

## Spatial Analysis of Occupational Structure in Palakkad District with Special Reference to Main Workers

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### Abstract

Occupation implies trade or profession. It reveals the nature of economic progress of a country. It is related to agriculture, industry and services. Occupations depend up on the degree of economic development and sophistication of country. Occupational structure influences many aspects of population in a region. The occupational characteristics of population are reflected in the working force, dependency load, employment and unemployment. In spite of that, occupational structure is a key component and manifestation of population composition. Basu, S. (1991) It gives a proper illustration of ratio of the working and non-working population in an area or a country. Occupational structure also influences the socio-economic development of an area. The spatial distribution of people working under different category is analysed from the data taken from Census of India.

The area selected for the study is Palakkad district of Kerala. Palakkad is a major Paddy growing area of the State. It is often called as the “Gateway of Kerala”. The district accounts for about 11.5% of the total land area of the state of Kerala while the share of population is 8.22%.The present study aims at analysing change of spatial distribution of various classes in the occupational structure. The evaluation of occupational structure shows that there is a considerable decline in the amount of cultivators and agricultural labours. This indicates that over a period of time there is shift from primary sector. The increase in other workers shows that more people are depending on secondary and Tertiary activities.

**KEYWORDS:** Occupation Structure, Main Workers, Marginal Workers.

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### 1.INTRODUCTION

The occupational structure of a society is the mix of different types of occupations found there. It also describes the distribution of people among those occupations, which gives some sense of which types of work predominate a society. Occupational structure is sociologically important because of its effects on social class and other forms of social inequality.(Bhattacharya, S. 2002)

Occupational structure of a country refers to the distribution or division of the population according to different occupation. There is a close relationship between occupational structure and the economic development of the country. The high level of economic development is generally associated with a relative increase of employment away from the agricultural sector and the higher level of population engaged in the tertiary sector. In other words the economic progress leads to the steady shift of employment and

investment from the primary activities to secondary and then to the tertiary sector( Singh, A.K. 2003).

## 2.STUDY AREA

Palakkad (Palghat) is the land of Paddy fields and Palmyras. Palakkad is a major Paddy growing area of the State. It is often called as the “Gateway of Kerala”. Palakkad is the part of erstwhile Malabar district of Madras presidency. The district accounts for about 11.5% of the total land area of the state of Kerala while the share of population is 8.22%. There are five taluks and 163 villages in the district and four municipal towns and ninety one panchayats. The district is divided in to 13 community development blocks for the effective implementation of various developmental activities. A major share of population is engaged in agricultural related activities. In recent years there has been a considerable shift of people from this sector. Present study aims to bring out relation between agricultural land use change in affect on occupational structure is brought out(CGWB district handbook )(Census handbook2001)

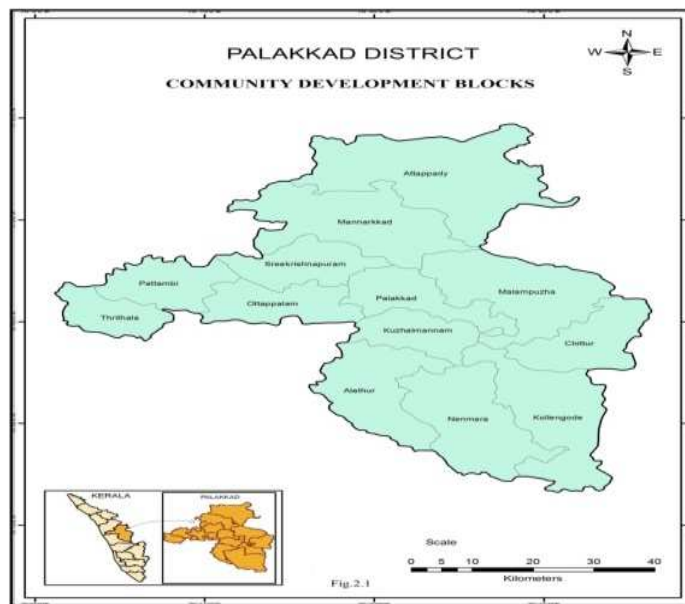


Fig 1 Study area Map

## 3.AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Proper understanding of temporal changes of various occupation structures in the Palakkad district during 1991 to 2011.

- To analyse changes taken place in occupational structure during 1991 to 2011

## **4.METHODOLOGY**

The study is mainly based on the Secondary data. The Details of occupational structure and census data for the year 1991 and 2011 were collected from the statistical department and . By using simple statistical methods Change were calculated in percentage. The percentage was calculated for different sectors separately and over all change in the district was also found out. The results were shown with the help of ArcGIS for preparing the maps to show the spatial distribution of different attributes.

## **5.RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **5.1 POPULATION**

A population is a summation of all the organisms of the same group or species, which live in a particular geographical area, and have the capability of interbreeding.(census handbook 2011) In sociology, population refers to a collection of humans. Demography is a social science which entails the statistical study of human populations. This article refers mainly to human population. (census handbook 2011)

The total population in the district according to 1991 census data is 2382235 persons which is distributed all over the district. Palakkad Block Have the Highest share of population, 11 percentage of population in the district is concentrated in Palakkad Block. Alathur ranks second position where 10 percentage of Total population is residing in Alathur. The Attapady have only 2 percentage of population residing In the area and It is the area of Less population. Attapady and Kollengode Block are Less populated area. Palakkad and Alathur Have High population .

The total population of the Palakkad district has been increased to 2809934 persons. Mannarkad is the area with High population where 11 percentage of Population in the district is distributed over here. Pattambi(10.78 %), and Alathur(9.54%) have higher share of population. Population is moderately distributed in Trithala(7.15%) , Sreekrishnapuram(6.36%), Malampuzha(8.65%), Palakkad(7.61%) and Kuzhalmannam (6.21%). Remaining blocks have Less Population

### **5.2 OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE**

#### **5.2.1 Workers And Non Workers.**

The total workers are classified as workers and non workers. Age and sex were not taken in to consideration while identifying this. Work is defined as participation in any economically productive activity which may be physical or mental in nature. Workers are further classified as main workers and marginal workers(District Census Handbook).

For the present study, the whole population are classified into different occupational groups like main workers, marginal workers and non worker. Main workers includes cultivators , agricultural labours, household workers and others. In the study significance is given mainly to main workers. The study is done to find out the change

between the ratio of workers between 1991-2011. Block wise changes of various sectors are analyzed.

Table 1. over all change in occupational structure 1991-2011 (%)

sl no	Block name	Agriculture Labours	Cultivators	House Hold industrial workers	Other workers	Main workers	Marginal Workers	Non Workers
1	Alathur	-45.14	-35.6	-31.63	73.33	-39.04	142.96	-1.62
2	Attapady	-51.8	-41.09	272	151.31	330.42	286.6	4.39
3	Chittur	-34.09	-26.81	38.42	101.3	78.82	199.62	4.68
5	Kuzhalmannam	-49.52	-48.02	-50.1	23.33	-124.31	89.21	-21.15
4	Kollengode	-59.52	-66.21	-51.93	0.91	-176.75	64.84	-40.01
6	Malampuzha	-21.11	-28.07	-26.19	30.27	-45.10	33.9	4.98
7	Mannarkkad	-52.12	-40.94	7.38	210.9	125.22	275.25	60.23
8	Nenmara	77.64	47.56	139.14	149.47	413.81	301.45	93.88
9	Ottapalam	-49.8	-40.2	16.52	102.62	29.14	102.08	20.78
10	Palakkad	-61.02	-57.95	-46.38	21.87	-143.48	119.59	-22.41
11	Pattambi	-58.58	-45.39	21.92	123.82	41.77	137.85	27.35
12	Sreekrishnapuram	-43.03	-35.03	-11.85	114.62	24.71	193.6	19.29
13	Thrithala	66.6	-52.15	1.22	105.15	120.82	85.38	21.83

### 5.2.2 Main Workers

Main workers were those who had worked for the major part of the year preceding the date of enumeration i.e., those who were engaged in any economically productive activity for 183 days (or six months) or more during the year. Those who had worked the major part of the year are categorised as main workers and this include 4 industrial classes.(census2001)

### 5.2.3 Agricultural Labours

A person who works on another person's land for wages in money or kind or share is regarded as an agricultural labourer. She/He has no risk in cultivation but merely work on another person's land for wages. An agricultural labourer has no right of lease or contract on land on which She/he works. While analysing overall change we can understand that the whole area have a reduction in agricultural labours..The Nenmara block located at south of the district and Thrithala located in The western part of the district is the only blocks showing positive growth of agriculture labours with 77.64 and 66.6 percent respectively. The blocks of Palakkad, Kollengode, Mannarkkad and Pattambi marked with a high negative change were the reduction is more than 50 percentage

#### **5.2.4 Cultivators**

For the purpose of census a person is classified as cultivator if he or she is engaged in cultivation on land owned or held from government or held from private persons or institutions for payment in money, kind or share. Cultivation includes effective supervision or direction in cultivation.

A person who has given out his land to another person's or institutions for cultivation for money, kind or share of crop and who does not even supervise or direct cultivation in exchange of land is not treated as cultivators.(census2001)

The district is witnessing a tremendous decrease in Cultivator population. Only Nenmara is showing a increase in the amount of cultivator population with 47 percentage.The declining trend of Cultivators is maximum in Kollengode with 66.2percentage followed by Palakkad 57 percentage.

#### **5.2.5 Household industrial workers**

It is defined as an industry conducted by the head of the household herself/himself and or by the members of the household at home or within the village in rural areas and only within the precincts of the house where the house hold lives in urban area. The larger proportion of workers in house hold industry should consist of members of the household including the head. The industry should not be run on the scale of a registered factory which would qualify or has to be registered under the Indian factories act and should be engaged in manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs of good.

In this category of workers we can notice that 6 blocks out of 13 in the district is showing a hike in the workers.Where Attapady registered a highest growth of 272 percentage followed by Nenmara with 139 percentage.On the other hand Kolengode and Palakkad the decrease is maximum with 51.93 and 46.38 percentage

#### **5.2.6Others**

A person who has been engaged in some economic activity during the reference period but not as agricultural labours or cultivators or house hold industrial workers is termed as other workers. The type of workers that comes under this category include all government servants, Municipal employees, Teachers, Factory workers, Plantation workers, those engaged in trade and commerce ,Business, Banking, Transport, construction, mining, social work, priests, entertainment activities etc. In affect all those workers other than cultivators or agricultural labourers or household industry workers are other workers(Census handbook 2001)

The whole district has a positive trend, all blocks are showing an increase in number of workers. In Blocks like Palakkad, Kuzhalmannam and Kollengode rate of increase is lesser compared to other blocks.The Other workers in the In Attapady has been registered with highest rate of increase with 150 percentage.

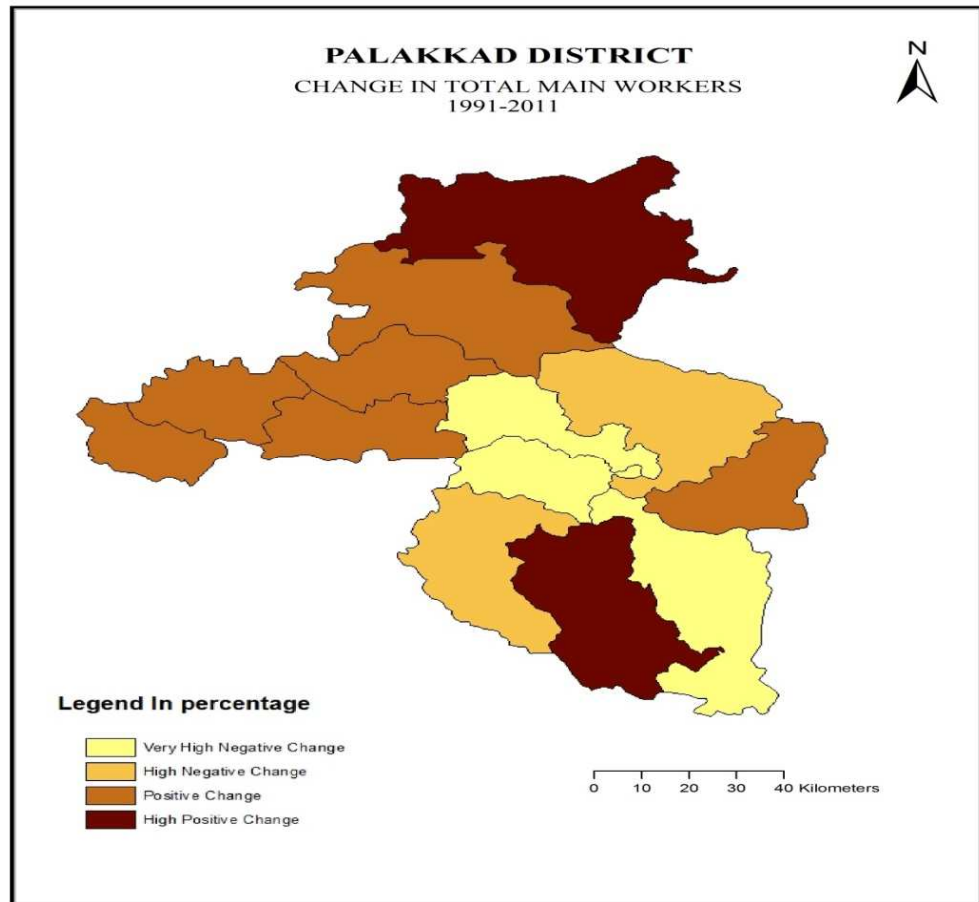


Fig.2 Change In Total Main Workers

By analyzing the four categories in the main workers as a whole (fig 2) it can be noted that five blocks in the district is having negative trend. The blocks showing negative trend for main workers are Alathur, Kuzhamannam Kollengode, Palakkad and Malampuzha. The rest of the blocks are showing positive trend.

### 5.2.7 Marginal workers

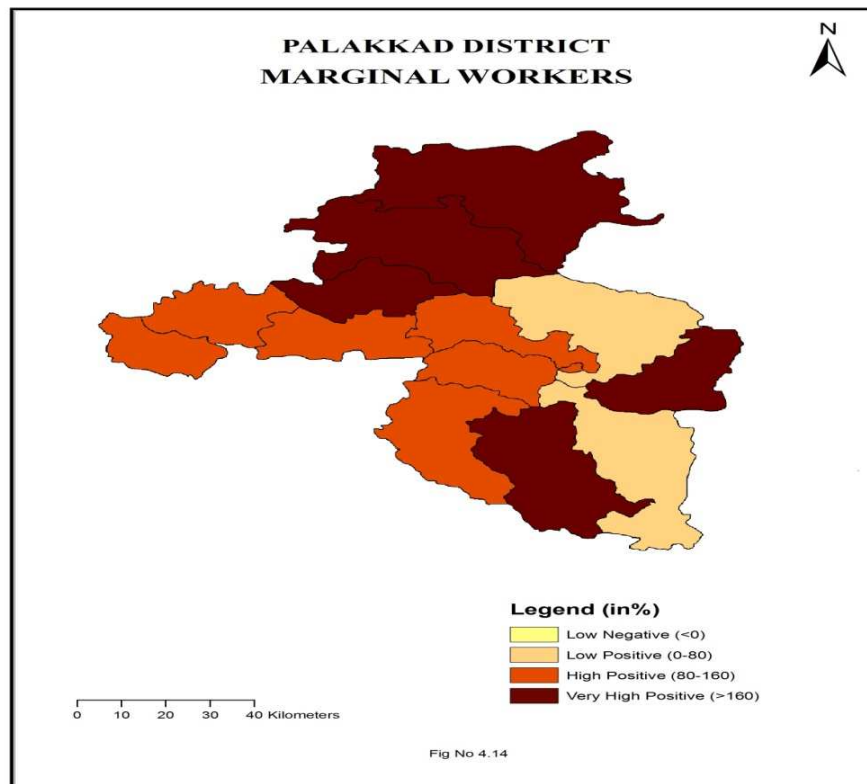


Fig 3

#### Distribution of Marginal Workers

Marginal workers were those who worked any time at all in the year preceding the enumeration but did not work for a major part of the year, i.e., those who worked for less than 183 days (or six months) (Census handbook). Unlike other classes, in marginal workers all the blocks are showing a positive growth.

Low Positive change is marked in Malampuzha and Kollengode block where as Trithala, Pattambi, Ottapalam, Palakkad Kuzhalamannam and Alathur have high positive change of Marginal Workers. Remaining blocks have very higher proportion of Marginal Workers.



### 5.2.8 Non workers

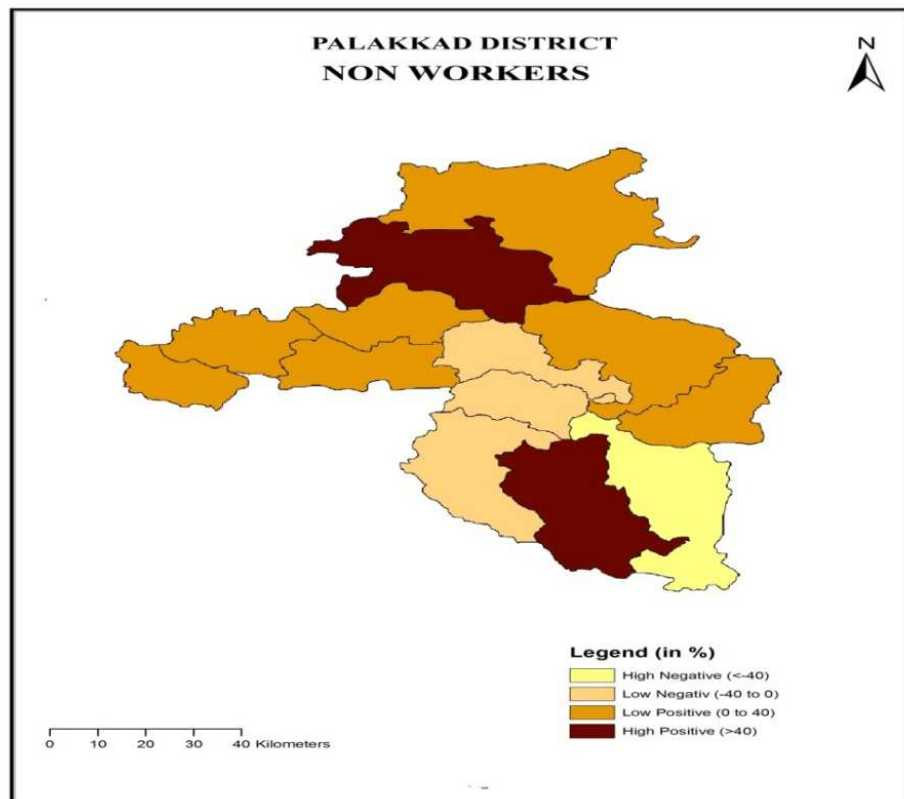


Fig 4

Distribution of Non workers

The non workers are persons who have not at all worked any time. They include full time students, dependants, employment seekers, persons wholly engaged in house hold duties etc. The lion share of the workers belongs to this category. By analyzing Overall change we can Note that the change is Uneven with Increase and decrease of the non working Population. The Increase is maximum in Nenmara block where the 90 percentage of non working Population is has been increased in these years.

Nenmara and Mannarkkad have Higher Proportion of Non Working Population. Kollengode Block Is identified with a High Negative change. Low Negative change is Observed In Palakkad, Kuzhalamannam and Alathur regions. Remaining Block have low positive change In non working Population.

### 6.CONCLUSION

The evaluation of occupational structure shows that there is a considerable decline in the amount of cultivators and agricultural labors this indicates that over a period of time there is shift from primary sector the increase in other workers shows that more people are depending on secondary and tertiary activities. This may be attributed to the higher rate of literacy among the younger generation. The reduction of agriculture and allied activities in the district also lead the workers to shift their occupation. There is a kind of



obstacles which does not allow people especially the younger ones to enter into these activities

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