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DISCOURSES ON KERALA MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT AND DALITS

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Abstract

The Kerala model of development has been a significant feature of various social science studies and political discussions since the 1980's. Achievements of Kerala in various fields in the social sector and high indices of human development have brought the attention of scholars and activists from all over the world. Their achievements are all the more significant since these outcomes were the products of development paths that prioritized "human development" and general social security rather than relying on the elusive trickle-down effect of high economic growth, which is the conventional path. The focal point of discussion was on the level of social development that the state achieved without having corresponding economic development and industrial base. Due to these factors, the success of Kerala model of development became a curious case and a fascinating area of inquiry. Thereafter a new debate has emerged on the 'outlier' aspects of this model of development and human and natural environments in Kerala.

Keywords: *Marginalization, Dalit communities, Kerala Development Model.*

The State of Kerala has been widely praised for creating an altogether unique model of development which is distinct from communist socialism and free market capitalism featuring equitable distribution of resources, developments in social welfare and human capabilities (Krishnaji, 1979). Kerala model of development has been recognized and celebrated as a great achievement by international institutions like United Nations and various funding agencies and non-governmental organizations and so on. The role of international community, particularly the academics, researchers and policy makers have to be emphasized in the debates on local, national and international contents of Kerala model. Amartya Sen had played a key role in highlighting the peculiar aspects of the Kerala model and the achievements of the state within the context of relative backwardness in economic and industrial spheres.

According to Sen, 'there are great many things we can learn from within the country by using the diversity of our experience, particularly in the use of public action-involving the public itself as well as government. Despite the fact that economic growth of Kerala has been sluggish... it has been able to achieve tremendous results in important areas such as literacy, life expectancy and morality rates. The Indian government should try to emulate the Kerala experience (Kurian, 1995). Therefore, in order to have a clear understanding of the Kerala model, it is better to include a background understanding of the social factors which had contributed towards shaping a particular trajectory of social and human development which later come to be known as Kerala model. Through there exist differing views and opinions among scholars who worked on Kerala model about the actual results

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