Basic Services and Quality of Life in the Districts of Kerala, India

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Abstract: Basic service and quality of life are no longer two different concepts. Basic services are primary requirements for sustaining a human being, for example, good condition house, clean drinking water, sanitation, electricity, etc. Provision of basic services is the primary step towards a high quality of life. Quality of life is the combine's measures of human needs with subjective well being or happiness. The purpose of this study is to present the spatial and temporal variation of basic services and quality of life and the relationship between basic services and quality of Life. The data source of this work depends on secondary sources like District Census Handbook of Kerala 2011, Reserve Bank of India and Health and Information Cell, Kerala. Index methodology has been used for measuring basic services and quality of life. Composite index Method has been used. After that, described the typology (high, medium and low) of the districts in just those terms. Correlation coefficient has been used to measure the relationship between basic service and quality of life. It has been found that both basic service and quality of life are unevenly distributed throughout the state of Kerala. Correlation coefficient between basic service and quality of life is very high (0.891). It signifies that investment in basic services like drinking water, sanitation, housing, electricity leads to High quality of life.
Keywords: Basic Service; Quality of Life; Wellbeing; Happiness; and Kerala

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the important duties of the state is to provide all its citizens with adequate access to basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity, housing, and transport. Due to poverty, inequality and government failure the poor and the vulnerable segments of society "locked out". And therefore planning is necessary. Planners need to pay close attention to the concept of quality of life in order to assess the effects of plans and projects on places and lives of all citizens. Quality of life is varying from place to place and individual to individual. Because of inherited advantages, genetic disposition, individual enterprise, environmental constraints, and opportunities, as well as collective actions by government and central authorities all combine to yield attitudes and expectations, needs and wants, rights and obligations that interact to produce patterns and distribution of quality of life among individuals and places. Quality of life has no single uniform definition. The Special Interest Research Group characterizes the quality of life like following ways: (a) General feelings of well being; (b) Feelings of positive social involvement; and (c) Opportunities to achieve personal potential (SIRG-QOL, 2000). Quality of life is a vague and ethereal entity; something that many people talk about but which nobody very clearly knows what to do about (Campbell, Converse, & Rodgers, 1976). Human needs are the foundations of the concept and that quality of life is the degree of need satisfaction. There are six spheres of life in which needs to be met—physical, psychological, social, activity, marital and structural (political field, and in dealings with justice and the authorities) (Hörnquist, 1982). Another study shows that internal control, role performance and social support are important for good quality of life (Abbey & Andrews, 1985). QOL is not only a notion of the twentieth century. Rather it dates back to philosophers like Aristotle (384-322 BC) who wrote about 'the good life' and 'living well' and how public policy can help to nurture it (Massam, 2002). The main objectives of this study are as follows: to examine the spatial inequality of basic services and quality of life within the study area, to measure the temporal variation of basic services and quality of life within the study area and to find out the relationship between basic services and quality of life.

1.1 Study Area:

The state Kerala is wedged between the Lakshadweep Sea and the Western Ghats. Lying between northern latitudes 8°18' and 12°48' and eastern longitudes 74°52' and 77°22', Kerala experiences the humid equatorial tropic climate. The state has a coast of 590 km and the width of the state varies between 11 and 121 kilometers. Geographically, Kerala can be divided into three climatically distinct regions: the eastern highlands; rugged and cool mountainous terrain, the central mid-lands; rolling hills, and the western lowlands; coastal plains. Kerala was formed on 1 November 1956 following the States reorganization act by combining

Malayalam-speaking regions. Spread over 38,863 km2, it is bordered by Karnataka to the north and northeast, Tamil Nadu to the east and south, and the Lakshadweep Sea to the west. With 33,387,677 inhabitants as per the 2011 Census, Kerala is the thirteenth largest state by population and is divided into 14 districts with the capital being Thiruvananthapuram. Malayalam is the most widely spoken language and is also the official language of the state. The region has been a prominent spice exporter since 3000 BCE. Kerala has the lowest positive population growth rate in India, 3.44%; highest Human Development Index (HDI), 0.790 in 2011; the highest literacy rate, 93.91% in the 2011 census; the highest life expectancy, 77 years; and the highest sex ratio, 1,084 women per 1000 men. The state has witnessed significant emigration, especially to Arab states of the Persian Gulf during the Gulf boom of the 1970s and early 1980s, and its economy depends significantly on remittances from a large Malayali expatriate community. The production of pepper and natural rubber contributes significantly to the total national output. In the agricultural sector, coconut, tea, coffee, cashew, and spices are important. 1.1 million People in the state are dependent on the fishery industry which contributes 3% to the state's income. The state has the highest media exposure in India with newspapers

publishing in nine languages, mainly English and Malayalam. Kerala is one of the prominent tourist destinations of India, with backwaters, beaches (Wikipedia, 2019).

Map- 1.0: Study Area
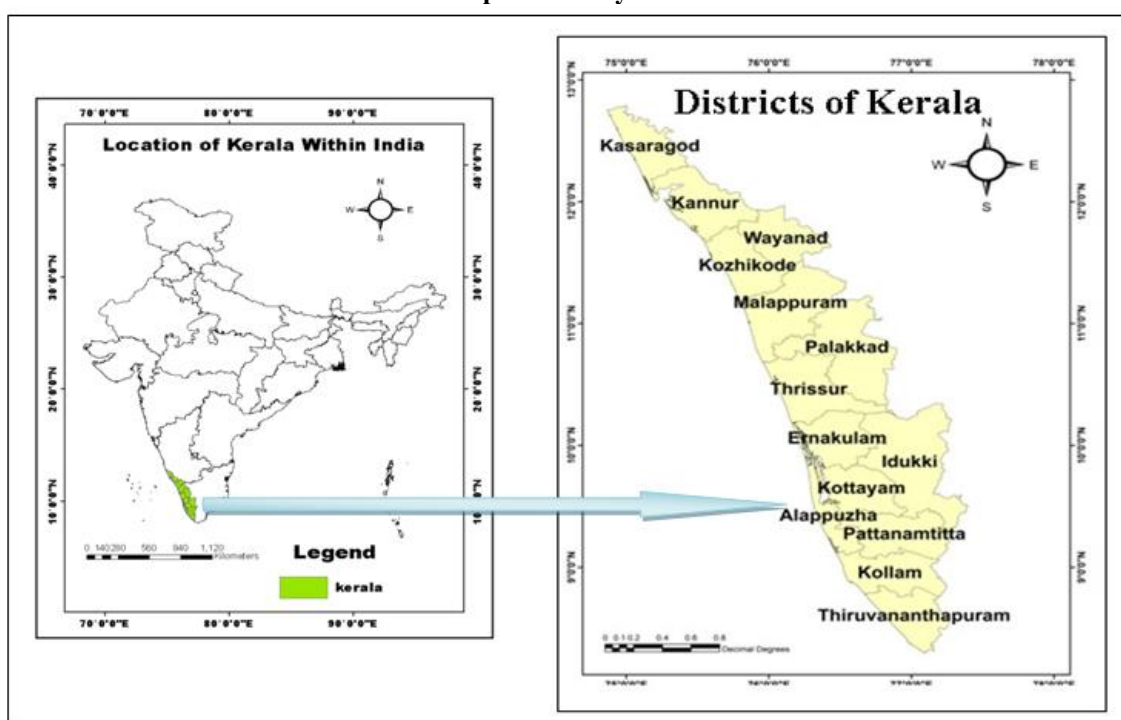
Source: Compiled By Author, 2019

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The data sources for this work have been collected from the following sources: Total work depends on secondary data-sources collected from Governments (census of India 2001, 2011) and Health information cell, Government of Kerala 2011. The approach starts by examining some of the most significant recent books and articles that discuss basic services and quality of life and then it distills from them the theoretical perspectives that are most central to their analysis. There are two basic approaches to research on the quality of life: a subjective and an objective one (Rogerson, Findlay, Morris, & Coombes, 1989). A subjective (or endogenous) approach focuses on feelings, perceptions, opinions and mental states of the individuals or groups studied. An objective (or exogenous) approach tries to do research on the quality of life-based on a wide range of measurable or observable indicators in an individual and an environmental dimension. The scale of the method of investigation of quality of life does not follow a certain law different scientific disciplines studies quality of life based on its own specialty. Now the emphasis is on choices of suitable indicators, criteria and factors that are used to describe patterns of Quality of Life among places and peoples. The Recent studies on quality of life by UNDP uses Human Development Index to provide ranking using empirical scores on three basic indicators relating to education, health, and income. Selection of Indicator was made taking into consideration not only more traditional approaches but also emerging perspectives that try to redefine the concept itself and adapt it to

the transformation of modern society (Santos & Martins, 2006). Basic service and Quality of Life are no longer two different concepts. Basic services are primary requirements for sustaining a human being. Provision of basic services is the primary step towards high Quality of Life. So, the study examines the availability of basic services then study Quality of Life after that relationship with them.

Table 1.1 Names of the Index and Indicators

| Name of the Index	Name of the Indicator
Basic Service Index	1. Percentage of households having tap water within the house
	2. Percentage of households having latrine within the house
	3. Percentage of households having a bathroom within a house
	4. Percentage of households having open drainage within the house
	5. Percentage of households having Electricity within the house
Quality of Life Index	1. Gross Domestic Product per capita
	2. Female Literacy Rate
	3. Female work participant rate
	4. Maternal death rate
	5. Percentage of the Urban population to total population

Source: Compiled by Researcher, 2018

After collecting the data converted into a tabulated form with the help of M.S excels 2007, and then Composite Index has been made by Z score technique. For measuring relationship between Basic service and Quality of Life Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient have used. For representing the thematic map Arc GIS 9.2 software has been used.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Basic Service:

Basic services are the building blocks for human development. They are accepted as fundamental human rights. But here is a huge gap between different regional levels. Here a gap is documented in Basic services within the districts of Kerala. Government spend huge amount of money for Basic services for benefit of citizen. By neglecting access to healthcare facility, clean water facility, sanitation and education facility governments are violating human rights of the people (Mehrotra, Vandemoortele, & Delamonica, 2000). Below Map 1.1 and 1.2 are representing the spatial and temporal changes of basic services and Quality of Life.
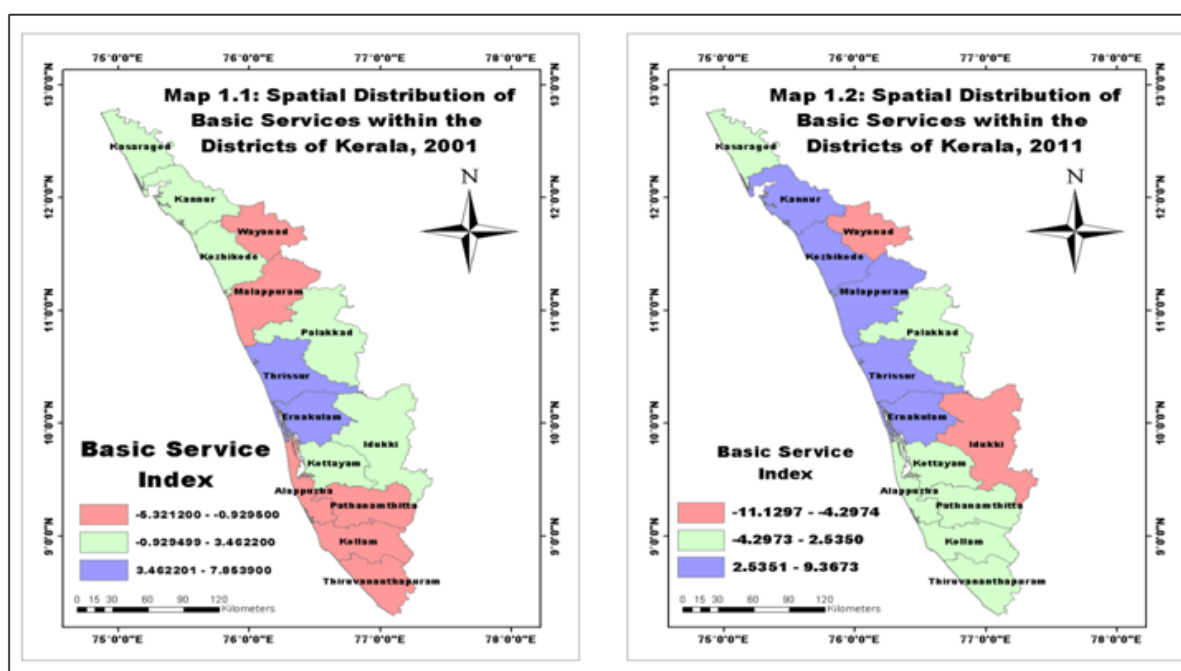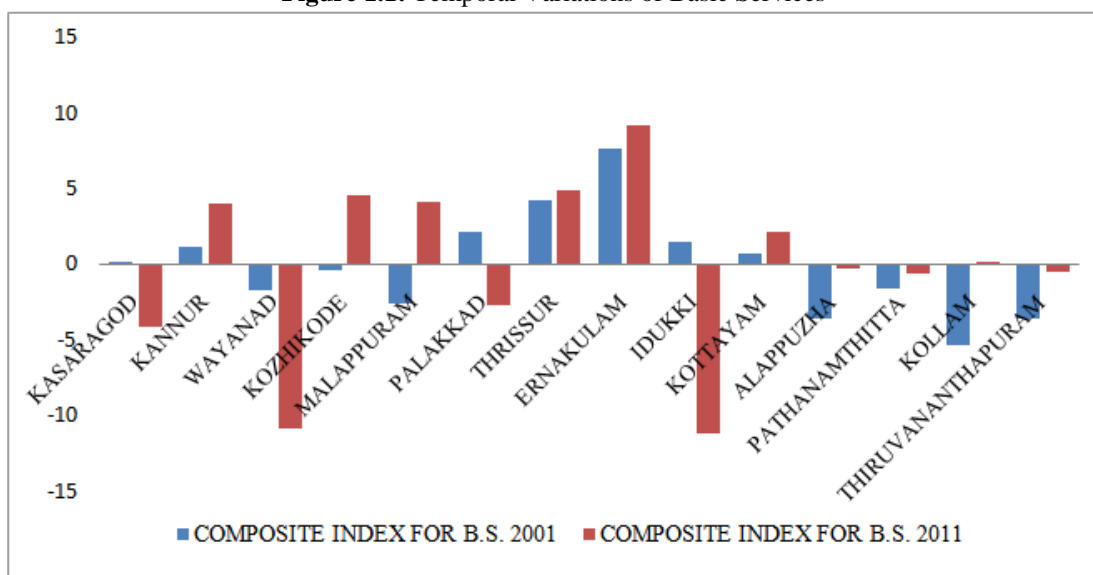

Source: District Census Handbook of Kerala, 2011

Table 1.2: Conditions of Basic Services within the Districts of Kerala

2001			2011		
Condition of Basic Services	Range of Index Value	Name of the Districts	Condition of Basic Services	Range of Index Value	Name of the Districts
Good	3.4623-7.8539	Thrissur, Ernakulam	Good	2.5351-9.3673	Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur, Ernakulam
Average	-0.9294-3.4622	Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Palakkad, Idduki, Kottayam,	Average	-4.2973-2.5350	Kasaragod, Palakkad, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kollam, Thruvanantapuram
Poor	-5.3212--0.9295	Wayanad, Malappuram, Alappuzha, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Thiruvananthapuram	Poor	-11.1297--4.2974	Wayanad, Idduki

Figure 1.1: Temporal Variations of Basic Services

Source: Districts Census Handbook Kerala 2011. Here B.S. means basic Services.

Identifying Basic Services Differences in Districts of Kerala:
From the map 1.1, map 1.2 and table 1.3 it is found that in 2001 some districts (Thrissur, Ernalulam) have good condition of Basic services. On the other hand some districts (Wayanad, Malappuram, Alappuzha, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Thiruvananthapuram) have poor condition of basic services. In 2011 also some districts (Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur, Ernakulam) good condition of Basic services. On the other hand some districts (Wayanad, Idduki) have poor condition of Basic services. Rest of the districts is under average condition. If we investigate the temporal changes from 2001 to 2011 then it is found that in 2001 no of good condition districts is two, where as in 2011 no of good condition districts is five. In 2001 no of poor condition districts is six, where as in 2011 no of poor condition districts is declining to just two. That is very significant it can be say that with the passage of time more no of people get access to basic service facilities. From the figure 1.1 it is observed that Ernakulam is the district where basic services facility is the maximum both 2001 and 2011. Lowest Basic services found in Kollam (2001) and Idduki (2011) and Wayanad (2011).

Quality of Life:
Internal and external control, social support, performance caused increased Quality of Life. Perception of stress and depression caused decreased Quality of Life (Abbey & Andrews, 1985). Due to unavailability of above mentioned variables for measuring Quality of Life, Proxy variables have been used. For example GDP per capita, Female literacy rate, Female work participation rate, Percentage of urban population to total population are the positive proxy variables. That means with the increment of the above variables values resulting increment of Quality of Life. On the other hand maternal death rate used as negative variable. This

signifies that with decline of maternal death rate resulting increment of Quality of Life. Below map 1.3 and 1.4 are representing spatial and temporal changes of Quality of Life.
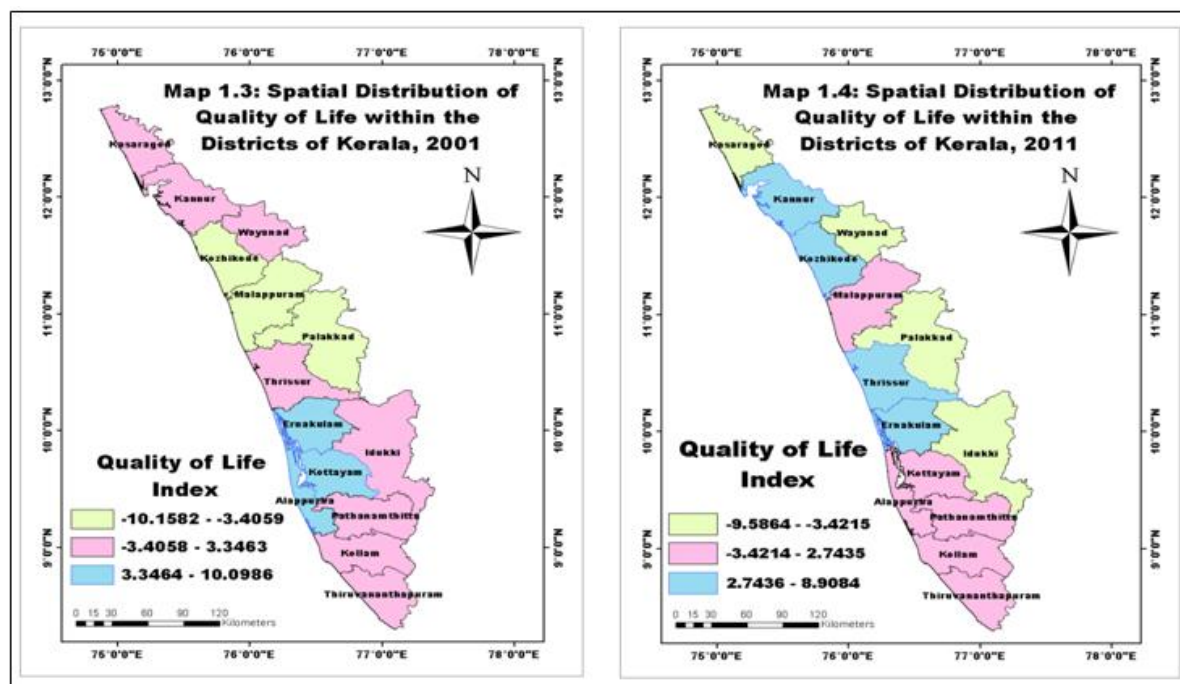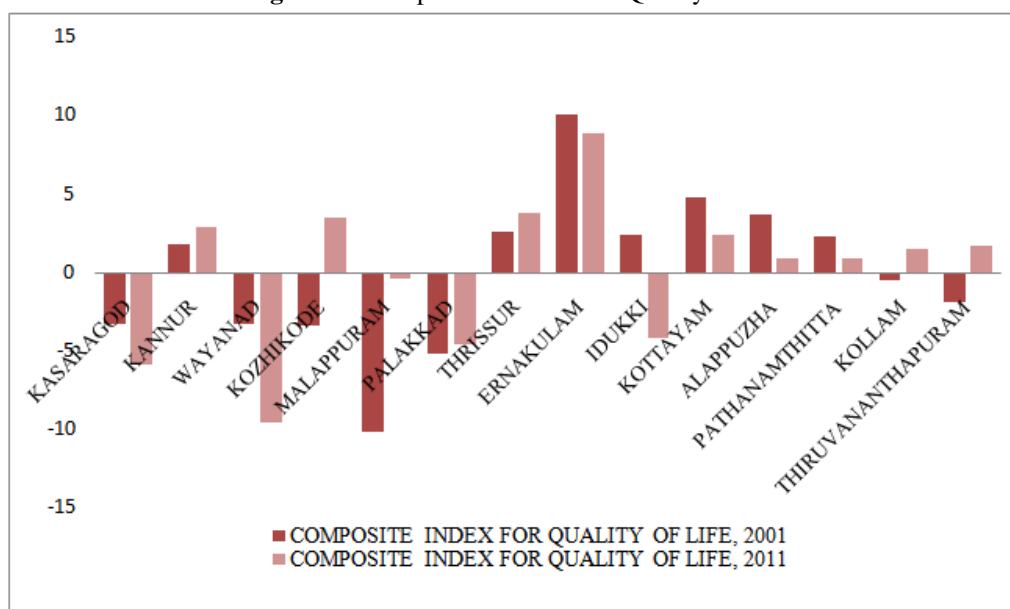

Source: District census Handbook of Kerala, 2011

Table 1.3; Conditions of Quality of Life within the Districts of Kerala

2001			2011		
Condition of Quality of Life	**Range of Index Value**	**Name of the Districts**	**Condition of Quality of Life**	**Range of Index Value**	**Name of the Districts**
Good	3.3464 – 10.0986	Ernakulam, Kottayam, Alappuzha	Good	2.7436- 8.9084	Kannur, Kozhikode, Thrissur, Errnakulam
Average	-3.4058- 3.3463	Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad, Thrissur, Idduki, Pathnamthitta, Kollam, Thrivanantapuram	Average	-3.4214 – 2.7435	Malappuram, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Pathnamthitta, Kollam, Thruvananthapuram
Poor	-10.1582- -3.4059	Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad	Poor	-9.5863 – -3.4215	Kasaragod, Wayanad, Palakkad, Idduki

Figure 1.2 Temporal Variations of Quality of Life

Source: Districts Census Handbook Kerala 2011

Identifying Quality of Life Differences in Districts of Kerala:

While studying Quality of Life in the districts of kerala, it was found that in table 1.3 some districts are Good (2001) in terms of Quality of life index- Ernakulam, Kottayam, Alappuzha. On the other hand Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad districts are poor (2001) in terms of Quality of Life. The key question is why Quality of Life considerably poor in one district than in the other district? Some explanation in terms of socio economic development indicators are given below:

- GDP per capita (2010-11) is quite high in very high and high QOL regions (Ernakulam Rs. 113729.5189, Kottayam Rs. 94091.14149). On the other hand GDP per capita is very low in poor QOL districts (Kasaragod Rs. 64770.76616, Wayanad Rs. 65810.267).
- Female literacy is relatively high in Good QOL districts (Ernakulam 94.27, kottayam 95.67). On the other hand female literacy is relatively low in poor QOL districts (Kasaragod 86.13, wayanad 85.94).
- Female work participant is high in Good QOL districts (Ernakulam 22.63). On the other hand female work participant is relatively low in Poor QOL districts (Wayanad 17.93).
- Maternal death is low in Good QOL districts (Kottayam-8). On the other hand maternal death is relatively high in Poor QOL districts (Wayanad-12).
- Percentage of urban population is quite high in Good QOL districts (Ernakulam 68.07, Kozhikode 67.15). On the other hand Percentage of urban population is quite low in poor QOL districts (Wayanad 3.07).

If we investigate the temporal changes of Quality of Life from 2001 to 2011 it is found that in table 1.3 and map 1.3 and map 1.4 no of good condition districts increasing from three to four. But poor condition district also increases from three to four. This is not a good sign for human development. This has to be addressed with proper need base planning. From the figure 1.2 it is observed that Ernakulam and Thrissur holds highest position in terms of Quality of Life index both 2001 and 2011. On the other hand Malappuram 2001) and Wayanad (2011) holds lowest position in term of Quality of Life index.

Relationships between Basic Services and Quality of Life:

Good quality Basic service can play an important role in increment of human quality of life Whereas, conversely poor quality and inaccessible Basic services can be cause of degraded quality of life.

Figure 1.3 Relationships between Basic Services and Quality of Life in the Districts of Kerala, 2011
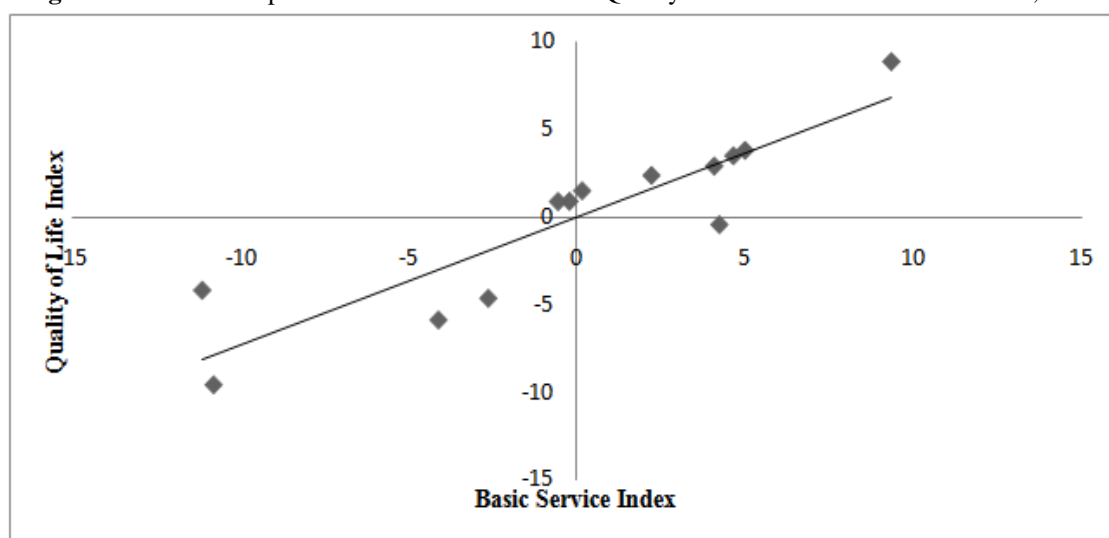
Source: Compiled by Researcher, 2019.

From the figure 1.3 it is observed that Correlation between basic service and quality of life is very high (r = 0.891). It signifies that investment in basic services like drinking water, sanitation, housing, electricity leads to development of Quality of Life.

IV. CONCLUSION

The above Mapping, statistical and diagrammatic presentation has been measured Basic services & Quality of Life without considering the subjective dimension of Basic services and Quality of Life, due to unavailability of unit level secondary data and that's why permitting spatial variation and temporal comparisons has been shown. This result is very useful to gain overview of the Basic services & Quality of Life in districts of Kerala. Lack of communication due to geographical barrier, lack of organizational support, unaffordability of basic services and lack of information regarding Basic service provision are leading towards poor access to overall Basic service performance in the districts belong to poor category. The following suggestions are given for easy acees to basic services: improving access to information of putting government Basic service information at public domain to their mother language. Designing the access to Basic services is in such a way that poor can afford it.

The following suggestions are offered for Quality of Life improvement: Orienting the development programs towards economic balance and tackling the problems of inequality and creating new job in low QOL districts. Developing short term and long term project for improvement of QOL of the people. Improving overall female work participant to the national economy is very much necessary. If long term improvement in Quality of Life were the goal policy would focus more on health and education rather than economic production. Then fruit of the development will be holistic and sustainable.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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