



International Conference

By

Inter University Center for Alternative Economics (IUCAE)

Department of Economics, University of Kerala

On

Restructuring Kerala Economy: Alternative Perspectives

Dates: 21-23 January, 2019

On the Conference

Kerala's economy had witnessed structural changes during the period of 1980-81 to 2010-11 although the sustainability of the trajectory of growth during this period remains debatable. One of the structural changes is the sharp reduction in the share of primary sector in Gross State Domestic Product with the corresponding decline in employment share. The service sector-led growth did not offer employment opportunities that would match its returns. The process of industrialization failed to take off as is evident from the falling share of income from the secondary sector. According to the Kerala State Planning Board reports, growth in the state economy has been declining recently. For instance, the GSDP growth rate that continuously stood above the national average began to show a declining trend from 2012-2013. It further slipped to 8.6 percent in 2015-2016, when the national average stood at 9.9 percent.

Another major factor that affected the state was the decreased inflow of foreign remittances. As a result, the activities in the state, particularly in the fields of construction, trade and real estate have weakened. The decline in export demand, combined with national trade policies had resulted in a decrease in the prices of plantation and related products affecting adversely the traditional industries that had been the backbone of the state's economy. In Kerala, many macro-economic problems were exacerbated by the demonetization policy. It negatively affected the purchasing power of the people and the economic activities of agriculture, handloom, coir and other small scale industries in the state. The State also faces the problems due to an ageing population, rapidly increasing urbanisation and increasing pressures on natural resources. The frequent flash floods, droughts, landslides, salinity intrusion, soil erosion, water logging, silting of reservoirs and pollution are the major consequences of anthropogenic activities, all capable of causing serious ecological and environmental damages. The hydrologic modification of wetlands and over exploitation of groundwater also pose challenges in many parts of the state.

Kerala's development attains the status of an independent model that is often termed as 'the Kerala Model'. The 'Model' which is counted as a potential idealization of a 'sustainable development paradigm' had primarily concentrated on social sector development particularly health and education. For the last several decades, Kerala's achievements in health sector have been a subject of international attention. At the same time, with rapid changes in socio-economic and behavioral patterns, Kerala's health system is also facing several newer challenges. Higher

education in Kerala is faced with several problems such as over commercialization of education, eroding standards of teaching and absence of national as well as regional linkage and monitoring mechanisms. Even in the context of a fast growing world economy, the state has been following an outdated model of ‘white collar’ higher education system. The state needs to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and skill development to accelerate the process of investment and employment generation for encouraging both economic development and environmental sustainability. For sustainable development of the economy, it is necessary to improve the quality of growth in terms of productive capacity, structural transformation and human development.

The disastrous flood of 2018 is estimated to be the most damaging one which has resulted in the huge loss of lives and economic assets in the state. The total death due to Kerala floods stands at 506 with 54,11,712 people affected. The floods have damaged 1952 houses fully and 21964 partially. The floods have affected over 57024 Ha of total crop area and caused massive damage to state infrastructure. By the estimates of World Bank, ADB and UN agencies, the loss of assets is valued at Rs.31000 Cr which is more than the annual plan expenditure of the state. Almost all sectors have been affected, especially agriculture, electricity, roads and public institutions that provide basic services and hence its impact on Kerala society and economy particularly on state finance and productive sectors will be substantially damaging. Already the state is in an unsustainable path of development and the problems emerged out of the recent flood make it more unsustainable. The State is vulnerable in getting more funds from external sources due to the stringent measures of the central government in receiving funds. The state needs to tap its own sources along with whatever funds made available by the Central government and utilize it more effectively. In the context, it is high time the state of Kerala to design and implement measures for the development of sustainable agricultural practices, sustainable high-tech industry, alternative energy sources, waste management system, and a strong ecotourism industry maintained by advanced legislation.

In order to discuss these aspects for Restructuring Kerala Economy, a three day International conference is proposed to be held during January 2019 by the Inter University Centre for Alternative Economics, University of Kerala. A deliberate attempt is made to get the participation of those resource persons and delegates looking at some of the alternative development options and proceed to explore the possibilities of policy formulation in the context of rebuilding the post-disaster Kerala.

Papers that relate to the above issues are therefore especially welcome. Topics intended to be covered may thus include but are not limited to:

Performance evaluation, problem identification and rebuilding:

- I. Demographic transition, ageing and health
Internal and External Migration and the labor market
Rehabilitation of return migrants
Socio –economic inequalities and sustainable development
- II. Agriculture and allied sectors in Kerala
Livelihood and development
Urbanization and Rural development
Food security, Poverty and Unemployment
Land acquisition, real estate and rehabilitation

- III. Industry, Power and Infrastructure
MSME, PSUs, Food Processing and Traditional Industries
IT & Others
- IV. Tourism: Medical and Eco tourism
Banking and financial institutions in Kerala
State Finances and Fiscal crisis
Local Governance and Decentralisation
- V. Education (School, Higher & Professional and Technical)
Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Employment
Development of SC/ST and the marginalised
Social Security and Welfare
Gender Development
- VI. Sustainable development-
Directly productive and social sectors, Ecological sustainability, Agro Ecological Practices
- VII. Innovations, lessons learned and best practices,
Programmes and Policy challenges

Expected Resource Persons:

Prof. M.A. Oommen	Prof. K. S. Chandrasekhar	Prof Thomas Issac	Prof. Mrudul Eapen
Prof K. P Kannan	Dr. Rajan Gurukkal	Dr. B A Prakash	Govindan Parayil
Sthanumoorthy	N.R. Madhava Menon	Prof. D. Narayana	Prof Sunil Mani
Joseph tharamangalam	Prof. Irudayarajan	Prof. Matrin Patrik	Dr. Rajan Varughese
Dr.B.Iqbal	Dr. Rajasenana. D	R .Mohan, IRS	Prof. Visakhavarma
Dr.S. Harikumar	Dr. Mary George	Dr. Janki Andharia	Dr. Vinoj Abraham
Dr. M. Kabir	Dr. Cyriac Mathews	Dr.Vijayamohanan Pillai	Prof. K.P. Mani
Dr. Jose Sebastian	Dr. Jose Jayan	Dr. T. T..Sreekumar	Dr. J Devika
Dr. Shyjan Davis			

Call for Abstracts and Full papers

Researchers and academicians are invited to present papers in the themes proposed. The detailed abstract (500-700 words) should be in word format including the name of the Author, designation, affiliation, email and contact number. The abstract including the theme title with a statement of Problem, Methodology in brief, arguments and major findings should be sent to the following email ID: iucae2016@gmail.com

Acceptance of the paper will be intimated by e-mail. Paper presentation can be allowed only after the participant's registration and submission of the full paper. No abstract will be considered for pre-conference publication without registration. **Selected papers after refereeing will be published in the form of book by a well known publisher.** A complimentary copy of the publication will be given to all the contributors. For more details, visit our website: www.iucae-ku.in or kerala university website.

Important Dates

Sending the paper title with Name & address	: on or before 20/11/2018
Submission of detailed abstract	: on or before 30/11 /2018
Decision on acceptance of papers	: on or before 03/12/2018
Submission of full paper	: on or before 11/01/2019
Conference Dates	: 21-23 January, 2019

Delegate Fee

Teachers/ NGO members/ Activists	:Rs. 1000/-
Researchers	: Rs. 500/-
Post Graduate/ M.Phil Students	: Rs. 200/-

The delegates and participants are directed to register their names on or before January 15, 2019 in the form attached. Registration fee may be sent by Demand draft in favour of **Honorary Director, IUCAE** (Account Number : 67328586530, IFSC Code: SBIN0070043, SBI Karyavattom Campus Branch). Registration fee may also be remitted directly in cash. The Registration fee covers Conference Kit, Lunch and Tea. Registration form is attached.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided on request on conference days at nominal charge. Those requiring accommodation should convey the same on or before 14/01/2019.

On IUCAE

At present the neo classical economic ideas, which are taught as universally acceptable principles and policies, are prescribed as one size fit for all. This homogenization is derived from the individual rationality and utility maximization principle. AmartyaSen in his essay "Rational Fools" had given a critique to the behavioral foundation of such a single fit of the conceptual and theoretical underpinning of theory and practice. Given the kind of socio economic reality of the present world economy, he kept arguing that the persuasion of standardized norm is not helpful for all, at least to achieve development and its assessment. It invokes us to think alternative trajectories to evaluate and pursue the question of development. At an alternative level, humanism is increasingly foregrounded in resolving present problems and the whole socio economic and even the political framework is incrementally getting revolutionized on the principles of rights rather than individual rationality. Development thus envisages new economic ideas and policy regimes, which need to be studied and evaluated with utmost care and quality. This begs us to have studies beyond the mainstream and dominant views and approaches that are very much embedded in the curriculum, which slowly dismisses the heterodoxy of economic approaches. In this context Inter University Centre for Alternative Economics (IUCAE) is designed and committed to make discussions across the schools and approaches.

Our Focus Areas

- ❖ *Neuroeconomics* *Open Economics* *Institutional Economics*
- ❖ *Ecological Economics* *Gandhian Economics* *Marxian Economics*
- ❖ *Islamic Economics* *Law and Economics* *Economics of Human Capital*
- ❖ *Economics of alternative development paradigms*

Programmes already conducted during October 2015- October 2018

Inter University Lecture Series

1. *Prof. Prabhat Patnaik of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 20/10/2015 on the topic 'Privatisation of Higher Education in India'.*
2. *Prof. Ramakumar, TISS, Mumbai on the topic "Agrarian crisis in India" on 7th April 2016*
3. *Prof. Mark Lindley, University of Zaragoza, Spain on the topic "A History of Ecological Sensibilities in Modern Western Culture" on 8th November 2016.*
4. *Prof. R Govinda, Council for Social Development on the topic "Governance and Quality of Higher Education in India" on 9th November 2017*
5. *Dr. Surajit Das, Jawaharlal Nehru University, on the topic, "Fiscal Conservatism and Human Development: Contemporary Issues and Alternatives" on 5th July 2018.*
6. *Prof. Sunil Mani, Director, CDS, on the topic "Technology and Employment in India- Alternative Perspectives" on 5th November 2018.*

International conferences/ Seminars

1. *International conference on 'The Development Question in a Developing Economy: Can Strategies of Past and Present Give a Future?', 4th-6th April, 2016*
2. *International Seminar on 'Higher Education in a Developing Economy: Problems, Policies and Perspectives' during 24th-26th October 2016*
3. *International Seminar on "Law and Institutions for Economic Development: Theory and Practice from India", Dates: 9th-11th August 2017*
4. *International Conference on "Ecology, Economy and Society", Dates: 16th-18th, August 2018.*

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REGISTRATION FORM

Three Days International Conference on

- Name (in CAPITAL Letters) :
- Designation :
- Department and Institution :
- Address for Communication :
- E-mail ID & Mobile Number :
- Title of the Paper :
- Details of Co-author(s) if any :
- Years of Teaching/Research Experience :
- No of Articles published in Refereed journals/Books :
- No of Books/Reports published :
- No of national/International seminars or Conferences or Workshops in which papers presented:
- Areas of Research:
- Other:
- Food: Veg Non-Veg
- Accommodation: Yes No

Signature