

# AN ANALYSIS OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBES IN KERALA

## ABSTRACT

The tribal population makes up for 8.6% of the total population in India. Kerala occupies the 6<sup>th</sup> place in the distribution of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in the country. In Kerala there are 5 tribal communities categorised as PVTG's. These are Kattunaickans, Kadar, Koraga, Cholanaickan and Kurumbas. There are 6,771 PVTG households in the state with a total population of 26,273 tribals consisting of 13,200 females and 13,073 males (Government of Kerala, 2013). The average family size of PVTG's in Kerala is 3.88, and the sex ratio among them is 1000:1010. The study gives a detailed review about the demographic profile of the PVTG's in Kerala.

Key words: dependency ratio, tribes, PVTG, population pyramid.

## INTRODUCTION

Within the Scheduled Tribes, there exist an inequality in their rate of development. This was addressed in the fourth Five Year Plan by the Dhebar Commission (1960-61) which identified some groups within the tribal communities as having a lower level of development. The Dhebar Commission in 1973, created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs. PVTGs have some basic characteristics - they are typically homogenous, with small population, generally physically isolated, non – existence of written language, relatively meek technology and a sluggish rate of change etc. Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha.

Definition of a tribe: Articles 342 and 366 (25) dealing with Scheduled Tribes in the Constitution of India provide for as under: - "342. The President may with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is a State, after (1) consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this

Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union Territory, as the case may be;

Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification”.

366 (25) : “Scheduled Tribes” means such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution (Indian constitution).

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The data used in the present study is secondary data .The data from Scheduled Tribes Development Department, Government of Kerala, Kerala State Planning Board, and Census of India 2011 are systematized for portrayal of the demographic status of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Population in the state.

## **DATA AND DISCUSSION**

### **a) KADAR**

Kadar population who were traditionally food gatherers and hunters are distributed in Trissur and Palakkad and Kozhikode districts. In Trissur, their settlements are found in Perigalkuthu Vazhachal, and Sholayar forest areas. In Palakkad the settlements occupied by them are Parambikulam, Kuriyarkutty, Nellyampathy, Kalchadi and Taliyakallu area. Kadar speak a dialect of Tamil with Malayalam elements. The hereditary headman of the Kadar’s is the ‘Mooppan’ who has all authorities of social control among them. The people mainly depend on forest timber and forest labour. Kadar’s have 545 families with a population of 1974. Their average family size is 3.62 and sex ratio is seen as 1000:1041. Kadar population is distributed in Athirappilly (804), Mattathur (269), Kodanchery (126), Vandazhy (168), and Muthalamada (477) grama panchayats. Scattered population are found in 4 other Grama Panchayats also. The details of families and population of Kadar community are as follows.

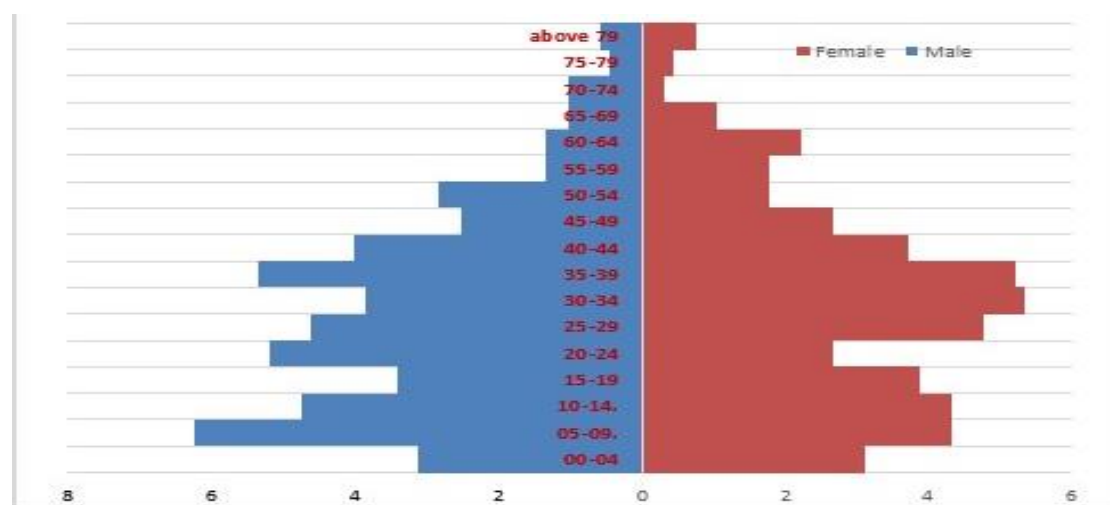
Table No: 1

District	Families	Population			
		Male	Female	Total	%
Trissur	: 306	511	571	1082	54.81
Palakkad	: 207	386	380	766	38.80
Kozhikode	: 32	70	56	126	6.39
Total	: 545	967	1007	1974	100

### Population pyramid of Kadar

Unlike the other communities the population pyramid of Kadar's are different. They have an asymmetric pyramid which shows that the number of male and female at various cohorts are not equal. Male population exceeds the female population among the Kadar's.

Graph 1 Population Pyramid of Kadar



### Age Dependency ratio of Kadar

The age dependency ratio of Wayanad Kadar in the state is 44.26 (total), 7.93 (aged) and 36.33 (child). All the components of the age dependency ratio is lesser than the state average and national average.

Table No: 2 Age dependency ratio of Kadar

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
00-14	95	79	174
15-64	235	244	479
64 and above	21	17	38
Total	351	340	691
Child Dependency Ratio	40.43	32.38	36.33
Aged Dependency Ratio	8.94	6.97	7.93
Total Dependency Ratio	49.36	39.34	44.26

### b). Kattunaickan

Kattunaickans are distributed in Wayanad, Malappuram, Palakkad, and Kozhikode districts. An overwhelming majority of the population is concentrated in Wayanad. The term Kattunaickan is derived from the words 'Kattu' (forest) and 'Nayakan' or 'naickan' (lord). Thus Kattunayakan literally means lord of forests. Ten Kurumban and Jenu Kurumban are the synonyms used for the Kattunayakan community. They speak a dialect related to Kannada. The Kattunaickans who are forest dwellers lead a social life that is forest based. The headman among the Kattunaickans are called 'Muthali' or 'Muthan' who presides as priest. Kattunayakan is the community with the largest population among PVTGs in Kerala. They constitute 4.69 per cent of the total ST population in the State. There are around 5137 families, majority settled in Wayanad District (4369). Malappuram (517 families) and Palakkad (218 families) are the other two districts which have representation of Kattunaickans. The family size of Kattunaickans are 3.89 and their sex ratio is 1000:1009.

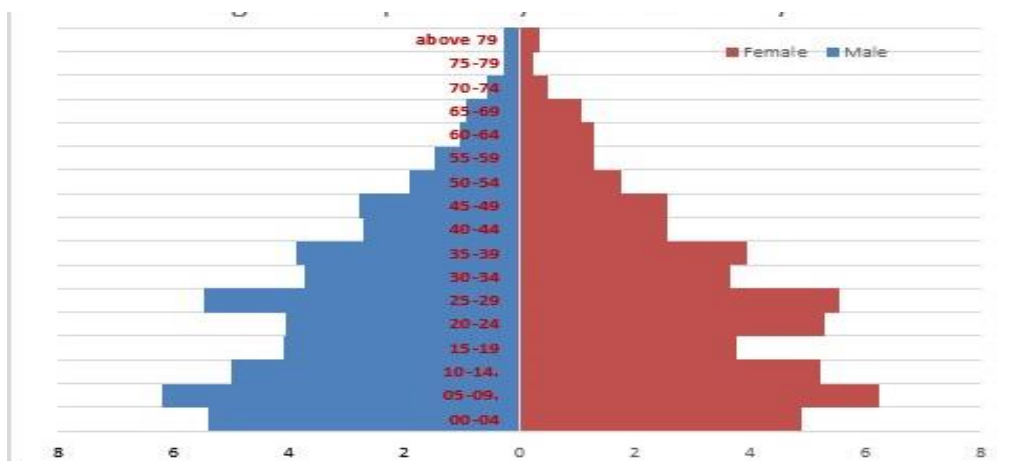
Table No: 3

SI No	District	Families	Population				
			Male	Female	Total	%	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
1	Idukki	:	1	1	3	4	0.02
2	Palakkad	:	218	395	392	787	3.94
3	Malappuram	:	517	1018	1016	2034	10.17
4	Kozhikode	:	32	52	67	119	0.59
5	Wayanad	:	4369	8487	8564	17051	55.28
	Total	:	5137	9953	10042	19995	100

### Population pyramid of Kattunaickans

The population pyramid of Kattunaickan community has the general features that tribes in the state possess. The asymmetric pyramid shows that the number of females and males at various cohorts are unequal. Sex ratio is favourable and women outnumber men.

Graph No: 2 Population pyramid of Kattunaickan



### Age Dependency ratio of Kattunaickans

The age dependency ratio of Kattunaickans in the state is 59.02 (total), 6.71 (aged) and 52.31 (child). All the components of the age dependency ratio are detailed below.

Table No: 4 Age dependency ratio of Kattunaickans

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
00-14	3319	3270	6589
15-64	6247	6348	12595
64 and above	409	436	845
Total	9975	10054	20029
Child Dependency Ratio	53.13	51.51	52.31
Aged Dependency Ratio	6.55	6.87	6.71
Total Dependency Ratio	59.68	58.38	59.02

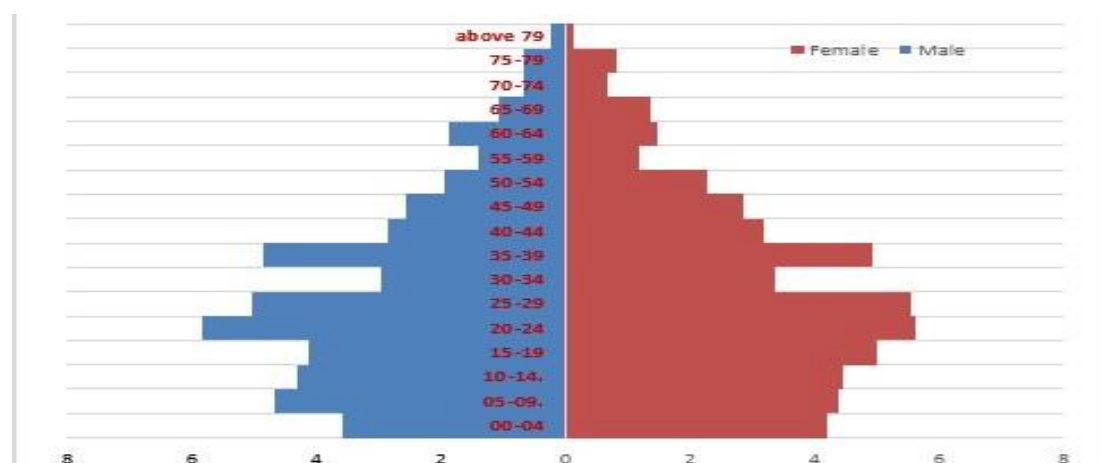
### c). Koraga

Koraga's are distributed only in Kasargod district and in the adjoining area of Karnataka State. The term 'Kora' means sun and it is said that they worship sun and hence the word 'Koraga' was derived from it. They speak a dialect of Tulu. The people collect raw materials like canes, bamboos, and creepers available from the nearby forests. Altogether, 445 families of the community are settled in one Municipality and 11 Grama Panchayats in Kasargod District. The average family size of Koragas are 3.69 and their sex ratio is 1000:1050.

### Population pyramid of Koraga

It has the general features that tribes in the state possess. The asymmetric pyramid shows that the number of female and male at various cohorts are unequal.

Graph No: 3 Population pyramid of Koraga



## Age Dependency ratio of Koraga

The age dependency ratio of Koraga in the state works is 45.36 (total), 8.13 (aged) and 37.22 (child). All the components of age dependency ratio in the community are lower than the state and national average except for aged dependency ratio which is equal to the state average.

Table No: 5 Age dependency ratio

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
00-14	207	214	421
15-64	551	580	1131
64 and above	44	48	92
Total	802	842	1644
Child Dependency Ratio	37.57	36.90	37.22
Aged Dependency Ratio	7.99	8.28	8.13
Total Dependency Ratio	45.55	45.17	45.36

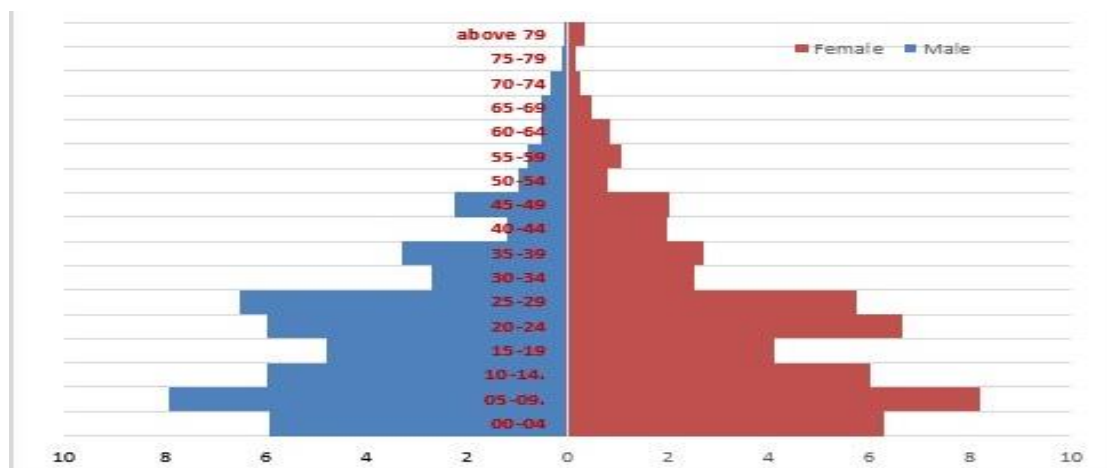
## d). Kurumbas

Kurumbar are distributed in Attapady Block Panchayat of Palakkad District. They are the original inhabitants of Attapady area and are often called 'Palu Kurumba' to distinguish them from the 'Alu Kurumba' of Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. Their dialect is a mix of Malayalam and Tamil. Kurumbar mostly living in Reserve and Vested Forest areas have been practising shifting cultivation called 'Panja Krishi' and are experts in cattle rearing. Among the five PVTG of Kerala, the younger generation of the community have shown more interest than others in getting educated. They are settled in Pudur and Agali grama Panchayats of Palakkad District. There are 543 families with a population of 2251. The family size is 4.14 and the sex ratio is 1000:996.

## Population Pyramid of Kurumba

The population pyramid of Kurumbar community has deviated away from the general features that tribes in the state possess. This pyramid shows more females at the age ranges above 50, which indicates that women are living older than men.

Graph No: 4 Population pyramid of Kurumba



### Age Dependency ratio of Kurumba

The age dependency ratio of Kurumbar in the state works out to 74.09 (total), 3.87 (aged) and 70.22 (child). All the components of the age dependency ratio in this community are higher than that of the state and national averages except for aged dependency ratio.

Table No: 6 Age dependency ratio of Kurumba

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
00-14	448	460	908
15-64	655	638	1293
64 and above	25	25	50
Total	1128	1123	2251
Child Dependency Ratio	68.40	72.10	70.22
Aged Dependency Ratio	3.82	3.92	3.87
Total Dependency Ratio	72.21	76.02	74.09

### e). Cholanaickan

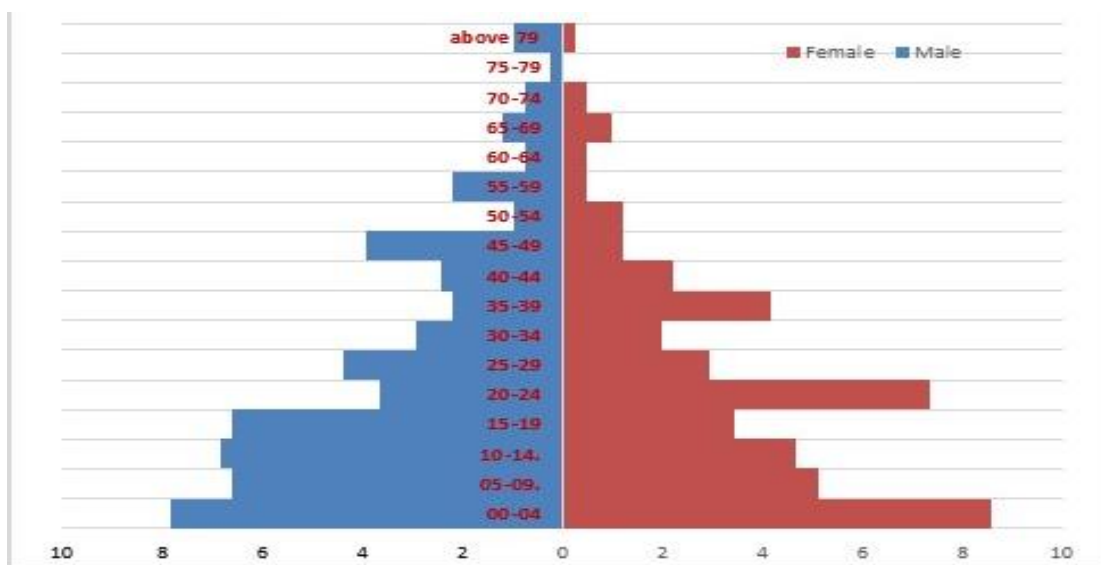
Cholanaickan are found only in the geographically isolated forest ranges of Nilambur of Malappuram District. 'Chola' means shade and 'Naickan' or 'Nayakan' denotes leader. They speak a dialect of their own, a mixture of Kannada and Malayalam. They are settled in ten hamlets in the deep forest called 'Jemmom' having a leader called 'Jemmakkaran' who performs socio - political and religious functions. They depend solely on non - timber forest produces for consumption and exchange or sale. There are 101 Cholanaickan families with the population of 409 and all are settled in 3 Grama Panchayats, namely; Amarambalam, Karulari and Vazhikkadavu in Malappuram District. The family size

of Cholanaickan community is 4.05. The population include 223 males and 186 females. The sex ratio of Cholanaickan is as 1000:834 which is lowest among the Schedule Tribe communities.

### Population pyramid of Cholanaickan

The population pyramid of Cholanaickan community has deviated much from the general features of other tribes in the state. (Fig. 2.49). It shows a low life expectancy of females. The asymmetric pyramid shows unequally distributed population of males and females in the community.

Graph No: 5 Population pyramid of Cholanaickan



The Cholanaickan population constitute 414 people only. The age dependency ratio of Cholanaickan in the state is 79.22 (total), 9.09 (aged) and 70.13 (child). All the components of the age dependency ratio of the community are higher than that of the state and national average.

## Age Dependency ratio of Cholanaickan

Table No: 7 Age dependency ratio of Cholanaickan

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
00-14	87	75	162
15-64	126	105	231
64 and above	14	7	21
Total	227	187	414
Child Dependency Ratio	69.05	71.43	70.13
Aged Dependency Ratio	11.11	6.67	9.09
Total Dependency Ratio	80.16	78.10	79.22

## CONCLUSION

It is evident from the secondary data that the PVTG's of Kerala are different in terms of their demographic features as shown through population pyramids and dependency ratios. The population of Primitive tribes ranges from 365 to 12155 in the state. In terms of population the Kattunaickans are the numerically dominant community concentrated mainly in Wayanad district. On the other hand, the Cholanaickan are the numerically weaker section. Most of the PVTG's live in the interiors of the forest except the Koraga who live in the midst of the rural population. The asymmetric population pyramids and higher dependency ratios demand the need of more governmental policies to protect them.

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