

DETERMINANTS OF SOCIAL SECTOR EXPENDITURE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH AND KERALA

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Received: 04 Feb 2020

Accepted: 07 Feb 2020

Published: 20 Feb 2020

ABSTRACT

The present research study focuses on the “Determinants of Social Sector Expenditure in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala” social sector expenditure is an important instrument for realizing the objectives of government policy. The government formulates programmes and schemes, and undertakes various social and economic activities, which aims at socio-economic development of the community. Therefore, social sector expenditure largely determines the realization of the objective of growth with equity of the government. Both, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala despite various economic limitations have exhibited very high performance with respect to social sector development. Kerala’s achievement in the field of education i.e. near total literacy, free and universal primary education, low dropout rate at school level, easy access to educational institutions, gender equality etc., definitely owes to its social sector expenditure only. As far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, it is also among the highest literate states in the country and ranks fifth with respect to literacy rate. Female literacy is also encouraging, and state has been awarded at national level for its best performance in the field of education. In the present study, the determinants of the social sector expenditure in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala during the period 1971 to 2016 are taken into consideration. Forty six, years period is sufficient enough to reveal the major trends and changes taking place in social sector expenditure in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala. In this context, it is quite meaningful to study the determinants of social sector expenditure in both states respectively.

KEYWORDS: Social Sector Expenditure, Socio Economic Development, Dropout rate, gender equality, Female literacy.