

Project title	Report on the Methodological Study to Design a System for Collection, Compilation, Updating and Maintenance of Statistics for Decentralised Planning
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Abstract

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments and the Kerala Panchayat Raj and Municipalities Acts of 1994 have created a third tier of governance in Kerala. Government adopted an approach in transferring functions, funds, and functionaries to local self-governments. Based on a proposal Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India accorded financial sanction for a methodological Study to design a system for collection, compilation, updating and maintenance of Statistics for decentralised planning to Kerala Statistical Institute.

Data in the Panchayats, Municipal offices and in local offices were collected by different agencies independently and they were not shared with others. The duplication thus occurring could be avoided by designing a common schedule. Functionaries send periodical reports regularly to higher-level officers, forwarded to District offices and to the respective Directorates. The study team examined the reports prepared by the activists of the People's Plan Campaign during 1996-97. It was recommended that Grama Panchayats/Municipalities should consolidate, maintain, and own Local Self Government level data.

Local governments implement schemes and programmes for improving the living conditions. For, Information about all households within its jurisdiction is needed. Hence a census type socio-economic survey was suggested before every Five-Year Plan.

For estimating agricultural statistics and socio-economic survey, a case study was conducted in the Pallichal Grama Panchayat of Thiruvananthapuram. Agricultural Statistics in Kerala (1975-76) are collected under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Establishment of an Agency for Reporting Agricultural Statistics – EARAS. As per this scheme statistics on land utilization, area under crops, yield rates and other details were estimated based on sample surveys. Nearly 50% of the manpower was needed for collection and compilation of agricultural statistics. There would be considerable decrease in the work of staff if area was decreased, and area estimation of perennial crops was carried once in five years.

It is necessary to have statistical personnel to collect and scrutinize primary statistics and consolidate data from various secondary sources at various levels. These persons should be at least graduates possessing adequate knowledge of statistical work. By restructuring the EARAS scheme, annual agricultural statistics and other data could be collected and compiled by persons with statistics background proposed to be posted in each Local Self Government. There were 33027 Anganwadi Centers (AWCs). They could be entrusted with the statistical work at LSG level. The workers from the AWCs could visit the households frequently, establish good contact with the members, conduct annual surveys and maintain relevant Registers.

