ABSTRACT:
In the 21st century, women enjoy more freedom and power than ever before. However, they are still disadvantaged when compared to men in virtually all aspects of life. Kerala has often been referred to as the “land of women.” Historically the state has been quite different from the rest of the country in terms of the indicators of women’s development. Kerala’s accomplishment in human development is in fact the outcome of the better status of women in terms of education and health. But now Kerala is facing gender paradox. Gender paradox’ in Kerala refers to the ‘contradiction’ whereby women’s high showing in socio-demographic indicators of development exists simultaneously with their low public participation and the increasing incidence of violence upon them. Given that ‘gender paradox’ has become the overwhelming context for imagining women in Kerala today, this paper seeks to examine its anatomy. The specific purpose in this paper is to evaluate the status of women in Kerala because of its distinctive growth pattern.

KEY WORDS: Women, Kerala, Paradoxes, Violence, Education, Politics