

Regional Backwardness and Its Causes: A Case Study of Iyankerni in the Eravur Pattu Divisional Secretariat Division

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Abstract

Although human beings continuously adapt their standard of living to meet the evolving needs of the times, disparities in regional development remain evident. On a regional scale, some areas exhibit significant progress, while others continue to lag behind. This study addresses the issue of regional backwardness in the Iyankerni area under the Eravur Pattu Divisional Secretariat Division, with the primary objective of identifying the underlying causes of such developmental disparities. To achieve this objective, the study employed both primary data including questionnaires, direct observations, and discussions and secondary data such as reports from the Divisional Secretariat. Analytical methods included Excel-based analysis and descriptive statistical techniques. A total of 111 questionnaires were administered, representing 3% of the local population. The findings reveal backwardness in several key areas education, infrastructure, life expectancy, and socio-cultural stability. Notably, a high prevalence of female-headed households and cultural degradation were observed. Further contributing factors include drug abuse, school dropouts, early marriages, low income levels, administrative neglect, and limited employment opportunities for women. Statistical data underscores these challenges. 68% of students in the study area have not completed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level, while only 31% have completed it. Alarming, over 75% of the population is reportedly involved in drug use, with active drug sales also noted in the area.

Keywords: Regional Backwardness, Development Disparities, Drug Abuse, Low Income, Socioeconomic Deviation