

District wise prioritizing for public fund utilization to improve the HDI of Kerala

Authors

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Abstract

The paper deals with ascertaining and prioritizing the different districts of Kerala with their need for funds. The paper ranks the different districts depending upon their need. The factors that are included in ranking contain the size of the district, the population of the district and the reproductive and child health indicators consisting of 10 different parameters. The paper will help in creating priorities and also bringing into fore the districts which actually need funds for development. The study takes on data from different governmental websites ranks them in the form of priorities and creates a map for future spending of governmental funds. A methodical formula has been used giving different weight ages for parameters according to the increase or decrease in spending. The paper will help in future policy making and spending of public funds.

Keywords: **Governmental funds, District prioritizing, Development, Kerala**

Introduction

Kerala has 14 districts to govern. There are multiple schemes and incentives that are given by central as well as state governments for the benefit of people. Most of these are created for a class of people with specific aims and objectives to achieve. Though most of the schemes have been implemented yet the effects are not on the scale that should have been. The resources have always been less and priorities get muddled up. Most of the districts which comparatively are better off are funded more while those which actually need funds are deprived of them. The disparity that is created leads to riots and crime. Most of the funds are divided up by regions and pockets are being created where development remains a dream.

Review of literature

The review that has gone into writing this paper primarily comes from the reports published by central and state governments. RCH indicators have been taken from the United Nations reports that are regularly published

Most of the reports reviewed so far have based their studies on particular aspects of Human development index and reproductive or child health indicators. Almost all of them have kept themselves focused on spending on those areas rather than as a whole.

These reports have negated the size of the population as well as the area to govern and the level of development required to bring in parity among the districts which this paper has tried to cover.

Objective of the paper

The main objective of the paper is to compare the districts in terms of different parameters and rank them according to their priority. In effect creating a composite system of ranking at a holistic level

The secondary objective is to create a bird's eye view and clear idea on which districts of Kerala money needs to be spent.

Research Methodology

Secondary data has been used in the forms of published government reports

Formula used is as follows

Rankings have been created on 3 major parameters with different weight ages

1. Population – (0.3 weight age)

The rankings of population have been taken from the district having the largest population to the district having the lowest population. Rankings are from 1 to 35. The rankings are further on given a weight age of 0.3 and scores for each district are calculated

2. Size of area to be governed (0.2 weight age)

The rankings of size based on kilometers have been taken from the district having the largest size to the district having the lowest size. Rankings are from 1 to 35. The

rankings are further on given a weight age of 0.2 and scores for each district are calculated

3. Reproductive and Child Health indicators (0.5 weight age)

These readings have been taken from the previous study done by United Nations economic and social commission, the readings are based on 10 different indicators including the women and children's health for each district. The readings are ranked from lowest to highest in this case as the lowest reading means the condition is comparatively bad.

The weight ages for all these 3 parameters are summed and a grand total for them is done. The weight ages are then sorted from lowest to the highest.

Finally the ranks are given to the sorted out weight age totals. These ranks give the priority or the channelization of major funds that are required for that particular district

Reasons for allocating different weight ages to different parameters

- The more the number of population more amount of funds are required for their development
- The more the size, the more the infrastructure required to connect the population via various infrastructure
- The lower the district stands in RCH indicators more funds are required to bring in parity by improving the condition

Data Analysis and interpretation

| name of district | population | ranking (largest to smallest) | weight age (0.3) of ranking | size in kms | ranking (largest to smallest) | weight age (0.2) of ranking | RCH indicators | ranking (lowest to highest) | weight age (0.5) of ranking | total of all the weightages | prioritized/Composite ranking |
|------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Palakkad | 2617072 | 6 | 1.8 | 4480 | 1 | 0.2 | 78.5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Malappuram | 4110956 | 1 | 0.3 | 3550 | 3 | 0.6 | 84.56 | 7 | 3.5 | 4.4 | 2 |
| Kannur | 2412 | 8 | 2.4 | 29 | 5 | 1 | 79.4 | 3 | 1.5 | 4.9 | 3 |

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|--------------------|-------------|----|-----|----------|----|-----|-----------|----|-----|------|----|
| | 365 | | | 66 | | | 5 | | | | |
| Kozhikode | 2878 498 | 5 | 1.5 | 23 45 | 9 | 1.8 | 83.5 4 | 5 | 2.5 | 5.8 | 4 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 3234 707 | 2 | 0.6 | 21 92 | 11 | 2.2 | 84.4 8 | 6 | 3 | 5.8 | 5 |
| Thrissur | 2975 440 | 4 | 1.2 | 30 32 | 4 | 0.8 | 85.8 6 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| Kasaragod | 1203 342 | 12 | 3.6 | 19 92 | 13 | 2.6 | 76.2 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 6.7 | 7 |
| Ernakulam | 3098 378 | 3 | 0.9 | 29 51 | 6 | 1.2 | 88.4 8 | 11 | 5.5 | 7.6 | 8 |
| Kollam | 2584 118 | 7 | 2.1 | 24 98 | 7 | 1.4 | 88.0 6 | 10 | 5 | 8.5 | 9 |
| Wayanad | 7866 27 | 14 | 4.2 | 21 31 | 12 | 2.4 | 81.6 3 | 4 | 2 | 8.6 | 10 |
| Idukki | 1128 605 | 13 | 3.9 | 44 79 | 2 | 0.4 | 85.9 1 | 9 | 4.5 | 8.8 | 11 |
| Kottayam | 1952 901 | 10 | 3 | 22 03 | 10 | 2 | 88.5 | 12 | 6 | 11 | 12 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1231 577 | 11 | 3.3 | 24 62 | 8 | 1.6 | 89.7 8 | 14 | 7 | 11.9 | 13 |
| Alappuzha | 2105 349 | 9 | 2.7 | 14 14 | 14 | 2.8 | 88.8 9 | 13 | 6.5 | 12 | 14 |

According to the analysis it's clear that the districts Palakkad and Malappuram are to be taken care of in priority and major public funds be channelized towards them.

Conclusion

Overall the rankings that are garnered by the districts can be compared with the spending done by the state and central governments on these particular districts and comparison can be easily made to see if public funds are being actually channelized to districts where they are essentially needed. It will also help the government officials in creating a set of cluster districts and development can take at a faster rate in these districts. The funds need to be channelized towards creation of basic infrastructure i.e. roads, health facilities and schools so that these districts come up in the Human development index.

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