

Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur districts but in Kozhikode all are housewives

There are significant regional differences in the consumption of the age group of 60-69 elderly women in the rural and urban areas of Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur and Kozhikode districts. The analysis also makes it clear that the urban women consume more compared to the rural ones. In the age group of 70-79 consumption is high in the urban areas of the three districts. In the 80+ category also consumption is high in the urban areas of Thrissur and Kozhikode but it is high in the rural areas of Thiruvananthapuram district, as well.

### **Conclusion**

The study has attempted to assess the consumption pattern of elderly women. The study of the consumption pattern of the aged women in Kerala throws light on many crucial issues. From the study it is clear that consumption is influenced by socio economic variables other than the income of the elderly women. It invites direct attention to the need for income security, reforms of the social security measures for the aged and the increased role of Government, NGOs and the society in taking care of the aged women. The present study illustrates the need to formulate a complete health care programme for the aged women. Action should be taken to alleviate the financial dependence, poor health and impaired functional status of the women. The public response to these issues should be sounded.

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