

A BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICTS OF INDIA

WAYANAD (Kerala)

Sponsored by
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India
and
Indian Council of Social Science Research



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2008

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A BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICT

Executive Summary of Wayanad District (Kerala)

Background:

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs (GOI) has identified 90 minority concentrated backward districts using eight indicators of socio-economic development and amenities based on the 2001 census data. The purpose of this exercise was to improve all these indices and bring it up to the all India level through Multi-Sector Development Plan (MSDP) under the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Since it is expected that there must be changes in those indicators after 2001, a baseline survey has been conducted to equip the multi-sectoral development plan with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Wayanad, one of the most backward districts of Kerala, is among the 90 backward districts with minority concentration.

District profile (Based on 2001 census)

- Wayanad is primarily a rural district, in which 96.2 per cent of the total population lives in villages. None of the talukas have a sizable urban population. However it is to be noted that in the context of Kerala, there is no perceptible difference between rural and urban areas in terms of demography or facilities, as there has always been historical rural-urban continuum with respect to demography, economy and development.
- Kalpetta (district head quarters), Sulthan Bathery and Mananthawady are the three major business towns of the district. Due to its proximity to Mysore and Kozhikode, along with the fact that the highway passes through the district, people from Wayanad are found moving to both these cities for business and commerce, and also for other employment opportunities.
- There is a substantial concentration of minority (mainly Muslims and Christians) population. Hindus constitute 50 per cent of the total population, Muslims 26.5 per cent and Christians 23 per cent. The concentration of these two religious minorities is higher in the district when compared to the state average.
- Another important demographic feature of the district is the presence of tribal population of around 17.4 per cent, which is the highest in Kerala. While they are categorised within the Hindu community, they are the most backward segment of

the population, devoid of even the most basic of amenities. In fact, due to the categorisation of the tribal population within Hindu fold, the socio-economic indicators of Hindus are below the other religious minorities, especially Muslims. This aspect needs to be kept in mind while designing a multi-sectoral development plan, as ethnic minorities and Tribal communities deserve special provisions as part of the area development.

- The Tribal population in the district is found in remote and inaccessible areas. They depend on casual labour in agriculture, plantation work and forestry for survival, since they have little or no land. The absence of land holdings, education and health facilities is acute amongst the tribal community.
- The literacy rate of 92.8 per cent within the district is low compared to the state average, but is considerably higher than the national average. While the male population has a literacy rate of 94.8 per cent, that of the female population is 90.8 per cent. Thus, there is no perceptible gender difference in the literacy rate.
- The overall work participation rate is 31.8 per cent, which is much less in the case of women (13.3 per cent), as compared to that of the male population (51.38 per cent). Agriculture labourers dominate the labour force (40 per cent of the total) which is far higher compared to the state average (19.6 per cent).
- Primary infrastructure appears to be satisfactory in terms of availability of schools and hospitals. However, the mean distance of middle and secondary schools and tertiary health facilities is relatively high. Whereas the transport infrastructure is good during most of the year, heavy rainfall during the monsoon, results in frequent disruption of road transport. Electricity and roads in the villages are good and so is the availability of drinking water. However the coverage of sanitation is low and 50 per cent of the villages are still without all weather road connectivity.
- Coverage of cooperative banks is low compared to other districts of the state, though public sector banks have a reasonable presence. Given the importance of the cooperative sector for agriculture improvement and poverty focused lending, there is a need to increase the number of cooperative societies.

While Wayanad district lags behind all India figures in terms of 4 out of 8 indicators, with reference to the additional two health related indicators, the district is above the national average. The development priority of the district is based on the gap i.e., distance from

the all India figure. As shown in the table 1, the following are the development priorities in the district.

Table 1: Development Gaps and Priorities for the Multi-sector Development Plan

| Sl. No. | Indicators | Wayanad 2008 | All India 2005 | Development Gaps Between All India and District | Development Priority of the District |
|---------|---|--------------|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | (1) | (2) | (3=1-2) | (4) |
| 1 | Rate of literacy | 92.8 | 67.3 | 25.5 | 6 |
| 2 | Rate of female literacy | 90.8 | 57.1 | 33.7 | 8 |
| 3 | Work participation rate | 31.8 | 38.0 | -6.2 | 2 |
| 4 | Female work participation rate | 13.3 | 21.5 | -8.2 | 1 |
| 5 | Percentage of households with <i>pucca</i> walls** | 90.01 | 59.4 | 30.6 | 7 |
| 6 | Percentage of households with safe drinking water | 95.73 | 87.9 | 7.8 | 4 |
| 7 | Percentage of households with electricity | 86.3 | 67.9 | 18.4 | 5 |
| 8 | Percentage of households with water closet latrines | 35.2 | 39.2 | -4 | 3 |
| 9 | Percentage of fully vaccinated children | 56.20 | 43.5 | 12.7 | - |
| 10 | Percentage of child delivery in a health facility | 99.5 | 38.7 | 60.8 | - |

Note: (1) Survey data of the district (Col. 1) pertains to the rural area only, but all India data (Col.2) pertains to total.

(2) Data in Col 2 from Sl. No. 5 to 8 pertain to year 2005-06 from National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3 and the rest of the data in Col. 2 pertain to the year 2004-05 from National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

** This includes semi-pucca houses as well.

Female Work Participation: Post secondary education and skill development training, particularly for girls, is a very important development priority. This need is identified through an analysis of both the educational situation as well as the work participation of women. In an educationally forward state, Wayanad shows a somewhat low education and work force participation rate among women, which is even more pronounced among the Muslim community. There is a need to address this through establishing appropriate

and accessible post secondary education facilities and skill development institutions. Private sector participation in this sector should be encouraged.

Work Participation Rate: There are several development priorities that emerge from the survey. Wayanad is predominantly an agrarian district with agriculture labour constituting a major occupational group. However, given the percentage of the work participation rate in general, especially that of the female population, which is below the national average, there is a need to look at avenues of enhancing employment and work opportunities. Self employment and the non-farm sector has not developed fully in the district. As there appears to be a potential for dairy, poultry and other allied activities, development in this sector would enhance the work participation rate of women as well as provide livelihood security for the tribal households.

Individual Toilets and Sanitation Facilities: Given the terrain and the climatic conditions, individual toilets assume importance from the point of view of providing privacy as well as preventing communicable diseases and improving hygiene. The district is below the national average on this front and there is a need to address this issue across all communities. Efforts towards Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) need to be made more seriously since awareness levels related to this intervention is low among households in the district. As part of the plan, identification of low performing panchayats with regard to the Total Sanitation Campaign may be undertaken to address this gap in a time bound manner.

Safe Drinking Water: Against the all India figure of 87.9 per cent households having access to safe-drinking water, the percentage of households in Wayanad having access to this facility is 95.7. However, there are still few tribal households who do not have access to proper drinking water. This key area definitely needs special attention and household based availability of drinking water is of utmost importance.

Housing: This is again a priority, particularly for those habitations with minority communities (Muslims as well as tribals). It should be noted that many families live in thatched roof and katcha houses. Given the terrain and high rainfall conditions, improving housing would become priority for ensuring safe and secure living, especially for those who are poor and socially marginalised. Efforts to improve the performance of Indira Awas Yojana may be taken up and any gap in that may be addressed through the proposed plans.

Other Development Priorities

Given the high proportion of tribal population in the district, a special planning and development focus on tribal communities is needed. Improved electricity, non-farm and off-farm activities, education (post primary) and health become priorities for this community. The access to sanitation and drinking water facilities is relatively low among the tribal population which may require urgent attention.

- Promotion of natural resource based micro enterprises would be one of the options that the government could adopt in order to diversify employment and to use the resources efficiently. Agencies like NABARD may be brought into the picture to facilitate such promotional activities. These efforts would lead to increased work participation and incomes to families.
- Given the predominance of plantation and spice based economy, there is a need to engage in promotion of marketing and other support mechanisms such as processing in order to enhance and support plantation crops like pepper, coffee, tea, cardamom and other spices and fruits.
- Formal credit systems have their presence in the district; however penetration of the cooperative sector is not adequate. Given the role of cooperatives in extending credit to agriculture, there is a need to address this issue as well. It would also help in diversification into non-farm and off-farm sector like dairy, poultry and allied activities.

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Nestled in the Western Ghats and at a distance of 76 Km from the seashore of Kozhikode, Wayanad district lies at a height of 700-2100 metres above sea level on the north eastern part of the state of Kerala. The total geographical area of the district is 2126 sq. kms and it is bounded on the east by the Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu) and Mysore (Karnataka) and in the north by Kodagu (Karnataka) district. It has Mallapuram on the South and Kozhikode and Kannur constitute its western borders. Wayanad was carved out from parts of Kozhikode and Kannur districts and came into being on 1.11.1980 as the 12th district of Kerala. Though it is one of the backward districts of the state, cash crops like pepper, cardamom, coffee, tea, spices and other condiments grow in the district, earning substantial foreign exchange for the country. It also has highest forest density in the state. The district is divided into three taluks viz., Mananthawady, Sultanbathery and Vayittiri. Agriculture is the principal occupation of the people. The principal crops of the district are tea, coffee, paddy and pepper. The other important cash crops are rubber, cardamom, ginger, turmeric and areca nut. The back bone of the economy of this district is plantation crops such as tea, coffee, pepper, rubber etc., which give substantial earnings to the state income. In addition to these crops, banana and coconut are cultivated abundantly in different parts of the district.

One trend which may be noted is that in recent years there has been a decline in the area under paddy cultivation, mainly due to low remunerative prices as well as the increasing prices of other commercial crops.

Wayanad has very low industrialisation. There are no major industries, except for processing units related to plantation crops and few timber and rice mills. The town Kalpatta has an industrial estate which has few units operational.

Table 1.1 Demographic Characteristics – Community wise Population

| Tehsil | Total population | Rural % | %SC | %ST | % Hindu population | % Muslim Population | % Christian population |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Mananthavady | 242125 | 100.0 | 2.6 | 20.4 | 46.6 | 28 | 25.1 |
| Sulthanbathery | 288896 | 100.0 | 3.7 | 18.2 | 58.5 | 15.7 | 25.4 |
| Vayittiri | 219986 | 88.1 | 6.3 | 14.1 | 43.4 | 39 | 17.1 |
| Wayanad District | 751007 | 96.2 | 4.1 | 17.7 | 50.3 | 26.5 | 22.9 |
| <i>Kerala</i> | <i>23574449</i> | <i>74.0</i> | <i>10.8</i> | <i>1.5</i> | <i>55.4</i> | <i>24.9</i> | <i>19.6</i> |

Source: Village Level Directory (Census, 2001).

The work participation rate of the rural population was 39.5 per cent, which was higher than the state level. However, the distribution of workers in occupation indicates that about half (50 per cent) of them were in other occupations (services, transport, etc) and about 31 per cent of workers are agriculture labours. It can be seen that the percentage of agriculture labour in the district is far higher than the state average, reflecting the dependency of vast numbers of labourers on agriculture and plantations for employment. The figure for casual labour is 17 per cent, who work in both agriculture as well as non agriculture sectors. The distribution of workers across occupations indicates that most of them were wage earning labourers, dependent on agriculture and allied sectors for their livelihood.

Table 1.2: Work Participation Rate (WPR) Rural Wayanad

| C.D. Block | Total Rural Pop. | Total Workers | WPR | CL % | AL % | HH % | Oth % |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Mananthavady | 242125 | 94777 | 39.14 | 19.91 | 32.51 | 1.15 | 46.44 |
| Sulthanbathery | 288896 | 117161 | 40.55 | 19.74 | 37.15 | 1.12 | 41.98 |
| Vayittiri | 219986 | 84597 | 38.46 | 11.26 | 22.37 | 1.19 | 65.17 |
| Wayanad District | 751007 | 296535 | 39.48 | 17.38 | 31.45 | 1.15 | 50.02 |
| <i>Kerala</i> | <i>23574449</i> | <i>7671110</i> | <i>32.54</i> | <i>9.05</i> | <i>19.65</i> | <i>3.59</i> | <i>67.72</i> |

Source: Calculated from PCA, Census of India, 2001.

The backwardness of the district is not only reflected in terms of demographic, occupation and other characteristics of the population, but also in terms of acute shortage of basic amenities and infrastructure from the village to district level.

In terms of education, it can be seen that there is reasonable access to primary schooling and middle schooling in the district. However when it comes to secondary and post-secondary education, especially streams like vocational education, the situation is far from satisfactory in terms of population coverage, in comparison to the state level figures. Table 1.3 presents data extracted from the census of 2001. It can be seen that

the coverage is well below the state average with respect to secondary schools and vocational training centres.

Table 1.3: School Status in Wayanad District

| Tehsil | % vil having primary school | %vill. having middle school | no. of Secondary school | population per Secondary school | number of industrial school | population per industrial school | number of training school | population per training school |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mananthavady | 100.0 | 93.8 | 16 | 15133 | 0 | | 2 | 121063 |
| Sulthanbathery | 100.0 | 100.0 | 24 | 12037 | 5 | 57779.2 | 1 | 288896 |
| Vayittiri | 94.1 | 94.1 | 18 | 12221 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Wayanad District | 97.9 | 95.8 | 58 | 12948 | 5 | 150201.4 | 3 | 250336 |
| <i>Kerala</i> | <i>98.5</i> | <i>91.8</i> | <i>1867</i> | <i>12627</i> | <i>186</i> | <i>126744.3</i> | <i>107</i> | <i>220322</i> |

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

Infrastructure such as health and drinking water assume importance as they determine human development. Tables 1.4 & 1.5 present data on these infrastructure indicators. About 80 per cent of villages are served by PHC (Primary Health Centre) in the district within a radius of 5 KM, but access to allopathic hospitals is somewhat low when compared to the state average. One positive feature however is the availability of drinking water taps and tube wells, where the ratio is much closer to the state average. This could be due to historical reasons as the state has invested in water supply and sanitation on priority basis in the backward districts. The district is completely covered with power and road infrastructure facility. Coverage of post offices is also better in the district when compared to the state average.

Table 1.4: Health and Drinking Water in Wayanad District

| Tehsil | % Villages having PHCs within 5 KM | % Villages having MCW Centre within 5 KM | % villages having Allopathic hospital <5KM Range | Allopathic hospital per lakh population | Tap Per lakh population | Tube well per lakh population | Hand pump per lakh population |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mananthavady | 68.8 | 6.3 | 37.5 | 3.7 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| Sulthanbathery | 86.7 | 13.3 | 53.3 | 8.3 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Vayittiri | 82.4 | 0.0 | 58.8 | 5.9 | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| Wayanad District | 79.2 | 6.3 | 50.0 | 6.1 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| <i>Kerala</i> | <i>78.2</i> | <i>45.9</i> | <i>55.9</i> | <i>4.3</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>4</i> |

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

When it comes to social infrastructure such as banking, which reflects economic activities, Waynad fares badly in comparison to the state figures. While Kerala has a coverage of 92 per cent with respect to cooperative banks, in the case of Waynad district it is only 66 per cent. Agriculture cooperatives are also less in number compared to the state average. However the spread of commercial banks appear to be on par with the state average, with over 89 per cent of villages covered by commercial banks. However given the importance of the cooperative sector for agriculture improvement, it becomes necessary to enhance coverage of cooperative sector operations in the district.

Table 1.5: Roads, Power, Banking and other Facilities in Waynad District

| Tahsil | % villages having paved road | Percentage of villages having power supply | % Villages having agricultural co-operative societies within 5 KM | % villages having Co-operative bank within 5 KM Range | Co-operative bank per lakh population | % villages having commercial bank within 5 KM Range | Commercial bank per lakh population | Post office per lakh popn | Percentage irrigated land to tottal land |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Mananthavady | 100.0 | 100.0 | 37.5 | 68.8 | 4.5 | 87.5 | 8.3 | 18.6 | 78.7 |
| Sulthanbathery | 100.0 | 100.0 | 46.7 | 66.7 | 2.1 | 93.3 | 8.7 | 19.0 | 87.3 |
| Vythiri | 100.0 | 100.0 | 23.5 | 64.7 | 5.5 | 88.2 | 7.3 | 18.2 | 81.3 |
| Waynad District | 100.0 | 100.0 | 35.4 | 66.7 | 3.9 | 89.6 | 8.1 | 18.6 | 82.4 |
| Kerala | 99.9 | 100.0 | 49.9 | 92.4 | 5.5 | 89.4 | 6.8 | 15.9 | 69.5 |

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

Methodology

The survey was conducted in rural areas and, hence, all the figures and variables used pertain to only rural areas and population. The Census 2001 data have been used for sampling. Since the religion-wise population data are available only up to the Tehsil level the stratification has been confined to that level.

First of all, all the tehsils of the districts were arranged in descending order on the basis of minority population. In other words, they were arranged in such a manner that the Tehsils with the highest concentration of minority population was placed at the top position and Tehsils with the lowest concentration of minority population at the bottom. Thereafter all the Tehsils were stratified into three strata: the first one consists of the

upper 20 percent of Tehsils arranged according to population; the second consists of the middle 50 percent; and the bottom consists of the last 30 percent. The selection of villages has been done following the PPS (Probability Proportionate to Size) method. A total of 30 villages (25 villages have been chosen in the districts having rural population of less than 5 lakh) have been selected from all the three strata by the method of PPS. The number of villages selected from each stratum depends on the ratio of the total population of Tehsils to that stratum to the total population of the district. For example, if the total population of all the Tehsils under stratum constitutes 20 percent of the total population, then 6 villages have been selected from that stratum. It has also been ensured that at least 6 villages are selected from each stratum.

In villages with less than 1200 population, all the households were listed first. However, in case of villages having more than 1200 population, three or more hamlet-groups were formed as per the practice followed by NSSO and then a sample of two hamlets was selected. The hamlet with maximum concentration of minority population was selected with probability one. From the remaining hamlets another one was selected randomly. The listing and sampling of households were done separately in each hamlet.

In each selected hamlet, the listed households were grouped into strata as per the minority status of the household. In other words, all Muslim households formed one Second-Stage Stratum (SSS); all Buddhist households another SSS; and so on.

About 30 households were selected in all from each sample village for detailed survey. These 30 households were chosen from 2 selected hamlets (if hg's formed) and from among the respective SSS in proportion to the total number of households listed in the respective frames. A minimum of 2 households were chosen to an ultimate SSS. The required number of sample households from each SSS was selected by stratified random sampling without replacement (SRSWOR). In case of a village having less than 30 households all the households were surveyed.

The rule followed by NSSO for forming hamlet-groups is as per the following:

Table 1.6: The Criteria for Forming Hamlets

| Approximate present population of the village | No. of hamlet- groups to be formed |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1200 to 1799 | 3 |
| 1800 to 2399 | 4 |
| 2400 to 2999 | 5 |
| 3000 to 3599 | 6 |
|and so on | |

Multiplier Procedure

The district level estimate has been prepared using the technique of multilevel multiplier. At the first stage, multiplier has been applied at the household level to estimate the number of households of different religious communities in the village.

Formula:

$$Y_i = \sum_{i=1}^n R_i$$

Where R= (D/d)*(d/H)*(H/h)

D= Total households in the village

d=Total households listed in the village

H=Total selected sample households in the village

h=Total households selected from different religious groups

n= Number of religious group in the village

At the second stage, the village level multiplier has been applied to estimate population data at stratum level (all tehsils in a district have been grouped into three strata for sample selection).

Formula:

$$Y_j = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^3 Y_i S_j$$

Where $S = ((SP) / (M * VP))$

SP= Total population of the strata

M=Total number of villages selected in the strata

VP=Population of the sample village

j=Number of stratum

n= Number of religious groups in the village

Finally at the third stage, stratum level multiplier has been used to estimate data at the district level.

Formula:

$$Y_k = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^3 Y_j D_k$$

Where $D = (DP / (M * TP))$

DP= Total population of district

M=Total number of selected Tehsil in the strata

TP=Population of selected Tehsil

k=number of stratum

n= number of religious groups in the village

Thus, district level data are estimate based on survey.

Chapters: The introductory chapter explains some basic profile of the district. This includes Tehsil-wise concentration of minority population and their demographic and other characteristics based on the 2001 Census. Chapter II explains village level gaps in terms of health and educational institutions and basic infrastructure. Chapter III explains findings of the household survey that analyses demographic, educational, health, economic and other deprivations. This part also explains demands and aspirations of the households, their perception about the state and the nature of civic and community life. Chapter IV analyses delivery of public services and some important development programmes. And the last chapter sums up the findings.

Chapter II

VILLAGE LEVEL DEFICITS

Electricity supply, rural connectivity, lack of irrigation facilities, urbanisation, and industrialisation are areas with macro-level gaps in the district. But apart from the above, there are some serious gaps in resource and infrastructure facilities at the village level. The gaps in the infrastructure facilities at the village level have been explained on the basis of information collected through semi-structured schedule. The explanation in the following section is based on the 30 surveyed villages.

Education and Health Facilities

Table 2.1 shows that in 2001, only 83.3 per cent of the villages had primary educational facilities that included availability of boys/co-ed formal educational institutions. Around 80 per cent of villages have middle school (boys/co-ed) and 76 per cent of villages have high schools (boys). It is interesting to note that about 33 per cent of villages have religious schools. From the data on education facilities what is interesting to note is that, while a majority of villages have the facilities, for those villages which do not have facilities within the village, the average distance of a school from the village is in the range of 7-12 km for different levels of school education. Pronounced gender disparities are found with respect to access to schooling. For example, only 26.7 per cent villages have exclusive secondary schools for girls in contrast to 76 per cent for boys. In a backward district with concentration of religious minorities it becomes imperative to address some of these issues as secondary education for girls has been proved to have tremendous importance. This is one area that needs closer examination in terms of girls' participation in post-primary education.

Table 2.1: Access to Educational Facility in Surveyed Villages in Wayanad District

| Type of School | % of villages having | Mean distance KM* |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| Primary School (Boys/Co-ed) | 83.3 | 10.00 |
| Primary School (Girls) | 33.3 | 12.50 |
| Middle School (Boys/Co-ed) | 80.0 | 10.50 |
| Middle School (Girls) | 36.7 | 9.00 |
| High/Higher Secondary School (Boys) | 76.7 | 7.50 |
| High/Higher Secondary School (Girls) | 26.7 | 9.29 |
| Inter College | 13.3 | 14.53 |
| ITI | 3.3 | 17.27 |
| Polytechnic | 6.7 | 18.10 |
| Other Training School | 13.3 | 17.18 |
| Religious School | 33.3 | 12.50 |
| Non Formal | 20.0 | . |
| Other Educational Facilities | 0 | 1.00 |
| *For villages not having the educational facility. | | |

Source: Survey.

Given the importance of education in enhancing human development and capabilities, an attempt has been made to understand educational facilities in the sample villages.

Table 2.2 presents results related to this infrastructure. It can be seen that only 23 per cent of schools have *pucca* buildings. However the average number of class rooms is 9, which would imply that the schools were able to cater to the needs of children in terms of physical space. All schools have drinking water and sanitation facilities. It is important to note that there is, in general, a positive perception about the various facilities that the children access in schools, such as the availability of text books, mid day meal etc. In addition, there is an overwhelmingly positive view on the functioning of schools, (as reported by the key informants of the village survey), in terms of attendance of teachers, discipline and teaching learning processes.

Table 2.2 Physical Structure of Schools in Studied Villages of Wayanad

| Types | | Number | Percentage |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|------------|
| Type of Structure | <i>Semi Pucca</i> | 23 | 76.67 |
| | <i>Pucca</i> | 7 | 23.33 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| Main Flooring Materials | Brick | 4 | 13.33 |
| | Cement | 24 | 80.00 |
| | Other | 2 | 6.67 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| Number of Class Rooms (Mean) | (Mean) | 9 | 30.00 |
| Usable Blackboards | Yes | 29 | 96.67 |
| | No | 1 | 3.33 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| Desks Availability | Yes for some students | 26 | 86.67 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----|--------|
| | No | 4 | 13.33 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| Number of School having Teachers | (Mean) | 12 | 40.00 |
| Number of schools by teachers present | (Mean) | 12 | 40.00 |
| Toilet Facility | Yes | 30 | 100.00 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| Drinking Water Facility | Yes | 30 | 100.00 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

| | | | |
|--|-----------|----|--------|
| Students' Perception on Midday meal | | | |
| (a) Quality | Very Good | 4 | 13.33 |
| | Good | 25 | 83.33 |
| | Average | 1 | 3.33 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| (b) Preparation | Very Good | 5 | 16.67 |
| | Good | 25 | 83.33 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| (c) Regularity | Very Good | 6 | 20.00 |
| | Good | 24 | 80.00 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| Availability of | | | |
| (a) Slate | Yes | 25 | 83.33 |
| | No | 5 | 16.67 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| (b) Note book | Yes | 20 | 66.67 |
| | No | 10 | 33.33 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| (c) Books | Yes | 28 | 93.33 |
| | No | 2 | 6.67 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| Punctuality, Discipline and Sincerity of Teachers | | | |
| (a) Punctuality | Very Good | 1 | 3.33 |
| | Good | 27 | 90.00 |
| | Average | 2 | 6.67 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| (b) Discipline | Very Good | 1 | 3.33 |
| | Good | 27 | 90.00 |
| | Average | 2 | 6.67 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.00 |
| (c) Sincerity | Very Good | 3 | 10.00 |
| | Good | 25 | 83.33 |
| | Average | 2 | 6.67 |
| | Total | | 0.00 |

Source: Survey.

As Table 2.3 indicates, health facilities are somewhat better placed. While not all villages have PHCs, the mean distance for health facilities is comparatively less than that of educational facilities. For example, 67 per cent of villages have a hospital or a

dispensary at hand, while for the rest of the villages, it is at a distance of 1.38 km. Given better levels of transport infrastructure, one assumes that health access is not a major issue for the population of the district, though there are many remote and tribal inhabitant areas.

Table 2.3: Access to Health Facility in Surveyed Villages in Wayanad District

| Type | % of villages having | Mean distance* |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| PHCs | 76.67 | 1.10 |
| Primary Health Sub Centre | 93.33 | 4.17 |
| CHCs | 40.00 | 0.61 |
| Hospital/Dispensary | 66.67 | 1.38 |
| Private Qualified Allopathic Doctors | 83.33 | 2.29 |
| Maternity Child care Centre | 46.67 | 2.00 |
| Ayurvedic Hospitals | 66.67 | 0.92 |
| Ayurvedic Doctors | 76.67 | 1.12 |
| Homeopathic Hospitals | 63.33 | 0.78 |
| Homeopathic Doctors | 66.67 | 0.96 |
| Quacks | 53.33 | 1.83 |
| Family Planning Clinics | 26.67 | 0.46 |
| Chemists/ Medicine Shops | 73.33 | 3.70 |

*For villages not having such facilities

Source: Survey.

Other Infrastructure Facilities

Villages of Wayanad district provide a relatively better position with respect to access to other physical infrastructure facilities. Table 2.4 presents the situation with respect to the sample districts. Most villages have road connectivity, access to markets, bank and other facilities. More than 90 per cent of the population has access to bus stop, post office, anganwadi centre, general shops etc. It is important to note that even if in few villages such facilities are not available, the distance that the population has to travel to access such facilities is comparatively low. Of course the exception would be the facility of rail connectivity as trains are available only in the neighbouring district of Kozhikode (100 km away) or Mysore (120 km) in Karnataka.

Table 2.4 Percentage of Villages having Other Facilities in Wayanad District

| Type | % of villages having | Mean distance* Km |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Nearest Bus Stop | 93.33 | 0.43 |
| Nearest Regular Market | 50.00 | 7.00 |
| Nearest Rail Station | 0.00 | 101.86 |
| Nearest Post Office | 96.67 | 0.00 |
| Public Telephone Connection | 80.00 | 0.65 |
| Commercial Bank | 70.00 | 2.67 |
| Rural Bank | 73.33 | 2.76 |
| Co-operative Bank | 83.33 | 1.33 |
| Anganwadi Centre | 96.67 | 0.27 |
| GP Office | 73.33 | 2.93 |
| Fair Price Shop | 80.00 | 2.00 |
| Fertilizer shop | 83.33 | 1.80 |
| Seed Storage | 26.67 | 9.28 |
| Pesticide Shop | 76.67 | 2.30 |
| Cold Storage | 16.67 | 12.26 |
| Other General Shops | 90.00 | 0.69 |
| Nearest Mandi | 66.67 | 3.63 |
| Milk Mandi | 76.67 | 1.76 |
| Veterinary (Centre/Sub-Centre) | 66.67 | 0.92 |

Source: Survey.

An attempt has been made to understand the expectations of the respondent households with respect to the development of their village and population. It can be seen that employment, education and land appear to be three top priorities. Provision of transport, health facilities and credit support came in as next three priorities. What these imply is that, human development and livelihood support appear to be the priorities of the communities, which, in turn would lead to overall economic and social development.

Table 2.5: Expectations from the Government (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | Others | All | Rank |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|-----------|--------|-------|------|
| Employment | 27.67 | 26.32 | 24.02 | 50.00 | 26.19 | 1 |
| Education | 15.53 | 19.55 | 24.02 | 50.00 | 19.60 | 2 |
| Land | 12.14 | 7.52 | 7.26 | 0.00 | 8.88 | 3 |
| Public transport | 5.34 | 5.64 | 3.91 | 0.00 | 5.05 | 4 |
| Health Centre | 3.88 | 3.38 | 6.15 | 0.00 | 4.29 | 5 |
| Loan | 3.40 | 4.89 | 3.35 | 0.00 | 3.98 | 6 |
| Irrigation | 5.83 | 3.01 | 1.12 | 0.00 | 3.37 | 7 |
| Reservation in Employment | 3.88 | 4.14 | 1.68 | 0.00 | 3.37 | 7 |
| Reservation in Edn&Emp | 1.46 | 1.88 | 4.47 | 0.00 | 2.45 | 9 |
| Pitch Road | 2.91 | 1.50 | 0.56 | 0.00 | 1.68 | 10 |
| Reservation in Education | 1.94 | 1.88 | 0.56 | 0.00 | 1.53 | 11 |
| Housing | 2.43 | 1.13 | 0.56 | 0.00 | 1.38 | 12 |

Source: Survey.

There are no major differences in these perceptions across different communities; though a few exceptions can be noticed. For example, land as a priority is identified by Hindu community over education, while it does not figure at second place with respect to Muslim and Christian communities who preferred education (secondary and post-secondary) as their priority. Such variations are understandable as we can see in the subsequent chapter. Due to the presence of over 17 per cent tribal population categorised in the Hindu community, as a group the Hindus appear to be faring somewhat at par or below the Muslim community on several indicators. We have attempted to segregate data on the basis of tribal community in order to identify the situation where ever necessary.

Chapter - III

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE POPULATION/HOUSEHOLDS

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The sample consist of 346 Muslim (38.44 per cent), 232 Christian (25.78 per cent) and 320 Hindu households (35.56 per cent). The average size of the Muslim households (5.4) is larger than the average size of Hindu households, i.e., 4.51 as well as that of Christian households 4.67. The dependency ratio of the sample is 0.46. It is highest among Christians (0.50), followed by Muslims (0.46) and Hindus (0.43). The overall sex-ratio is 1025. However, the sex ratio is more skewed among Christians (985) compared to Hindus (1008) and that of Muslims (1060). The overall literacy rate is 92.56 per cent. Male literacy is marginally higher as compared to female literacy among all community groups. However, it is interesting to note that literacy rate of Hindus (male and female) is lower as compared to the Muslim and Christian population. One possible reason could be presence of tribal communities among Hindu sample who are less literate when compared to other caste Hindu groups. As usual, the male literacy rate is higher than the female literacy rate and there is only a marginal difference in the literacy rate of Hindus and Muslims, both male and female.

Table 3.1: Demographic Features of the Households surveyed (%)

| Community | Dependency Ratio | Sex Ratio | Average HH Size | Literacy 7 and above | | |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|--------|---------|
| | | | | Male | Female | Persons |
| Hindu | 0.43 | 1008 | 4.51 | 88.43 | 86.85 | 87.64 |
| Muslim | 0.46 | 1060 | 5.40 | 95.21 | 90.72 | 92.89 |
| Christian | 0.50 | 985 | 4.67 | 98.37 | 96.31 | 97.40 |
| All | 0.46 | 1025 | 4.86 | 94.87 | 90.82 | 92.56 |

Source: Survey.

The overall work participation rate is 31.8 (Table 3.2). However female work participation rate is very little when compared to their male counterparts. When it comes to different communities, work participation rate is high among Hindus (37.27) as compared to the other two minority groups viz., Muslims (31.45) and Christians (29.43). However the most disturbing trend is the work participation rate of the female population, which is less than half of the male population of all the three communities. The female population is generally less outgoing in the conservative rural society and their outward movement is

further restricted due to low levels of skill and employment opportunities. The migration of males is another feature that could perhaps reduce the work participation of women, who depend on remittance incomes.

Table 3.2: Work Participation Rate (%)

| | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------|-------|--------|-------|
| Hindu | 51.06 | 23.17 | 37.27 |
| Muslim | 52.23 | 12.37 | 31.45 |
| Christian | 44.11 | 13.52 | 29.43 |
| All | 51.38 | 13.39 | 31.80 |

Source: Survey.

Land, Assets, Houses and Amenities

Land continues to be the most important asset in the rural areas where income and employment opportunities are dependent to a great extent on the possession of land and its characteristics. It can be seen that landlessness is somewhat low in absolute terms in the sample households, with only 3.62 per cent of households reported landless. Within this category, Hindus appear to be more compared to Muslim and Christian households. However incidence of small and marginal landholdings is high, together accounting 43 per cent of the households. When it comes to community wise distribution of land, one can see that 40 per cent of Christian households account for marginal land holding category. A few households may be categorised as large land holders, but given the preponderance of plantations in the district, this incidence is very low. However, if one were to look at average landholding for three communities, there are differences. The average land ownership for Hindus is 8.02 acres, that of Muslims is 3.52 acres and for Christians it is 6.12 acres. This points towards the low resource base of principal minority community viz., Muslims in terms of average land ownership.

Table 3.3: Land Distribution (%)

| Land Category | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|---------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Landless | 6.89 | 3.10 | 4.63 | 3.62 |
| Marginal | 26.00 | 24.13 | 40.01 | 25.70 |
| Small | 17.82 | 17.62 | 13.71 | 17.30 |
| Medium | 15.96 | 15.82 | 9.35 | 15.27 |
| Large | 33.33 | 39.33 | 32.31 | 38.11 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Avg. Land | 8.02 | 3.52 | 6.12 | 4.21 |

Source: Survey.

It may be noted that historically Wayanad has plantation agriculture and this has resulted in large number of Christians, mainly from the districts of central Kerala, coming in and settling to undertake the cultivation of plantation crops. It can be seen that an overwhelming 40 per cent (marginal and small) of households possess less than 4.5 acres among all the three communities.

Table 3.4: Average Land category (acres)

Table 3.4: Average Land category (acres)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|----------|-------|--------|-----------|------|
| Landless | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Marginal | 3.89 | 4.27 | 8.23 | 4.77 |
| Small | 0.33 | 0.19 | 2.92 | 0.39 |
| Medium | 1.30 | 0.80 | 3.90 | 1.02 |
| Large | 20.24 | 5.93 | 6.40 | 7.24 |

Source: Survey.

Community wise, one can find differences in the average per household asset base, with Muslim households possessing less than Christians but more than that of Hindus. However for Muslims and Hindus, the average asset base is below one lakh of rupees. Another important trend is the major contribution of land in the overall assets base of the households. Given that over 50 per cent of the households are small and marginal farmers, their meager assets become very important to sustain their families. It is to be noted that given the high population density, land values are high even in the backward districts like Wayanad and that contributes to the high monetary value attached to the land. Values of non-agriculture assets and other consumer assets are comparatively low.

Housing Status

A total of 89.7 per cent of the households were living in their own houses and about 5.2 per cent were living in government provided houses (IAY). However, the percentage of households residing in the government provided houses is greater in Hindus (17 per cent) than in Muslims (3.6 per cent) and Christians (3.2 per cent). This, in a sense, also reflects that allocation of government provided/assisted houses is more favourable to the tribal community (who are categorised as part of Hindus). A very small number (2.7 per cent) of the total households were living in thatched houses. A majority of the households live in semi-*pucca* houses (68%) and in *pucca* houses (21%). Given the high rainfall in the region, it is but expected that most households ensure adequate and secure roofing and hence more *pucca* and semi-*pucca* houses among the sample. It can

be seen that while there is not much difference among different communities with respect to semi-*pucca* houses, one can see a difference in possession of *pucca* households among different communities. While 31 per cent of *pucca* houses are possessed by Christian households, only 21 per cent Muslim and 13 per cent Hindus live in permanent structures. It may be observed that the large percentage of tribals among the Hindu community could be one of the reasons for this pattern.

Across all the communities it can be seen that more than 2 rooms is the norm for housing. Hence it can be safely concluded that housing is not a major and pressing priority for the communities studied, although there are about 3 per cent of the sample households who live in thatched houses.

Table 3.5: Housing status of the Households

| | Own HH | IAY/Govt provided | Rented | Type Of House | | | | | No Of Rooms | | |
|-----------|--------|-------------------|--------|---------------|--------|------------|-------|--------|-------------|-------|-------|
| | | | | Thatched | Katcha | Semi Pucca | Pucca | Others | 1 | 2 | 2+ |
| Hindu | 76.00 | 17.56 | 6.45 | 6.46 | 11.19 | 69.18 | 13.17 | 0.00 | 2.25 | 14.03 | 83.72 |
| Muslim | 91.01 | 3.65 | 5.34 | 2.36 | 5.32 | 69.69 | 21.01 | 1.61 | 1.50 | 4.14 | 94.36 |
| Christian | 94.17 | 3.20 | 2.63 | 2.24 | 3.90 | 60.73 | 31.71 | 1.43 | 2.04 | 2.56 | 95.40 |
| All | 89.76 | 5.02 | 5.22 | 2.76 | 5.79 | 68.86 | 21.15 | 1.43 | 1.62 | 5.01 | 93.37 |

Source: Survey.

About 94 per cent of the households were living in the houses constructed on their own land; 3.26 per cent on government provided land and 2.2 per cent on landlord's land. Community-wise, a relatively larger number of Muslims and Christian households were residing in houses constructed on their own land than the Hindu households, but a greater number of Hindu households were residing in the houses constructed on government land.

Table 3.6: Homestead Land (%)

| | Own | Provided by govt | Govt land without paper | Govt land with paper | Landlord land | Others |
|-----------|-------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------|
| Hindu | 87.02 | 10.24 | 0.32 | 0.21 | 2.21 | 0.00 |
| Muslim | 94.41 | 2.67 | 0.28 | 0.00 | 2.37 | 0.26 |
| Christian | 98.81 | 0.62 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.49 | 0.08 |
| All | 94.05 | 3.26 | 0.26 | 0.02 | 2.19 | 0.22 |

Source: Survey.

About 86 per cent of the households had electricity. Community-wise, fully electrified houses were less among Hindus as compared to Muslims and Christians. Oil-lamps are the alternative fuels for lighting among those who do not have electricity (Table 3.7). The

fact that 30 per cent of the Hindu (mostly tribal) households did not possess electricity is a matter of concern, especially for a state like Kerala which has high levels of human development. This is one area that needs to be addressed. Public water sources cover about 34 per cent of households and private water source in about 60 per cent households; so also drainage is available for about 71 per cent of the households. Only 35 per cent of the households have in-house toilet facility and around 64 per cent of the households defecate in the open. There are no marked differences among different communities though Hindus have more households with poor toilet facilities compared to other communities. Lack of electricity and drainage are also concerns for Hindu (tribal) families when compared to others.

Table 3.7: Basic Amenities in the Households

| | Electrified | Non Electrified Sources | | | | Drinking Water | | | Toilet | | Drainage |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|---------|----------|--------|----------------|---------|--------|----------|---------|----------|
| | | Oil lamp | Lantern | Petromax | Others | Public | Private | Others | In house | Outside | |
| Hindu | 69.02 | 99.81 | 22.20 | 5.50 | 17.70 | 38.91 | 49.71 | 11.38 | 27.34 | 72.66 | 64.33 |
| Muslim | 88.40 | 96.62 | 15.54 | 1.11 | 22.95 | 35.12 | 61.76 | 3.11 | 35.38 | 64.62 | 70.92 |
| Christian | 86.89 | 95.89 | 12.74 | 7.98 | 10.72 | 26.56 | 66.73 | 6.71 | 42.69 | 57.31 | 80.62 |
| All | 86.30 | 97.07 | 16.36 | 2.54 | 20.83 | 34.76 | 60.97 | 4.26 | 35.20 | 64.80 | 71.10 |

***Multiple responses**

Source: Survey.

Given the proximity to the forest and availability of dry twigs and minor timber, a overwhelming majority of households use wood as household cooking fuel. Apart from this, LPG is also a major source of fuel used by all the communities (Table 3.8) with Christians and Muslims reporting more usage compared to Hindus. Agriculture waste is another source of fuel for cooking, used by all the communities. The use of traditional sources of fuel is a matter of concern as it emits carbon and other harmful gases in the atmosphere which lead to environmental problem, especially in an ecologically fragile region (it is to be noted that Wayanad is part of the Nilgiri Bio-sphere).

Table 3.8: Types of Fuel Used by the Households (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | Total |
|----------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Wood | 100.09 | 99.50 | 98.28 | 99.46 |
| Coal | 4.20 | 1.55 | 1.75 | 1.84 |
| K Oil | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.02 |
| Hay/leaves | 2.28 | 1.51 | 0.27 | 1.48 |
| Cow dung cake | 0.00 | 0.71 | 0.00 | 0.58 |
| Agriculture waste | 16.57 | 10.66 | 17.29 | 11.83 |
| Gobar gas plant | 0.43 | 0.00 | 1.29 | 0.16 |
| Liquid petroleum gas | 41.18 | 62.33 | 70.77 | 60.92 |
| Others | 0.88 | 1.16 | 0.25 | 1.05 |
| All | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Trends in Income and Expenditure

The distribution of the sources of income indicates that the earnings from wage labour is followed by salaried employment. These constitute a major component of earnings of all three communities (Table 3.9). Agriculture is the third most important source of income. It can be seen that for Christians, agriculture (in this case mostly plantation crops), appears to be one of the important sources of income, as their share in the wage labour income earnings is low when compared to the other two communities. Per capita income is low for Hindus and Muslims in comparison to Christians. For both Hindu and Muslim households, wage labour contributes as a major source of per capita income, while for the Christian households salaried jobs serves as the major source of per capita income.

Table 3.9: Contribution of Different Sources to Income of the Household (%)

| Source | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Agriculture | 14.32 | 11.12 | 13.81 | 11.95 |
| Animal Husbandry | 4.09 | 1.48 | 1.40 | 1.65 |
| Wage Labour | 55.33 | 55.90 | 40.36 | 52.41 |
| Salaried Jobs | 20.18 | 27.33 | 42.05 | 30.07 |
| Trade | 0.60 | 1.36 | 0.58 | 1.13 |
| Remittances | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.06 | 0.02 |
| Others | 5.37 | 2.81 | 1.74 | 2.76 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Per Capita by Source and Average

| Source | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|------------------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Agriculture | 1411 | 1170 | 4453 | 1469 |
| Animal Husbandry | 403 | 156 | 453 | 203 |
| Wage Labour | 5453 | 5880 | 13012 | 6444 |
| Salaried Jobs | 1989 | 2874 | 13557 | 3697 |
| Trade | 59 | 143 | 187 | 139 |
| Remittances | 10 | 0 | 19 | 2 |
| Others | 530 | 296 | 562 | 339 |
| Total | 9855 | 10519 | 32243 | 12294 |

Source: Survey.

The average per capita income and expenditure of the Hindu households (tribal) is low which shows the overall economic deprivation of this group. The average earning of Hindus is Rs. 9855 per annum. Muslims appear to have a better per capita income as compared to Hindus but lower than that of Christians as shown in Table 3.9. It is interesting to note that even amongst wage workers, the average per capita income of Hindus and Muslims (almost close) is less than that of Christians, which would indicate that wage workers among Christians may be more skilled and hence command better wages when compared to the rest.

It appears that Hindus spent more on food items as compared to Muslims and Christians (Table 3.10). However when we look at the per capita expenditure on food, there are no differences across communities, as each of them spent around 2000-2500 rupees on food. Muslims spent less on food as compared to Hindus.

It is surprising to note that expenditure on health is a major component of household expenditure for Muslims - an amazing 76 per cent! Christians spend 61 per cent of their income on health. The average per capita expenditure on health is also higher among Muslim and Christian families as compared to that of Hindus. This could mean that the incidence of illness and related expenditure is high among Muslims compared to other communities. It could also reflect better health seeking behaviour and the ability to meet the expenditures for treatment. Spending on education is very low in percentage terms among Muslim households in comparison to the other two communities, though in absolute terms it is high when compared to Hindus. Christians spend considerably high amounts of money on education. This could again be due to the fact that historically there is higher perceived value for education in this community, when compared to Hindus or Muslims.

Table 3.10: Distribution of Expenditure of the Household Distribution

| Item | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Food | 40.62 | 9.75 | 10.13 | 10.56 |
| Education | 9.97 | 3.89 | 15.82 | 5.32 |
| Health | 16.25 | 76.81 | 61.76 | 73.69 |
| Social Ceremonies | 3.66 | 2.22 | 1.19 | 2.14 |
| Interest/Loan | 2.19 | 0.46 | 1.40 | 0.60 |
| Others | 27.30 | 6.88 | 9.71 | 7.69 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Per Capita | | | | |
| Item | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
| Food | 2167 | 1989 | 2500 | 2049 |
| Education | 532 | 794 | 3905 | 1033 |
| Health | 867 | 15680 | 15245 | 14303 |
| Social Ceremonies | 195 | 452 | 294 | 416 |
| Interest/Loan | 117 | 93 | 345 | 117 |
| Others | 1456 | 1404 | 2396 | 1492 |
| Total | 5335 | 20413 | 24685 | 19410 |

Source: Survey.

Liabilities/Indebtedness

Indebtedness among the Christian, Hindu and Muslim households is high in Wayanad district. About 58 per cent of the rural households (50 per cent Hindu, 86 per cent Christian and 56 per cent of the Muslim) are indebted. The percentage of indebted households is relatively larger among Christians (so also average debt outstanding). This could be due to higher entrepreneurial opportunities of these communities who own high resource bases when compared to the tribal and Muslim communities, who are the most backward in the district. Formal sector sources dominate the debt market as only about 2 per cent of the households take loans from friends and relatives and another 2 per cent from other informal sources. Commercial banks, regional rural banks, cooperative banks are important sources of credit. NGO's are also one of the sources of credit, accounting for about 12 per cent of total loans. With minor variations, access to credit sources appears to be uniform across different communities. However, there are marked differences in the average amount of loans outstanding across different communities. It can be seen that Christians and Muslims have higher average outstanding loans compared to Hindus.

Table 3.11: Indebtedness of the Households (%)

| Communit ity | % of HH Indebted | Source | | | | | | | | | | | Avg amount | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| | | Govt. | Commercial Bank | Gramin Bank | Co-op Bank/Societies | Provident Fund | Insurance | SHG/NGO | Professional money lender | Money lender | Landlord/employer | Friends/Relatives | | Other |
| Hindu | 50.21 | 4.95 | 23.34 | 25.67 | 30.16 | 0.98 | 0.75 | 11.47 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.00 | 2.05 | 0.35 | 29559 |
| Muslim | 56.10 | 5.98 | 19.48 | 32.12 | 22.73 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 12.06 | 0.47 | 2.71 | 0.48 | 2.84 | 1.14 | 42814 |
| Christian | 86.79 | 2.73 | 20.26 | 31.84 | 28.27 | 2.47 | 0.48 | 10.99 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.99 | 1.27 | 0.19 | 51413 |
| Total | 58.18 | 5.39 | 19.96 | 31.47 | 24.27 | 0.47 | 0.14 | 11.84 | 0.36 | 2.14 | 0.51 | 2.52 | 0.92 | 41801 |

Source: Survey.

About 45 per cent of the households (41 per cent Muslims, 56 per cent Hindus and 63 per cent Christians) borrow money for agriculture purposes, which include raising of plantation crops (Table 3.12). Purchase of assets like land and houses account for about 14 per cent of total loans. 8 per cent of loans are for marriage and other ceremonies and another 7 per cent for education and health. While there are no marked differences among communities in use of loans for different purposes, Muslims and Christians

spend about 2 per cent each on medical treatment compared to 0.5 per cent by Hindus. This is a reflection of both health seeking behaviour as well as access to health services. At the same time, Muslims take less loans for agriculture and non farm activities compared to other two communities but more on marriages! This would in some ways reflect lack of opportunities for the Muslim community in these spheres.

Table 3.12: Main Purposes of the Loan (%)

| Purpose | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|---|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Capital expenditure in farm business | 56.17 | 40.90 | 63.11 | 45.71 |
| Capital expenditure in nonfarm business | 6.46 | 6.36 | 7.08 | 6.48 |
| Purchase of land/house | 9.89 | 15.88 | 9.40 | 14.34 |
| Renovation of house | 7.81 | 7.39 | 4.69 | 7.02 |
| Marriage and other social ceremonies | 1.97 | 10.26 | 2.71 | 8.33 |
| Festivals | 4.47 | 2.92 | 3.40 | 3.14 |
| For education | 2.64 | 6.39 | 1.87 | 5.36 |
| Medical treatment | 0.32 | 2.19 | 2.51 | 2.06 |
| Repayment of Old debt | 5.05 | 2.81 | 1.94 | 2.89 |
| Other household expenditure | 0.00 | 0.57 | 0.00 | 0.43 |
| Purchase of consumer durables | 1.20 | 0.86 | 1.27 | 0.95 |
| Purchase of animal | 0.78 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.07 |
| Other | 3.24 | 3.26 | 1.52 | 2.99 |
| All | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Employment/Unemployment Situation:

Apart from the problems of unemployment and under-employment, casual employment dominates the scene (Table 3.13). Out of the total workforce, 45 per cent are casual workers; 0.75 per cent are self-employed and 43 per cent are in regular employment. The trend in employment status across communities indicates that the proportion of casual labourers is high among Hindus and Muslims compared to Christians. Regular employment is high among Christians, while it is less among Hindus and Muslims. This would reflect the fact that regular employment is not viewed as an option among Muslims and Hindus due to their low education endowments. Employment patterns reveals the trend that a large percentage of the population are in insecure and casual employment which would mean, ensuring social security and employment security would be of priority for the government. Low self-employment in an environment of abundant natural resource based endowments would also mean that promotional measures for enhancing self-employment opportunities should be a priority for the government,

especially to provide livelihood opportunities for marginalised groups like the Tribals and Muslim minorities.

Table 3.13: Status of Employment (%)

| | Hindu | | | Muslim | | | Christian | | | Total | | |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Self Employed | 1.46 | 0.98 | 1.32 | 0.56 | 1.06 | 0.66 | 1.17 | 0.00 | 0.91 | 0.69 | 0.96 | 0.75 |
| Regular | 32.41 | 26.52 | 30.62 | 45.48 | 32.09 | 42.74 | 58.27 | 51.34 | 56.74 | 45.27 | 32.82 | 42.57 |
| Casual | 55.25 | 64.68 | 58.12 | 45.55 | 44.51 | 45.34 | 26.25 | 26.85 | 26.38 | 44.95 | 46.07 | 45.19 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Further, distribution of employment indicates that 11.4 per cent were employed in agriculture and merely 1 per cent was self employed in the non-agriculture sector. Similarly, 41 per cent were casual workers in agriculture and only 4 per cent were casual workers in non-agriculture. About 43 per cent are salaried. This would mean that there is a need to enhance employment opportunities in the non-farm sector so as to improve the work participation rate among both men and women.

Table 3.14: Occupational Status (%)

| Status | Hindu | | | Muslim | | | Christian | | | All | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Self Employed in Agriculture | 10.88 | 7.82 | 9.95 | 8.40 | 22.34 | 11.25 | 14.32 | 21.80 | 15.97 | 9.10 | 20.16 | 11.49 |
| Self Employed in Non-Agri | 1.46 | 0.98 | 1.32 | 0.56 | 1.06 | 0.66 | 1.17 | 0.00 | 0.91 | 0.69 | 0.96 | 0.75 |
| Salaried | 32.41 | 26.52 | 30.62 | 45.48 | 32.09 | 42.74 | 58.27 | 51.34 | 56.74 | 45.27 | 32.82 | 42.57 |
| Casual labour in Agriculture | 52.30 | 56.76 | 53.65 | 40.28 | 42.54 | 40.74 | 23.25 | 25.22 | 23.69 | 40.06 | 43.25 | 40.75 |
| Casual labour in Non-Agri | 2.95 | 7.92 | 4.46 | 5.28 | 1.96 | 4.60 | 3.00 | 1.63 | 2.69 | 4.88 | 2.81 | 4.43 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Being a predominantly agriculture and forest based district, industry-wise employment trend shows that 72 per cent were employed in the primary sector. Apart from that trade, hotels and restaurants absorb 13 per cent. Transport, storage is also one of the sectors which absorb a small per cent of workers (about 5.5 per cent). Other than these, there are no other occupational opportunities as can be seen by the employment data. Presence of Hindus in the primary sector is higher compared to other community members of the sample. It can be seen that participation of women is high in the primary sector as compared to men among Christian and Muslim communities.

Improving the employment base in manufacturing and services would be essential for diversification as well as economic development of the people. This would mean public and private investments in manufacturing and also improving service sectors. Skill development would become necessary in order to enhance employment opportunities for the youth and improve the overall work participation rate.

Table 3.15: Industry wise Employment (%)

| Industry | Hindu | | | Muslim | | | Christian | | | All | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing | 81.48 | 80.23 | 81.07 | 67.31 | 84.84 | 71.60 | 73.53 | 80.74 | 75.10 | 69.21 | 83.91 | 72.90 |
| Mining & Quarrying | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.43 | 0.10 | 0.61 | 0.91 | 0.68 | 0.05 | 0.40 | 0.14 |
| Manufacturing | 1.86 | 2.46 | 2.06 | 2.25 | 1.96 | 2.18 | 2.07 | 1.42 | 1.93 | 2.20 | 1.99 | 2.15 |
| Electricity | 0.92 | 0.00 | 0.62 | 1.01 | 0.37 | 0.85 | 0.80 | 0.00 | 0.63 | 0.98 | 0.29 | 0.81 |
| Construction | 0.66 | 2.20 | 1.16 | 1.02 | 0.00 | 0.77 | 0.52 | 0.00 | 0.41 | 0.94 | 0.31 | 0.78 |
| Trade, Hotels & Restaurants | 8.38 | 6.99 | 7.93 | 17.50 | 6.18 | 14.73 | 7.70 | 6.29 | 7.39 | 15.79 | 6.30 | 13.41 |
| Transport, Storage & Communication | 3.51 | 1.32 | 2.80 | 6.86 | 3.80 | 6.11 | 4.67 | 0.98 | 3.87 | 6.35 | 3.26 | 5.57 |
| Finance., Real Est. & Business | 1.02 | 0.00 | 0.69 | 1.02 | 0.00 | 0.77 | 1.00 | 0.76 | 0.94 | 1.02 | 0.05 | 0.78 |
| Pub Admn., Edu., Health & Others | 2.17 | 6.81 | 3.68 | 3.03 | 2.42 | 2.88 | 9.11 | 8.89 | 9.06 | 3.46 | 3.48 | 3.46 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Education and Health Conditions

With regard to the education status of household members, one can see that illiteracy is relatively high among Hindu population, when compared to Muslims and Christians (Table 3.16). However in terms of educational status of others, a large number among all the three communities appear to have had up to secondary education. There are very few among all the communities who have post secondary education. The exception is the Christian community where about 11 per cent have had higher secondary education; the same is 9 and 8 per cents for Hindu and Muslim communities. About 8 per cent of Christians are graduates and the same is 4 and 3 per cent for Hindus and Muslims, respectively. On the whole one can conclude that Christians in the district have high educational attainments, followed by Muslims and Hindus in that order. Educational backwardness, especially at higher secondary and graduate levels among Muslim and tribal communities need to be addressed through specific programmes. Lack of participation in vocational education is low and the problem can be addressed through setting up of vocational educational institutions. This is all the more important as self employment and the manufacturing sector has just a negligible presence in the district.

Table 3.16: Educational Status of Household members (%)

| | Hindu | | | Muslim | | | Christian | | | All | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| illiterate | 11.26 | 12.85 | 12.05 | 5.08 | 9.99 | 7.63 | 2.08 | 3.85 | 2.92 | 5.38 | 9.75 | 7.62 |
| Below primary or informal education | 9.32 | 9.35 | 9.33 | 10.60 | 9.48 | 10.02 | 11.31 | 9.46 | 10.43 | 10.55 | 9.46 | 9.99 |
| Primary | 13.73 | 13.99 | 13.86 | 16.68 | 18.34 | 17.54 | 10.53 | 13.73 | 12.04 | 15.82 | 17.60 | 16.73 |
| Middle | 17.93 | 16.92 | 17.43 | 17.38 | 16.96 | 17.16 | 12.42 | 14.64 | 13.47 | 16.97 | 16.77 | 16.87 |
| Management or commercial school course (vocational) | 0.00 | 0.33 | 0.16 | 0.48 | 0.39 | 0.43 | 1.02 | 0.35 | 0.70 | 0.49 | 0.38 | 0.43 |
| Secondary | 28.38 | 25.18 | 26.80 | 34.60 | 30.30 | 32.36 | 34.26 | 24.15 | 29.48 | 33.98 | 29.36 | 31.61 |
| Higher Secondary | 8.49 | 9.48 | 8.98 | 7.38 | 8.60 | 8.01 | 8.73 | 15.31 | 11.84 | 7.61 | 9.21 | 8.43 |
| Technical diploma or certificate below degree | 2.27 | 2.61 | 2.44 | 1.12 | 0.97 | 1.04 | 4.17 | 4.90 | 4.51 | 1.51 | 1.43 | 1.47 |
| Technical or professional degree | 3.32 | 1.88 | 2.61 | 1.59 | 0.70 | 1.13 | 3.48 | 4.16 | 3.80 | 1.93 | 1.08 | 1.49 |
| Graduate degree | 4.23 | 5.02 | 4.62 | 4.25 | 3.49 | 3.86 | 7.97 | 7.46 | 7.72 | 4.59 | 3.94 | 4.26 |
| Post-graduate degree | 0.96 | 2.24 | 1.59 | 0.39 | 0.11 | 0.24 | 3.89 | 1.86 | 2.93 | 0.77 | 0.44 | 0.60 |
| Others | 0.11 | 0.15 | 0.13 | 0.46 | 0.68 | 0.57 | 0.14 | 0.13 | 0.14 | 0.39 | 0.59 | 0.49 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Current Educational Status of Children (5-16 years)

Current educational status of Children (5-16 years) indicates that cent percent enrolment ratio remains elusive in the district (Table 3.17). Out of the total children in the age group of 5-16 years, about 3.5 per cent are reported to have never enrolled or dropped out after enrolment. About 1.5 per cent of the total children are in informal and non-formal education centers; the rest are all in the education system.

Table 3.17 :Children educational Status (Never Enrolled, Enrollment and Dropout= 5-16 age)

| | Hindu | | | Muslim | | | Christian | | | All | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Never Enrolled | 4.83 | 7.59 | 6.00 | 1.28 | 4.15 | 2.80 | 8.21 | 5.86 | 7.17 | 2.29 | 4.50 | 3.43 |
| Left after Enrollment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.24 | 0.00 | 0.69 | 0.12 | 0.00 | 0.06 |
| Enrolled but did not go to school | 0.00 | 3.75 | 1.59 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.12 | 1.38 | 0.00 | 0.48 | 0.25 |
| Going to informal school | 1.04 | 0.00 | 0.60 | 0.67 | 2.49 | 1.64 | 0.60 | 1.63 | 1.05 | 0.70 | 2.26 | 1.50 |
| Going to govt. school | 58.26 | 58.98 | 58.57 | 60.10 | 56.63 | 58.26 | 28.95 | 41.13 | 34.35 | 56.95 | 55.68 | 56.30 |
| Going to private school | 34.79 | 29.67 | 32.62 | 36.70 | 36.73 | 36.72 | 60.99 | 44.66 | 53.75 | 38.84 | 36.82 | 37.80 |
| Others | 1.08 | 0.00 | 0.62 | 1.24 | 0.00 | 0.58 | 0.00 | 3.60 | 1.60 | 1.10 | 0.26 | 0.67 |
| All | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: Survey.

Out of the total enrolled children, about 53 percent go to the government schools; 38 percent go to the private schools; and the rest attend informal educational institutions. There are a large number of private schools in the state and this trend is visible in the district as well.

The types of school attended by the children indicate an overall preference for government schools (60 per cent) though private schools (33 per cent) play a significant role, especially management schools run by all the three communities. It is interesting to note that Madarassa is not a significant educational institution for formal education for Muslims. About 5 per cent of children go to missionary schools which are primarily run by the church (Table 3.18).

Table 3.18: Type of schools Attended (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Govt | 64.66 | 61.45 | 33.50 | 59.49 |
| Pvt | 28.60 | 31.78 | 55.66 | 33.42 |
| Madarasa | 0.52 | 0.66 | 0.00 | 0.60 |
| Missionary | 5.96 | 4.03 | 8.68 | 4.55 |
| Non formal | 0 | 1.5073 | 0.3551 | 1.2948 |
| Others | 0.26 | 0.57 | 1.81 | 0.64 |
| All | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

In terms of physical access, it can be seen that only 15 per cent of children have access to school within one kilometre (Table 3.19). Another 42 per cent children have access within 1-2 kms. It may be noted that about 23 per cent of children have to travel over 4 kms to reach school. Given the better transport system and the rural-urban continuum one finds in Kerala, distance would not be a problem *per se*. However, this could be a potential source for dropping out, especially for girl children from poorer sections of the population. This could be more acute for post-middle grades and secondary education, as we have seen many villages have primary sections within their villages. At the primary level, dropping out is not a problem. Less than one per cent of children reported drop out at the primary level.

Table 3.19: Availability of School at Distance (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|-------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| within 1 km | 17.09 | 16.03 | 8.35 | 15.51 |
| 1-2 km | 33.40 | 42.44 | 45.74 | 41.97 |
| 2-4 kms | 26.28 | 18.42 | 23.11 | 19.42 |
| above 4 | 23.23 | 23.11 | 22.80 | 23.09 |
| All | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Health Conditions

The prevalence of disease is indicated in Table. 3.20. The diseases commonly prevalent in the district are: fever, stomach pain and cold and cough. It can be seen that the incidence of water borne or communicable diseases is low in the district. Many of the diseases reported appear to be symptomatic and seasonal. There are variations in the reported morbidity among different communities but they are not significant. However about 3 per cent of Hindu families reported TB, which needs to be taken note of.

Table 3.20: Types of Diseases Prevalent in the Households (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|---|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Diarrhoea | 0.00 | 0.33 | 1.80 | 0.46 |
| Dysentery | 2.31 | 0.61 | 0.00 | 0.69 |
| Cough and Cold | 6.24 | 4.78 | 7.66 | 5.22 |
| Fever | 26.49 | 26.88 | 17.57 | 25.83 |
| Malaria | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.78 | 0.09 |
| Typhoid | 1.60 | 1.51 | 1.57 | 1.53 |
| Kalazar | 0.00 | 0.90 | 0.29 | 0.76 |
| Pneumonia | 0.80 | 0.25 | 2.71 | 0.57 |
| Vomiting | 0.00 | 0.44 | 0.10 | 0.37 |
| Ear discharge | 0.74 | 0.61 | 0.79 | 0.64 |
| Night blindness | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.29 | 0.03 |
| Conductivities | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.06 | 0.12 |
| Skin Disease | 1.30 | 3.22 | 0.27 | 2.73 |
| Chicken pox | 0.00 | 1.59 | 0.00 | 1.28 |
| Problem in teeth | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.35 | 0.04 |
| Pain in stomach | 4.41 | 5.36 | 2.10 | 4.92 |
| Fracture | 2.24 | 2.37 | 4.69 | 2.61 |
| Women related disease | 1.33 | 1.06 | 3.35 | 1.33 |
| complication in Pregnancy and child birth | 0.34 | 0.66 | 0.00 | 0.56 |
| New Born Baby problem | 2.48 | 0.00 | 1.58 | 0.39 |
| TB | 2.83 | 0.85 | 1.07 | 1.04 |
| Filaria | 0.58 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.05 |
| Jaundice | 1.81 | 0.39 | 1.14 | 0.59 |
| Arthritis | 2.61 | 1.89 | 1.70 | 1.93 |
| Polio | 0.00 | 0.44 | 0.50 | 0.40 |
| Other | 41.88 | 45.86 | 48.65 | 45.82 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

The frequency of visit to government, private, and other health facilities indicates that 56 per cent of the people visit private medical practitioners (which would include missionary and charitable hospitals) and another 36 per cent visit government hospitals (Table 3.21). About 11 per cent reported visiting both private as well as government hospitals. Given the availability of health infrastructure in Kerala state as a whole, one would assume higher usage of government hospitals, but this was not so in the district. There are no major differences among different communities on usage of different health care

providers. One exception perhaps could be that more Christian population use private services as compared to other religious groups. However, it needs to be emphasised that some private medical facilities are run by the missionaries and hence would be charging affordable fees. Thus, it may be inferred that health seeking behaviour among the households surveyed is satisfactory on the whole.

Table 3.21: Sources of Medical Treatment (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Govt Hospital | 40.24 | 36.08 | 28.11 | 35.58 |
| Private medical practitioner | 47.75 | 51.14 | 63.19 | 52.15 |
| Govt and private both | 8.27 | 11.67 | 6.87 | 10.85 |
| Traditional (unani, local) | 3.25 | 1.11 | 1.83 | 1.38 |
| Home treatment | 0.49 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.04 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

In a state which is high in human development, the status of children's immunisation for the district is not appreciable. Complete immunisation is reported by 56 per cent of the respondents and coverage by any type of immunisation stands at 81 per cent. It can be seen that immunisation levels were reported low for Muslims compared to Christians and Hindus (Table 3.22).

Table 3.22: Any type of Immunisation Children Below 5 Years (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|-----------------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Any Type | 86.50 | 80.75 | 91.98 | 81.93 |
| Fully Immunised | 62.80 | 54.82 | 66.50 | 56.20 |

Source: Survey.

Even though people opt for private medical facilities in a majority of cases, government agencies are the principal source of immunisation, as merely 2.1 per cent of the children were immunised through private agencies (Table 3.23).

Table 3.23: Immunisation Agencies (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|----------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Govt. Agency | 97.81 | 98.23 | 93.18 | 97.84 |
| Private Agency | 2.19 | 1.77 | 6.82 | 2.16 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Another indicator of better health seeking behaviour is mode of delivery. It can be seen that across communities institutional deliveries account for over 99 per cent of total deliveries (Table 3.24). The coverage of maternity and pre and post-natal care also appears to be some what low, compared to institutional deliveries. This means that post

delivery services are not accessed by all the pregnant and lactating mothers, although they would go to hospital for the delivery. In about 14 per cent cases mothers reported not having any pre or post natal care. When compared across communities, it can be seen that Muslims and Christians reported high incidence of deliveries in private hospitals in comparison to Hindus. However, pre and post natal care appears to be higher among Hindus, than Muslim and Christian families.

Table 3.24: Institutional and Non-institutional Deliveries of Children (%)

| | | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Where last child born | Govt hospital | 60.88 | 52.42 | 55.11 | 53.29 |
| | Private hospital | 35.69 | 47.58 | 42.65 | 46.25 |
| | Home | 3.42 | 0.00 | 2.24 | 0.46 |
| Who assisted in the delivery | Doctor | 96.47 | 100.00 | 92.48 | 99.02 |
| | Trained midwife/ASHA | 0.87 | 0.00 | 7.52 | 0.79 |
| | Untrained Dai | 2.67 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.19 |
| Pre and Post natal care | Yes | 90.60 | 85.62 | 85.44 | 85.96 |
| | No | 9.40 | 14.38 | 14.56 | 14.04 |
| | All | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: Survey.

Another related issue is the coverage of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) (Table 3.25). It can be seen that about 60 per cent of all respondents reported using ICDS services. Universalisation of ICDS services appears to still be a distant dream in this regard. Access to the centres appears to be one of the reasons for full utilisation. Of the total eligible families, 82 per cent of them have reported accessing ICDS services and 18 per cent of eligible women/children were found not availing this facility, even though it is universal in its coverage. Difficulty in getting access is the main reason for this gap. Appropriate steps for universal coverage are needed on a priority basis, which could mean relaxing norms for setting up centres. This assumes importance due to the fact that Wayanad is a pre-dominantly forest covered area, with tribals and even others living in interior places.

Table 3.25: Benefits from ICDS (%)

| | | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|---|--|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Children/women from any family benefit from Aganwadi/ICDS | Yes | 48.49 | 60.47 | 64.95 | 59.75 |
| | No | 51.51 | 39.53 | 35.05 | 40.25 |
| Reasons for not availing ICDS | No eligible member in family | 73.17 | 82.21 | 58.51 | 79.67 |
| | Location of the centre is inaccessible | 26.83 | 17.79 | 41.49 | 20.33 |
| | All | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Trend in Migration

Incidence of total migration of the family appears to be low, though there are large number of families which have at least one person migrating to earn a better living. Of the total sample, about 6 per cent of Hindus, 13 per cent of Muslims and 10 per cent of Christians reported migration (Table 3.26). Short term migration is less compared to long term migration. Given the historical trend of population migrating to far off places from Kerala, one would expect that long term migration of household members could be to Gulf countries or to other parts of India. Migration appears to be high among Muslims, compared to other communities, as far as long term migration is concerned. This would reflect the fact that efforts need to be made so that families who receive remittances use them for investment purposes. There is a need for government intervention in this regard.

Table 3.26: The Trend in Migration (%)

| Community | Atleast one migrant HH | More than one migrant HH | Migrated HH | Short term | Long term |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Hindu | 4.51 | 1.99 | 6.51 | 30.58 | 69.42 |
| Muslim | 10.49 | 2.56 | 13.04 | 12.70 | 87.30 |
| Christian | 6.04 | 4.16 | 10.20 | 31.92 | 68.08 |
| All | 9.49 | 2.64 | 12.13 | 15.39 | 84.61 |

Source: Survey.

The trend in the migration destination indicates that the out of state migration and outside country migration together constitute over 85 per cent. Very few people migrate to places within their district. Outside state would include labourers going to adjoining plantations in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. It can be seen that an overwhelming majority (77 per cent) of migrants going outside the country are from the Muslim community, who prefer going to the Gulf countries to earn a living. Again, out of state migration from Muslims is in relatively less numbers than from the Hindus, as 11 per cent of the Muslim and 30 per cent of the Hindu migration are movements outside the state.

Table 3.27 Destination of Migration (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Within district | 11.87 | 6.14 | 9.45 | 6.75 |
| Within state | 40.54 | 5.04 | 16.24 | 8.02 |
| Outside state | 30.70 | 11.51 | 41.15 | 15.18 |
| Outside country | 16.89 | 77.31 | 33.16 | 70.04 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Another important issue is occupation of the migrant workers (Table 3.28). It can be seen that among all the communities, long term migrants are more in professional occupations. However, among Hindus, about 33 per cent of long term migrants are in agriculture and those who go for wage work. Given that tribal communities are covered under Hindus, one would expect that most of them would engage in agriculture, forestry and plantation work by migrating to the neighbouring districts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. This has been a historical trend in the district. It can be seen that sales/business (47 per cent) also assumes importance among Muslims who migrate on long term basis to other parts of India and abroad.

Table 3.28: Occupational Status of Migrants at Destination (%)

| | Hindu | | Muslim | | Christian | | All | |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | Short term | Long term |
| Professional, Technical and related work | 11.11 | 38.10 | 25.00 | 32.61 | 41.18 | 74.07 | 0.00 | 41.09 |
| Administrative, executive and managerial work | 0.00 | 4.76 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.78 |
| Clerical and related work | 11.11 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5.88 | 7.41 | 0.00 | 3.10 |
| Sales/Business work | 33.33 | 9.52 | 37.50 | 47.83 | 5.88 | 7.41 | 0.00 | 25.58 |
| Service work | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.17 | 0.00 | 3.70 | 0.00 | 2.33 |
| Farmers, Fishermen, Hunters, Loggers and related work | 33.33 | 33.33 | 25.00 | 6.52 | 23.53 | 3.70 | 0.00 | 15.50 |
| Production and related work, Transport equipment operators | 11.11 | 14.29 | 12.50 | 10.87 | 23.53 | 3.70 | 0.00 | 11.63 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Aspirations about Education, Employment, Skill and Training

As seen earlier, casual labour and self employment are high among the sampled households in their quest to secure decent employment. Among the sample households, about 61 per cent of households reported looking for employment (Table 3.29). There are no major differences across communities and it can be noted that this figure is closer to the total number of casual and self employed that were reported in the earlier sections. This would mean that seeking a secure employment is always a priority for a majority of the population.

Table 3.29: Demand for Employment (%)

| | % | Total |
|-----------|--------|-------|
| Hindu | 63.75 | 320 |
| Muslim | 58.38 | 346 |
| Christian | 61.64 | 232 |
| Others | 100.00 | 2 |
| All | 61.22 | 900 |

Source: Survey.

For those seeking employment, self employment (especially in cultivation, dairy and fisheries) appears to be a major preference. This could be in tune with their resource endowments as well as skills. About 16 per cent preferred to seek employment in salaried jobs, which would mean that they are somewhat educated and looking for regular jobs in the service sector. About 54 per cent of the households surveyed prefer self-employment in agriculture and allied activities, mainly cultivation and animal husbandry. The preference for cultivation is the highest (28 per cent) followed by the preference for dairy (17.8 per cent) and poultry (7.7 per cent). Business is the second most preferred activity as 19 per cent of the total households preferred it (Table 3.30). Some of the households have also expressed preference for salaried jobs, of course depending on the qualification of the members and some other manual and technical jobs. Promotion of animal husbandry and other allied activities can be seen as a viable option to diversify employment and work. Credit and veterinary support may be required in this regard.

Table 3.30: Types of Activities Preferred by the Households (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| 1. Self employed in: | 79.94 | 78.13 | 76.76 | 78.20 |
| Cultivation | 28.07 | 28.34 | 27.71 | 28.26 |
| Dairy | 22.21 | 17.07 | 19.78 | 17.82 |
| Poultry | 9.28 | 7.33 | 9.21 | 7.68 |
| Piggery | 0.74 | 1.14 | 1.24 | 1.11 |
| Sheep/Goat | 4.79 | 1.99 | 2.19 | 2.29 |
| Fisheries | 1.09 | 1.80 | 0.69 | 1.63 |
| Business | 13.77 | 20.47 | 15.95 | 19.41 |
| 2. Manual Labour | 4.74 | 2.32 | 4.76 | 2.77 |
| 3. Salaried Jobs | 13.05 | 16.03 | 14.67 | 15.61 |
| 4. Services | 2.12 | 3.05 | 2.84 | 2.93 |
| Repair service | 1.23 | 2.12 | 2.28 | 2.04 |
| Maintenance service | 0.29 | 0.92 | 0.38 | 0.81 |
| Caste based occupation | 0.60 | 0.00 | 0.17 | 0.08 |
| Others | 0.16 | 0.48 | 0.97 | 0.49 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Given relatively high levels of education and employment, there appears to be less demand for skill training among the sampled households. Moreover, low levels of industrialisation and skill requirement in agriculture and allied activities have prompted many not to seek skill training. About 3.4 per cent of the respondent households reported skill requirement (Table 3.31).

Table 3.31: Requirement of Training (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | Others | All |
|-------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Yes | 2.50 | 2.89 | 5.60 | 0.00 | 3.44 |
| No | 97.50 | 97.11 | 94.40 | 100.00 | 96.56 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Parents' view about the educational achievement of their children is very important. It can be seen that a substantial number of parents, cutting across community lines, prefer their children seek degrees and post-graduate education. This is expected in a highly educated society like Kerala and it can be seen that there are not vast differences among communities in these aspirations. About 25 per cent of parents desired technical education. This is an important observation, which needs to be taken note of, as it can be construed as a response to the changing patterns of labour market requirements, especially in the context of globalisation. More and more parents are seeking technical education for their children and the supply needs to be augmented in order to meet the growing demands and aspirations (Table 3.32).

Table 3.32: Parents Aspirations about Male Child Education (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|----------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| High School | 2.28 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.22 |
| Intermediate | 4.14 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.40 |
| Pre graduation | 10.12 | 1.10 | 1.44 | 2.00 |
| Bachers degree | 23.90 | 24.52 | 11.67 | 23.24 |
| Post graduate degree | 33.37 | 50.22 | 49.38 | 48.52 |
| Technical degree | 26.19 | 24.16 | 37.51 | 25.62 |
| All | 100.00 | 100.00 | | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

There is not much difference in parents' aspiration about educational achievement of girls and boys (Table 3.33). In the case of girls too, parents aspire for degree, post graduation and technical education as that would provide better life chances for girls. Given the high levels of girls' education in the state and district, there is no gender bias in the aspirations of education of boys and girls. There are some differences in terms of preference for technical education for girls among different communities, which of course would be reflective of their perspective on allowing girls to seek technical skills. For example, while only 16 per cent Muslim parents aspired for technical education for their girl children, the same is 34 and 22 among Christian and Hindu families. However this does not preclude the higher aspirations for girl child among Muslims, as over 52 per cent of them preferred their girl child to study up to post graduation. It is important that adequate facilities are created for enhancing participation of girls at the higher education levels within the district.

Table 3.33: Parents Aspiration About Female Child Education (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|----------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| High School | 1.70 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.17 |
| Intermediate | 6.78 | 0.78 | 1.78 | 1.46 |
| Pre graduation | 7.91 | 2.16 | 1.86 | 2.72 |
| Bachelors degree | 19.92 | 28.70 | 18.69 | 27.13 |
| Post graduate degree | 41.48 | 51.90 | 43.40 | 50.27 |
| Technical degree | 22.22 | 16.45 | 34.27 | 18.25 |
| All | 100.00 | 100.00 | | 100.00 |

Source: Survey.

Perception about Deprivations

When asked about important deprivations of the families in terms of their own priority (Table 3.34), 67 per cent of the households (61 per cent Hindu, 66 per cent Christian and 72 per cent Muslims) put employment deprivation on the 1st position; health care

facilities the 2nd position (43 per cent); education facilities the 3rd (43 per cent), land as the 4th deprivation (15 per cent) and housing at the fifth position (10 per cent).

Table 3.34: Households' Perception about Deprivations (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Employment | 61.75 | 72.22 | 66.98 | 67.12 |
| Health Centre | 41.75 | 41.18 | 50.47 | 43.84 |
| Education | 36.84 | 44.44 | 51.89 | 43.71 |
| Land | 28.77 | 27.45 | 19.81 | 25.90 |
| Housing | 31.23 | 25.16 | 18.40 | 25.53 |
| Social Respect | 6.67 | 4.25 | 7.08 | 5.85 |
| Electricity | 8.07 | 2.61 | 5.19 | 5.23 |
| Drinking Water | 3.86 | 3.59 | 4.25 | 3.86 |
| Toilet | 3.51 | 1.63 | 0.94 | 2.12 |
| Irrigation | 0.70 | 1.96 | 3.30 | 1.87 |
| Bridge | 2.46 | 0.33 | 0.94 | 1.25 |
| Business | 0.00 | 1.96 | 0.47 | 0.87 |
| Loan | 0.35 | 1.63 | 0.47 | 0.87 |
| Drainage | 0.00 | 1.96 | 0.00 | 0.75 |
| Community Centre | 0.00 | 0.65 | 1.42 | 0.62 |
| Pitch Road | 0.35 | 0.65 | 0.94 | 0.62 |
| Reservation in Employment | 0.70 | 0.33 | 0.94 | 0.62 |
| Madarasa | 0.70 | 0.33 | 0.47 | 0.50 |
| Ration Card | 1.05 | 0.00 | 0.47 | 0.50 |
| PDS Ration | 0.35 | 0.33 | 0.47 | 0.37 |
| Reservation in Both | 0.35 | 0.33 | 0.47 | 0.37 |
| Awareness Prg (Govt) | 0.35 | 0.65 | 0.00 | 0.37 |
| Public transport | 0.00 | 0.65 | 0.47 | 0.37 |
| Family Planning | 0.35 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.12 |
| Industries | 0.00 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.12 |
| Reservation in Education | 0.35 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.12 |
| School | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.47 | 0.12 |

Source: Survey.

As in the case of deprivations, employment, followed by education, land and health care emerged as the top four priorities of the households to be fulfilled from the government's side. Interestingly, better public transport (5 per cent) and roads (6 per cent) have also come out as an important expectation from the government, apart from health care and other facilities (Table 3.35).

Table 3.35: Expectations from the Government (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Welfare facilities | 3.94 | 5.86 | 0.54 | 3.73 |
| Toilet | 0.49 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 |
| Social Respect | 2.96 | 5.47 | 4.35 | 4.35 |
| School | 2.96 | 4.69 | 2.72 | 3.58 |
| Reservation in Employment | 5.91 | 7.81 | 3.80 | 6.07 |
| Reservation in Education | 1.48 | 2.73 | 2.17 | 2.18 |
| Reservation in Both | 1.97 | 2.34 | 6.52 | 3.42 |
| Ration Card | 0.00 | 0.78 | 1.63 | 0.78 |
| Public transport | 9.36 | 7.03 | 7.61 | 7.93 |
| Pitch Road | 5.91 | 7.03 | 5.98 | 6.38 |
| PDS Ration | 0.00 | 0.39 | 1.09 | 0.47 |
| Madarasa | 1.48 | 0.39 | 1.09 | 0.93 |
| Loan | 13.30 | 8.20 | 10.33 | 10.42 |
| Land | 21.18 | 20.70 | 15.22 | 19.28 |
| Irrigation | 11.33 | 9.77 | 3.80 | 8.55 |
| Industries | 0.49 | 1.17 | 0.00 | 0.62 |
| Housing | 7.88 | 1.56 | 1.63 | 3.58 |
| Health Centre | 21.67 | 16.41 | 24.46 | 20.37 |
| Family Planning | 0.49 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 |
| Employment | 50.25 | 57.42 | 59.24 | 55.68 |
| Electricity | 3.94 | 2.34 | 1.63 | 2.64 |
| Education | 44.33 | 48.44 | 57.61 | 49.77 |
| Drinking Water | 5.42 | 3.52 | 1.09 | 3.42 |
| Drainage | 0.49 | 1.17 | 1.63 | 1.09 |
| Community Centre | 0.49 | 1.95 | 1.63 | 1.40 |
| Business | 6.90 | 2.73 | 5.43 | 4.82 |
| Bridge | 0.49 | 0.78 | 1.09 | 0.78 |
| Awareness Prg (Govt) | 0.99 | 2.34 | 1.09 | 1.56 |

Source: Survey.

Participation in Civic and Community Life

An important characteristic of the civic and community life of the rural population of Wayanad is social cordiality and active participation in civic and political activities. In spite of intense electoral polarisation and party based politics at every public institution, incidence of civic conflicts and community based conflicts have never been recorded in the district

None in the surveyed households reported any conflicts based on political or religious affiliation. An important demographic feature available in the district is the balance in terms of population among the three communities, wherein there was no scope for any one community demonstrating overwhelming presence in any of the civic and public activities and institutions. This enables peaceful co-existence and differences are observed only on party ideology and programmes.

Access to Media/Modern Means of Communication

Television (59 per cent), News Paper (50 per cent) and Radio (36 per cent) are the important sources of information and there appears to be uniformity in access of these media to all the communities. While there are no major differences, Hindus appear to have less access to television and news paper in comparison to other communities, but have greater access to radio as compared to Muslims and Christians. This may be due to a better economic position among Muslim and Christian communities, who may own more television sets.

Table 3.37: Access to Media and Communication (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|------------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Newspaper | 54.29 | 47.95 | 68.91 | 50.42 |
| Radio | 42.20 | 35.29 | 32.76 | 35.77 |
| Television | 48.31 | 59.49 | 70.45 | 59.31 |

Source: Survey.

Participation of both Hindu and Muslim households in social and political activities is generally very high, as indicated by their participation in democratic elections (Table 3.38). It is interesting to note that very few respondents reported having membership in a religious organisation (8.2 per cent).

Table 3.38: Participation in Social and Political Affairs (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Panchayat Election | 98.61 | 99.71 | 100.00 | 99.63 |
| State Assembly Election | 99.66 | 99.72 | 100.00 | 99.74 |
| Parliamentary Election | 99.31 | 99.71 | 99.57 | 99.66 |
| Office Bearer of Panchayat | 1.83 | 1.06 | 4.24 | 1.42 |
| Member of SHG | 47.10 | 45.54 | 56.46 | 46.66 |
| Member of Religious Organisation | 9.22 | 7.26 | 15.56 | 8.20 |

Source: Survey.

There appears to be no community wise differences in this figure with respect to Hindus and Muslims, but for Christians, the figure is slightly higher. About 46 per cent of the respondents reported having membership in Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Chapter IV

DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES/DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Functioning of the Public Distribution system (PDS)

Table 4.1 provides data on the functioning of the PDS which appears to be functioning well, as a vast majority (87 per cent) used ration shops. It is reported that 43 per cent households have come under the BPL category and all reported having ration cards. A larger number of Hindus (52 per cent) had BPL cards as compared to Muslims (43.9 per cent) and Christians (27.7 per cent). With regard to functioning of ration shops, 87 per cent reported availing PDS from shops with 89 per cent Hindus, 87 per cent Muslims and 81 per cent Christians reporting the same.

Table 4.1: Access to Public Distribution System (%)

| | | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|-----------------|-----|-------|--------|-----------|-------|
| BPL Category | Yes | 51.06 | 43.97 | 26.16 | 43.10 |
| | No | 48.94 | 56.03 | 73.84 | 56.90 |
| Avail from PDS | Yes | 89.86 | 87.98 | 81.13 | 87.55 |
| | No | 10.14 | 12.02 | 18.87 | 12.45 |
| BPL Ration card | Yes | 51.99 | 43.88 | 27.73 | 43.27 |
| | No | 48.01 | 56.12 | 72.27 | 56.73 |
| | All | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: Survey.

There are instances of reporting deficiencies in the PDS. As seen in Table 4.2, members from Muslim community appear to have problems in accessing PDS as compared to others. Around 83 per cent of the Muslim community reported of bad quality and Muslims also stated irregular supply, dishonesty in measurement, insufficient quantity etc as other reasons in accessing PDS.

Table 4.2: Difficulty Regarding PDS (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Insufficient quantity | 8.39 | 76.25 | 15.36 | 100.00 |
| Bad quality | 9.07 | 83.26 | 7.66 | 100.00 |
| Dishonesty in measurement | 9.58 | 78.12 | 12.31 | 100.00 |
| Non Availability of time | 11.47 | 76.37 | 12.16 | 100.00 |
| Irregular supply | 11.11 | 80.02 | 8.87 | 100.00 |
| Others | 15.38 | 36.46 | 48.16 | 100.00 |

Multiple answer

Source: Survey.

Access to Public Delivery /Services

Awareness about the public delivery/services is the key to its access, even though most of the public services/deliveries except for the NREGS are supply-based. Overall awareness about some important government programmes is in the range of 20 per cent to 90 per cent, depending on the type of programme, which again is dependent on the coverage and quality of service delivery (Table3.36).

The level of awareness/information varies viz-a-vis different programmes and services. For example, the highest level of awareness was found regarding NREGS, ICDS and Old age pension compared to other programmes like total sanitation, drinking water and maternity benefits. It can be inferred that those widely implemented programmes come to the recollection of the respondents more quickly compared to those which have low coverage.

Table 3.36: Awareness about Governments' Programmes (%)

| | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | All |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|-----------|------|
| SGSY | 49.2 | 44.5 | 48.2 | 45.3 |
| NREGA | 93.9 | 91.1 | 94.4 | 91.7 |
| Indira Awas Yojana | 42.4 | 36.3 | 37.9 | 37.0 |
| TSC Swajaldhara | 20.8 | 21.6 | 20.4 | 21.4 |
| ARWSP (Drinking Water) | 24.7 | 23.1 | 22.1 | 23.2 |
| Sarvasikhsa | 52.5 | 48.6 | 57.7 | 49.8 |
| ICDS or Anganwadi | 74.9 | 81.9 | 76.8 | 80.8 |
| Old Age or Widow Pension | 59.6 | 61.7 | 64.5 | 61.8 |
| Maternity Benefit scheme | 40.1 | 33.2 | 51.2 | 35.4 |

Source: Survey.

The level of awareness across the communities for most of the programmes is on similar lines. Nevertheless, Hindus and Christians were relatively better informed than Muslim households, who reported few percentage points below that of other two communities in relation to some of the programmes. It is interesting to note that the total sanitation campaign, which is a universal programme, appears to have received less publicity, as many households in the sample did not know about it, when compared to other programmes like NREGS. There appears to be low awareness also about maternity benefit schemes.

Chapter V

KEY FINDINGS

- Wayanad is one of the most backward districts of Kerala. It presents a peculiar case for development interventions with priority population viz., Muslims, Christians and Tribals each having a population strength of 26 per cent, 22 per cent and 17 per cent respectively. While Scheduled Caste and Tribals are covered under the Hindu category in this report (7 per cent ST, 4 per cent SC in the sample), it needs to be underscored that they lag behind all other social and community groups in terms of social and economic development. Living in interiors and closer to the forests, tribals do get marginalised and deprivations of such groups need to be accounted for while preparing a development plan. It is the same in the case of SC community households.
- It is primarily a rural district with 96 per cent the total population living in the villages. SCs constitute 4 per cent and STs merely 17.7 per cent of the total population. Kaplatta, Manathavadi and Sultan Bathery are the only three major towns in the district.
- Sex ratio and literacy rates are better than the national average, but lower than the state average. It can be seen that the sex ratio of Hindu community is much lower than the other two communities. This could be due to the presence of tribal population in the Hindu category.
- The work participation rate in the district is 31.8. Work participation of females is far lower (13 per cent) than that of males (51 per cent) and is an issue of concern. Agriculture labour constitutes a major occupation for over 40 per cent of the workers. Casual employment is a major source of work for a large section of the population. Forty five per cent of total workers come under the category of casual labour. It is important to recognise that female workers as casual labour are more compared to males, whereas there are more males in the regular employment category compared to females. Agriculture is the source of employment and casual labour is the main type of employment for a large number of people in the sample. Physical infrastructure in terms of road connectivity is good in the district. However, electricity is one area which needs to be addressed as the district is not yet fully electrified in terms of coverage to all rural habitations. The average road length is better than the

state average. There is no rail connectivity, but since the district is closer to Mysore and Kozhikode, trains can be accessed from these towns, both of which are major urban hubs in that part of the country.

- Wayanad is in the high rainfall region. Irrigation is better in the district compared to the state average. However due to high rainfall, plantation based crops are grown and paddy is no longer a major crop in the district. The forest cover is also high in the district and tribals depend on forest for livelihood.
- Primary social infrastructure related to education and health is satisfactory in the district. However advanced infrastructure is at a distance, which may sometimes create access barriers since long distances have to be traversed.
- All the villages are not electrified. Similarly there is no universal coverage of drinking water. Similarly there are deficiencies in the availability of individual toilets and drainage facilities. Only about 35 per households reported having individual latrines and the rest were defecating outside in the open and 70 per cent of the households have drainage facility. Banking infrastructure in terms of commercial banks is satisfactory, but the coverage of cooperative banks is low compared to the state average.

Micro Level Deprivations

- The micro level deprivations are acute within the Hindu community (especially tribals) with respect to land and other assets base, earnings and expenditure level; access to education and health and basic living amenities in the households. Similarly, on some indicators like education and health, the Muslim community is faring badly when compared to the other communities.
- Landlessness *per se* is not a very major issue; however a vast majority of households come under the category of marginal and small farmers. This would mean a substantial majority constitute those who own less than 5 acres. Given the preponderance of plantation crops, whose prices fluctuate often, one can conclude that agrarian vulnerability is high among a majority of the households of the district. Agriculture labour constitutes a major occupational group and they are more in number among Hindu community compared to others. Those who are self employed come second in the occupational categories, followed by those who are in formal employment in public and private sectors.

- Given the nature of agriculture and employment, social security measures assume importance. It is to be noted that universal social security in terms of PDS, insurance, health coverage, old age pension and workplace security measures become important for workers. Of these, PDS access is reasonably good with over 80 per cent households using it. However on other social security like old age pension etc, there are gaps in terms of awareness and coverage.
- Housing facility is also better for a majority of the households; however about 8 per cent of the families surveyed still live in thatched houses. This is one area in which government may need to invest in terms of providing *pucca* housing for all the households, especially in such a terrain which has high rainfall during the monsoons. It is to be noted that many tribals live in thatched houses compared to other communities. A vast majority of households also live in semi-*pucca* houses and if we see the borrowings of the households about 10 per cent are for improving housing conditions. Thus it becomes imperative to identify such needs and the banking sector may be called upon to respond adequately.
- Indebtedness is a major economic distress that a vast majority of households faced in the district. It is as high as 58 per cent with Muslim and Christian communities reporting high levels of indebtedness. Formal sector sources appear to be meeting the debt needs of the households compared to informal sources. Expenditure on agriculture, housing, education and health appear to be the three major reasons for borrowing by families. Promotion of micro credit schemes is one of the options that can be looked into.
- Access to public health systems appear to be relatively high in the district. Both public and private health care systems account for all the health needs of the population and there is very little, or no presence of quacks and other unregistered medical service providers. Most households use formal medical services. Indebtedness and expenditure for health care appears to be high among Muslims and Christians as compared to Hindus. There are no specific health problems for the communities as the morbidity data shows normal ailments and treatment is often sought from the public and private health care suppliers.
- Access to PDS/ICDS and other Government programmes is relatively high with over 60 per cent of the sample households possessing PDS ration card. It needs to be noted that a majority of the poor have expressed satisfaction with the functioning of

the PDS. There are however some complaints, which are more related to delays in supply and inability to lift the rations owing to poverty.

- Access to modern means of communication is better; particularly of print media and television is high compared to radio. The level of awareness about the government's programme is high in some cases, but low in some other cases. But on the whole given the literacy levels, it may be termed as very satisfactory.
- Communities engage in political activities based on party ideologies and there were no records of any communal discord on account of religious affiliations. There appears to be communal harmony and issues of land rights of tribals and rights of tribals over forest land are being addressed through civil society action as well as political actions. These have not been turned into communal incidents.

Annexure I: List of Selected villages in Wayanad District

| Tehsils | Gram Panchyat | Village |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Suthan Bathery | Amba Lavayal | Amba Lavayal |
| | Mullankolly | Padilhira |
| | Amba Lavayal | Thomattuchal |
| | S.Baphagry Noolpuzia | Kidanganadu |
| | Meenanagadi | Purakkadi |
| | Pulapally | Pullapally |
| | S. Bathery | S. Bathery |
| | Poothadi | Irulam |
| | Suthan Bathery | Kuppadi |
| | Poothadi | Poothadi |
| | Menmeni | Cheeral |
| | Kainiyampatta | Nadavayal |
| | Nenmeni | Nenmeni |
| Vayittiri | Mathil | Mathil Soulb |
| | Muttill | Muttill North |
| | Vengappally | Vengappally |
| | Naupaineela | Mooppainadu |
| | Pozhuthana | Pozhuthana |
| | Pozhuthana | Thariyaode |
| | Meppadi | Triikkaipatta |
| | Pizhuthana | Achooranam |
| | Neppadi | Kotappadi |
| | Edavaka | Edavaka |
| Mananthavady | Pavamaram | Anjugunu |
| | Thirunelilly | Thrinnlery |
| | Mananthavady | Payambally |
| | Vellamunda | Porunnannur |
| | Panamaram | Panamaram |
| | Mananthavady | Mananthavady |
| | Mananthavady | Kanjirangadu |