

ECOLOGIES OF THE
NEW:
MATTER, MIND & BODY



Volume 2

MES Mampad College (Autonomous)



Ecologies of the New: Matter, Mind & Body

Volume 2

Anthology of Research Papers

Editors

Chief Editor

Dr. P.K. Babu

Associate Editors

Dr. Sajid A. Latheef

Dept. of English, M.E.S Mampad college

Abdul Wahid K.

Dept. of Islamic History, M.E.S Mampad college

Dr. Mehar Al Minnath

Dept. of Chemistry, M.E.S Mampad college

Dr. K.M. Remia

Dept. of Zoology, M.E.S Mampad college

©Publication Division

DGM MES Mampad College

Mampad 676 542

Typesetting by

Sikha Grandhavedi, Olavattur

Lay out

Rajesh monji

Printing

Hopuz Printers Ayikkarappadi

All rights Reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

ISBN 978-93-5300-711-9

23. Female-headed Households in Kerala

Jasna NM
Research Scholar
Department of Economics

Dr. KV Ramachandran
Department of Economics
Dr. John Mathai Centre, Aranattukara

Introduction

The household is regarded as the fundamental social and economic unit of the society. During the last fifteen years we have made considerable progress in identifying the various forms of house hold compositions. Due to the introduction of Globalization, liberalization, and urbanization, . We have moved gradually from a single form of family (joint family) to two forms (nuclear family) and then to a multiplicity of forms. The content of life (husband wife parent and the child relationship) in every household includes the interaction between the members of the household, their sentiments, their emotions, their pleasures and pains, tensions and conflicts etc. These interactions are guided by norms and values attached to position and roles of the members. In this regard every member of the household is important. But every role and relationship in the family, as well as its composition undergoes transformation in the developmental process.

The community that is the subject of this study is constituted of those women who earn the bulk of the family income and takes all the responsibilities of that family, widows, deserted and divorced women, and women who are separated from their husbands from long stretches of time due to migration and are virtually the heads of the households.

In this study I explore the factors that led to the creation of female headed households in Kerala and also identifying the problems and economic survival of the women to whom the Indian society and data system provide only very sketchy information.

The household is regarded as the fundamental social and economic unit of the society. Households headed by women have become more significant phenomenon worldwide in the last half of the 20th and beginning of 21st century. In many countries in the third world like Asian or Latin American countries, in the recent years, there has been a significant increase in the percentage of female headed households (FHH).

It is an important fact that female headed households are rising in number and proportion in most developing regions, currently constituting an estimated 13% of all households in the middle east and north africa, 16% in Asia, 22% in sub-Saharan Africa, and 24% in Latin America. In developing countries majority of households that are headed by women have many economic