

## CHAPTER 19

# SOCIAL WELFARE

*In the past, social welfare was not done in an organized manner. Social welfare signifies the attempts made by Government and voluntary organizations to provide necessary care and security and such other services to the economically weaker section of the society, socially backward classes, women, children, physically and mentally challenged, the poor, orphans, aged, sick etc. by maintaining income at an acceptable level, by providing medical care and public health services. It is also achieved by adequate housing and community development programs. Social welfare policies are important because they open up access to some of the most basic social amenities for the marginalised.*

*The chapter deals with the existing status of Social Welfare and its potentials and problems in Kannur town.*

### 19.1 ANALYSIS OF EXISTING STATUS

#### 19.1.1 SCHEDULED CASTE/ SCHEDULED TRIBE (SC/ ST)

As per census 2011, SC population size in the Corporation area is 11337 and that of ST size is 903. The

temporal variation of SC and ST population in the study area during the last two decades is given in Table.19.1. The sex ratio of SC and ST population is also calculated.

Even though from 1991 to 2001, there was a slight increase in SC population, from 2001 to 2011 there shows a slight decrease. But in the case of ST population, there shows an increase during the last two decades. Sex ratio of SC as well as ST population has increased.

SC population in the Corporation area is nearly 4.88% of the total population which is higher when compared to the district (3.30%). ST population (0.39%) is very low in the

*Table.19.1 Temporal variation of SC and ST population in the Corporation area*

Year	1991	2001	2011	
<b>Total Population</b>	214502	226435	232486	
<b>SC Population</b>	11874	12657	11337	
<b>% SC Population</b>	5.54	5.59	4.88	
<b>ST Population</b>	48	179	903	
<b>% ST Population</b>	0.0224	0.079	0.39	
<b>Sex Ratio</b>	<b>SC</b>	1046	1079	1082
	<b>ST</b>	548	530	1120

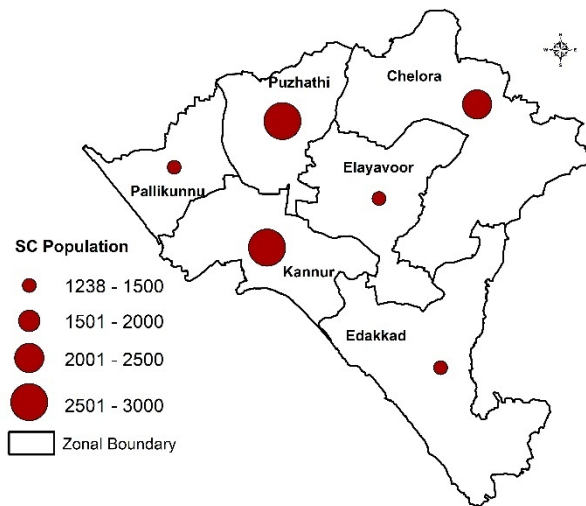


Figure.19.1 Zone wise distribution of SC population in Kannur Corporation area

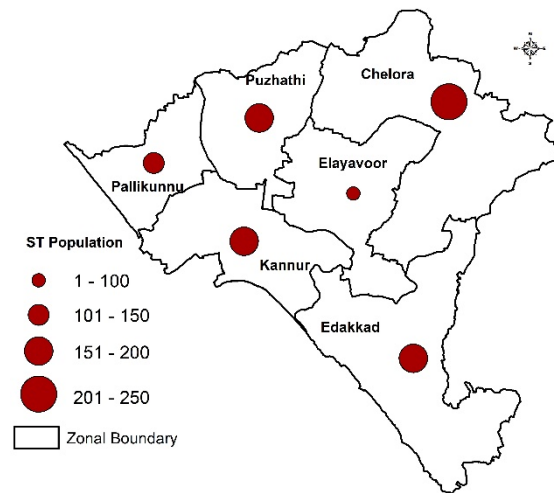


Figure.19.2 Zone wise distribution of ST population in Kannur Corporation area

planning area compared to the district average of 1.64%. The zone wise SC and ST population is shown in Figure.19.1 and Figure.19.2 respectively. It shows that the SC population is the highest in Puzhathi zone (2857) followed by Kannur (2674) and Chelora (2006). The least value of SC population is in Palliikkunu zone (1238). In the case of ST population, highest value is in Chelora zone (211) followed by Edakkad (199) and Puzhathi (166). The least population is in Elayavur zone (62).

### 19.1.2 BELOW POVERTY LINE (BPL)

Below Poverty Line is a benchmark used by the government of India to indicate economic disadvantage and to identify individuals and households in need of government assistance and aid. It is determined using various parameters which vary from state to

state and within states. There are 11450 BPL card holders in the Corporation area. The zone wise distribution of BPL families is shown in Figure.19.3 which indicates that Kannur zone (21%) has large number of BPL families followed by Edakkad (20%) and Puzhathi (18%) zones. Palliikkunnu zone has the least. This shows that poverty is a major problem in the planning area. Hence there is a need for providing considerations to these groups aiming at their economic improvement.

### 19.1.3 CHILDREN

Children are the hope of their parents and simultaneously important assets for future development of any nation. But they are the most vulnerable category to exploitation and abuse. Therefore, every nation must pay full attention to its children

to ensure that they are given proper care in a congenial atmosphere where they will receive adequate opportunities and facilities for proper education, guidance and training for their overall development to become good citizens in future. The growth and development of children into mature and happy persons with attractive personalities mainly depends upon the care and attention they receive from their respective parents and the society in which they live.

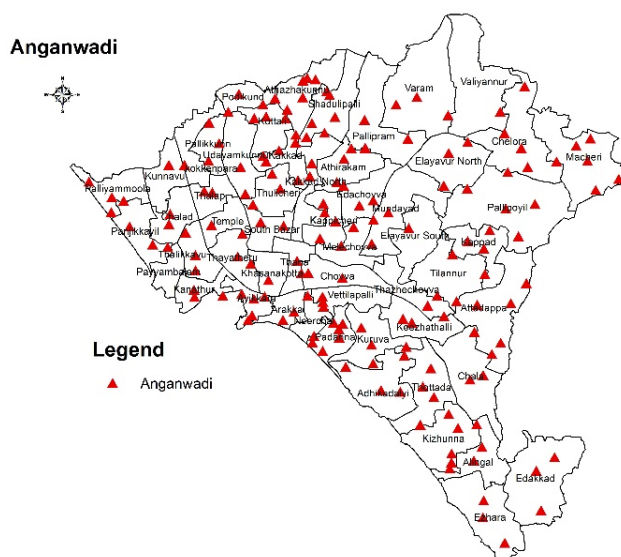


Figure.19.3 Location of Anganwadis in the Corporation area

For the comprehensive child development programs, there are 200 Anganwadis and five Sisu Mandiram in the Corporation area. The Figure.19.3 shows the location of Anganwadis within the planning area.

The number of Anganwadis in each

ward is ranging from one to six. The issues faced by these Anganwadis are lack of own land, infrastructure facilities like drinking water, compound wall, toilet, electric connection, gas connection, furniture, playground, playing equipment etc.

Even though LKG, UKG schools exist in the Corporation area, they are not easily accessible to economically weaker sections. Therefore these kinds of institutions are not functioning as a factor of child development. Malnutrition issues are not a major issue while the issues related to teenage girls like child marriage, health problems are some other challenges faced in the planning area.

There are 18 orphanages distributed in the zones of Kannur (6), Edakkad (5), Elayavur (6) and Pallikkunnu (1).

#### 19.1.4 WOMEN

Women's empowerment in India is heavily dependent on many different variables that include geographical location (urban/rural), educational status, social status (caste and class) and age. The Department of Social Welfare, in its welfare programmes for women, emphasizes the need for initiative, advancing and developing economic empowerment. A number of welfare schemes for women have been undertaken by the Government of India and the State government. In Kannur Corporation area, the active

women welfare program is mainly through Kudumbashree units and is working effectively in all wards. The ward wise distribution of Kudumbasree units is shown in Figure.19.4. About 1107 Kudumbasree units are there in the planning area.

There is no sufficient number of government women’s hostels in the planning area. The lack of women friendly public comfort stations is one of the major problems faced by the women here.

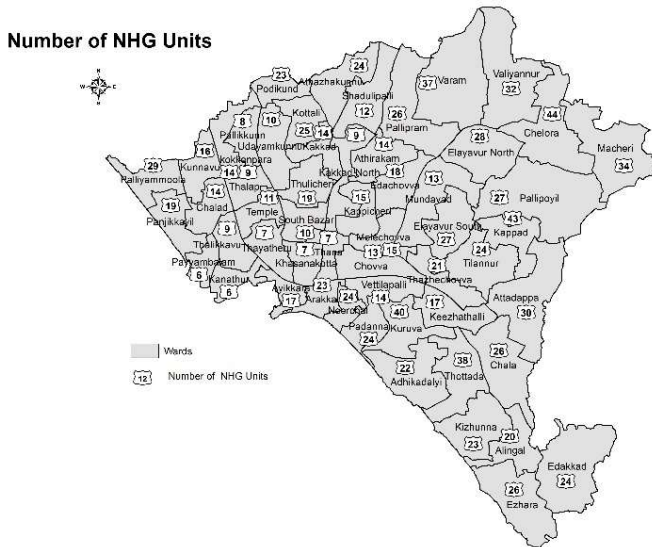
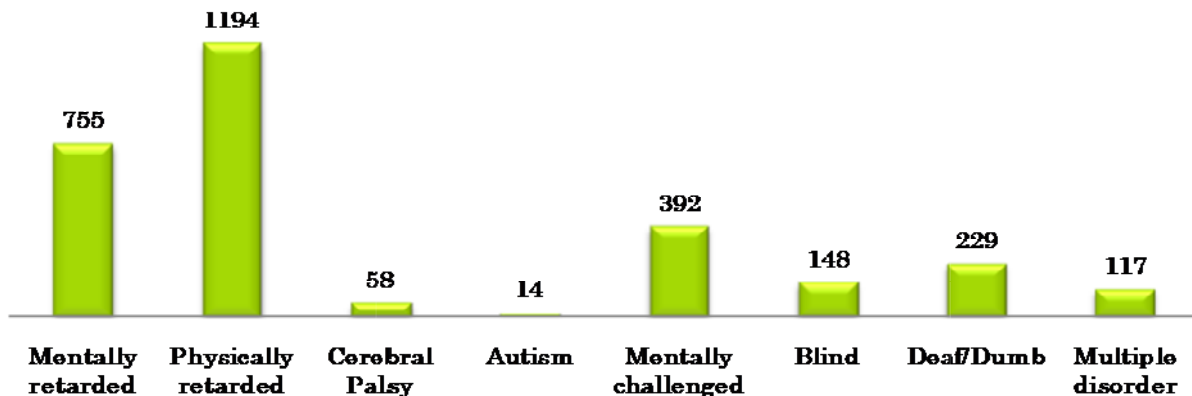


Figure.19.4 Ward wise details of Kudumbasree units in the Corporation area

19.1.5 DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

As per Vikasana Report 2017 - 2022, the details of differently abled groups are shown in Figure.19.5. Among these, the number of mentally and physically challenged children is 166 and 161 respectively. The number of special schools in the planning area is three. About more than 195 children are studying in these special schools. Even though there are no buds school, two buds rehabilitation centres with 33 children are there. Scholarship facilities for the children of such groups are available.



Source: Vikasana Report, 2017-2022

Figure.19.5 Details of differently abled group

### 19.1.6 OLD AGED PEOPLE

Aged people come under the age group above 60. Through projects like Vayomithram and Palliative care, the health issues of this group in the Corporation area have been reduced. But some issues are still there. Details regarding aged people are given in Table.19.2. Old age homes are meant for senior citizens who are unable to stay with their families or are destitute.

*Table.19.2 Details of old age group*

Sl. No.	Age group	Male	Female	Total
1	60-69	7928	9735	17663
2	70-79	3669	4717	8386
3	>80	1612	1430	3042

*Source: Vikasana Report, 2017-2022*

Among the five old age homes in the planning area, four are private and one is under NGO. The total number of community day care centres for old age groups in the planning area are four. The public places are not old age friendly.

### 19.1.7 SOCIAL WELFARE PENSION/FINANCIAL AIDS

Vikasana Report 2017-2022 provides the details of various financial aids provided by Government for the weaker sections of the society. The details are given in Table.19.3.

*Table.19.3 Details of social welfare pension/financial aids*

Sl. No.	Pension Scheme	Male	Female	Total
1	Old age pension	7834	7088	14922
2	Widow pension	0	7258	7258
3	Disabled pension	1129	775	1904
4	Agriculture labourer pension	162	860	1022
5	Unmarried women (>50 age)	0	1793	1793

*Source: Vikasana Report, 2017-2022*

## 19.2 DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS AND PROBLEMS

Both Kudumbasree as well as Anganwadis is functioning very effectively in the Corporation area. Their large number of units itself is the major potential of the planning area which can be utilized for the uplift of the special concern section along with the economic development of the society. Kudumbashree units not only encourage women but also enhance the economic development.

The introduction as well as implementation of various government schemes for the uplift of the poor, backward classes, children, women,



aged and physically disabled persons is successful because of the availability of fund. Various activities in Anganwadis and other centres provide equal opportunity and often promote the development of children in all respects. There are 3 special schools and one buds rehabilitation centre in the Corporation area. Also eighteen orphanages, five old age homes and four community day care centres are also there.

The infrastructural facilities in Anganwadis need to be improved and maintained. The Kudumbashree units functioning within the town require gathering places for meeting and more coordination so as to make it more effective. Moreover, old age homes with proper medical facilities need to be started for the welfare of the poor and the needy. The public places are not old age friendly.

The SC/ST colonies in Kannur Corporation area are facing lack of infrastructure facilities like electricity, drinking water, sanitation, road, study rooms etc. Also, more cultural centres should be provided. Lack of job training centres is another problem faced by the special concern group. Working women's hostel and e-toilets for ladies are lacking within the planning area. Generally public comfort stations are very less. Women friendly public comfort stations are also less.

### 19.3 INFERENCE

The social welfare programmes ensures the safety and security of the public and is therefore essential for the well-being of the society. In Kannur Corporation area, even though 200 Anganvadi units are functioning, they face many issues like infrastructure facilities including lack of own land, drinking water, compound wall, toilet, electric connection, gas connection, furniture, playground, playing equipments etc.

In the planning area, the percentage of SC population is 4.88% whereas that of ST population is 0.39%. The weaker section of the society often remains weak due to marginalisation. Hence all available schemes and funds may be properly implemented and utilized for their uplift.

New orphanages, old age homes, day cares for old age groups, working women's hostel, centres for physically challenged, cultural centres, job training centres for women, and women friendly night stay facilities, women friendly comfort stations etc. may be established so as to promote the economic and social status of the marginalised section of our society.

Sports and various cultural activities are to be promoted among children so as to develop enthusiasm and team spirit. Special programmes and fests may be conducted for the disabled children to make them

competitive. The State and Central Government funds available need to be properly utilized for the uplift of the poor and the needy. Moreover, the rate

of crimes and other malpractices can be greatly reduced by providing necessary social measures.

