



**CHAPTER-III**

**SIZE, GROWTH-RATE AND RURAL-URBAN  
DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD POPULATION (0-6)**



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### SIZE, GROWTH-RATE AND RURAL-URBAN DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD POPULATION (0-6)

The primary intention of inclusion of child population in the age-group 0-6 in the provisional population totals of Census 2011 is for calculating the effective literacy rate. However, this data is broadly helpful as it is indicative of fertility and future growth of population. A significant fall in children in the age-group 0-6 is a broad indication of fall in fertility during the period.

2. In Kerala, the total number of children in the age group 0-6 as per the provisional population totals of Census 2011 is 3.32 million with a break up of 1.70 million males and 1.63 million females. The corresponding rural-urban break up is 1.75 million in rural and 1.57 million in urban. The break up in rural area shows 0.89 million males and 0.86 million females, while in the urban area the corresponding figures are 0.80 million and 0.77 million respectively. The decline in the child population in the age group 0-6 years during the decade 2001-2011 is 4,70,899 whereas the corresponding decline during the decade 1991-2001 was only 43,754. This change in quantum of reduction of more than ten times shows a drastic fall in fertility which is a positive sign. The State of Kerala has the 15<sup>th</sup> rank among Indian States/UTs in respect of child population in the age-group 0-6. A comparison with the figures of Census 2001 reveals that Kerala is one among the five states with high decline in absolute numbers of child population. Uttar Pradesh is at the other end. An analysis of the gender composition shows that as against an absolute decrease of 2,39,092 males, the corresponding decrease in females is 2,31,807 during 2001-2011. It shows that the decrease in number of female children is at a lower rate than that of the male children.

#### Share of Child Population in the Age Group 0-6 to Total Population

3. The proportion of child population in the age group 0-6 to total population in the State of Kerala according to Provisional Population Totals of Census 2011 is 9.95 per cent while the corresponding figure for Census 2001 was 11.91. The decline has been to the extent of 1.96 per cent points. The gender composition of the share further shows 10.59 per cent for males and 9.36 per cent for females. The rural-urban sex-wise break up of share of child population shows a very negligible variation. As regards to the share of child population in the age group 0-6, the rural area has a higher share percentage (10.01 per cent) than that of urban area (9.88 per cent). Among the three states placed at the bottom showing the lowest percentage of share of children in the age group 0-6 years to the total population, Kerala is at the third position in the reverse order, the other two states being Goa (9.57 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (9.56 per cent).

### Statement No. III.1

#### District-wise Child Population in the Age-Group by Residence and Sex, 2011

Name of District	Child population in the age-group 0 - 6			
	Rural		Urban	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Kasaragod	44,961	43,326	31,188	29,805
Kannur	47,204	45,148	87,985	84,939
Wayanad	43,994	42,242	1,782	1,702
Kozhikode	56,481	54,255	1,08,319	1,04,456
Malappuram	1,56,710	1,50,648	1,25,248	1,20,165
Palakkad	1,12,920	1,08,823	34,027	32,596
Thrissur	49,208	47,007	99,220	93,691
Ernakulam	45,253	43,187	1,02,794	98,047
Idukki	48,624	46,548	2,508	2,427
Kottayam	61,835	59,186	24,278	23,264
Alappuzha	45,404	43,119	50,152	47,347
Pathanamthitta	41,435	39,943	5,147	4,976
Kollam	66,418	63,812	55,063	52,769
Thiruvananthapuram	71,221	68,600	76,556	74,284

4. The Statement above shows sex-wise child population in the age group 0-6 for the districts separately for rural and urban areas. The absolute number of child population for both sexes is the highest in the districts of Malappuram and Palakkad which is above one lakh at the time of Census 2011 in their rural areas. Thus the rural areas of these two districts contained about 30 per cent of the child population of the State. The districts with rural child population in both sexes above 50,000 but below 1,00,000 are Kozhikode, Kottayam, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram. Regarding the urban areas, there are three districts viz. Kozhikode, Malappuram and Ernakulam with male child population and two districts viz. Kozhikode and Malappuram with female child population above one lakh. The five districts with urban male child population above 50,000 and below one lakh are Kannur, Thrissur, Alappuzha, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram and districts where urban female child population is above 50,000 and below 1 lakh are Kannur, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram.

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### Statement No. III.2

#### Percentage of Child Population in the Age-Group 0 – 6 years to Total Population by Districts and Residence, 2011

Name of District	Percentage share of child population in the Age-Group 0-6 to total population in Census 2011	
	Rural	Urban
(1)	(2)	(3)
Kasaragod	11.07	12.07
Kannur	10.46	10.53
Wayanad	10.99	11.03
Kozhikode	10.91	10.26
Malappuram	13.40	13.51
Palakkad	10.39	9.84
Thrissur	9.43	9.23
Ernakulam	8.44	9.00
Idukki	9.02	9.49
Kottayam	8.56	8.41
Alappuzha	9.08	8.50
Pathanamthitta	7.65	7.70
Kollam	9.02	9.09
Thiruvananthapuram	9.15	8.48

5. The above Statement shows the percentage share of child population to the total population in each of the districts for rural and urban areas separately. In the rural areas, there are six districts, namely, Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram and Palakkad with percentage of child population above 10 per cent. Malappuram district tops with 13.40 per cent closely followed by Kasaragod district (11.07 per cent). The district with the least percentage of rural child population is Pathanamthitta (7.65 per cent). In the urban areas also, the highest percentage of child population is claimed by Malappuram district (13.51 per cent) closely followed again by Kasaragod district (12.07 per cent). But the urban areas have only five districts with above 10 per cent share of child population. Palakkad district with 10.39 per cent share of child population in its rural areas is having only 9.84 per cent share of child population in its urban area. Pathanamthitta district continues to be the district with the least share of child population in the urban area also.

**Statement No. III.3**  
**Distribution of Taluks by Range of Rural-Urban Decadal Growth-Rate of Child**  
**Population in the Age group 0 -6, 2001 and 2011**

<i>Percentage range of decadal growth rate of child population in the age-group 0- 6 during 2001-2011</i>	<i>Number of Taluks</i>
<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>
Rural	
Nil	-
less than 12	63
12 - 15	-
15 - 18	-
18- 21	-
21- 24	-
24 - 27	-
27 - 30	-
30+	-
Urban	
Not Calculated	15*
less than 12	12
12 - 15	3
15 - 18	-
18- 21	1
21- 24	3
24 - 27	-
27 - 30	-
30+	29
* No corresponding figures existing for 2001 Census	

6. In this Statement, the taluks are distributed according to decadal growth rate of child population in the age group 0-6 for the decade 2001-2011. All the 63 taluks have decadal growth-rate of child population in rural areas less than 12 per cent during 2001-2011.

7. In the urban area the trend is entirely different. There were 14 taluks with no urban area in Census 2001 and only 10 such taluks in Census 2011. Hence decadal growth-rate for 2001-2011 could not be worked out for 15 taluks for which corresponding figures are not available for both censuses. In most of the taluks (60.42 per cent), urban areas have decadal growth rate of child population above 30 per cent during 2001-2011. The taluks with corresponding decadal growth rate less than 30 per cent but above 12 per cent are Kannur taluk (12.83 per cent), Thalassery taluk (23.14 per cent), Kozhikode taluk (12.72 per cent), Palakkad taluk (21.89 per cent), Paravur taluk (21.52 per cent), Kochi taluk (12.32 per cent) and Muvattupuzha taluk (20.47 per cent).

8. It may be noted that the above discussion is based on comparison made on unadjusted data. Several villages of Census 2001 have become towns during the Census 2011.