

Kerala Model of Ageing Surveys: 2004-2024

The phenomenon of population ageing has garnered significant attention in Kerala, which holds the highest proportion of elderly individuals in India. Although research on ageing began in the 1980s, it was not until 2004 that a comprehensive study on ageing was initiated, marking a pioneering effort both in Kerala and across India. This landmark study laid the foundation for understanding the demographic transition toward an ageing society, highlighting challenges such as healthcare, social security, and elder care. Kerala's leadership in addressing these issues has set a model for ageing populations nationwide, driving future research and policy development. The first Kerala Ageing Survey, launched in 2004, focused on individuals aged 60 and above and has since been conducted every three years as a longitudinal study, with the seventh round completed in 2022 and the eighth round scheduled for 2025. A second set of the Kerala Ageing Survey, initiated in 2013, is currently preparing for its fifth round in 2025. Both surveys are based on the Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) sample households, selected through a stratified, multi-stage systematic random sampling method. The 2004 elderly cohort was drawn from 10,000 households in the 2003 KMS comprising 4940 elderly, while the 2013 cohort was drawn from the 15000 sample households in the 2011 KMS with 7783 elderly. In Addition, a third set of the Kerala Ageing Survey was initiated in 2024, focusing on 10318 individuals aged 65 and above, derived from 20000 households in the 2023 KMS sample. This ongoing longitudinal research continues to inform policy decisions and interventions aimed at addressing the needs of Kerala's ageing population.