Human Development Index :
The Kerala Model

2021 marks the 30th anniversary of the Human Development Report, which details the concept of human development index. Human Development Index (HDI) is a statistical tool to measure the achievements of the country not only through economic welfare but also the social domain. It is a complex composite which includes factors like long healthy life, standard of living, knowledge and empowerment. This study attempts to look at the position of India's human development index value with respect to other countries. The research also focuses on the variation of HDI value across India's different states. The research paper studies the Kerala model and tries to identify the factors contributing towards high index value. Kerala stands out as a unique case when compared to the rest of the Indian states in terms of its human development index. The variation in the HDI value among different states can be captured from the fact that the lowest value is Bihar with 0.574 and the highest value is Kerala with 0.782. The per capita income of Kerala is low in spite of social indicators at par with the developed world. The study uses structured questionnaire methods to understand the expert's opinion on the stagnant growth of Kerala. Convenient sampling was used to identify seven experts including leading economists and senior officials across various government departments including from the Department of Finance of Kerala. The research suggests that the Kerala model of development emphasizes sustained and progressive improvements in education and healthcare. The credit of high Human Development Index value can be given to the current and historic state policies that have been able to reduce social inequality and income and consumption by popularising social movements on developmental issues. The study concludes that social development is a prerequisite for economic growth. Thus, every state in India should develop their education and health policies to improve the development of the people.