COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS IN SELECTED LOCALITITES OF VILLAGE IN KERALA

A case study of Mukkattupady and Aramala Locality, Thrickodithanam Village and Kannidumkuzhi, Illappunkal and Mahanimala locality of Naranganam Village

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Abstract: In Kerala, Thrickodithanam village is situated in Kottayam district whereas Naranganam village is situated in Pathanamthitta Disttrict. Naranganam villages has stunning natural beauty as surrounded by hills and Thrickodithanam village has a plain topography with close proximity to backwaters of Kerala. This study is to find the working and living condition of the people. The objectives of this study to know all the aspects of the socio-economic condition. The work is mainly based on the primary data resources which are collected with the help of qualitative and quantitative methods. The condition of this area is represented with the help of some visual statistical tools. Therefore, it is very important to explore the socio-economic status of these areas concerning their demography, occupational structure, education, employment, income, housing characteristics, and Government schemes. There are many natural resources available to use in their sustainable livelihood development. Therefore, in this paper an attempt has been made to analyze the socio-economic condition of these villages.

Keywords: Socio-economic condition, *Thrickodithanam*, *Naranganam* ,Sustainable Development

1. Introduction:

The survey is conducted with the help of Naranganam & Thrickodithanam Gram Panchayat and DIBNS, Dehradun. The questionnaire is specifically designed to fulfil the objectives of the survey. The questions in the questionnaire are divided into 7 different categories. The last section of the questionnaire consists of observer's view and feedback. The questions are based on the social and economic issues of the villagers, their education, professions, income level, expenditure, composition of family, fuel use etc.

2. Objectives:

The objectives of a socio-economic survey can vary depending on the specific context and purpose of the survey. However, here are some common objectives that are typically pursued in such surveys:

1. Understanding Demographics: Socio-economic surveys often aim to gather information about the population's characteristics, such as age, gender, education level, occupation, income, and household size. This data helps in assessing the social and economic composition of the target population.
2. Assessing Economic Conditions: The survey may seek to gather data on various economic aspects, including income distribution, poverty levels, employment rates, types of industries, and access to financial services. This information helps in analyzing the economic well-being of individuals and communities.
3. Identifying Social Indicators: Socio-economic surveys often include questions related to social indicators, such as access to education, healthcare, housing, and basic amenities like water and sanitation. These indicators help in evaluating the social development and quality of life of the surveyed population.
4. Analyzing Inequality and Disparities: By collecting data on income, education, and other socio-economic factors, surveys can provide insights into inequalities and disparities within a population. This information is crucial for policymakers to design targeted interventions and programs to address these gaps.

3. Research Methodology

This study involves both primary and secondary data, which are published and unpublished sources. The Secondary data regarding the village's history, about the population, about the governing body etc. was gathered from Village Panchayat Office and other institutions like Public Library. The quantitative method is used for the collection of data. The primary data has been generated through a census which is held in these villages. Various methods were applied for the collection of data from the entire locality. These methods – Random Sampling method, Questionnaire method, & Observation method.The household survey is done from 16th September 2022 to 30th September 2022 in *Naranganam village* and from 30th October 2022 to 13th November 2022 in *Thrickodithanam village*. Sample size for conducting survey is 10% of total household which has been selected through random sampling method. The data has been collected through a structured questionnaire and personal door-to-door interviews. For the collection of qualitative data, like quality of drinking water, quality of the road, housing pattern which were obtained from the village after interaction with the villagers.

Literacy rate has been computed excluding the age group of 0-6 year's population in this area. It is calculated with the help of under mentioned formula:

Literacy Rate (%) = $(Li\,/pi) \times \mathbf{100}$
Li = Literate people in a particular region in a particular time
Pi = Total population of the particular region in a particular time

4. Study Area

Naranganam village is located at 9 19'50'N 76 44'5'E in the Kozhencherry block of the Pathanamthitta district in the state of Kerala.it is situated at an altitude of 18m (AMSL). It is located approximately 10KM from the district Headquarters Pathanamthitta and 108 Km from the state capital Thiruvananthapuram. The total geographic area of the village is 2042 hectares.

Thrickodithanam village is located at 9.4407˚N and 76.5607˚E in Changanassery Town, in the district of Kottayam, Kerala. It is situated at an altitude of 11m (amsl), just 3kms away from the Changanassery town and 126kms away from the state capital Thiruvananthapuram. The place is well connected with the metropolitan cities and other major cities of the state and the country by well-constructed metallic roads and a State Highway passing through 2kms away. The nearest Railway station being the Changanassery Railway Station just 2.5kms from the location and nearest Airport being Cochin International Airport, Nedumbassery, Kochi distanced about 100km from the village.

4. Data Interpretation:

The data collected from the village was analyzed with the help of MS Excel, and the findings were concluded by using algorithms and mathematical operations. Efforts were made to collect different information regarding social and economic status of the villagers from all caste and economical group. And the final report analyses both the quantitative and qualitative data. Mathematical operations like percentage, averages etc. were used to analyse the data collected on various parameters like sex ratio, cropping pattern, land holding, occupations, literacy rate, livestock assets and different infrastructures like road etc

5. Results & Discussion

Socioeconomic surveys provide a comprehensive understanding of the socioeconomic dynamics within village communities. They help assess the living conditions, income levels, education, health, and access to basic amenities among these communities. By collecting data on various socioeconomic indicators, surveys shed light on the specific challenges faced villages communities, enabling policymakers to develop targeted interventions for poverty alleviation, livelihood improvement, and overall socio-economic development.

5.1 Demographic Status

Demography is the study of human populations, focusing on their size, structure, and dynamics. It examines various aspects of population such as birth rates, death rates, migration patterns, age distribution, and factors influencing population change over time and also enabling us to develop effective strategies to address social, economic, and developmental challenges. It is a statistical and mathematical tool to determine the status. With the help of the primary data collection method i.e. questionnaire-based, population data collected from both the villages. Population density of Thrickodithanam village is more than Narangnam village.The data show that every village has its demographic uniqueness. The other data is following:

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Surveyed Sample Size of Selected Villages
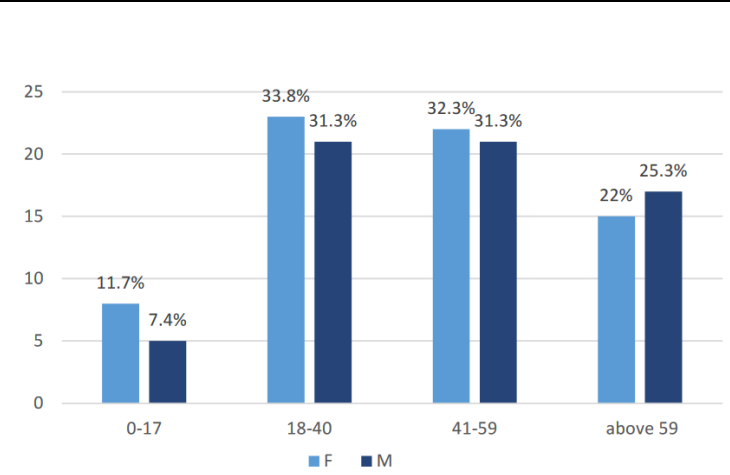
S.No.	Village Name	Localities Surveyed	Household	Total Population	Male	Female	Literacy Rate	Sex Ratio
1.	Thrickodithanam	Mukkattupady and Aramala	80	327	157	170	100%	1:1.08
2.	Naranganam.	Kannidumkuzhi, Illappunkal and Mahanimala	72	360	180	180	100%	1:1

Age Profile
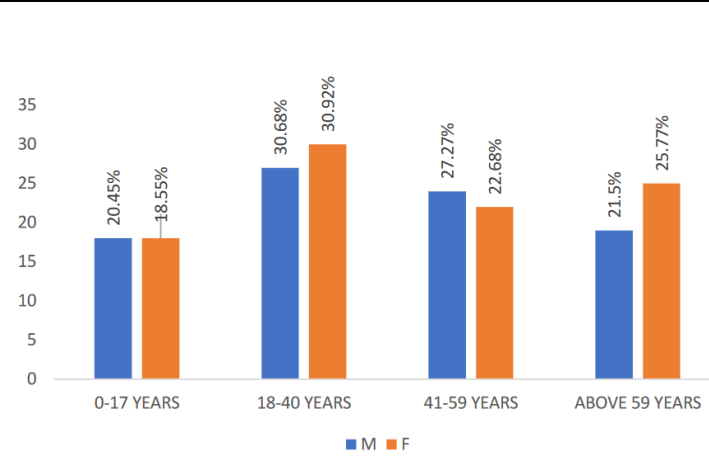
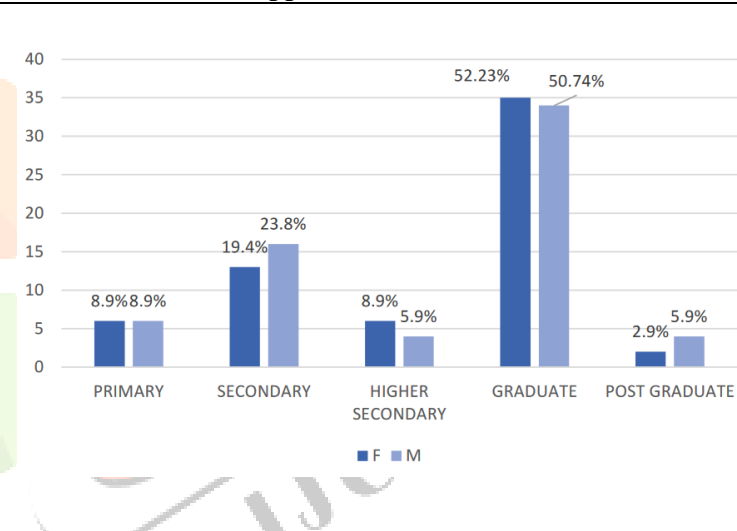| Mukkattupady and Aramala	Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala

Educational Status
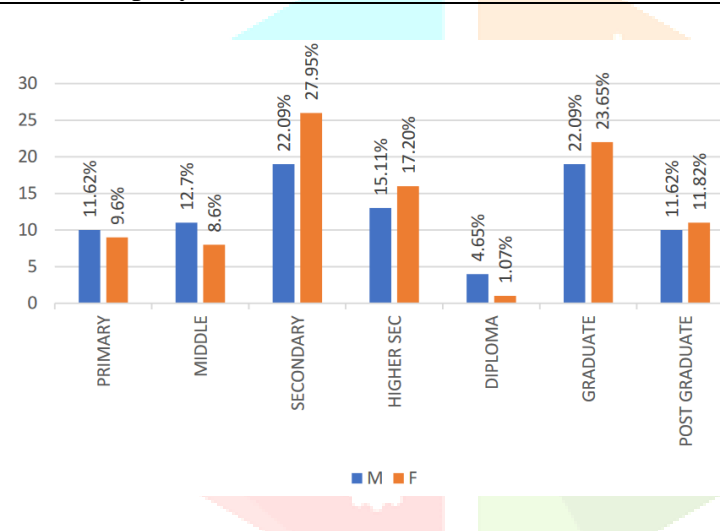
Mukkattupady and Aramala	Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala

S. No.	Type	Educational Establishment in Numbers	
		Mukkattupady and Aramala	Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala
1	Anganwadi	03	00
2	Kintergarten	00	01
3	Primary School	02	02
4	Secondary School	01	02
5	College	00	01

5.2 Occupation structure (Main source of Household income, Income groups, Expenditure)

Occupation structure refers to the distribution of individuals across different types of employment or occupations within a population. It provides insights into the composition of the workforce and the types of jobs individuals are engaged in. Occupation structure includes Occupational Categories, Employment Patterns and Skill Levels. Occupation structure represents the distribution of individuals across different employment sectors or occupations. It is a valuable tool for analyzing the main sources of Household income, Income groups, and Expenditure.

Major Source of Income	
Mukkattupady and Aramala	Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala
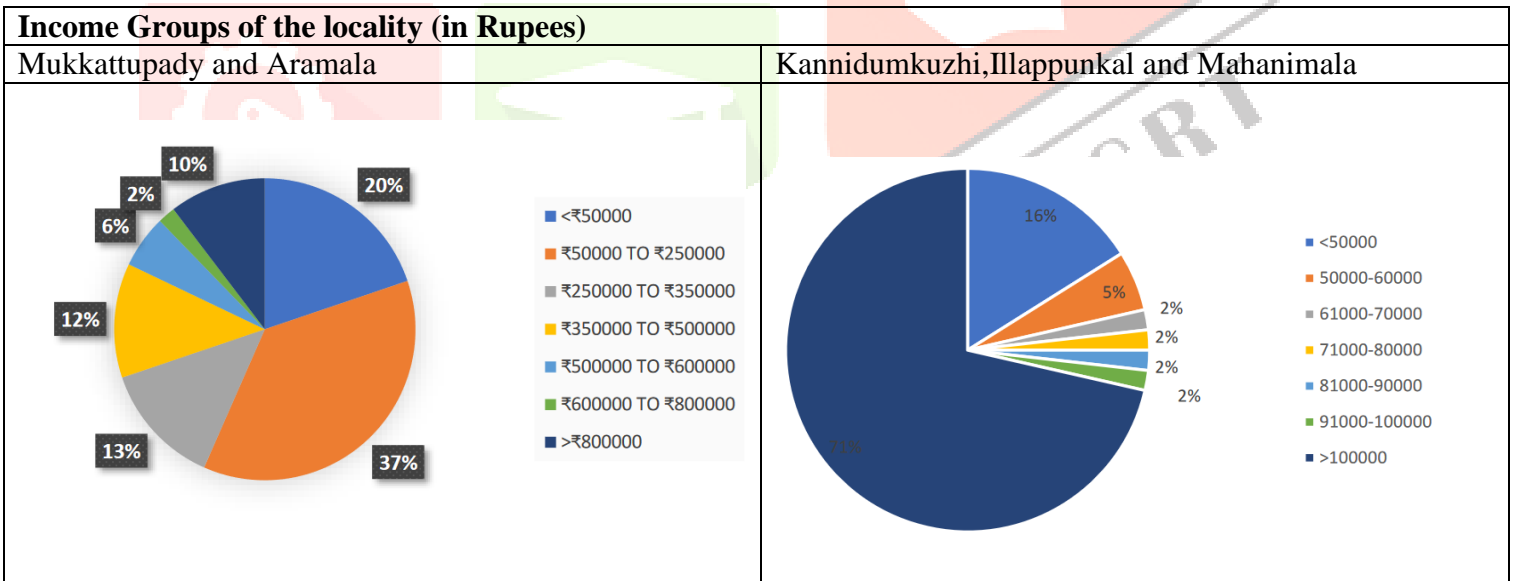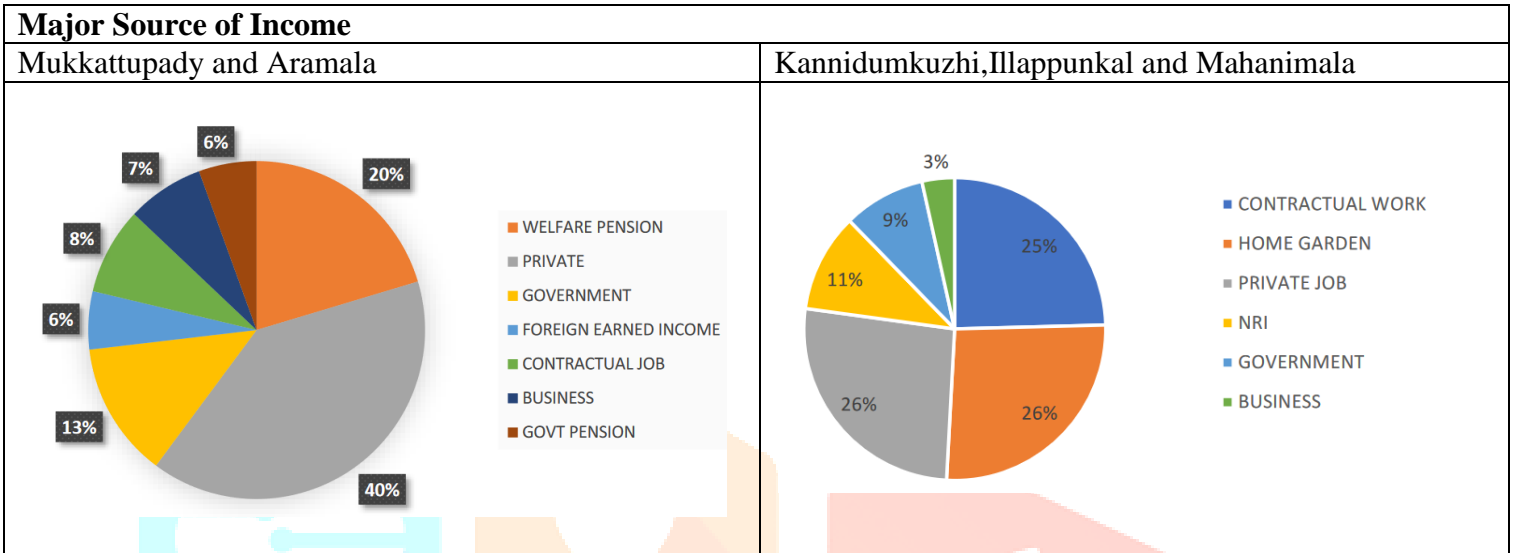
Income Groups of the locality (in Rupees)	
Mukkattupady and Aramala	Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala
Household Expenditure	
Mukkattupady and Aramala	Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala
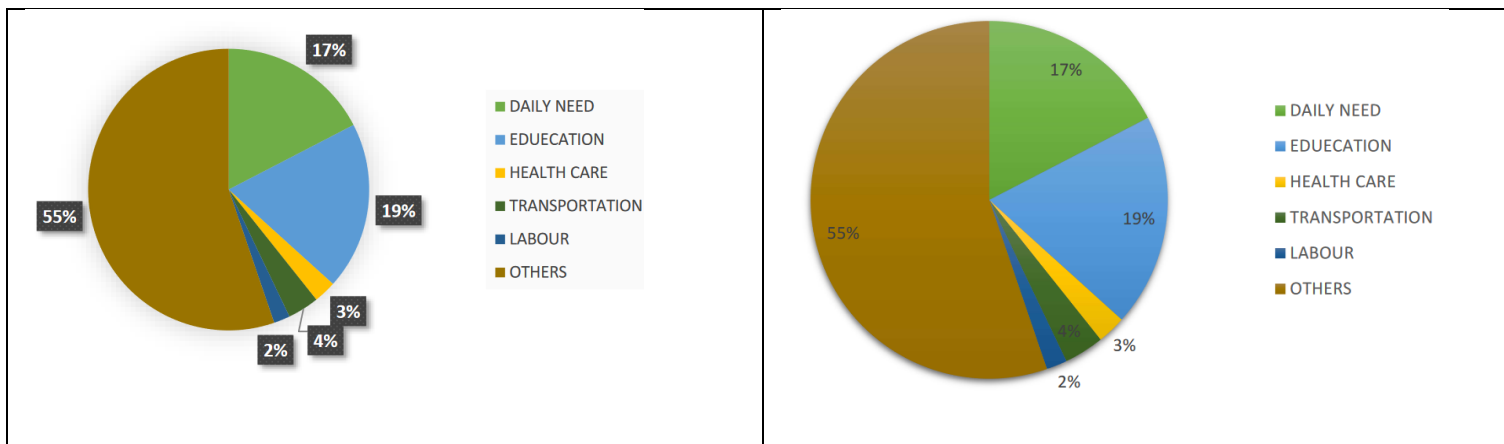
5.3 Quality of Residence

The quality of residence refers to the characteristics and conditions of a person's living environment. It encompasses various factors that contribute to the overall well-being, comfort, and suitability of a dwelling. The quality of residence plays a significant role in individuals' quality of life and can impact their physical health, mental well-being, and overall happiness.

| House Type	
Mukkattupady and Aramala	Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala
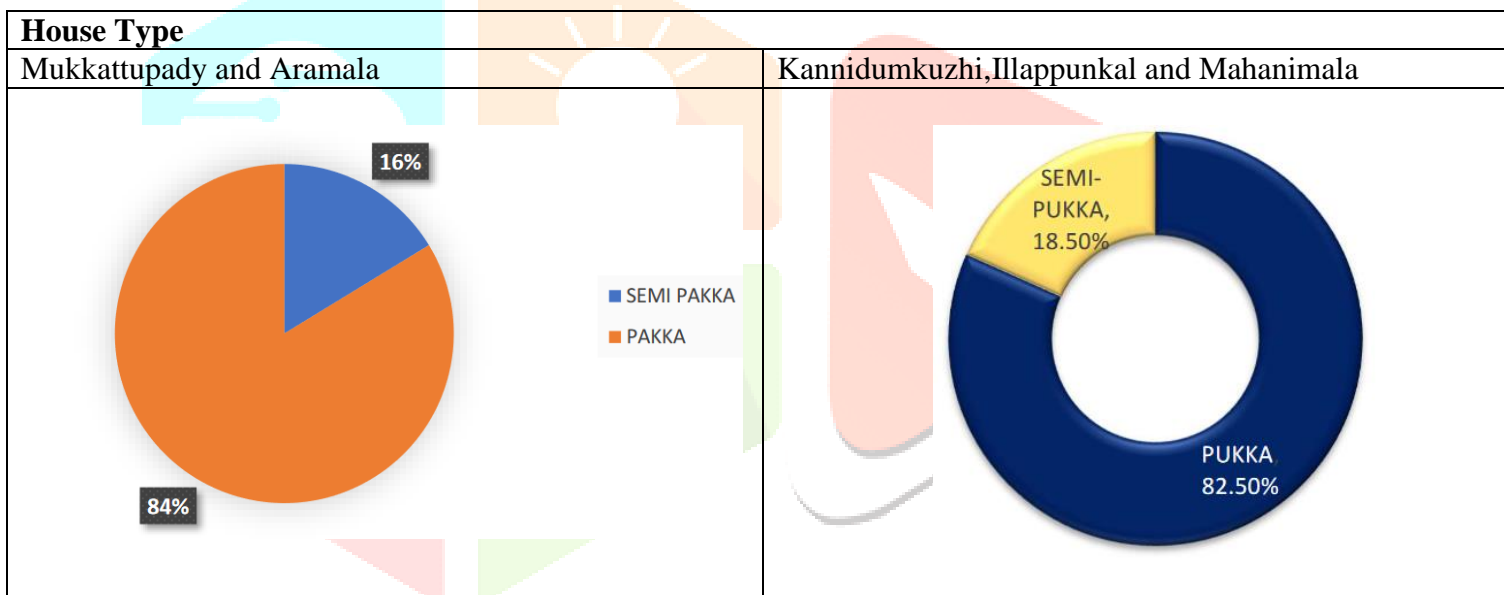
5.4 Medical facilities

Medical facilities are institutions or locations where healthcare services are provided to individuals seeking medical treatment, diagnosis, prevention, or rehabilitation. These facilities play a crucial role in promoting public health, providing necessary care, and addressing the healthcare needs of communities.

S. No.	Type	Medical Establishment in Numbers	
		Mukkattupady and Aramala	Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala
1	Primary Health Centre	01	01
2	Government Ayurvedic Dispensary	01	01
3	Govt. Homeopathic Dispensary	01	00
4	Government Medical College Hospital	00	01

5.5 Fuel Type used

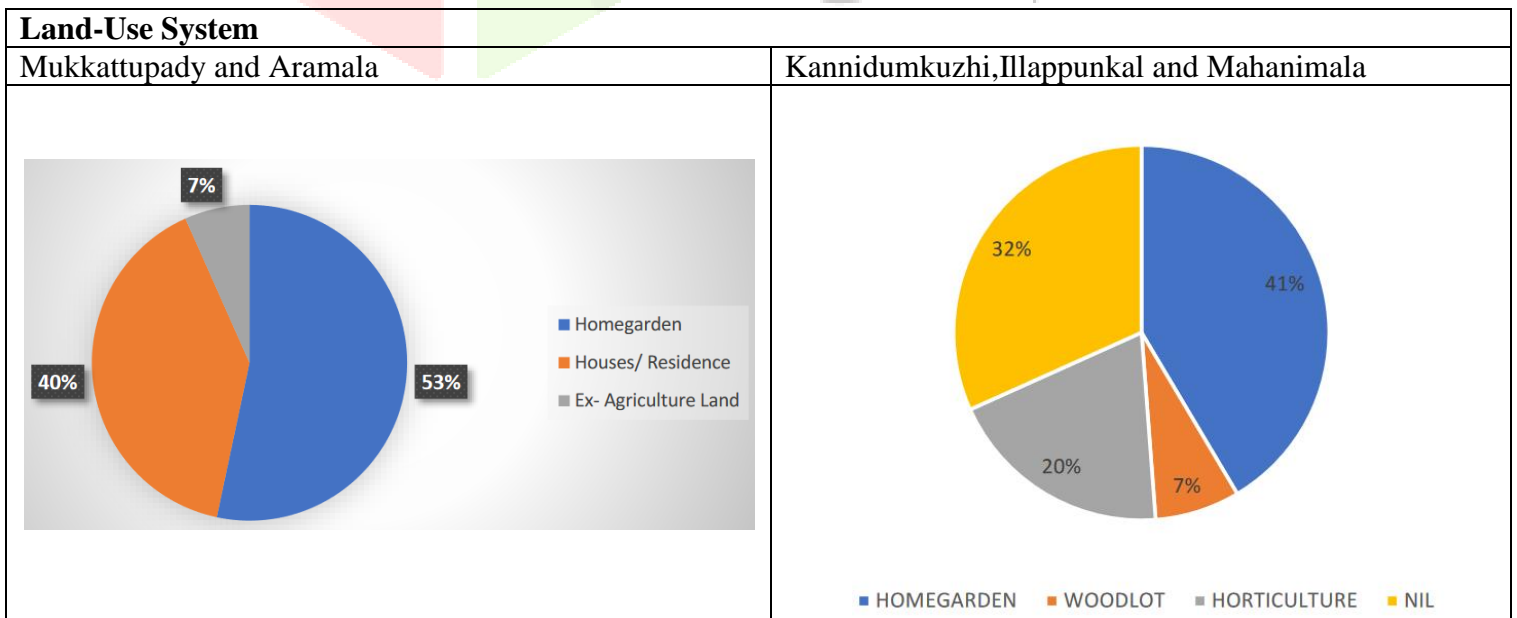| Fuel Type Used	
Mukkattupady and Aramala	Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala
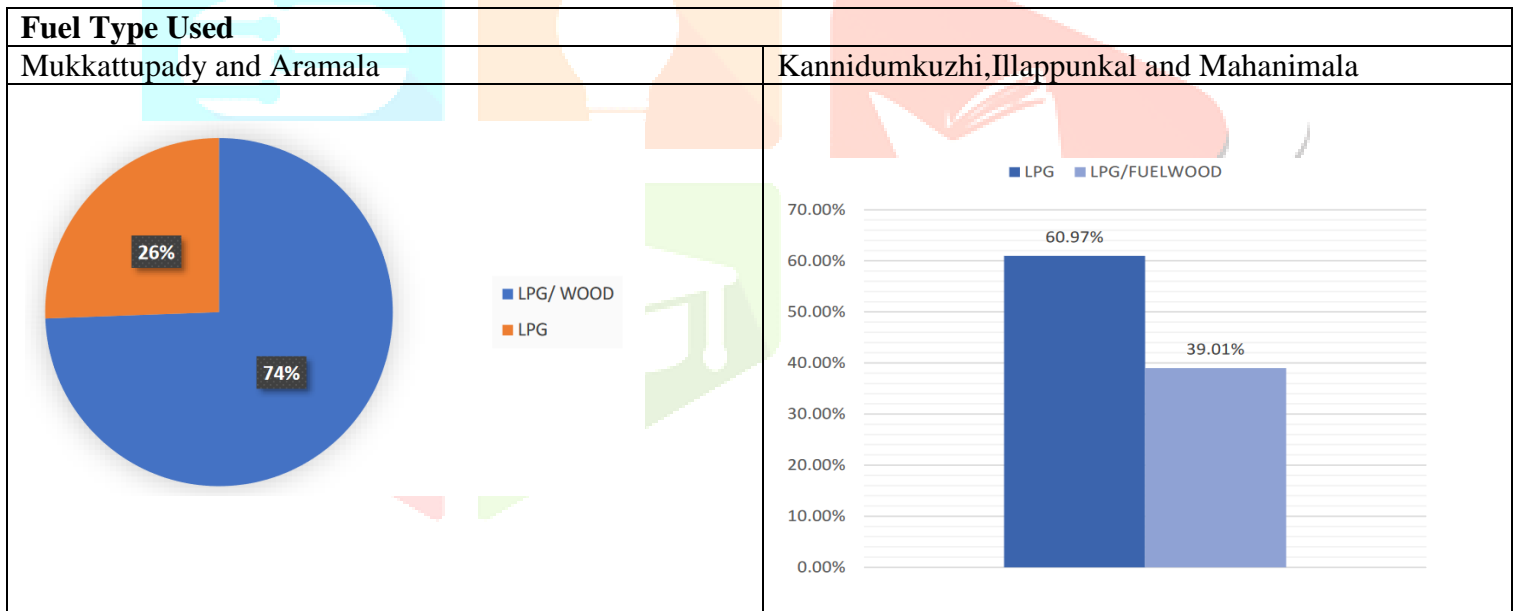
5.6 Land Holding Status:

"Land holding status" often refers to a piece of land's ownership or tenure status. It identifies the formal or informal claims that a person or group of people or other entities have to a certain piece of land. The legal framework, patterns of land tenure, and property laws of a nation can all affect the land holding status."

Land Holding Status	
Mukkattupady and Aramala	Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala
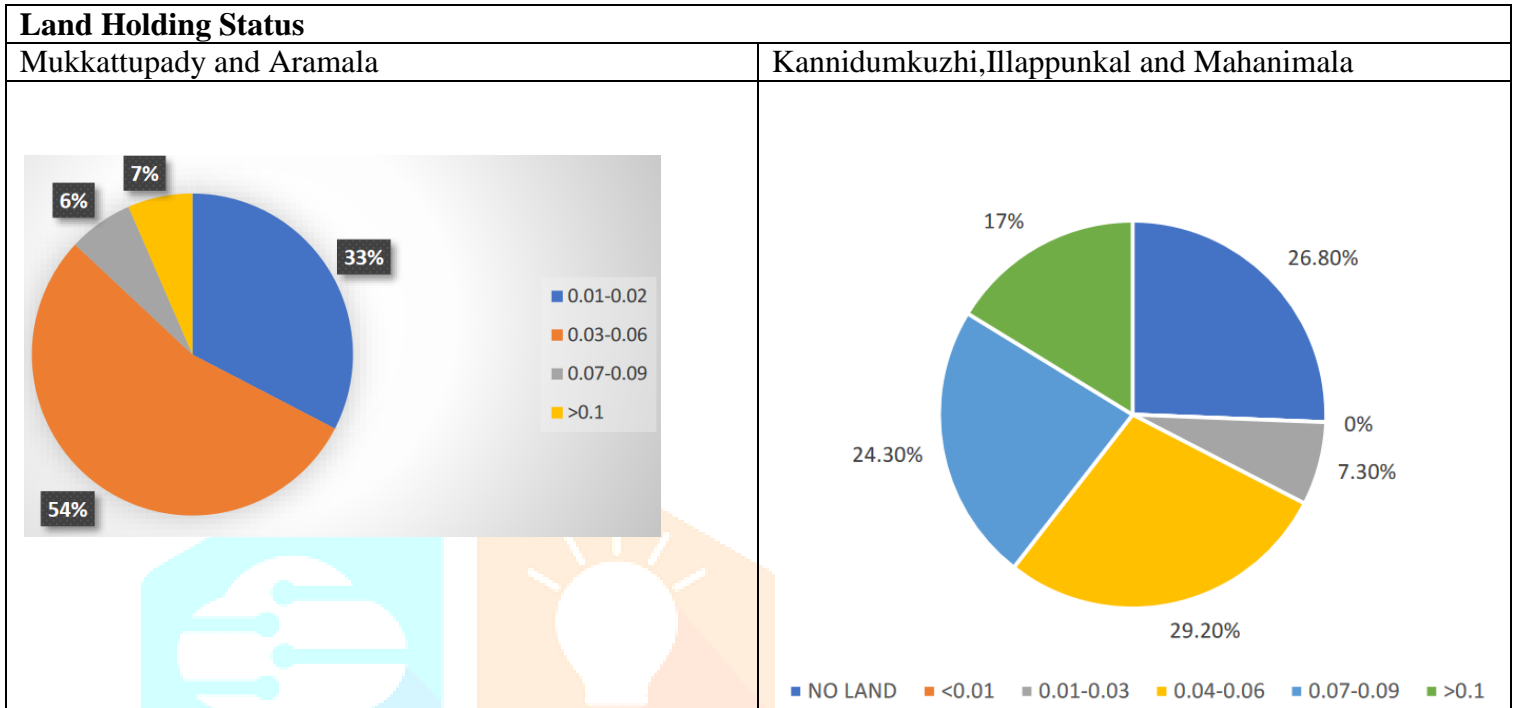
5.7 Land-Use System

A land use system is a means of managing and using land for different uses, activities, or functions. Incorporating social, economic, and environmental factors, it includes the procedures and arrangements that determine how land is allotted and utilized. The overall landscape and how it affects the community and natural resources are determined by land use systems.Based on elements such as geographic location, climate, cultural norms, and governmental legislation, land use systems can be diverse and drastically different.

Land-Use System	
Mukkattupady and Aramala	Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala

5.8 SWOT Analysis:

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4" align="center">SWOT</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" align="center">Mukkattupady and Aramala</td><td colspan="2" align="center">Kannidumkuzhi,Illappunkal and Mahanimala</td></tr>
<tr>
<td>STRENGTH:

➢ High Literacy rate.
➢ Availability of water throughout the year.
➢ Many historically planted fruiting trees.
➢ Government facilities to make the citizen's life easier</td>
<td>WEAKNESS:

➢ Shortage of physical labour due to high literacy rate.
➢ Absence of agriculture.
➢ Absence of livestock.</td>
<td>STRENGTH:

➢ High Literacy rate.
➢ Private Jobs.
➢ Well aware of Forest Laws
➢ Home garden</td>
<td>WEAKNESS:

➢ Shortage of labour.
➢ Usage of more fertilizers and chemicals in farmland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPPORTUNITY:

➢ Increase in opportunity to start new businesses.
➢ Opportunity to provide more services in both public and private sector with increasing population.
➢ Land available to develop city forest and tree lands.</td>
<td>THREAT:

➢ Changing climate
➢ Urbanization occurring at a very fast pace
➢ Cutting of historical natural trees for making new infrastructure.</td>
<td>OPPORTUNITY:

➢ Good Connectivity leading to greater job opportunity.
➢ Pilgrimage.
➢ Tourism</td>
<td>THREAT:

➢ Increased rainfall.
➢ Cyclones
➢ Climatic factors.
➢ Damage to crop due to rainfall.</td>
</tr>
</table>

5.9 Conclusion

The comparison of the socioeconomic surveys undertaken in thses areas has provided insightful information about the unique realities and difficulties these communities face. Comparing the results has allowed us to spot patterns, differences, and distinctive traits that collectively provide a more complete picture of rural life and growth in the various regions.

Both villages share a concern for environmental sustainability as they struggle with issues including water scarcity and resource management. To protect their natural balance and foster resilience against climate-related issues, it is crucial to implement sustainable practices and raise awareness about conservation measures.

The surveyed localities in Thrickodithanam that is currently undergoing tremendous growth may soon become a town.The village is a good place to live since it has effective medical facilities, educational facilities, electricity, transportation, connectivity, and is able to meet other fundamental needs of the inhabitants.The village only fails in the production area because there is so little agricultural there and because of this, there is a great requirement for imports.The town could advance in the production industry and eventually turn into a model village by concentrating more on production and attempting to commercialize the Homegardens.

The Naranganam community can be described as a well-developed semi-urban village with good transportation, medical, educational, and other facilities. Although there are plantations in the hamlet and residents are aware of the forest restrictions, the village is not dependent on the forest.

We can work to empower both villages and promote sustainable and equitable development by utilizing the strengths, addressing the issues, and taking advantage of the opportunities highlighted through the surveys. In order to implement the suggested interventions successfully, collaboration between local stakeholders, governmental entities, and NGOs will be essential. Through these initiatives, we hope to see all of the areas that were studied flourish as their communities get stronger and their socioeconomic situations get better, bringing about a more promising and brighter future for all of the citizens.

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