Kerala is characterised by a very low degree of urbanisation with a high spatial dispersal of towns. The level of population concentration is moderate. The dispersal of towns appeared to conjoin along the narrow coastal strip. The role played by migration in the urban dynamics appeared to be limited. The proportion of the extensional and decremental components in the total urban growth is unduly high. The study notes that the modern urban system as it emerged in Kerala was articulated through a well developed transport network. The study observes that the role of big cities appeared to be less prominent. And the economic base of the system is so structured that there is not much functional specialisation in towns and declassification of towns had occurred in each census.

It is observed that investment of British Capital in the economy was mainly in the plantations, leading to an enormous increase in trading and processing activities related to plantation products. The agro-processing industries thus developed in Kerala are not concentrated in particular areas which would have otherwise possibly contributed to a progressive agglomeration of productive forces and population in a particular locality. The study observes that the settlement pattern also has its impact on the urban process and the better spatial dispersion of towns is mainly due to the decentralisation of non-agricultural activities and nature of settlement type leading to the development of urbanised fringes or villages which could not be meaningfully regarded as either rural or urban in a spatial sense.

(c) **ANDHRA PRADESH**

1. D. Rajasekhar, "Land Transfers and Family Formations: A Case Study of a Village in the Rayalaseema Region of Andhra Pradesh", 1985, pp.173.

Thesis Supervisors: G.N.Rao and K.Narayanan Nair.

The study is based on a case study of land transfers and family formations in a village in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. It makes an attempt to generalise the historical experience of a village with reference to the broader question of peasant mobility, particularly in the context of semi-arid zones. The study examines the nature and causes of land transfers; it traces changes in the relative position of families, in different size-classes of land holdings and different caste categories; it analyses the association between rates of family partitions, status of families in terms of landed assets and the emerging production and organisation outside agriculture. The study is based on an analysis of historical data on land transfers, and linking up the historical changes with the current status of the households. In order to analyse land transfers, the study uses the Report of the Village Resettlement Survey (1891), Karnam Account (1948) and Record of Rights (1982).

It is observed that the inequalities in land ownership had increased marginally between 1891 and 1948. And the post-Independence period (1948-84) however, witnessed a clear decline in the inequalities of land ownership. The study explains this trend in terms of ceiling legislation of 1961, extension of cultivation by poor farmers, adaptive changes in crop-mix which slowed down the process of land alienation and benami transactions resorted to by the rich farmers.

The study also states that land transfers are based on caste categories. While the Reddys could purchase lands from Brahmins, others especially Yadavas and Valmikis could gain land mostly by bringing the available cultivable wastes under plough. The study observes an inverse relationship between rates and incidence of partitioning and the size-class of land holding in the case of two periods viz., 1948-'56 and 1956-'61. However, the period 1961-74 recorded a positive association and the study explains this mainly in terms of the impact of land reforms. It is observed that while tenancy reforms caused polarization tendencies, ceiling laws helped strengthen the levelling tendencies. The study has also shown that partitioning of families can cause both levelling and polarization tendencies. It strikes a note of caution against an over-emphasis on land transfers observed in the literature on peasant mobility.

2. Y.John, “Aspects of Agrarian Change in the Cuddaph District of Andhra Pradesh c. 1860-1900”, 1987, pp.iii+196.

Thesis Supervisors: G.N.Rao and Chandan Mukherjee.

The study argues that agrarian changes in India during the post-Railway period have to be studied at a much more disaggregated level to capture the nuances of the regional/sub-regional specificities. It was in this context that the Cuddapah district of Andhra was selected for a detailed study.

During the first half of the 19th century agriculture in Cuddapah district was devoid of any dynamism. A heavy burden of land revenue assessment, coercion exerted on the cultivators to forcibly extend the area under cultivation and depression in agricultural prices had injected forces of inertia and stagnation.

In early 1850's, agriculture showed signs of change. The cotton boom of early 1860's provided some fillip to cotton cultivation. During the last quarter of the 19th century the total cropped areas was on the rise. The famine of 1876-78 hit the agrarian economy very hard. In the post-Famine period, peasant rationality was found to be influenced both by the price and non-price factors. The non-price factors seemed to have played a larger role in indirectly influencing the cotton acreage. Railways did enable the commodity markets to expand.

Whereas during the first half of the 19th century, the predatory nature of the East India Company had perpetuated agricultural stagnation, during the subsequent period, agricultural growth was severely constrained by famines and drought.

3. Namerta, “Growth of Market Towns in the Rayalaseema Region of Andhra c.1890-c.1945: A Study of Cross-Sectional and Temporal Variations”, 1989, pp.224.

Thesis Supervisors: G.N.Rao and S.P.Padhi.

The study analyses in depth the growth of market towns and the urbanization process in the semi-arid and backward agrarian region of Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh during the period 1891 to 1945. The study traces the growth of market towns vis-à-vis a few factors such as commercialization of agriculture, development of transport (both rail and road) and trade, growth of agro-processing industries, famines, epidemics and consequent rural-urban and urban-rural migration. The growth of market towns is treated here as a part of the broader process of urbanization. In this exercise urbanization is taken as a process of population movement and concentration leading to an increase in the number and size of towns. It is argued that the impact of transport, especially the railways on the development of market towns was quite striking.

Development of railways and the consequent emergence of feeder roads resulted in the convergence of prices prevailing in several stations. Thus, trading activities started picking up. The correlation matrices show that for the period 1891 the relationship is positive but not significant, implying a stronger impact of transport on the development of selected market towns.

The study observes that the growth of agro-processing industries was slow till 1920. During the 1920's it picked up rapidly but only to slump into a low phase once again during the period of Depression. Again the number of units rose during the post-World War II period. The correlation between the number of people employed in the agro-processing units and level of urbanization turned out to be positive and significant between 1920 and 1950. After analyzing the birth and the death rates the study reveals that upto 1920 there has been a process of de-urbanization due to epidemic diseases and after 1920 the pace of urbanization had picked up in the region. The study emphasizes the unevenness in the growth of market towns, both in space and time.

(d) WEST BENGAL

1. Anil Kumar Mitra, "The Development of Tenurial Relations in the Western Doars, Jalpaiguri District, Bengal, 1850-1930", 1985, pp.217.

Thesis Supervisors: Gita Sen and Sudipto Mundle.

This study attempts to examine the evolution of tenurial relations of the temporarily settled districts of the North Bengal (particularly, the 'jotedari' system in the Western Doars, referring to the eventualities culminating in the Tebhaga Andolan' (struggle of the sharecroppers for two-thirds share of the crop) in 1946-47. Drawing mostly from historical sources, archival documents and census reports, it substantiates the ideas from personal interviews conducted in the district. The analysis divulges two prominent interacting features of the tenurial system: (i) gradual immiserisation of the share-croppers along with a sharp rise in their numbers; and (ii) a rather persistent decline in the cropped area. The dynamics of such process is seen through the impact of the changing agrarian structures of two distinct regimes – the pre-British and the British. During the former regime (Bhutanese rulers) the 'jotedars' (the landowning families) grew in economic power and encouraged sharecropping. Moneylending and land-mortgaging became the common feature. The British, however, abolished revenue collecting hierarchy, made 'jotedars; individual property owners and introduced extensive tea plantations. The rapidly growing plantation sector and relatively easy availability of land caused both a population boom and a large scale speculative land market. More 'jotes' (units of land) were acquired, crop prices rose and the sharecroppers gradually got trapped in a web of dependency. A depeasantisation process swelled the ranks of sharecroppers, whose fortunes shrank further with declining acreage and scanty irrigation. It is observed in the study that by the end of 1920's the

immiserisation process was well grounded and the `Tebhaga' revolt was an obvious outburst against the exploitative system.

(e) **UTTAR PRADESH**

1. Ramaa Vasudevan, "Agrarian Change and Labour Market: A Study of Two Districts in Eastern U.P. – 1900-1950", 1990, pp.146.

Thesis Supervisors: S.P.Padhi and K.P.Kannan.

This study explains how the actions of labour have redefined the constraints and possibilities of accumulation through labour enforcement in the districts of Basti and Gorakpur of U.P. It appears that the existing literature has avoided a detailed discussion on rural labour, which is so crucial, for this region formed a significant catchment area supplying labour to all the major growth centres of British India. This study is concerned with the divergences within Eastern U.P., in particular, the contrasting experience of Basti and Gorakpur.

Starting with broadly similar pre-conditions, the two districts developed along different trajectories, under the varying impact of the forces of commercialization, demographic pressure and industrialisation which were articulated through a changing configuration of class forces. In Basti, the traditional base of power was not significantly eroded. Indentured labour flows from Basti did not contest the power of the traditional landlord since the recruitment in this system was largely controlled by the local landlord. Gorakpur, on the other hand displayed greater dynamism. The pursuit of cane-cultivation resulted in a more intensive deployment of labour. Traditional forms of control were more securely tied to the logic of labour intensification. The pattern of cyclical and seasonal migration from Gorakpur was pivotal to the reproduction of the labouring household. This strategy of survival enmeshed the labourer deeper in the exploitative nexus of labour enforcement. The structural constraints on accumulation in both industry and agriculture were resolved through concerted efforts at curtailing labour costs. The analysis of the two regions, however, does not counterpose unyielding conservatism in a Basti with continued transformation in Gorakpur, only the indeterminacy in the process of transformation is highlighted through the differential experience.

(f) ORISSA

1. Ashok Kumar Babu, “Paddy Marketing in Sambalpur District: Historical Antecedents and Contemporary Structure (1894-1981)”, 1984, pp.143.

Thesis Supervisors: Sudipto Mundle and Chiranjib Sen.

The study examines the paddy market in sambalpur district of Orissa. The growth and evolution of the paddy market at the district level has been analysed historically. This is followed by an analysis of the contemporary period. Primarily the study examines the issues related to paddy trade, price formation, role of traders, the structure of trade and the control over it in the rural economy. Two villages have been selected in terms of presence or absence of infrastructure like proper road, institutional credit and input availability. Thus, both inter-market and intra-market issues relating to the paddy market have been analysed. The study has made extensive use of archival materials, various government reports, Agricultural Statistics of India, Rice Export Register, NSS Reports, and information collected in the field survey. Overtime as a result of the interventions of the colonial authorities – especially the introduction of railways, and the changes in the land tenurial and revenue policy – exports had increased and multi-channel system of marketing with a number of intermediaries emerged. The study observes that a differentiated pricing system exists between big and small firms as also advanced and backward villages. The inter-village difference in pricing has been explained through two factors – bad road conditions and the relative availability/non-availability of institutional credits and inputs. The study argues that a differentiating marketing system, although it may not lead to a clear cut polarisation of the populace, will have its effect on the relations of production by raising the inequalities further.

EXTERNAL SECTOR

1. Swaraj Kumar, "Manufacture of Electronic Components for Export: Evaluation of a Project", 1978, pp.iv+116.

Thesis Supervisor: I.S.Gulati.

The study tries to evaluate in depth, a small manufacturing project undertaken on the basis of technology, machinery, equipment, and raw materials, all imported with a view largely to export the output. The project relates to an electronic industry.

According to the terms of specific collaboration agreement entered into for the project, the multinational enterprise tried to make the most of its stronger bargaining position vis-à-vis the less developed country. By virtue of its control over specific technology in the manufacture of AECS, combined with its strong position as a major user, and therefore buyer in the world market of AECS, the concerned MNC has been able to export from the host country's enterprise, all manners of concessions without the MNC itself having to commit any funds whatsoever in the establishment of the project. With virtually no knowledge at all of the export market, the particular LDCD enterprise had no option but to go for a bulk commitment to purchase. Could it be that in this particular case, the bargaining position of the LDC enterprise would have been somewhat stronger if it were not under an obligation to sell abroad a major part of its output? This raises an important issue about the length to which an LDC should go in pursuit of purely or largely "enclavistic" enterprises, whose output is largely, if not entirely meant for the world market.

2. Sebastian Mathew, "Growth and Changing Structure of Prawn Export Industry in Kerala: 1953-83", 1986, pp.122.

Thesis Supervisors: Chiranjib Sen and John Kurien.

The focus of the study is on structure, growth and dynamics of change in the frozen prawn export sector of Kerala. The study concentrates on the emergence of frozen prawns as an important and successful foreign exchange earner, the nature and extent of competition between the prawn exporting firms and the extent of their integration with the industry. The nature of government intervention to support the industry and the dynamics of conflict between the different segments are also discussed. The secondary data used in the study are collected from the statistics of marine product exports and the primary data are gathered from the statistics and marketing division of the marine product export development authority. The exports of frozen prawns increased from a few crores in the 1950's to over three hundred crores by the eighties. This was facilitated by the exploitation of the unlimited production potential for frozen prawn and the

immense profits from the industry which enabled the entry of a large number of firms to the industry without any active support from the State. They were helped in their endeavour by their buyers in the USA and the Norwegian aided fisheries development project in Kerala. From the seventies the liberal assistance granted by the state gave a further boost to this industry and the changing import export policy of the government also encouraged the entry of large business houses to the industry. However, the financial and political clout of the local exporters allowed them to ensure the forced exit of the big business house from the industry and the large local exporters were enabled to capture larger market shares. This increasing concentration is mainly because of the clear cut competitive advantage of the established large local firms had over others in the spheres of procurement, ability to get export orders and their command over processing capacity.

3. K.M.Shajehan, “Marine Products Exports from Kerala: A Study of Composition, Trends and Performance, 1840-1985”, 1987, pp.119.

Thesis Supervisors: John Kurien and K.Pushpangadan.

The study analyses the growth pattern of marine product exports from Kerala during the period 1840-1985. It also ascertains how export performance is based on different sectors of the industry. Changes in the relative levels of instability in export earnings during the period 1963 to 1983 are also investigated. The study notes that in the pre independence period the exports were restricted to salted/dry fish and also fish guano and fish oil which are mainly exported to London, Burma, Sri Lanka and Japan. In independent India the pre devaluation period, from 1960 to 1966, saw the emergence of new markets, new technologies, the discovery of rich prawn grounds and the emergence of a new class of profit all of which motivated merchant capitalists into the fisheries sector. All this provided a new impetus to the growth of exports which was accompanied by a change in product mix in favour of frozen prawn and the emergence of U.S.A. as the most important export market. In the post-evaluation period i.e., 1967 to 1985 the export sector registered stagnation and decline in terms of quantity exported while in value terms the growth rate had increased. However, the huge investments in harvesting and processing failed to adequately stimulate exports. The study brings out the fact that the instability in quantity exported has declined while that of value earned has increased. A combination of both demand and supply factors was the major sources of instability in the earnings from marine product exports. Commodity and geographic concentrations were identified as the two important variables which led to an increase in instability in earnings. The study observes that the major share of benefits in export value realized was taken by fishermen in the mechanised sector who emerged as the major actors along with the boat owners in the processing sector of the industry.

4. Tapathi Deb, "India's External Commercial Borrowings, 1976/77 to 1987/88", 1990, pp.129+ix.

Thesis Supervisors: K.pushpangadan and Gita Sen.

The two oil shocks in 1973/74 and 1989 accentuated a global commercial debt crisis which was mainly faced by the Latin American and African countries. India's experience of commercial borrowing since 1970s has not been significantly different from that of the developing countries which have maintained their indebtedness on a sustainable level. Following the first oil shock, India did not resort to commercial borrowing on a large scale. However, after the second oil shock, there was a sudden quantum jump in the magnitude of India's borrowing from international financial markets. India emerged as a country resorting to commercial borrowing in the 1980s on an increasing scale. This resulted in shedding away the excessive reliance on official loans.

This has influenced the overall debt structure which has turned unfavourable over the years. The debt structure has been affected more by the worsening amortisation pattern rather than the interest burden. Over the years, there has been a rising concentration on loans with short-and-medium-term maturities.

The analysis of the time path of debt/output ratio based on the continuity of historic trends in major macro variables such as savings, investments and exports resulted in an explosive debt path for India. The debt/output ratio turned out to be unbounded, never converting towards a finite limit. Under such conditions, the country cannot achieve a minimum growth goal as stipulated without reaching an unsustainable net debt situation. An examination of the allocation of external resources over the period under consideration reveals that these resources have broadly followed the pattern of industrial policy preference. Resources have been allocated among the major sectors, such as services, manufacturing, oil exploration, and mining. The sectoral destination of commercial resources has also been in line with the preferred industrial policy of catering to the needs of priority areas, suppliers of basic and infrastructural services as well as intermediate inputs. An analysis of the purpose-wise destination reveals that only light and medium engineering industries accorded maximum priority to modernisation.

5. P.E.Churian, "India's Export Trade in Spices: An Analysis of Performance", 1991, pp.103.

Thesis Supervisors: K.Pushpangadan and P.K.Michael Tharakan.

This study undertaken with two objectives in mind viz., to examine export performance, problems, and prospects of Indian exports of major items of spices and to examine the instability in export earnings from the major items of spices and identifying the sources of instability. The study mainly focuses on pepper and cardamom, though other items of spices are also referred to.

It is observed in the study that there is an increasing trend towards concentration of Indian spices in a few items such as pepper, cardamom, ginger, turmeric, and chillies in recent years. In the analysis of India's trade in cardamom, a continuous decline in India's share in the world export of cardamom is attributed to a continuous decline in India's share in world production of cardamom, rising domestic consumption, and high price of Indian cardamom relative to its competitors' price.

It has been found that due to a substantial rise in prices, export earnings from pepper increased at a faster rate than the rate at which export volume has increased. World consumption of pepper is found to be non-responsive to world income, and price. Therefore, world consumption of pepper depends on taste and food habits of the people. There exists a close relationship between the direction of Indian export of pepper and India's competitive position. The major constraints in the Indian export of pepper are low production, high cost of production, and marketing problems.

It has been found that there is a wide instability in export earnings from pepper and cardamom compared to other items of spices. Variations in quantity appeared to be the major reason for earning instability, while supply factors are the major source of earning in the case of minor spices. In the case of chillies, ginger and turmeric, a combination of both demand and supply factors led to earning instability. Therefore, the study highlights the need for formulating suitable measures to stabilize export earnings from spices.

6. Saikat Sinharay, "India's Exports of Capital Goods, 1965/66 to 1984/85", 1991, pp.iv+141.

Thesis Supervisors: K.K.Subrahmanian and P.Mohanan Pillai.

The study addresses itself to three basic questions on the dynamics of capital goods exports from India. These objectives are: firstly, to examine the trend, structure and characteristics of capital goods production and exports from India; secondly to evaluate the global competitiveness of such exports; and thirdly, to analyse the plausible factors – both price and non-price-in determining such exports.

Situating the analysis in broader macroeconomic framework, it was observed that prior industrialization was a necessary precondition for exports of non-traditional manufacturers, such as capital goods, from India. The capital goods witnessed a sharp rise in exports till the seventies, marked by a relative stagnation thereafter. The growth of exports was accompanied by notable changes in product-mix and market diversification to a considerable extent. But it was noted that though production of capital goods grew in the liberalization of the eighties, exports failed to perform well during the same period. As industrialization by itself would mean the development of technological capability, it was observed further that, over time, India acquired the capability of producing standard modern equipment. This was firstly due to the

indigenous adaptation of imported technology and secondly, due to the increase of skilled-labour endowment. Observing the competitiveness of such exports we found that India developed an edge over the other newly industrializing countries in certain specific product groups, such as industrial machinery, textile and leather machinery, conventional machine tools, pumps and centrifuges etc. Further, it was noted that there was directional change in international competitiveness from metallic manufacture and transport equipments to non-electrical machinery, when international competitiveness from metallic manufacture and transport equipments to non-electric machinery, when international competitiveness is measured in terms of revealed comparative advantage index. This index points out that the non-price factors are as much important in determining competitiveness as the price factors. Further, it was observed that factors such as world demand and relative prices did not have significant impact on exports. But capital goods exports are found to be domestic-demand-responsive. Moreover, domestic technological efforts through in-house R&D have significant impact in determining exports. This signified that non-price factors have a greater role to play in determining competitiveness and growth than the price factors. But it is instructive to note that policy changes of the eighties did not have a significant impact on capital goods exports.