

## **DETAILS REGARDING PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH STUDIES**

### **Topics for research**

#### **Major Studies**

1. A Sociological Investigation of Crime Against Women
2. Broken family and child abuse- An Analytical Study
3. A study on inter caste and inter religious marriages
4. A study on socio - economic and working conditions of women workers
5. xDrug Abuse in Children
6. Problems of Women in Education Field
7. Education and Employment Status of SC/ST Women in the last 20 Years in Kerala
8. Unemployment among women in Kerala
9. Problems of home nurses and domestic Maids

#### **Minor Studies**

1. A Sociological Investigation of Crimes committed by women
2. A Study on women organizations in Kerala
3. Families in debt Trap through educational loan for professional courses
4. Psychological analysis of marital problems in Kerala
5. An analytical study on the problems of Old Age women
6. Problems of physically and Mentally challenged women
7. Effect of mobile phones among women

The area of focus for each topic is given in detail. This should be used to prepare the proposal. Applications are **in hard copy only**.

**Funding** – Rs. Two lakh per major study, Rs. One lakh per minor study.

**Time frame** – Major study should be completed and report submitted to the Kerala Women’s Commission within Eight months. Minor studies should be completed and report submitted to the Kerala Women’s Commission within Four months.

**Last date of receiving applications – 28-01-2020**

**Address** to which applications are to be sent – The Secretary

Kerala Women’s Commission  
Near Lourde Church  
Pattom P.O. TVM 695004.

**Specifications** – Applicants should have at least PG in Social Sciences/other qualifications relevant to the topic. Previous research experience is a must.

**Format of application**

The application should contain the following

1. Bio data of applicant (including research experience)
2. Application expressing willingness to do research in select topic (should be dated and signed)
3. Detailed research topic containing –
  - Topic of research
  - Objectives of research
  - Research methodology
  - Sampling design
  - No of samples
  - Universe of study
  - Budget
  - Time frame

## **MAJOR STUDIES**

### **1. A Sociological Investigation of Crime Against Women**

According to a global study conducted by Thomson Reuters, India is the "fourth most dangerous country" in the world for women. In India the crimes against women keeps on increasing with alarming rate. Kerala has the highest rate of violent crimes as per Crime Records Bureau. There are many types of crimes which are not gender specific but prevalent in every society like Murder and Cheating etc. On the other side there are few crimes which are gender specific and in that sequence, some are against women only like Rape and other sexual crimes, those are known to be crime against women. Crime against woman is one of the most regular and prevalent human rights violations. Violence/Crime is a mean to suppress the women and to maintain the supremacy in the society. The roots of these crimes are not new but age old and these crimes were existed in every era with any form. The abuse of women is effectively resisted in almost every society of the world. The numbers of prosecution and conviction of men who beat or rape women are very less. Earlier, crimes against women were not reported due to the social stigma attached to rape and molestation. A crime against women is not considered from only physical point of view but also sociological aspect also. So it is in this context that Kerala Women's Commission has taken a decision to conduct a study to analyze the crime against women in Kerala. The targeted population for the study should include the following – A) Women victims B) Women C) Advocates, Enforcement officers and Non-Governmental institutions. The researcher has the freedom to decide the size of the sample, research design and method of study.

Various types of crimes to be covered in the study are as follows;

- Domestic violence

- Dowry Deaths or their attempts
- Rape
- Sexual harassment
- Acid throwing: petrol killing
- Trafficking
- Honour killing

The major areas should be covered as follows;

1. Present crime trend against women in Kerala
2. Main causes in increasing the crimes against women in Kerala
3. Existing law in India pertaining to combat crimes against women
4. Possible defects and loopholes in the existing laws relating to crime against women in India
5. Socio economic status of victims
6. Impact of crimes against women on the society
7. Nature of support required for overcoming the problems faced by women victims in Kerala
8. Suggestions for improvement

## **2. Broken family and child abuse- An Analytical Study**

Family is an important part of human being's existence in this world. Family is basically a unit in which parents and children live together. In the human life span, the childhood period is considered as the most significant, since it is the foundation period not only for their future but the future of nation as well. Children need a happy and stable family environment and a healthy social network for their overall growth and development. The way in which children were treated during their childhood, would play a substantial role in their attitude, confidence and social orientation. A common assumption in many social psychological,

developmental, sociological, and anthropological theories is that two biological parents provide the optimal environment for healthy child development. Broken family structure is associated with lower levels of parent-child interaction, parental supervision, support, and control. When there is a marital dispute, often the child becomes enmeshed in this conflict and traditional generational boundaries are blurred. Thus antagonism between the spouses is displaced on to the child as abuse and neglect. Child Abuse is a state of emotional, physical, economic and sexual maltreatment, meted out to a person below the age of eighteen and it is a globally prevalent phenomenon. Child Abuse has serious physical and psychosocial consequences which adversely affect the health and overall well being of a child. Research and clinical data suggest that stepparents or live in partners who are not the parents of the children are more likely to maltreat children than natural parents. Such findings are logical from a common sense standpoint because stepparents are usually less attached to the children than natural parents. Further frequently there are resentments on the children's part of a new partner and jealousies and competition among all parties involved. Child abuse is tremendously increasing in Kerala. Every year much of cases are reporting not only of physical abuse but also child sex abuse. On analyzing we can see that most of such cases are reporting from broken families. Divorce rates are also increasing here. Mostly sex abuses are faced by the children from their nearest relatives or family friends. A detailed study is required in these cases and to analyse the changing mind set of the society. The study should be descriptive in nature. The researcher has the freedom to decide the size of sample, research design and method of study. The targeted population for the study should include the Following –

- B) Children
- B) Parents
- C) Advocates, Enforcement officers and Non Governmental institutions.
- D) Protection Officers, Protection Homes and Rehabilitation centers.

Major areas to be covered as follows;

- 1) Kind of abuse and age group of children
- 2) Aspects of child abuse and exploitation
- 3) Relationship between broken family and child abuse
- 4) Factors responsible for the abuse and exploitation of children in Kerala.
- 5) Specific action required from the governmental authorities and judiciary to implement the existing legislatures
- 6) Suggestions and recommendations

### **3. A study on inter caste and inter religious marriages**

Marriages are regarded as the most important social custom and the best means to remove the barrier of caste system. Caste is, in fact, the steel frame binding together the many beliefs massed together in Hinduism. Hindus, Muslims and Christians in Kerala all tend to follow strict religious endogamy by arranging marriages, so inter-caste or inter religion marriages are a kind of challenge to the couples. Thinking about inter caste and inter religion marriages in our society was a taboo for most people in the earlier days. Just twenty-five years ago the instances of inter-caste marriages were very few; and those individuals who dared to marry outside the caste had to undergo truly great hardships. However, with time things changed and inter caste and inter religious marriage also became a part of our society. Today in Kerala society though we can see inter caste marriages but mostly it is the part of the city culture. The rural parts of the country still have a long way to go. Inter caste and inter religion marriages are a beacon light for social equality. There should be more societies and NGO's to support and encourage inter-caste marriages and inter-religious marriages. However, it is a difficult task to promote marriages between two communities but initiatives should be taken to fight this social menace. Due to the strong

prevalence of religion and caste identities in the society, even among the educated and middle class, the large scale occurrence of inter-caste marriages across communities is a distant possibility. Though government has taken many steps to improve the situation but still there is a great need to implement more measures to make the situation happier. The aim of the present study is to examine the socio-economic status, problems, causes and consequences, differences of customs and traditions, discrimination, etc of the inter caste and inter religious marriages. This study will help to understand the nature of inter-caste and inter religious marriages and the problems faced by women who undergone this type of marriages. The study should be a comprehensive analysis of the inter-caste and inter religious marriages and its nature should be quantitative. The data should be representative of the whole of Kerala and hence sample selection should be done accordingly and it should not be less than 150 (100 inter caste, 50 - inter religion).

Major areas to be covered are;

- Socio-economic and educational background of respondents
- Marital adjustment
- Marital problems
- Religious Attitudes
- Feelings of insecurity
- Family interaction patterns
- Problems faced by children
- Life satisfaction
- Views of Significant Others (Parents, siblings, grandparents, friends etc.)
- Significant events in the respondent's life
- Relationship with extended family
- Life Stories
- Attitude of the respondents towards the practice of inter caste and inter religious marriage in society

- Problems and effecting factors of Inter Caste and Inter Religious Marriages
- Awareness of the Govt. special marriage Act and facilities to inter caste and inter religious marriages.
- Suggestions and recommendations

#### **4. A study on socio - economic and working conditions of women workers**

To contribute to economic development women must engage themselves in economic or gainful activities as distinct from household or non-market activities. At present, women contribute merely 17% of the country's GDP, well below the global average of 37%. 'Working woman' is referred to a woman who works outside her home for a wage or salary. In the past, working outside the home was not the traditional norm in the Kerala society. Women started working due to financial strain and a desire to have a better standard of living. It is observed that women's contribution to the economy has increased rapidly over the years in Kerala. The proportion of women in regular work and also in the organized sector has significantly improved in the recent past. However no normative structure is provided in the society; hence women face various types of harassment. Among the numerous petitions filed before the Kerala Women's Commission a good number of them relates to workplace. Kerala Women's Commission has grave concerns about the problems faced by the women workers and has taken the decision to study the issues. This study should be an attempt to examine the socioeconomic and working conditions of women in Kerala and to identify the problems faced by women workers in Kerala. An attempt should also be made to explore how women workers are benefited from their employment. Data should be a representative sample of the whole of Kerala and sample should be selected from both the organized and UN organized sector. Major issues to be considered as follows;

- ❖ The extent and nature of participation of women in labour force
- ❖ The working conditions of the various categories of women workers
- ❖ Sexual harassment

- ❖ Facilities available at the workplace
- ❖ Health issues and Risk factors of women workers
- ❖ Safety and security measures
- ❖ Stress in the workplace
- ❖ Level of job satisfaction
- ❖ Benefits, leave facilities, working hours, shift duties, permission and breaks during the working hours
- ❖ Transport, rest rooms, child care facilities, training
- ❖ Suggest policy measures based on the findings of the study

## **5. Drug Abuse in Children**

The drug abuse is used to indicate the excessive consumption of a drug, regardless of whether an individual is truly dependent on it or not. Drug abuse is one of the serious problems affecting young generation not in India alone, but the entire world. The characteristics of drug addiction include;

- Intense desire or need to continue taking the drug and to obtain it by any costs.
- A tendency to increase the dose of the drug
- A psychological as well as physical dependence on the effects of the drug

Studies show that early drug abuse has been associated with more severe addiction, delinquency, psychological and behavioural problems and criminality. Because the teenage brain is still growing and changing, drug use at an early age has a greater potential to disrupt normal brain development. Drug abuse among children has become a global challenge and also an important public health concern and for the past two decades there has been a dramatic increase in the demand for interventions to address the drug abuse problem. The main objective of the study is to find out the extent of drug abuse among children and reasons for initiation and continuation of drug use by children and to assess their awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse. Hence, in the present study researcher

will have to focus on the causes and consequences of drug abuse among children in Kerala. The researcher has the freedom to decide the size of sample, research design and method of study. The important factors to be covered under the study as follows;

- ❖ Family environment
- ❖ Socio economic characteristics
- ❖ School environment
- ❖ School premises
- ❖ Health status of children using drugs and health problems
- ❖ Prevalence of drug abuse in students in Kerala
- ❖ Social determinants of drug abuse
- ❖ Effect of drug abuse
- ❖ Preventive measures
- ❖ Suggestions and Recommendations

## **6. Problems of Women in Education Field**

Teaching is one of the most significant professions of the world. All the professions in the society have its base in this noble profession. It is a platform where socialization of the child takes place. No other personality can have an influence more profound than that of a teacher. In order to teach effectively, teachers must have some sense of belief that they can make a difference to the lives of children they are teaching. In Kerala majority of the teachers are women. Teaching has always been one of the priority professions open to women. In a male-dominated patriarchal and stereotypical society, women teachers are often suffering at extreme levels of exploitation. Teachers pose a lot of responsibility as they are responsible to the various stake holders like students, parents, management, society and Nation as a whole. As per the Economic Review 2016-17, there were 12,981 schools in Kerala; 4,695 (36.17 per cent) Government schools, 7,220 (55.62

per cent) aided schools and 1,066 (8.2 per cent) unaided schools. More Government schools are functioning in lower primary section than upper primary or high school sections. Aided schools outnumber govt schools in all sections. The number of school teachers in Kerala during 2016-17 was 163,160. Out of this 97,457 (59.7 per cent) teachers are working in aided schools and 15,457 (9.47 per cent) teachers are working in private unaided schools. The remaining 30.8 per cent of teachers are working in govt schools. The competition in the school market is intense, yet most schools make profit. Teachers are more than what it was in the past. In addition to the loss of special recognition, the profession has been infested with a number of other problems, such as enormous rise in the workload, lack of security of service, too much domination by the political forces under local board managements, growing indiscipline among the students, delayed promotions and poor school climate. The teacher has to cope with so many stressful and frustrating situations which result in psychological pressure. A teacher, who is not happy, will breed discontentment and dissatisfaction which will have a long term impact on the pupils. Sustained stress could affect the teachers' physical as well as psychological health. A large number of grievances reach the Commission every year from women teachers who are facing some form of unfair practice. So it is in this context that Kerala Women's Commission has taken a decision to conduct a study to analyze the problems faced by women in Education field. The main objective of the study is to assess the occupational problems of women teachers and women non teaching staffs working in schools in Kerala. The data should be representative of the whole of Kerala. The sample size should be not less than 400. The major areas should be covered as follows;

- Psycho-social problems of School teachers (Govt, Aided and Unaided)
- Problems of non teaching women staff
- Sexual harassment
- Job satisfaction

- Job security
- Salary packages
- Problems of `protected teachers`
- Role of PTA
- Infrastructure of the school
- Work environment
- Interference of Management
- Financial concessions and benefits
- Suggestions and Recommendations

## **7. Education and Employment Status of SC/ST Women in the last 20 Years in Kerala**

Even after 72 years of independence, India's SC/ST population is not developed much. Even though numerous programmes had been undertaken for the upliftment of such community, but those programmes were not able to meet its goal because of ineffective implementation. These programmes also do not reach the needy SC/ST women because they are cornered by the very few creamy SC/ST women. Most of the time, the benefit of programmes were not handed over to the eligible people. This should be monitored properly and the schemes should be reached by the most deprived and constantly struggling SC/ST women. No doubt the government incurred huge funds for the SC/STs but it could not execute the programmes seriously. Because these SC/ST women are neglected by socially advanced communities and also by the better off among the backward class which leads to an unhealthy socio-economic condition. Even to get employed under private sector SC/STs stand a poor chance because of their poor educational background. Among the SC/STs themselves, some groups have made more progress than others. These are usually the urban

based, castes/groups and some who were not formerly Untouchables. Rural based SC/STs, by and large, continue to be educationally and economically backward. As regards to the reservation in educational institution, the quotas for the SC/STs have not been filled. The aforementioned factors lead Kerala Women's Commission to decide to conduct a study regarding the Education and Employment Status of SC/ST Women in the last 20 Years in Kerala especially to find the lacunae between schemes and its beneficiaries. So the ultimate aim of this study is to unravel the factors that stand in the way of the development of the people who are living amidst multitude of schemes and projects. The nature of the study should be both quantitative and qualitative. The study should trace the progress made in the field of education and its consequence upon social mobility for the SC/STs in Kerala. Major issues to be considered as follows;

- Existing situation of reservation policy for SC/ST
- Effectiveness of reservation policy for SC/ST
- Problems faced by SC/ST women
- Strategies for improvement of reservation policy for SC/ST
- The progress of education and employment of SC/ST women
- The pattern of social change and development among SC/ST as reflected through the various socio-economic characteristics
- Socio-economic backwardness
- Awareness of Constitutional and legal provisions
- Programmes and policies of the Government
- Employment pattern of SC/ST women
- Suggestions and Recommendations

## **8. Unemployment among women in Kerala**

Unemployment today had become one of the major challenges for the country as well for the current economy. Unemployment is a state of being without gainful work. Unemployment is generally considered as an involuntary failure to get income-yield work. The problem of the educated unemployed constitutes a very serious and menacing problem. Gender wise, the level of unemployment among women is higher than men. The educated youth tend to be more unemployed than their illiterate counterparts. The educated unemployed youth are the individuals who are either unemployed due to their high qualifications or are underemployed as a result of the wrong job profiles they are in. Studies show that unemployment has severe consequences not just for the individuals directly but for the family as a whole. Moreover, the population is expanding at a very fast rate than the employment opportunities available. The number of educated persons has increased very fast as compared to the expansion of employment opportunities in the state. As compared to other states in India, Kerala has higher literacy rate. Work participation rate of Kerala is 40.3 per cent according to Economic Review 2016-17. Work participation rate of women is 24.8 per cent and men are 57.8 per cent. A state - wise analysis on women's unemployment rates shows that Kerala has the highest rate of unemployment (Seth 2001:121). Also, we see that Kerala society pays high regard for government jobs, so every woman aspires for government jobs than any other. Moreover, the society also attaches glamour, prestige status and importance to the government job. Most of the women are looking for a government job, for simple reasons that government jobs promised stability and security of tenure with assured levels of wages and salaries along with guaranteed retirement. There is a strong need for scientific and systematic study and understanding of the unemployment problem of

Kerala. The study should unravel the extent of unemployment -with the help of Multi Dimensional Approaches. In the present study the researcher should focus on the psychological and behavioural stress and strain and economic hardships of the unemployed job seekers. In order to have a cross sectional view of the subject, the category of unemployed educated women should be divided into five main subgroups on the basis of their educational level, namely 10<sup>th</sup> Std, Higher secondary, Graduates, Post-graduates, and Professional qualification.(60 from each category).

The present study should give emphasis on the following areas;

- Socio-Economic background of unemployed women
- Current activity details of unemployed women
- Job preferences
- Details of Job-search
- The period of waiting
- Reasons of current unemployment
- Problems of educated unemployed women
- Attitude towards self-Employment
- Connection between education and employment
- Relationship of unemployment with household income, age, education and skills
- Suggestions for increasing the gainful employment and improving the levels of living

## **9. Problems of home nurses and domestic Maids**

Domestic service has remained one of the most low-paying services and since women workers tend to be pushed into such low-ranking jobs, their concentration in this occupation is of little surprise. Women domestic workers outnumber men in all countries and in every region of the world. There is a

general tendency to ignore this vast mass of work force, particularly Women workers who are powerless, and economically weak. The break-up of the joint family system under the impact of the forces of industrialization, urbanization and modernization has led to a greater demand for home nurses or house maids in Kerala. Also women in Kerala have gone out of house in search of job or livelihood the demand of home nurses are increasing. In a nuclear family, the mother—wife often finds it difficult to single-handedly manage all the household chores starting from cooking and cleaning to child-care. In a joint family, sharing of duties and cooperation among the members lightens the burden of household work. The need for domestic servant arises when the employed mother or wife requires some help in order to finish the household chores in a shorter duration of time or to look after the disabled or aged people and the children during her absence from home. Agencies supplying these housemaids are tremendously increasing and they are exploiting these home nurses/domestic maids. Currently govt has no recognition to this system, and so their wages and rights are not protected. Domestic workers are classified as the 'Live-in' (who live in the house of the employer and are available for work at all hours) and the 'Live-out' (who do not live in the house of the employer and have an independent dwelling.) The 'Live out' category is further classified as Full Time and Part Time workers. The full time housemaids/home nurses work at a single household for the whole day while the part time workers work at multiple households for specific jobs. The study should provide a clear picture of the problems faced by housemaids/home nurses in Kerala. The sample size should not be less than 200 (100 domestic maids and 100 home nurses). It is to be ensured that the sample is geographically representative of Kerala. Major issues to be considered as follows;

1. Specific as well as general socio-economic conditions of home nurses/domestic maids in Kerala
2. Home nurses/domestic maids in organized sector and home nurses/domestic maids in unorganized sector
3. Impact of job of domestic workers on their living condition
4. Impact of work of women domestic workers on their family as well as personal life
5. Issues faced by home nurses/domestic maids

6. Areas of exploitation
7. Recommendations for improvement

### **Minor Studies**

#### **1. A Sociological Investigation of Crimes committed by women**

Criminality of women has long been neglected because of traditional belief that women are law abiding and are less crime prone. Statistics on female criminality reveals that female criminals contribute a numerically smaller proportion than that of male offenders. But at present, there is upward trend in the number of crimes committed by women. There is an increase of crime rate among women due to the changing social status. The role of women in Kerala society has undergone considerable change since two decades leading to a greater participation in criminal activities by them. In Kerala, the gender gap in registered crime has diminished over time. Sex ratios of crime have suggested that there are sex differences among the patterns and types of crimes committed by males and females. Culprit women have taken up wrong path which would lead to her destruction. Studies show that many women who enter the justice system as offenders have experienced some form of prior victimization. The study should investigate the details such as why women commit offences; what are the reasons behind their mindless acts; whether other conditions such as family, social, economical condition are responsible; whether are forced to commit offence; whether they have no fear of their self security; why they chose the path of crime. Hence, this study becomes very significant in understanding the female criminality and its perspectives. The sample size should be not less than 100. Primary data should be collected by a structured Interview Schedule from women prisoners. It must consist of personal profile, socio – economic background, causes and nature of crime, attitudes and expectations of the respondents and their future plan after release. Major issues to be considered as follows;

- Pattern of crimes committed by women, especially violent crimes
- Various factors of criminal behavior of the female offenders

- Role of the family in female criminality
- Preventive measures of the women offences
- Children of criminal women
- Financial condition of criminal women
- Knowledge about law of criminal women
- Rehabilitation of criminal women
- The role of police
- Suggestions and recommendations

## **2. A Study on women organizations in Kerala**

Various organizations are presently working in Kerala for the upliftment of women. They are carrying out various programmes for the economic, social, mental development of women community. These organizations are agents not of the government but of the people. Voluntary welfare programmes co-exist with the governmental programmes and provide a supportive base to them as it is not possible for the government to look after, all the welfare needs of the people. Women organizations have always been an integral part of cultural and social tradition. But some organizations are deviating from their declared goals due to various reasons. The problems faced by the Women organizations in the course of their working have been engaging the attention of planners as well as researchers. These relate to various areas like finance, infrastructural, co-ordination and personnel, etc. Majority of the organizations have too small resources which do not meet the widespread social needs. They are ill-equipped and understaffed; because of lack of qualified staff, they cannot maintain minimum standards of work. They do not have a steady income and therefore, can neither plan their programmes nor can prepare proper budget estimates to plan their expenditure. Major projects of these organizations are Women's Empowerment through fostering functional Literacy, Education & Social Awareness generation, encouraging

Women's Income Generation & economic capacity building, strengthening Women's Participation, improving Family Health & Nutrition.etc. The aim of the study is to examine the non-governmental organizations' efforts for the betterment of women. The researcher has the freedom to decide the size of sample, research design and method of study. The major areas should be covered as follows;

- The role of women organizations in the empowerment of women
- Infrastructure facilities
- Nature of activities
- Quality of services
- Achievements
- Details of funds/grants
- Audit of accounts
- Issues confronting the organizations in their day to day activities
- Suggestions for improvement

### **3. Families in debt Trap through educational loan for professional courses**

Education is accepted as a leading instrument for promoting economic growth. Benefits of education are likely to be more far reaching both from the individual and social point of view. Professional Education usually refers to education for professional jobs, such as engineering and technology, law, medicine, teaching, business management, agriculture, etc. Kerala has achieved a great progress in higher education field. Various Professional colleges in private sector are there in

Kerala. Education loan is an important and arguably effective tool for financing higher education. Educational loans are implemented by various banks. Despite of the income many people approached for these loans and joined professional courses. But job opportunities decreased due to hike of educated people and due to this large group of unemployed educated people end up in debt due to loans. The study should be a comprehensive analysis of the problems confronting the families having education loan and its nature should be quantitative. Discussion with Bank Managers, and experts in the field should be inevitable. Primary data should be collected from two categories, one from students who availed educational loan and other from officers of various banks. (Sample 150 students, 10 bank officials). The major areas be covered in the study are as follows;

- a. Professional courses for which educational loans have been availed in Kerala
- b. Social, economic and other characteristics of student borrowers in Kerala
- c. Impact of the education loans on the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries
- d. Job opportunities of professional courses
- e. Loan repayment
- f. Problems faced by students and family
- g. Present system of educational loans
- h. Suggestions and Recommendations

#### **4. Psychological analysis of marital problems in Kerala**

Conflicts and disagreements are inevitable in every close relationship, including marital relationship. While every marriage relationship is as unique as the individuals it contains, some degree of conflict is actually necessary to keep a marriage dynamic rather than static. A troubled

marriage is itself a prime source of stress while simultaneously limiting the partner's ability to seek support in other relationships (Coyne & Delongis, 1986). The impact of a turbulent marriage is substantial. Although conflicts in a marriage are inevitable, the need to be able to handle them appropriately especially as a couple is extremely important. Kerala is considered as the divorce capital of India. Couples getting into divorce due to marital problems are increasing day by day. The change in the social and familial structure of Kerala increased the rate of divorce. There are many reasons for marital problems. Overall social media has a major role. Social support from family and significant others are important in improving marital tactic. Kerala Women's Commission is providing free family counselling and pre- marital counselling to reduce marital problems and to reduce the rate of divorce. The main objective of the study is to look at the marital problems in Kerala. The present study must be an attempt to describe and understand the general trend in marital problems and to replace the possibility of suggesting ways to deal the problem. The study should aim to investigate the marital relationship between husband and wife and on the other hand the causes for the marital problems and its adverse effects on family environment in particular and the society as a whole. To satisfy the empirical part of the study it should collect data from at least 100 respondents. Sample should be collected from family counseling centers in Kerala. The major areas should be covered as follows;

1. Socio-economic background of the respondents
2. Causes of marital problems
3. Psycho-social problems of the respondents
4. Impact of marital problems on children
5. Family environment
6. Suggestions and recommendations to reduce marital problems

## **5. An analytical study on the problems of Old Age women**

Old age is the stage in which various adjustments viz. physical, health, social, and family are to be made. Earlier old people were regarded as central figure of the family, but with the changing scenario of the contemporary Kerala Society the condition of old people has also changed. Statistics show that out of the total population 50 lakh people are with an age of above 50 years. According to 2011 census life expectancy in Kerala is 74.9 years and for the male, it is 72 years and 77.8 years for females. The statistics indicate that a woman in Kerala normally passes through a widowhood of 5.8 years in her lifetime. So Kerala Women's Commission has grave concern about these groups and had taken the decision to include the topic in the research study. The study should be an attempt to highlight almost all the aspects of the life of old women living in Kerala. Such a study may be of help to the government in formulating policies for the betterment of old women. The sample should be the old age women in Kerala and sample size should be not less than 200. The sample should be divided into two groups based on age (100 respondents should be above 70 years and 100 below the age of 70). The major areas should be covered as follows;

1. Socio economic background of old women
2. Social status of old women
3. Problems of old women
4. Attitudes of the family members of old women and society towards them
5. Attitudes of the old women towards the members of their family and society

6. Type of support available to them from different members of their family and society
7. Views of old women towards their life
8. Suggestions and recommendations

## **6. Problems of physically and Mentally challenged women**

At present various schemes and programmes are running for the physically and mentally challenged people, but because of various reasons, they are not able to utilize these programmes effectively. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (RPWD Act, 2016) was notified on Dec 28, 2016. The Act provides that “the appropriate Government shall ensure that the PWD enjoy the right to equality, life with dignity, and respect for his or her own integrity equally with others.” Physically challenged women are often neglected whereas mentally challenged women are being abused and exploited frequently in the society. Current scenario of the small nuclear family, the care and protection of such women are turned out to be a big challenge. Moreover disabled women are very much struggling for their day to day life activities due to lack of life skill education and training. Considering this facts, Kerala women’s commission has embarked on a study to understand and mitigate these issues. The aim of the study is to analyze the problems – physical, mental, emotional, security problems- faced by disabled women. The data should be representative of the whole of Kerala and hence sample selection should be done accordingly and it should not be less than 200. Age should be between 18-60 years. 100 physically challenged women (80 from institutions and 20 from their homes). 100 mentally challenged women (80 from institutions and 20 from their homes). In the case of mentally challenged women data should be collected with the help of their relatives/care takers. The major areas should be covered as follows;

- Problems faced by physically and mentally challenged women
- Problems faced by family members
- Socio economic status of these families
- Rehabilitation
- Life skill education and training in Rehabilitation Centers
- Schemes for physically and mentally challenged women
- Knowledge about services
- Recommendations and suggestions

## **7. Effect of mobile phones among women**

Mobile phones have become an integral part of our daily life. Mobile phones bear several advantages that social beings cannot do without and as a result of which the dependence of our social existence on a Mobile phone is by and large increasing. This dependence at times can become hazardous as well. A mobile phone always acts as the mini storage and as access to information even when a person is away from his computer, books and libraries or other sources of information. On the other hand the convenience of a mobile phone can reach a person anytime and anywhere which mostly intrudes into the privacy of its owner. Mobiles are even addiction to a certain section of people. Most of the women in Kerala are active in social media also. Now extramarital relationships are very common in Kerala. Mobile phones play a major role in extramarital relations. The main objective of the study is to look into the effect of mobile phones among women and to determine whether there is any connection between extramarital relations and mobile phones. The data should be representative of the whole of Kerala and hence sample selection should be done accordingly and it should not be

less than 250. Age of the respondents should be between 25-45 years. The important factors should be covered under the study as follows;

1. Mobile phone using pattern by women
2. Age wise use pattern of mobile phones
3. Various mobile phone usages
4. Negative impact of mobile phone use on family and social relations
6. Role of mobile phones in extramarital relationships.
7. Suggestions and recommendations to reduce the negative impact of mobile phones

#### **Terms and conditions.**

1. Progress of the study taken up must be intimated and review of the study will be conducted before finalizing it.

2. A draft should be submitted for approval before submission of final report.
3. Final report submitted will be scrutinized by an expert committee constituted by the Kerala Women's Commission and random checks of the data collected will be conducted.
4. Short comings if any, pointed out by the expert committee have to be rectified.
5. An abstract of the study and the findings and recommendations arrived at should be presented before the Kerala Women's Commission as PPT for acceptance and approval by the Kerala Women's Commission.
6. The final payment will be made with in a period of three months after the scrutiny and acceptance of the report by the Kerala Women's Commission.
7. The publication as well as copyright of the reports are vested with the Kerala Women's Commission once it is accepted. Due acknowledgement will be given to the individuals and institutions who have conducted the study.
8. The responsibility of factual errors, if any found in the report will be vested with the institution or person who conducted the study, which have to be rectified as directed by the Kerala Women's Commission.
9. When the research proposal is accepted, the head of the organization or the person responsible for the study has to sign an agreement in prescribed form, on a stamp paper for the value of Rs.100/- .
10. Connected Registers, Bills, Vouchers must be handed over to the Kerala Women's Commission along with 3 copies of the report with CD.
11. Final report of the major study must have a minimum of 150 pages and that of minor studies must have 100 pages. Photos/pictures should be given as appendix only and will not be treated as part of the research study report.
12. In addition, a summary report consisting of only the findings of the study along with the recommendations should be submitted separately, both in English and Malayalam.
13. 25% of the total cost will be released in advance as soon as the research proposal on the entrusted study is submitted and approved,

14. The duration of each research study is 4 months for minor studies and eight months for major studies from the date of execution of the agreement. The report should be submitted to the Kerala Women's Commission within the above period. Time schedule stipulated must be strictly adhered to.

