

Return Emigration of Indian Emigrant Workers From the West Asia

Report on a Survey of Return Emigrants in Kerala

B.A. Prakash
Professor, RGIDS

Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Development Studies (RGIDS)
Thiruvananthapuram 695 010
&
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
New Delhi 110 021

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Foreword

The global economic crisis of 2008, the worst of its kind since the World depression of the 1930's created a massive decline in investments, economic activities and employment which also impacted the demand for emigrant workers in the West – Asian countries. During the post-global crisis period, a large number of emigrant workers in construction, trade, manufacturing, agriculture and domestic services in the West Asia lost jobs and were forced to return to their native countries. These developments adversely affected the interests of almost 5 million Indian migrants in the West Asia. It resulted in large scale return of Indian migrant workers from this area during this period.

In this context, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has sponsored a study to examine the trend, pattern and causes of return of emigration from the West Asia to the State of Kerala. The State accounts more than half of the total stock of Indian emigrants in the West Asian countries and heavily relies on their remittances. Currently, Kerala is accounted for about Rs. 50,000 crore every year from the emigrants. The findings of the study are based on a sample survey of 800 return emigrant households in four districts of Kerala. The Study, based on questionnaire, provides a clearer picture of the reasons for return, their current activity status and socio-economic profile as well as effects on return emigrants to make some policy recommendations. I hope the study fills up a much-needed space in the academic research on the phenomena of migration in Kerala, and proves useful to academicians as well as policy-makers and general readers who have an interest in the subject.

I congratulate Prof. B.A. Prakash and his team of researchers in the RGIDS, Thiruvananthapuram for diligently carrying out this study and to provide us with some thought-provoking recommendations both for Union and State Government as well as for the society in general.

February 7, 2013
New Delhi

Vayalar Ravi
Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs
Government of India

Preface

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India has granted financial assistance to set up a Research Programme on International Migration at Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Development Studies (RGIDS), Thiruvananthapuram. The objective has been to conduct research relating to various issues and problems of emigration from Kerala as well as India, to organize discussions with emigrants and return emigrants and suggest measures to improve their socio-economic conditions. As part of the Programme, RGIDS has conducted a study on return emigration from the West Asia and prepared this report.

It was Prof. B.A. Prakash, Project Director of the programme who undertook this research project. The study examined the factors contributing to return, country-wise return, the current status and problems faced by the Keralite return emigrants. The data for the study was collected through a sample survey of 800 return emigrant households from four districts viz., Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur and Malappuram. A major finding of the survey is that 71 percent of the return emigrants returned to Kerala during the post-global crisis period (2008-2011). Labour problems such as expiry of contract, compulsory repatriation, low salary, low savings from migration and the decline in employment opportunities arising due to the global crisis are identified as causes for the return. Based on the findings of the study, we have given a few policy recommendations.

We are grateful to Shri. Vayalar Ravi, Hon. Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India, for helping us to start the Research Programme. We have also benefited much from the comments and suggestions of Shri. Parvez Dewan, Secretary; Shri. Atul Kumar Tiwari, Joint Secretary and Shri. Shiv Ratan, Director, MOIA for the preparation of the report. I am thankful to Shri. R. Buhril, Protector General of Emigrants and Chairman of the Advisory Committee and its members for their advice and suggestions relating to the Research Programme. Shri. Hidur Muhammed, Director of RGIDS and Prof. G. Balachandran, former Director have given overall guidance for the research project. Administrative support for the study was provided by Shri. N.Niyathi, Registrar and Shri. G. Rajendran Nair, Secretary. Shri. Mohanakumar S. M., Shri. Biju Sundar, and Smt. Gayatri Devi S., Research Associates, have provided the research assistance.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of them.

Ramesh Chennithala

Chairman

Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Development Studies

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Executive Summary

Context, Objectives and Sources of Data

- A State-wide Migration Survey conducted in 2011 concluded that emigration from Kerala to the Gulf seems to be approaching an inflection point in history. The conclusion is that the post global crisis period (2008 to 2011) is a major turning point in the history of emigration from Kerala witnessing an unprecedented decline in the emigration to the Gulf.
- The objectives of the study are to examine the causes of return, the pattern of return, the country-wise return, the period of return of emigrant workers, the current status of return emigrants, the socio-economic profile of the return emigrants, the impacts of the return emigration and to suggest measures for the welfare of the return emigrants.
- Framework of the analysis used for the study is contract-type migration. The economic impacts of contract migration will be substantial on the domestic economies of the labour exporting countries compared to settlement-type migration. Likewise, the return of migrant workers will create serious adverse economic consequences in the labour exporting countries.
- The principal source of data is a sample survey conducted in 800 return emigrant households in four districts of Kerala viz., Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur

and Malappuram. Two hundred sample return emigrants from four Grama Panchayats / Municipalities were interviewed from each district.

Emigrants in the sample households

- The survey found that 275 persons are living in foreign countries belonging to the 800 sample return emigrant households. Of them, 91.28 percent are males and 8.72 percent are females. Seventy-one percent of the emigrants are married.
- Except a few, all of them migrated to West Asian countries viz., UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain. Of the total emigrants, 60 percent migrated to UAE. Among the emigrants in UAE, 44 percent are living in Dubai.
- A distribution of emigrants by activity status shows that 93.81 percent of the emigrants are workers. Of them, 86.18 percent work in the private sector establishments and 4 percent in public sector.
- Two percent of the emigrants are unemployed and four percent belong to the category of “not in labour force” viz., students, children and housewives.
- Majority of the emigrants (54 percent) are working in white collar categories of jobs in offices and shops. Others are engaged in

construction activities, workshops, factories, houses etc.,

- Among the emigrant workers, more than one-third has worked for a period of one to three years. Another one-third has worked for a period between 3 to 7 years. Only 15 percent of the emigrants have worked for more than 10 years.
- A major problem faced by the emigrant workers in Gulf countries is the lengthy working hours per day. Nearly 47 percent have to work 8 hours per day, 20 percent 8 to 10 hours and 23 percent above 10 hours.
- The survey results suggest that 20 percent of the emigrants are living in flats, 42 percent in rented rooms and 29 percent in labour camps. Higher rent rates and cost of living are certain major problems they encounter.
- Among the emigrants, 84 percent are single emigrants staying alone and 16 percent are living with their family.
- Of the total emigrant workers, 9 percent get a very low monthly wage of less than Rs.5, 000. Thirty-two percent receive a monthly wage between Rs.5,000 and Rs.10,000. Another 24 percent receive a monthly wage between Rs. 10,000 and Rs.15,000.
- Due to low monthly wages and savings, nearly 16 percent of the emigrant workers are not sending remittances on a monthly basis. And those who are sending remittances on monthly basis send only smaller amounts.

Return Emigrants: Country and Period of Return

- The total number of return emigrants in the 800 sample return emigrant households was 884. Of them, 71 percent returned to Kerala during the post global crisis period between 2008 and 2011.
- A country-wise analysis of the return of the emigrants revealed that except a few, all of them had returned from the Gulf countries viz., United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain, majority of them being from UAE (54.52 percent).
- The total number of return emigrants in the 800 sample return emigrant households are 884.

The average number of return emigrants per household is 1.10.

- The return emigration issue in Kerala is basically a problem of return emigration of contract workers from West Asian countries viz., UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. Out of the return emigrants, 98.5 percent returned from the West Asian countries.
- Among the return emigrants, 54.52 percent returned from UAE, 17.87 percent from Saudi Arabia, 10.75 percent from Oman, 7.01 percent from Qatar, 5.10 percent from Kuwait and 3.28 percent from Bahrain.
- The changes that have been taking place during the post global crisis period in the economy and labour market in UAE serve as the principal reason for large-scale return of emigrants to Kerala.
- Dubai, an Emirate in UAE is the centre of return. Dubai accounts for one-fourth of the total return emigrants.
- The global crisis year of 2008 was a major turning point in the history of emigration in the West Asian countries. The survey results suggest that 71 percent of the return emigrants had returned during the post global crisis period between 2008 and 2011.
- The return emigrants worked only for a brief period in the Gulf countries. Thirty percent of the emigrant workers returned after working for a brief period, between one to three years. Another 11 percent returned within three to five years.

Return Emigrants: Employment, Wages and Working Condition in the Gulf

- Among the 884 return emigrants, 98.53 percent were workers, 1.47 percent unemployed and non-workers. Eighty-one percent of the return emigrants are males and 19 percent are females.
- Eighty-five percent of the return emigrants were working in private sector establishments or enterprises on a regular basis at the time of return. Another 5.5 percent worked in public sector.
- The category of work which provided largest employment to the return emigrants was trade

and commerce. One-fourth of the return emigrants worked in shops as sales workers.

- Majority of the return emigrants worked in offices, shops, construction sites, factories, and houses located in the cities (60 percent). More than one-fifth worked in isolated areas and deserts.
- Long hours of work is an unattractive feature of the working conditions in the Gulf. Majority of the return emigrants had worked for 8 to 10 hours or above 10 hours per day.
- Forty-two percent of the return emigrants lived in labour camps meant for accommodating labourers, located away from the cities. Twenty eight percent lived in rented rooms and 17 percent in flats or in the parts of flats.
- The information supplied by the return emigrants revealed that the wages they received were very low. Forty-seven percent of the return emigrants were receiving only a salary ranging from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000.
- The survey results indicate that the declining trend in wages, low wage-rate and fall in their savings are the major factors which contributed to the return of the emigrant workers.

Return Emigrants: Causes of Return

- The conclusion emerged from the study is that the principal cause for the return of emigrants to Kerala turned out to be the labour problems such as expiry of contract, compulsory repatriation, low salary, non-payment of salary, cruel behaviour of the employer and bad work atmosphere. Lack of employment, low savings and a combination of the problems cited are also contributed to the return of workers. Sixty-seven percent of the emigrants returned due to the above causes.
- Health problem is the second major cause for the return. Unhealthy climate, sickness, accidents and lack of treatment facilities also contributed to the return of emigrants. This was the reason for the return of twelve percent of the emigrants.
- Family problems such as health problems of family members, death of family members, education of children etc., contributed to the return of seven percent of the emigrants.

Current activity status of return emigrants

- The survey results suggest that, of the total return emigrants, 70 percent are employed, 19 percent unemployed and 11 percent not in the labour force.
- The incidence of unemployment among the return emigrants is high. The unemployment rate, denoting the percentage of unemployed on the total labour force is 21 percent.
- Among the employed, nearly three-fourth of them are employed in low-earning category of jobs such as self-employment, casual labour and agriculture.
- Though casual wage-rate in Kerala is high when compared to other States, the average number of working days is very low. Nearly 37 percent of the employed belong to the category of casual labour.
- Among the categories of jobs mentioned, the only category from which one gets a reasonable wage is the employment in private sector establishments and enterprises.
- It is reported that of the total return emigrants getting income from employment, 37 percent get a wage below Rs. 3,000 per month. Another 28 percent is getting a monthly income ranging from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000.
- Those who are getting an income from their investment in buildings, vehicles and bank deposits are few in number.
- Information about the membership in pension schemes for migrants shows that only a few return emigrants have joined the schemes. Fifteen persons have joined the pension scheme of the State Government started recently. Only one person has joined the scheme of the Central Government. Lack of awareness about the pension schemes is a reason for the poor response.

Socio-economic Profile of Return Emigrant Households

- The socio-economic profile of the sample return emigrant households reveals that one fourth of them belong to poor category. Twenty-four percent of the sample households are Below the Poverty Line (BPL) households.

- This suggests that the impact of migration is too small to make any significant impact on a sizeable share of poor migrant households in Kerala.
- Due to very small holding of land, three-fourth of the return emigrant households are not getting any income from land.
- Majority of the emigrants are living in small houses constructed prior to 1990 using the resources other than savings from migration.
- The monthly consumption expenditure of 28 percent of the households is very low. The situation is also not better in the case of another 19 percent of the households.
- Wages of the return emigrants, non-migrant members and remittances sent by emigrants are the major sources of income of the households at present.
- The households have high incidence of debt due to borrowings for meeting the expenditure of migration, house construction, medical treatment, marriage etc. The amount borrowed ranged between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 6 lakh.

Socio-economic Effects of Return Emigration

- The experiences of emigration to the West Asia for employment during the previous decades indicate that emigration has a positive correlation with improvement in socio-economic status of emigrant households. But the present survey results show that there is no improvement in the socio-economic status of 40 percent of the return emigrant households.
- The long separation from the family and isolated life in the Gulf creates stress and anxieties to the emigrants who live in the foreign countries as well as to their family members back home.
- Nearly 20 percent of the emigrants' wives reported that they faced problems and mental stress during the period of stay of their husbands abroad.
- In the case of 17 percent of the households, the absence of parents or head of the household has adversely affected the education of the children.
- Twenty-one percent of the sample households reported that the migration of the head of the household adversely affected the character formation of children.
- Another social effect of migration is the isolation from society and social life due to the long absence from the native place. Majority of the return emigrants are of the view that they are isolated from the society due to their absence.

Return Emigration and its Effects on Locality / Region: Views of Informants

- Eighty-three percent of the informants told us that many emigrants in their locality had returned from the Gulf during the years 2010 and 2011. In all the districts, it is reported that many people had returned during these two years.
- The households reported that recently there is a shift in the destination of migration from Gulf to Indian cities in the case of new migrants of their locality. Forty-one percent of the informants told us that there is a change in the destination of migrants in their locality.
- Majority of households told us that the high wage-rate of casual workers prevailing in Kerala has discouraged the emigration of unskilled categories of workers to the Gulf Countries.
- One-third of the households is of the view that there is no scope for future migration to the Gulf countries. Forty-four percent of the households are of the view that there is little scope for migration to the Gulf.
- The households are of the view that the return emigration has created a mild or moderate recession in economic activities in their locality. Nearly half of the households reported that there is a small decline in the house construction activities in their locality in recent years.
- Majority of the households reported that there has been a small decline in trade, commerce and service activities in recent years due to return emigration.
- Thus the survey results suggest that the return of large number of emigrants from the Gulf since 2008 has created mild or moderate level recession in the areas or regions having high concentration of migrant households.

Recommendations

- The principal destination of emigrants from Kerala is the Gulf region. This coupled with the heavy dependence of State's regional economy on remittances, implies that mass return of emigrants creates serious economic consequences in Kerala. This will result negative impacts on many areas such as employment, unemployment, consumption, savings, investment and the general well-being of the people.
- It is recommended that the State as well as the Central Government gives high priority for the issues of return emigration and rehabilitation of return emigrants. Policies should aim at providing credit and other support for providing gainful employment to the return emigrants and relief to those households who lost their head of the household consequent migration.
- Global crisis and its concomitant recession in the Gulf countries serves as the principal reason for the return of more than two-thirds of the emigrants. It is likely that the return of emigrants from the Gulf will continue. In this context, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs may conduct a study to assess the changes in labour situation for migrant workers in the Gulf, the scope of future emigration, the pattern of return emigration, categories of emigrants returning, the possibilities of migration to other countries etc.,
- Health issues like sickness, accidents, lack of treatment facilities, unhealthy climate etc., are the causes of return of a sizeable section of emigrants. In order to provide medical assistance to this category of return emigrants, a health insurance scheme exclusively for the emigrants may be formulated. Treatment facilities for the emigrants in the Gulf countries may also be provided through the health insurance scheme. An insurance Company may be entrusted to administer this insurance scheme.
- The survey results suggest that the emigration has not contributed to an improvement in the socio-economic status of 40 percent of the return emigrants due to higher initial cost of migration, low salary, low savings and brief period of employment in Gulf.
- In this context, there is a need to discourage the migration of unskilled, low-skilled categories of manual labourers, female domestic workers and other categories who are offered a job with low salary. Workers may not be allowed to migrate under the foreign employers, who are not willing to pay for the onward and return journey, provide subsidized accommodation and medical facilities etc,. Likewise, the migration of workers to those countries which do not pay wages as per labour contract or protect the right of labourers should be discouraged. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs may formulate a policy of migration of Indian workers to the Gulf.
- As the return emigration has contributed to a mild recession in the localities or districts having high rate of emigration, it is recommended that the State/Central Government may follow a policy to spend more public money for job-oriented schemes to revive the economy.
- One-fourth of the emigrant households are BPL households . With a very small holding of land, three fourth of the return emigrant households are not getting any income from land. In this context, there is a need to give special credit support and other assistance to the return emigrant households by the State and Central Governments.
- As three-fourth of the return emigrants belong to low earning categories of jobs and who engage in self-employment, casual labour and agricultural activities, they may be provided credit support through commercial banks, co-operative banks and other financial institutions in the public sector. An employment scheme to provide credit support may be formulated for the purpose.
- The emigrants as well as the return emigrants are not aware of the various welfare schemes/ pension schemes implemented by the Central and the State Governments. Measures may be taken to create awareness about various welfare schemes among the emigrants and return emigrants.
- The following welfare measures are suggested for the migrant households who lost a member of

their household or who became permanently sick due to migration.

- If a migrant, who has valid travel documents and work VISA, dies in the foreign country where he/she works, due to accidents, sickness or any other reason, a onetime payment of Rs. 3 lakh should be paid to the dependents of the deceased by the State or Central Government. Besides this, the government should bear the cost of transporting the dead body from the foreign country to his/her native place.
- A migrant who had gone to a foreign country for work with valid travel documents and VISA for work, and had worked for a period of three years and was forced to return to the native country due to a major accident involving physical disability or due to chronic diseases like cancer, stroke, heart attack, kidney failure etc. may be given a monthly pension of Rs. 500 per month till his death. This

benefit should be given on the basis of the report of the Medical Board of the State Government.

- **Grants for starting labour supply services of return emigrants:** The return emigrants may be encouraged to form labour co-operatives for labour supply to private sector, public agencies and enterprises within the State. The co-operatives may also start production or service units to provide employment to its members.
- **Grants for starting old age homes** meant for return emigrants and old people belonging to emigrant households: Grants may be given for constructing old age homes and meeting the running expenditure.
- **Promotion of investment of NREs** by offering incentives and other support: In order to promote investments by emigrants and return emigrants special incentives may be given for small scale production, repair and service units started by them.

1

Introduction

Introduction

1.1. The large-scale emigration of Keralite workers to West Asian countries during the last three-and-a-half decades has contributed to the biggest socio-economic change in Kerala. This has resulted in an unprecedented increase in emigration, receipt of migrant remittances and widespread changes in the economic and social fronts. Evidently, several factors have contributed to this. First, there has been a continuous increase in emigration since the mid-1970s to the Gulf countries. The emigration which started with a few thousands per year during the early 1970s assumed large proportions during the decades 1980s, 1990s and the first decade of the 21st century. According to a recent State-wide Survey, the total Keralite emigrants in the Gulf countries is 20.37 lakh in 2011. Secondly, the total stock of Keralites in the West Asia accounts for more than half of the total stock of Indian emigrants. The High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora estimated that out of the total 30 lakh Indian emigrants in the Gulf region in 1999, more than half belonged to one State i.e. Kerala. Thirdly, of the total stock of Keralite emigrants in the foreign countries, the share of emigrants in the West Asian countries was about 89 percent during the first decade of the present century. Fourthly, the magnitude of remittances sent home by emigrant workers is so large that it is equivalent to 22 to 31 percent of the Net State Domestic Product of Kerala between 2003 and 2011. According to the latest estimate, the total remittance received in Kerala from the emigrant workers was Rs. 49,695 crore which is equivalent to 31 percent of the Net State Domestic Product of Kerala. Fifthly, emigrants in the State

belonged to all districts except two districts and the impact of migration is spread throughout the State. As Kerala is heavily relying on Gulf emigration, any major change in the economic or labour front in West Asia resulting in the return of emigrants will create serious problems in the economic and social fronts of Kerala.

1.2. The global economic and financial crisis since 2008 created a depression in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries which were heavily depending on oil exports and imports of almost all commodities as well as migrant labourers. The global crisis has created unprecedented loss of employment and fall in economic activities in the Gulf resulting in exodus of migrant workers. A large proportion of migrant workers in construction, trade, manufacturing, agriculture and domestic service sectors lost jobs and were forced to return to their native countries.

1.3. The Kerala Migration Survey 2011, conducted by K.C Zachariah and S.Irudaya Rajan, provides new evidence about the recent trends in emigration to the Gulf in the context of the global crisis of 2008 (K.C Zachariah and S. Irudaya Rajan, 2012). Based on a State-wide survey covering 15,000 households, the authors say that Gulf emigrants from Kerala seems to approach an inflection point in history. The major conclusion is that though there was a small increase in the number of emigrants at the State level, most of the traditional centres of emigration in the State had experienced decrease in the number of emigrants and / or emigrants per household. Thus, these evidence suggest that the post global crisis period (2008 to 2011) was a major turning point in the history of

emigration of Kerala. Kerala has been witnessing an unprecedented decline in the emigration to the Gulf during its history of four decades of emigration.

Review of research

1.4. The twentieth century has witnessed unprecedented increase in population mobility made possible by revolutionary advances in transportation and communication systems. The general acceptance of the policies of liberalization and globalization since 1980s has promoted international migration throughout the world. In this context, International Labour Organization had made an attempt to improve the data collection on international migration and presented conceptual and analytical approaches for the measurement of the stocks and flows of migrants (ILO, 1997a). It provides a critical review of the adequacy of current sources of data on international migration and suggests ways of improving such data so as to enhance their usefulness and international comparability. According to ILO, migrant workers are persons admitted by a country other than their own for the explicit purpose of carrying out an economic activity. The category of migrant workers includes seasonal migrant workers, project-tied migrant workers, contract workers and highly skilled migrant workers. The study also defined the contract workers and presented the different issues relating to the definition and estimation of migrant remittances. The study addresses the major issues on the conceptual, methodological and data collection of international migration.

1.5. We may also examine some of the important works on international migration. Reginald Appleyard's edited work on international migration discusses some of the important issues of international migration such as definition and measurement, causes of emigration, contract migration, remittances and return emigration (Reginald Appleyard, 1989). This is one of the earlier studies which discusses the theoretical issues of the contract type of international migration. Peter Stalker's survey on international labour migration examines the trends, patterns and characteristics of five categories of migrants viz. settlers, contract workers, professionals, illegal immigrants and refugees during the decade of

1980s and early 1990s. The study gives a detailed analysis of the contract migrants in the Middle East Countries during 1990s (Stalker Peter, 1994). Some of the other notable studies of ILO relate to migrant workers in construction industry, bilateral immigration agreement and on immigration policy. ILO's study on migrant construction workers gives an excellent account of the social and labour issues of construction migrant workers in Middle East, Asia and Western Europe. The study also examines the issues related to recruitment, wages and terms and conditions of the construction workers (ILO, 1995). Another ILO Manual examines the issues relating to the policies and procedures for admitting migrant workers (ILO, 1996). The Manual discusses concepts, policies and procedures for emigration, conditions of work and other labour issues. Another ILO Manual examines the policy and administration issues faced by authorities in countries that are sending or planning to send workers abroad. It draws extensively on the experience of States that have sought to manage the various stages of foreign employment, regulations of recruitment and providing social security benefits (ILO, 1997b).

Indian migration to the West Asia

1.6. Though Indian migration to West Asia and its economic and social consequences are crucial issues, not many attempts have been made to examine its macro dimensions. One of the earlier studies which presented a profile of international labour migration from India, the macro economic impact of the labour flows and the associated financial flows on the Indian economy was the study of Deepak Nayyar (Deepak Nayyar 1994). The other studies which provide the aggregate picture of the volume of migration, data source of migration, migrant remittances and migration statistics are by Rashid Amjed 1984, Athukorala P, 1993 and ILO, ARTEP, 1993. Another study which examined the trends and pattern and socio-economic impacts of Indian migration to the Middle East is the edited work of B.A Prakash (Prakash 1998b). Besides examining the trend and pattern of Indian migration, the study also examines the economic and social impacts of Gulf migration on Kerala. The problems of return migrants were also examined in the volume. Among the literature of Indian emigration, an important

one is the Report of the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora which gives country-wise estimate of the Indian emigration and of the problems faced by them in various countries (Government of India, 2002).

1.7. Another study has examined the employment, wages and working conditions of Indian emigrant workers in UAE (K. C. Zachariah, B.A. Prakash, S. Irudaya Rajan, 2004). This study based on a field survey of 361 Indian emigrant workers in UAE which documented the changes in the labour demand for different categories of emigrant workers, enumerates the emigration policies and examines employment and working conditions, wage levels and related problems of the Kerala emigrants. Another study by the same authors examines the immigration policy of the UAE Government and its impacts on Indian contract workers, (K.C.Zachariah, B.A. Prakash, S. Irudaya Rajan, 2003). The study based on field survey in UAE concludes that the immigration policy of recruiting contract labour, labour laws on work contracts, lack of methods to check violations of contracts and non-fulfillment of contract conditions by employers have created many hardships and problems to Indian emigrant workers. The method of recruiting workers through sponsorship gives considerable range of misuse, exploitation of workers, and creation of illegal workers. The immigration policy also prevented Indian migrants from bringing their wives and children and segregates the migrant workers from the Arab society. The Encyclopedia of the Indian Diaspora presents a country-wise analysis of the history and contemporary position of Indian Diaspora in South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, Central Asia, Middle Asia and Africa (Brij V. Lal, edited, 2006). The study gives an excellent account of the Indian migrants in Middle East countries viz., Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen and other Gulf States. Prakash C. Jain's edited work on Indian Diaspora in West Asia is another notable work on the issues and problems of Indian migrants in United Arab Emirates and other Gulf Countries (Prakash C. Jain, 2007). Migration report 2010 is a notable study which presents some of the issues of current Indian emigration (S. Irudaya Rajan, 2010). It gives a historical overview of international migration, remittances, results of Kerala emigration survey 2007, female emigration and impact of male migration on women's mobility.

Kerala emigration to the West Asia

1.8. The emigration from Kerala to the West Asia is a topic which has received the attention of economists, sociologists and demographers. A review of the literature on emigration to West Asia shows that most of the studies dealt mainly with the profiles and socio-economic backgrounds of emigration, processes of emigration, economic and social impacts of remittances and issues and problems of return emigrants. The studies conducted during the late 1970s and the early 1980s were mainly micro level studies examining the profiles of migrants, their socio-economic background, causes of migration and the impact of remittances based on village surveys (B.A.Prakash, 1978; E.T.Mathew and P.R.Gopinathan Nair, 1978; Raju Kurien, 1979; C.Radhakrishnan and P.Ibrahim, 1981; Agro Economic Reseach Centre, 1982). Impact of Gulf migration on society, especially the impact of male emigration on women and family is another topic in which a few studies were conducted by sociologists (Leela Gulati, 1983; 1987; 1993; T.V.Sekhar, 1997).

1.9. The economic impact of Gulf migration on Kerala is a topic, which attracted considerable attention from economists and demographers (P.R.Gopinathan Nair, 1989; Thomas Isaac, 1993; B.A.Prakash, 1998a; 1998b; K.C.Zachariah, E.T.Mathew and S.Irudaya Rajan, 2001). A hypothesis put forward in one of the studies is that "Since the mid-1970s, the factor which had the greatest impact on Kerala's economy especially on labour market, consumption, savings, investment, poverty, income distribution and economic growth has been the Gulf migration and migrant remittances" (B.A.Prakash, 1998). A similar conclusion was arrived by another study based on a State-wide survey (K.C.Zachariah, E.T.Mathew and S.Irudaya Rajan, 2003). This study provides a detailed taluk-wise and district-wise estimation of emigrants and return-emigrants, and also gives a detailed economic and demographic analysis. Among the studies conducted on Kerala's emigration up to 2003, this can be considered as a comprehensive study.

1.10. Issues connected with return emigration such as the causes of return, socio-economic background of the return emigrants, the current

activity status of the return emigrants and the problems faced by them is another area where a number of studies are available. Based on the experience of 356 return migrants from the Middle East, A.C.K.Nambiar presents their socio-economic characteristics, living conditions and problems abroad and economic status after return. The study concludes that on the one hand there is an improvement in the living standards of the majority of return emigrants, while on the other hand, for a sizeable proportion of the return emigrants, the migration has given them financial loss, sufferings and distress (A.C.K.Nambiar, 1995). B.A.Prakash examined the causes of return and current status of return emigrants based on a field study in Varkala Town, Thiruvananthapuram District. According to the study, majority of the Gulf migrants return due to lack of job opportunities, reduction in salary and hostile immigration policies during the period between 1996 and 1999. The survey findings suggest that majority of the return emigrants could not find any gainful employment and face serious financial problems. Another study based on an extensive survey on return emigrants examined the socio-economic characteristics of emigrants at various stages of emigration process prior to emigration, during stay abroad and after return to Kerala. The study also analyses the pattern of utilization of remittances back home and the problems of rehabilitation that the emigrants encounter after the return (K.C.Zachariah, P.R.Gopinathan Nair and S.Irudaya Rajan, 2006).

1.11. Kerala migration to the West Asia continued to be an important topic of research during the first decade of the present century. Among the studies, a notable one is Kerala's Gulf Connection, a compilation of studies on Keralite emigration to the Gulf (K.C.Zachariah, K.P.Kannan and S.Irudaya Rajan, 2002). The studies contained in this volume include the topics on migration patterns, socio-economic and demographic dimensions of migration, return migration, employment situation of migrants in Gulf countries and macro economic impact of remittances. A notable study on migration during this period is on the economic and social impact of emigration based on a State-wide survey. (K.C.Zachariah and S.Irudaya Rajan, 2009). It

provides information on the size, trend, geographical distribution, socio-economic composition of migrants and remittances sent home by migrants in 2004. The situation with respect to migration in 2004 is compared with that in 1999. The study concluded that migration is continuing to provide the most dynamic factor in the economic growth of Kerala State in the new century. It is likely to see migration encompassing a wider section of Kerala population and migration impacts spreading to newer sectors in Kerala's economy. Migrants of the 21st century are likely to be structurally different from those of the 20th century. A recent migration survey of 2011 provides new evidence about the recent trend in emigration to the Gulf in the context of the global crisis of 2008 (K.C Zachariah and S.Irudaya Rajan, 2012). The survey results suggest that the post-global crisis period is a major turning point in the history of emigration of Kerala.

As we do not have much information about the trends, patterns and causes of return migration from the Gulf during post-global crisis period, an attempt is made here to study the issue.

1.12. Objectives of the study

1. To study the causes of return, country-wise return and the period of return of emigrant workers from the West Asia.
2. To examine the current status of return emigrants, their employment, sources of income, means of livelihood and problems faced by them.
3. To analyse the socio-economic profile of the return migrants.
4. To present the economic impacts of the return migration on migrant households and localities.
5. To suggest measures to improve the economic conditions and welfare of the return emigrants.

Conceptual framework

1.13. ILO's definitions of different types of migrants

1. *Returning migrants* are persons who have been abroad as migrants in a country other than their own and those who return to their own country to settle there.

2. **Returning ethnics** are persons who are admitted by a country other than their own because of their historical, ethnic or other ties with that country and who are immediately granted the right of permanent abode in that country.
3. **Migrant with the right to free movement** are persons who have the right to enter, stay and work within the territory of the State other than their own by virtue of an agreement or treaty concluded between their State of citizenship and the State in which they reside.
4. **Foreigners admitted for special purposes:**
 - a) **Foreign students** are persons admitted by a country other than their own for the specific purpose of following a particular programme of study. In some countries, foreign students are allowed to work under certain conditions.
 - b) **Foreign trainees** are persons admitted by a country other than their own to acquire particular skills through on-the-job training. Foreign trainees are therefore allowed to work only in the specific institution providing the training and are allowed to stay for a limited period.
 - c) **Foreign retirees** are persons beyond retirement age who are allowed to stay in the territory of the State other than their own provided that they do not become a charge to the State. They are generally allowed to be accompanied by their spouses.
5. **Settlers** are persons who are granted the right to stay indefinitely in the territory of a country other than their own and to enjoy the same social and economic rights as the citizens of that country.
6. **Migrant workers** are persons admitted by a country other than their own for the explicit purpose of exercising an economic activity.
 - a) **Seasonal migrant workers** are persons employed in a State other than their own for only part of a year because the work they perform depends on seasonal conditions.
 - b) **Project-tied migrant workers** are migrant workers admitted to the State of employment for a defined period to work solely on a specific project carried out in that State by the migrant workers' employer.
 - c) **Contract migrant workers** are persons working in a country other than their own under contractual arrangements that set limits on the period of employment and on the specific job held by the migrant. Once admitted, contract migrant workers are not allowed to change jobs and are expected to leave the country of employment upon completion of their contract, irrespective of whether the work they do continues or not.
 - d) **Temporary migrant workers** are persons admitted by a country other than their own to work for a limited period in a particular occupation or a specific job.
 - e) **Established migrant workers** are migrant workers who, after staying for some years in the country of employment, have been granted the permission to reside indefinitely and to work without major limitations in that country.
 - f) **Highly-skilled migrant workers** are migrants who, because of their skill, are subject to preferential treatment regarding admission to a country other than their own and are therefore subject to fewer restrictions regarding length of stay, change of employment and family re-unification.
7. **Economic migration** covers persons who move internationally in connection with the exercise of an economic activity that is either not remunerated from within the country of destination or that demands

a certain investment from the migrant concerned.

- a) Business travellers.
- b) Immigrating investors.

8. **Asylum migration** covers the whole spectrum of international movements caused by persecution and conflict. Specific types of migrants that are part of asylum migration are,

- a) Refugees
- b) Persons admitted for humanitarian reasons
- c) Asylum-seekers
- d) Persons granted temporary protected status
- e) Persons granted stay of deportation

9. **Irregular migrants** are persons in the State other than their own who have not been fully satisfied with the conditions and requirements set by that State to enter, stay or exercise an economic activity in that State's territory.

10. **Migrants for family reunification** are persons admitted by a country other than their own for the purpose of accompanying or joining close relatives migrating to that country or already living in that country.

Explanation on the causes of migration

1.14. Explaining the causes of migration is a complex issue. People migrate to foreign countries depending on many factors like securing better jobs earn money, poverty, unemployment, war, ethnic problems, refugee problems, natural calamities, social factors etc. Social scientists have offered some explanations for the causes of migration. According to one approach, the causes may be broadly classified into individual and structural (Stalker Peter, 1994).

The Individual approach

1.15. The individual approach considers each migrant as a rational human being who assesses the available destinations and chooses the optimum combination of wage-rate, job security, and cost of travel. This is called the "human capital" approach since each person can be considered the product of a series of investments in his or her education, for

example, or skills, or health. Just as financial capital will roam the world seeking the highest return on investment, so each unit of human capital will move wherever he or she can achieve the best return for the skills and experience they embody.

The Structural approach

1.16. The structural perspective, on the other hand, sees people's fate determined ultimately by the circumstances they face. Everyone moves within structures- social, economic and political- which shape their lives "pushing" them for their homes and "pulling" them to their destinations. Structural explanations might include population pressure, for example, unemployment, or the influence of international media.

Both the individual and structural perspectives are illuminating in certain cases. But in the end they have to be combined. Individuals cannot make decisions independent of the structures in which they find themselves, nor do structures exist independent of individuals who themselves help to create and reshape their political and economic environment.

System approach

1.17. Another approach is the System approach, which combines both individual and structural views and explains the causes of migration in terms of networks. Individual pioneer migrants help those who follow them to settle and find work. These networks often begin with an individual choice. One adventurous person sets off from a village and discovers the opportunity. When he or she tells of the rewards, this encourages further migration and establishes a new migration structure. The systems view incorporates not just migrant networks and individual decision making only, but also includes other flows such as those of capital and goods and show how all these are connected to political and cultural influences. The categories of the migrants belonging to the above types of migration are mostly unskilled and semi-skilled.

Push Pull Factors approach

1.18. According to another approach, migration is affected by push and pull factors. Push factors include lack of employment opportunities,

lack of other facilities and fears of disorder or of persecution on grounds of race, religion or politics in the country of origin of migration. Pull factors include favourable employment opportunities, good health and educational facilities, public order and freedom, favourable climate etc in the country of destination.

Brain- drain

1.19. Migration also involves the movement of skilled professional people from less developed to developed countries and from developed to highly advanced countries in search of better jobs, scientific and technological advancement, better living conditions and avail internationally best opportunities, resulting in the drain of the best brains to the sending country. This kind of migration is often referred to as a “brain-drain”- a term first used in Britain in the 1960s when a substantial number of engineers and scientists were being tempted away by higher salaries and better prospects in the United States.

Framework of analysis used to study Return Emigration

Effects of return of settlement type of migrants

1.20. In settlement migration, people from less developed countries migrate to developed countries to avail better jobs, opportunities, living conditions and to settle there. They migrate with their family members and settle in the foreign country. They usually spend their entire earnings in the foreign country and their native country is not benefited much from the migration. The native country is usually a loser in most cases where skilled and professional categories migrate to foreign countries. Among the emigrants from Kerala, the share of settlement type of migrants is small. Hence the socio-economic effects of this category of return emigrants are also less in Kerala.

Effects of return of contract type of migrants

1.21. In contract migration, return is an essential part of the migration process. Here, the workers are

hired for contractual jobs for a definite time period and are expected to return after the expiry of the period. Usually during the period of stay abroad, they leave their families behind in their home country. In order to support their family, the emigrants send remittances on a regular basis which is spent by the households. The economic impact of this spending will be substantial on the domestic economies of the labour exporting countries. The sectors which experience substantial impact are labour market, consumption, savings, investment, distribution of income and regional economic development. Large scale return of contract category of emigrants will create severe adverse economic consequences in Kerala, which heavily rely on Gulf migration.

Concepts used in the study

- **Emigrants** are defined as members of the household who had moved out of Kerala and were living outside India at the time of the survey.
- **Return emigrants** are members of the household who had emigrated out of India but returned to Kerala and were members of the household at the time of the survey.
- **Out-migrants** are members of the household who left Kerala but were living within India at the time of the survey.
- **Return out-migrants** are members of the household who had migrated out of Kerala to other parts of India but had returned to Kerala and were members of the household at the time of the survey.
- **Total remittances** include remittances received directly by the households and also by any institution in Kerala from all parts of the world.
- **A household remittance** is part of remittance received by households from abroad through different channels.
- **Emigration Check Required category (ECR)** - Categories of persons whose Passports have been endorsed as “Emigration Check Required” (ECR), is required to obtain emigration clearance from the POE

office before travelling abroad for taking up an overseas employment. Earlier, they were required to obtain 'suspension' of emigration check in order to travel abroad for purposes other than employment. From 1stOctober, 2007 the requirement of obtaining 'Suspension' has been done away with.

- **Emigration Check Not Required Category (ECNR)** - Section 22 of the Emigration Act, 1983 provides that no citizen of India shall emigrate unless he obtains emigration clearance from the concerned Protector of Emigrants (POE). However, with a view to facilitate the movement of the people, 13 categories of persons have been exempted from this requirement and have been placed under "Emigration Check Not Required" (ECNR) category. As such, they are entitled

to ECNR endorsement on their Passports from the Regional Passport Offices. Such persons are not required to obtain any emigration clearance from the Offices of POEs before seeking employment abroad. (see also Appendix V)

Sources of data

1.22. Both secondary and primary data are used for the study. For collecting the primary data, we conducted a sample survey in 800 return emigrant households in four districts of Kerala viz., Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur and Malappuram. For collecting information from the return emigrant households, we used an interview schedule. The sampling procedure followed is as follows: First, we identified four districts having high rate of emigration and return emigration. From each district we selected four Block Panchayats / Municipalities having high rate of emigration and

Table 1.1
Distribution of sample Grama Panchayat / Municipality (M)

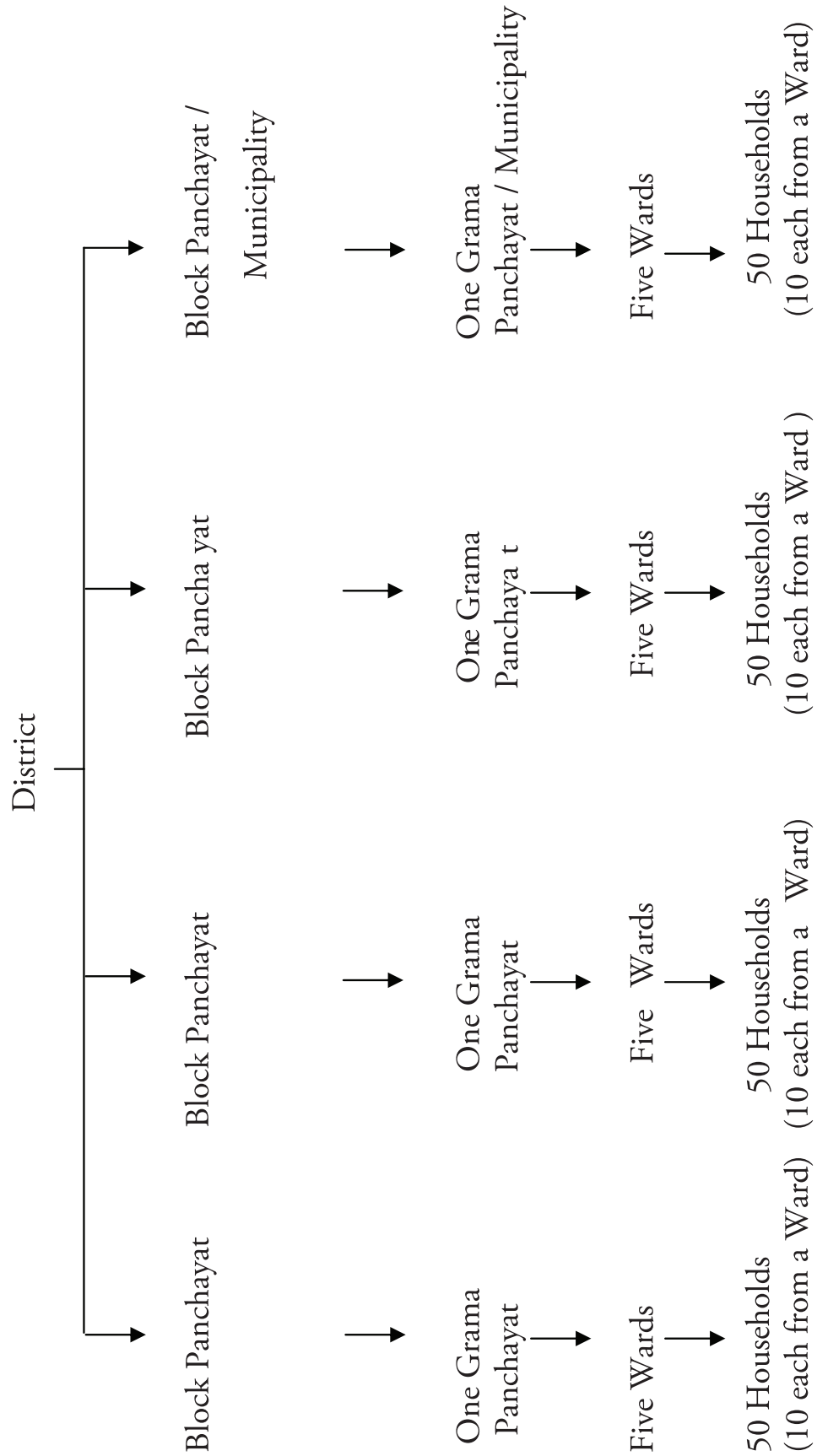
Sl. No.	District	Block Panchayat/ Municipality	Grama Panchayat/ Municipality	Number of Wards	Number of Sample returned households
1.	Thiruvananthapuram	Varkala	Edava	5	50
		Kilimanoor	Navaikulam	5	50
		Chirayinkeezhu	Chirayinkeezhu	5	50
		Varkala (M)	Varkala (M)	5	50
2.	Pathanamthitta	Mallappally	Mallappally	5	50
		Koippuram	Koippuram	5	50
		Elanthur	Kozhenchery	5	50
		Pandalam	Thumpamon	5	50
3.	Thrissur	Chavakkad	Punnayur	5	50
		Chowannoor	Kadangodu	5	50
		Chavakadu (M)	Chavakadu (M)	5	50
		Guruvayoor (M)	Guruvayoor (M)	5	50
4.	Malappuram	Tanur	Kalpakancheri	5	50
		Kuttippuram	Valancheri	5	50
		Thiroorangadi	Parappanangadi	5	50
		Perumpadappu	Alamcode	5	50
Total				80	800

return emigration on a random basis. From each Block Panchayat we selected one Grama Panchayat again on a random basis. And finally from each Grama Panchayat / Municipality, 50 return emigrant households were selected from five Wards. With the help of the elected members of the Grama Panchayats/Municipalities, we then identified and prepared a list of return emigrant households in the Ward. From this list, we selected 10 households on a random basis from each Ward. The list of selected Grama Panchayats / Municipalities is given in Table 1.1 and sampling procedure in Table 1.2. The survey was conducted during the period from May to July 2011.

Limitations of the study

The study mainly focused on the return emigrants, current status of return emigrants and their socio-economic profile. The study has not examined other issues like the problem of emigration to the Gulf or outmigration to other parts of India. However, we have collected some information about the details of emigrants and out-migrants belonging to the sample households and presented the results in the study. We have not compared the current status of the emigrants with that of the local workers in Kerala.

Table 1.2
Sampling Procedure



2

Trends and Patterns of Indian Emigration to the West Asia

In this chapter, we are presenting an analysis of labour market situations of migrant workers in GCC countries, trends in emigration from India to the Gulf countries and trends in emigration from the State of Kerala.

Introduction

2.1. The international labour migration from India during the post independence period may be broadly divided into two phases. In the first phase, during 1950s and mid 1970s, persons with administrative, technical and professional qualifications and experience migrated in search of better jobs and prospects. The principal destinations were United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Western Europe, Australia and African countries. The migrants included among others, teachers, nurses, engineers, doctors, scientists and technicians and majority of them settled in the host countries. The skill composition of migrants to the UK was an exception to the rule so far as there was a mix of unskilled labour, skilled workers and professional persons. It is a traditional type of settlement migration where people from developing countries are migrating to developed countries to secure better jobs, opportunities, living facilities and to settle there. The emigration increased at a higher rate since 1991 with the implementation of economic reforms of liberalization and globalization

in India. But the trend in emigration was arrested by the global economic crisis of 2008.

2.2. The second phase of migration began in the mid 1970s towards the oil rich Gulf countries. The price hike of oil in 1973 and the consequent earnings of large revenue had accelerated a process of industrialization and social change in the Gulf countries characterized by massive investment in social and economic infrastructure. This had necessitated the service of a large number of foreign workers in the Gulf countries. The major destinations of Indian workers in the Gulf were United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Yemen and Iraq. Compared to earlier migration, the type of migration and category of migrants were different. Labour was recruited for work in Gulf on strictly limited contract terms and was expected to return home at the end of the contract period. Majority of the migrants to the Gulf belonged to the category of unskilled workers, semi-skilled or skilled workers in manual or construction related occupations. The number of Indian migrants in the Gulf region increased from 5.31 lakh in 1979 to 15.05 lakh in 1983 and 30 lakh in 1999. The rate of emigration also increased substantially during the first decade of 21st century. However, the global crisis of 2008 has created severe recession in the Gulf countries resulting in substantial fall in demand for migrant workers. This has resulted in large scale return of

emigrant workers from the Gulf. According to one estimate, the total stock of Indians in the Gulf was 49 lakh in 2008.

I. Labour market situation for migrant workers in the West Asia

2.3. The rise in oil prices in 1973 led to a very rapid increase in the revenues accruing to the oil producing countries of the West Asia. This accelerated a process of industrialization and social change in these countries characterized by massive investment in social and economic infrastructure necessitating the service of a large number of foreign workers. The six countries belonging to the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates – had a population of about 5 million in 1975. The increase in construction expenditure and other development activities which took place in the countries after 1973 necessitated large scale migration to the region. Migrant labour was required not only to complete bigger construction projects

but also to be engaged in other jobs in agriculture, manufacture, trade and services. By 1975, foreign workers accounted for 46.5 percent of the work force in GCC countries. But by 1980, the foreign workers outnumbered the local work force in the G.CC countries (Table 2.1). It was widely believed in 1970s and 1980s that the demand for foreign labour in the Gulf was a temporary phenomenon. But the evidence presented in Table 2.1 suggests otherwise. Though the rate of increase in migrant workers did slow down between 1985 and 1990 due to low economic growth resulting from low oil prices, the actual number continued to rise (ILO, 1995). It was estimated that the total foreign workers in GCC countries was 5.2 million in 1990.

2.4. The rapid increase in oil prices and production of oil on the one hand, and the small national population on the other, transformed the GCC countries within a short period of time into pure “rentier States”. The share of oil revenue went up to 80 percent of the total governmental revenues. A major tool for distributing the oil income to the indigenous population was through public sector

Table 2.1
Number of migrant workers in Gulf Co-operation Council Countries (GCC)
(In thousands)

Country	1975	1980	1985	1990*
Bahrain	38.7 (45.6)	78.2 (56.9)	100.5 (58.0)	132.0 (51.0)
Kuwait	217.6 (70.2)	392.6 (78.3)	551.7 (81.3)	731.0 (86.1)
Oman	103.2 (53.7)	170.5 (58.8)	335.7 (69.1)	442.0 (70.0)
Qatar	57.0 (83.0)	106.3 (87.9)	155.6 (89.8)	230.0 (91.6)
Saudi Arabia	474.7 (32.0)	1734.1 (58.7)	2661.8 (64.9)	2878.0 (59.8)
United Arab Emirates	234.1 (84.0)	470.8 (89.7)	612.0 (89.5)	805.0 (89.3)
Total GCC Countries	1125.3 (46.5)	2952.5 (65.2)	4417.3 (70.2)	5218.0 (67.7)

* 1990 figures refer to the period prior to the invasion and war.

Figures in parentheses are percentage of foreign work force to total work force.

Source: ILO, 1995, p.13.

Table 2.2
Number of migrant workers in GCC countries (1999 & 2008)

Country	1999	2008	Growth Rate (per cent)
Bahrain	194 (63.2)	438 (24.2)	125.77
Kuwait	1005 (82.0)	1780 (80.0)	77.11
Oman	503 (61.7)	795 (68.0)	58.05
Qatar	224 (87.1)	766 (92.5)	241.96
Saudi Arabia	4003 (55.9)	4280 (50.1)	6.91
United Arab Emirates	1165 (90.4)	2588 (85.0)	122.14
Total GCC Countries	7114 (64.1)	10647 (65.3)	49.66

Source : Middle East Institute Viewpoints, www.mei.edu, February 2010

Table 2.3
Nationals and expatriates in the GCC labour force, 2008

Country	Nationals	Foreigners	Total	Percentage of foreigners
Saudi Arabia	4170	4280	8450	50.1
Kuwait	445	1780	2225	80.0
Bahrain	140	438	578	24.2
Oman	374	795	1169	68.0
Qatar	62	766	828	92.5
UAE	455	2588	3043	85.0
Total	5646	10647	16293	65.3

Source : Middle East Institute Viewpoints, www.mei.edu, February 2010

employment with high salaries and luxury work conditions. And the policies had resulted in the creation of a dual labour market with nationals employed almost exclusively in the public sector while the vast majority of the foreign workers were employed in the private sector. There was also considerable wage difference between the native workers and the foreign labour for the same job.

2.5. During the decade 1990s, there had been a substantial increase in the migrant workers in GCC countries. According to one estimate, the total

number of migrant workers in the GCC countries increased from 5.22 million in 1990 to 7.11 million in 1999 (Table 2.2). The trend in migration continued up to the global crisis of 2008. The total foreign work force has increased to 10.65 million in 2008 accounting for 65.3 percent of the work force of GCC countries (Table 2.3). Among the GCC countries, Qatar has the largest share of foreign workers (92.5%) followed by UAE (85%) and Kuwait (80%). The steady increase in the number of foreign labourers in the GCC countries is the

result of a combination of liberal labour policies on the one hand, and lax enforcement of labour regulations on the other. And the vast majority of GCC foreign workers earn extremely low salaries of not more than a few hundred dollars monthly – much below the average salary of national workers.

Immigration policies of GCC countries

2.6. The GCC countries have been following a policy of encouraging temporary contract migration to avoid the social expenditure needed to maintain the dependence of migrants and to prevent the integration of foreigners with the local population. The migrant workers are discriminated against and paid lower wages and little non-wage benefits compared to the native workers. There is practically no effective labour law or labour dispute settlement mechanism in the Gulf countries. Besides this, the GCC countries have been following a deliberate policy to curtail the size of the foreign migrant workers through a number of immigration policy measures to reduce the labour demand and discourage the supply of labour (Nasra M Shah, 2006). Among policies that aim to reduce the supply of foreign workers are increased cost of living for migrant workers, nabbing and deportation of over-stayers and undocumented workers, stricter VISA regulations, and curbs on VISA trading. The major policies that aim to reduce the demand for foreign workers are creation of job opportunities for nationals through training and market mechanisms, and indigenisation of the labour force through administrative mechanisms.

Conditions of South Asian workers in the Gulf

2.7. Studies on the conditions of Indian migrants in the Gulf Countries reveal that most of the migrant workers are vulnerable to exploitation as they are temporary contract workers, who are at the mercy of the employers and not protected by any civil or labour laws relating to wage, working conditions and treatment by employers. A study conducted by a High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora appointed by the Government of India about the condition of Indian migrant workers in the Gulf (Government of India, 2002) revealed the following:

South Asian migrants face several problems related to labour contracts in the Gulf countries: alteration of the provisions of the original labour contract after arrival, non-compliance with the provisions of labour contract by the employer, denial of job, wages and non-wage benefits as per the original labour contract, etc. In several cases, the employers force skilled workers to do unskilled jobs with low wages. There is no effective administrative mechanism to penalise the employer who violates the provisions of the contract. The civil, criminal and labour laws in the Gulf are totally biased in favour of the native employer in all aspects of labour disputes.

2.8. Arbitrary reduction and non-payment of salaries are common practices in the Gulf. Salaries are often not paid when due, and sometimes not paid at all for several months towards the end of the contractual period, resulting in non-receipt of salaries for the work done. Besides this, the Gulf countries have not fixed any minimum wages for different categories of workers. Non-payment for legitimate overwork, denial of medical benefits, deduction of work permit fees from the amount due to them and denial of return airfares to their countries of origin at the end of contract period are other common issues plaguing the migrant workers. As per the labour contract, a person has to work for 8 hours per day. But in reality, employers force migrant workers to work for 10 to 12 hours per day. In the case of housemaids and other domestic workers, employers force them to work continuously for several hours without proper rest.

2.9. The living and working conditions of the unskilled and semi-skilled South Asian workers in the Gulf are not at all satisfactory. They are accommodated in crowded labour camps in small rooms with four to eight bunker beds. The facilities provided to them such as toilets and kitchens are inadequate and unsatisfactory. In addition, the transportation arrangements for labourers from their camps to the work sites are poor and unsatisfactory. In the Gulf countries, labour laws do not cover domestic workers such as housemaids, gardeners, cooks, bearers and such other personnel who work within a household. The general complaint is that these workers are not treated properly. In many cases, the treatment is harsh and unfair. Female

workers working as housemaids and domestic helpers are extremely vulnerable in most of the Gulf countries.

2.10. While professional migrants are allowed to bring along their families, other categories of workers such as the unskilled and semi-skilled are not given family VISAs. Income limits are fixed for the emigrants; once they fulfill the payment, they are given proper VISAs. For instance, in the UAE the monthly income limit is 4000 Dirhams and in Kuwait it is 400 Kuwaiti Dinars. According to the practice currently prevalent in the Gulf countries, migrant workers are required to submit their travel documents such as Passport to the employer on arrival. This enables the employer to exercise undue control over the employee and to ignore or alter the terms of employment leading to some of the migrants being treated as undocumented workers.

2.11. No effective labour dispute settlement machinery is available to settle labour disputes arising out of contract violation, non-payment of salaries and other benefits, and harassment by employers. The Labour Courts are inaccessible for ordinary migrants. In the case of female domestic workers, they cannot approach labour courts as they are not covered by any labour laws. Concern for their families left behind in the countries of origin, difficult living and working conditions, lack of job security, etc., have often led to depression and melancholia among the workers, even resulting in suicide in extreme cases. Shepherds and agricultural workers have to work in remote areas with minimal or zero contact with the outside world.

II Global economic crisis and fall in the demand for migrant workers

2.12. The global economic crisis which has been spreading throughout the world since 2008 is considered one of the worst global crisis since the world depression of the 1930s. According to World Bank and ILO, one of the regions that faced serious consequences of the crisis is the GCC countries. According to a World Bank estimate, the GCC countries which are facing a massive decline in construction activities, trade and commerce, other services, manufacturing, etc., would face a fall in growth rate from 5.8 percent in 2008 to 1.1 percent

in 2009 (United Nations, 2009). This indicates a situation of acute recession. Further, a sizeable proportion of migrant workers in construction, trade, manufacturing, agriculture and domestic service sectors would lose their jobs. The ILO has estimated that 10 percent of the unskilled workers from the GCC countries would return home in 2009 (United Nations, 2009).

Impact of the global crisis on migrant workers

2.13. The construction sector is the worst hit by the crisis and a large number of construction workers from India, Pakistan, Egypt, Yemen, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Philippines have been forced to return due to loss of employment. It is reported that half of the UAE's construction projects, totaling US\$ 582 billion have either been put on hold or cancelled, resulting in substantial loss of jobs. In the Gulf countries, most private sector jobs, especially in agriculture, construction and household/domestic services, employ foreign workers. A prolonged economic crisis will therefore affect the livelihood of vulnerable workers in the region, including the large population of migrant workers, as well as remittance flows, tourism, etc.

2.14. Due to the non-completion of projects and premature termination of contracts, employers incur heavy losses which result in non-payment of salaries reduction in salaries and in the lengthening of the hours of work without wages for those who continue to work. Since a large number of unskilled and semi-skilled workers incurred heavy debt for meeting the cost of VISA, travel documents and work permits etc, they cannot return to the home country immediately.

2.15. Another category of migrant workers who will face more acute problems due to the global crisis are women working as housemaids. This category of workers has been facing severe problems such as non-payment of wages, over-work, lack of holidays, physical abuse, sexual exploitation and harassment. It is reported that Sri Lankan housemaids with higher salaries have been sent back and those with minimum pay are allowed to continue with increased work load. Conditions are expected to become harsher for many of the unskilled and semi-skilled categories of workers as they try to hang on

to their jobs and stay in the countries. They will be affected by reduction in pay, longer working hours, and deterioration in working conditions.

2.16. The abundant supply of Asian workers in the pre-global crisis period resulted in stagnation of wages in the case of construction workers, housemaids and domestic workers and other unskilled and semi-skilled categories of workers. The global crisis will result in further cut in the wages of these categories of workers. For instance, the UAE has already witnessed ten strikes organised by the

Asian labourers when the oil prices were above US\$ 100 per barrel.

2.17. Currently, a large number of workers who are in the Gulf are undocumented workers. Many of them became undocumented due to the malpractices of the employers such as refusal to release the passport or denial of consent to switch jobs, etc. These categories of workers will face even more exploitation by their employers in the new context of reduced demand for jobs. The Gulf countries are using this opportunity for implementing more

Table 2.4
Estimates of Indian migrants in the Gulf region 1979-1999

Countries	1979	1983	1991	1999
Bahrain	26,000	30,000	1,00,000	1,50,000
Iraq	20,000	50,000	N.A	N.A
Kuwait	65,000	1,15,000	88,000	2,00,000
Libya	10,000	40,000	12,000	20,000
Oman	60,000	1,00,000	2,20,000	4,50,000
Qatar	30,000	40,000	75,000	1,00,000
Saudi Arabia	1,00,000	2,70,000	6,00,000	12,00,000
UAE	1,52,000	2,50,000	4,00,000	7,50,000
Others	68,000	21,000	10,000	1,30,000
Total	5,31,000	9,16,000	15,05,000	30,00,000

Source: GOI, 2002, Report of the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora

Table 2.5
Estimates of Indian migrants in the Gulf region 1979-1999 (Percentage)

Countries	1979	1983	1991	1991
Bahrain	4.89	3.27	6.64	5.00
Iraq	3.76	5.46	N.A	N.A
Kuwait	12.24	12.55	5.85	6.66
Libya	1.90	4.37	0.789	0.66
Oman	11.30	10.92	14.62	15.00
Qatar	5.65	4.37	4.98	3.33
Saudi Arabia	18.83	29.47	39.87	40.00
UAE	28.62	27.29	26.58	25.00
Others	12.80	2.29	0.66	4.34
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source : GOI, 2002, Report of the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora

Table 2.6**Percentage of NRIs in the total population of main Gulf Countries in Year 2000**

Country	Population	Number of NRIs	Percentage of population
Saudi Arabia	2,15,00,000	15,00,000	7
U.A.E.	28,00,000	9,00,000	32
Kuwait	22,00,000	2,87,600	13
Oman	22,00,000	3,40,000	15
Bahrain	6,43,000	1,30,000	20
Qatar	5,25,000	1,25,000	24

Source :GOI , 2002, Report of the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora

measures to reduce the dependence on unskilled and semi-skilled categories of workers. Some countries may follow deliberate policies of exclusion or expulsion of migrant workers. All the GCC countries have been following immigration policies aimed at reducing the size of the unskilled and semi-skilled migrant work force.

2.18. In the labour market, the vulnerability of the migrant workers precipitated by the global crisis makes them an easy target for unscrupulous employers as they can be underpaid, hired or dismissed at a moment's notice and denied non-wage benefits due to them as per labour law or by practice. Decline in the flow of remittances to labour - supplying countries may affect the living

standards of those households depending mainly on migrant remittances. In general, countries depending heavily on migrant remittance will face very serious adverse economic consequences.

III Trends in Indian emigration to the Gulf

2.19. We do not have accurate estimates about the stock of Indian emigrants in Gulf during the early 1970s. The High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora of 2002 gives a reliable estimate about the stock of Indian emigrants in the Gulf countries between 1979 and 1999. According to the Committee, the total stock of Indian emigrants

Table 2.7**Annual labour outflows from India***

Year	Number of workers (in Lakhs)	Growth (percent)
2001	2.79	-
2002	3.68	31.89
2003	4.46	21.19
2004	4.75	6.50
2005	5.49	15.57
2006	6.77	23.31
2007	8.09	19.49
2008	8.49	4.94
2009	6.10	-28.15
2010	6.41	5.08

* Number of workers granted emigration clearance.

Source : Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Annual Report 2006-07 to 2010-11

Table 2.8
Annual labour outflows from India by destination (Number)*

Countries	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
UAE	1,94,412	2,54,774	3,12,695	3,49,827	1,30,302	1,30,910
Saudi Arabia	99,879	1,34,059	1,95,437	2,28,406	2,81,110	2,75,172
Qatar	50,222	76,324	88,483	82,937	46,292	45,752
Oman	40,931	67,992	95,462	89,659	74,963	1,05,807
Kuwait	39,124	47,449	48,467	35,562	42,091	37,667
Bahrain	30,060	37,688	29,966	31,924	17,541	15,101
Total Gulf	4,54,628	6,18,286	7,70,510	8,18,315	5,92,299	6,10,409
Others	94,225	58,626	38,943	30,286	17,973	30,947
Total	5,48,853	6,76,912	8,09,453	8,48,601	6,10,272	6,41,356

* Number of workers granted emigration clearance.

Source : Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Annual Report 2010-11.

Table 2.9
Annual labour outflows from India by destination (Growth in Percent)

Countries	2005 -06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
UAE	31.04	22.73	11.87	-62.75	0.46
Saudi Arabia	34.22	45.78	16.86	23.07	-2.11
Qatar	51.97	15.93	-6.26	-44.18	-1.16
Oman	66.11	40.40	-6.07	-16.39	41.14
Kuwait	21.27	2.14	-26.62	18.35	-10.51
Bahrain	25.37	-20.48	6.53	-45.05	-13.91
Total Gulf	35.99	24.62	6.20	-27.61	3.05
Others	-37.78	-33.57	-22.22	-40.65	72.18
Total	23.33	19.58	4.83	-28.08	5.09

* Based on Table 2.8

Table 2.10
Stock of Indian migrants in the Gulf countries (2008)

Country	Number of Indian migrants (in lakhs)	Per cent
Bahrain	3.1	6.32
Kuwait	5.8	11.83
Oman	5.5	11.22
Qatar	4.0	8.16
UAE	15.0	30.61
Saudi Arabia	15.6	31.83
Total	49.0	100.00

Source : Indian Council of Overseas Employment, *Impact Assessment of Global Recession on Indian Migrant Workers*.

in the Gulf in 1979 was 5.31 lakh. The principal destination of Indians during the second half of 1970s was UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman. Available evidences suggest that there had been a continuous increase in the Indian emigration to the Gulf during the decade 1980s (Tables 2.4 & 2.5). By 1983, Saudi Arabia became the principal destination of Indian emigrants. The other major destinations were UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Iraq. The stock of Indian emigrants increased to 15.05 lakh in 1991. By 1991, the country which had the largest number of emigrants was Saudi Arabia. The other countries having largest number of emigrants were UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar. The Committee estimated the total stock of Indian emigrants in the Gulf in 1999 as 30 lakh.

2.20. The High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora estimated the share of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) as 32 percent of the total population of UAE, 13 percent of Kuwait, 15 percent of Oman, 20 percent of Bahrain, 24 percent of Qatar and 7 percent of Saudi Arabia in 2000 (Table 2.6). Thus, during a quarter of a century (1975-2000), India had sent a large number of migrants to all major Gulf countries and established its position as a major labour exporting country to the Gulf region.

Recent trends in Indian emigration to the Gulf

2.21. Based on the annual outflows of migrant workers, we examined the trends in migration during the first decade of the 21st century. A major problem with the data provided by the Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) is that it excludes a number

of categories of the emigrants under Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR). As on March 2010, 13 categories of persons were exempted from emigration clearance (Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, 2010). They include managerial personnel, gazetted government servants, income tax payers, professional degree holders, persons who had stayed abroad for more than three years and professionals such as supervisors and skilled workers, children below 18 years of age, all persons above 50 years etc. owing to these reasons, the data on the labour outflows give only a partial account of the migrants from India. The workers who require emigration clearance are mostly farm workers, but include unskilled, low-skilled and semi-skilled categories of workers.

2.22. An analysis of trends in migration of unskilled, low skilled and semi-skilled categories of Indian workers shows that there had been a steady increase in migration during the pre-global crisis period (between 2000 and 2008). But the migration of the categories of the workers registered a substantial fall between 2008 and 2009 (Table 2.7). This shows a clear indication about the fall in the demand of migrant workers due to the global crisis.

2.23. An examination of the country-wise migration of Indian workers shows a steep fall in migration to the following countries such as, UAE, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain. UAE witnessed the largest fall in the migration of Indian migrants during the post-global crisis period (Tables 2.8 and 2.9).

Table 2.11
Global crisis and loss of employment/ return of migrants

Country	Period covered	Return of migrants (Number)	Loss of employment (Number)
UAE	2008-09	2,00,000	-
Kuwait	2008-09	8,000	10,000
Bahrain	2008-09	-	20,000
Qatar	2008-09	-	1,000
Total		2,08,000	31,000

Source : Indian Council of Overseas Employment, Impact Assessment of Global Recession on Indian Migrant Workers.

Table 2.12
Estimates of Indian emigrants in the Gulf (Number)

Year	Total stock of Indian emigrants	Total stock of Keralite emigrants*
1979	5,31,000	2,65,500
1983	9,16,000	4,58,000
1991	15,05,000	7,52,500
1999	30,00,000	15,00,000

* Keralites' share is calculated as half of the total Indian emigrants.

Source :GOI, 2002, Report of the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora.

Table 2.13
Estimates on number of emigrants and return emigrants, Kerala

Year	Number of emigrants	Growth (percent)	Number of of return emigrants	Growth (percent)
1998	13,61,919	-	7,39,245	-
2003	18,38,478	34.99	8,93,942	20.92
2008	21,93,412	19.30	11,57,127	29.44
2011	22,80,543	3.97	11,50,347	-0.58

Source : K.C.Zachariah and S.Irudaya Rajan (2012), Report on Kerala Migration Survey 2011, Centre for Development Studies

Global crisis and return of Indian emigrant workers

2.24. According to one estimate, the total stock of Indian migrants in Gulf countries prior to the global crisis was 49 lakh in 2008 (Table 2.10). Of the total stock of Indian migrants in Gulf, Saudi Arabia accounted for 32 percent and UAE 31 per cent. The other countries namely, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain together accounted for 37 percent. Of the total Indian migrants in Gulf, nearly 70 percent consist of semi-skilled and unskilled workers and the rest are professionals, white collar and skilled categories of workers. Among the Indian workers, a small fraction belongs to the category of female domestic workers working in households.

2.25. The global crisis has resulted in a fall in price of crude and petroleum products and a decrease in income and employment. Manufacturing, construction, trade and commerce

and service activities have been seriously affected by the crisis. Studies suggest that construction sector was the worst affected as a result of global crisis. Due to non-completion of construction projects and premature termination of contracts, there was acute crisis in construction and real estate sectors. The global crisis and steep fall in economic activities resulted in reduction of pay, longer working hours and deterioration in working conditions. While the depression in construction and manufacturing affected mostly unskilled and low-skilled categories of workers, the crisis in service sector affected the skilled and highly skilled categories of workers. The net result was wage reduction, loss of jobs, reduction in wage earnings and remittances.

2.26. In the context of the crisis, the Gulf countries began to restrict emigration, resorted to strict enforcement of illegal migration laws and passed hostile migration policies to discourage fresh

migration. All these developments in the economic and labour fronts resulted in large scale loss of employment and return of migrants. According to an estimate of Indian Council of Overseas Employment, the return of migrants due to the crisis in four Gulf countries namely, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar was 2.08 lakh in 2008-09. Besides this, the loss of employment was estimated at 31,000 during the crisis period, 2008-09 (Table 2.11)

Return of Indian emigrant workers from the UAE

2.27. United Arab Emirates is one of the important destinations of Indian Migrant workers in the Gulf. Of the total 1.5 million Indians in United Arab Emirates, nearly 1.2 million are located in Dubai. According to an estimate, the Indian migrant workers constitute 42.5 percent of labour force in UAE. Of the Indian workers, 65 percent belong to the blue collar category. A considerable proportion of Indian migrants belong to the Southern Indian States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

2.28. Prior to the global crisis, there had been a decline in the trend in Indian migration to UAE on account of many factors. Venu Rajamony, Council General of India to Dubai attributed the following factors for the slowdown of Indian migration to UAE in recent times (Venu Rajamony, 2009). (1) Pace of India's economic growth and rise in salaries in India in the present decade. (2) Reverse migration had begun even before recession. (3) Attractive salaries and opportunities for professionals and knowledge workers in India. (4) Rising cost of living in UAE, especially in Dubai for accommodation, services, education etc. (5) Efforts of Indian and UAE Governments to curb illegal recruitment. (6) Boom in real estate, construction and retail sectors in India resulting in more labour demand for workers. (7) India has shortage of professionals and skilled manpower in many sectors and regions.

2.29. Available evidence suggests that the global crisis has resulted in substantial loss in job, reduction in salary in the Gulf countries and return of migrants to their native countries. A survey conducted by You Gov, an International Research Organization, among migrant workers in UAE during July 2009 arrived at the following conclusions (Venu Rajamony, 2009).

(1) Due to global crisis, everyone in ten reported loss in jobs; 58 percent of migrant workers planned to stay on and look for another job in UAE. (2) The global crisis created acute crisis in construction and property sectors. (3) Nearly 59 percent of the sample migrant workers reported a freeze in salary due to global crisis. (4) Among the unemployed, 20 percent were planning to return to their home countries and 6 percent are looking for jobs in other Gulf countries.

2.30. Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had estimated that nearly 50,000 to 1,50,000 Indian migrants might have returned to India during the post global crisis year 2008-09. The exodus of migrant workers was not sudden but slow and continuous in nature. Majority who had returned during the initial phase of return were informal sector workers. There was also large cancellation of new labour VISAs issued by the UAE Labour Ministry. More than 4 lakh cancellations of new labour VISAs were reported between October 2008 and March 2009. The sectors which reported large scale loss of employment were real estate and construction. Many of the major construction projects of port, airport and infrastructural projects of cities were kept in abeyance or postponed. The above evidence suggest that the global crisis had created acute recession in most of the sectors in UAE resulting in substantial loss of employment for the migrant workers.

IV. Trends in emigration from Kerala Trends in emigration

2.31. Based on the data provided by the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora and recent surveys on migration, an attempt is made to present the trends in emigration from Kerala and return emigration. The emigration which started with few thousands since 1973 assumed larger proportions during the second half of 1970s and in the subsequent decades.

The High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora had estimated that Keralite emigrants accounted for half of the stock of Indian emigrants in the Gulf countries. Based on this, we have estimated the total stock of Keralites in the Gulf, the details of which are furnished in Table 2.12. The

Table 2.14
Number of emigrants, Kerala, 2003-2011

Districts	Number			Increase/Decrease (percent)	
	2011	2008	2003	2008-11	2003-08
Thiruvananthapuram	2,29,732	3,08,481	1,68,046	-25.52	83.56
Kollam	1,67,446	2,07,516	1,48,457	-19.30	39.78
Pathanamthitta	91,381	1,20,990	1,33,720	-24.47	-9.51
Alappuzha	1,44,386	1,31,719	75,036	9.61	75.54
Kottayam	1,17,460	89,351	1,06,569	31.45	-16.15
Idukki	7,690	5,792	7,880	32.76	-26.49
Ernakulam	1,36,113	1,20,979	1,21,237	12.50	-0.21
Thrissur	1,98,368	2,84,068	1,78,867	-30.16	58.81
Palakkad	1,42,020	1,89,815	1,77,876	-25.17	6.71
Malappuram	4,08,883	3,34,572	2,71,787	22.21	23.10
Kozhikode	2,06,719	1,99,163	1,67,436	3.79	18.94
Wayanad	26,874	13,996	7,704	92.01	81.67
Kannur	2,83,045	1,19,119	2,02,414	137.61	-41.15
Kasargode	1,20,425	67,851	71,449	77.48	-5.03
Kerala	22,80,543	21,93,412	18,38,478	3.97	19.30

Source : Same as Table 2.13

Table 2.15
Emigrants in Kerala : Emigration rate and share of emigrants

Districts	Emigrants per 100 Household			Percent		
	2011	2008	2003	2011	2008	2003
Thiruvananthapuram	27.3	35.6	21.5	10.1	14.1	9.1
Kollam	24.9	30.8	24.4	7.3	9.5	8.1
Pathanamthitta	28.4	37.4	44.3	4.0	5.5	7.3
Alappuzha	26.8	24.2	15.2	6.3	6.0	4.1
Kottayam	24.0	18.2	24.0	5.2	4.1	5.8
Idukki	2.8	2.0	2.9	0.3	0.3	0.4
Ernakulam	15.7	15.1	16.9	6.0	5.5	6.6
Thrissur	29.2	38.9	27.2	8.7	13.0	9.7
Palakkad	22.5	32.1	32.6	6.2	8.7	9.7
Malappuram	51.7	53.4	45.0	17.9	15.3	14.8
Kozhikode	29.4	30.4	28.6	9.1	9.1	9.1
Wayanad	14.2	7.4	4.4	1.2	0.6	0.4
Kannur	51.4	22.6	43.2	12.4	5.4	11.0
Kasargode	41.5	26.3	30.6	5.3	3.1	3.9
Kerala	29.1	29.0	26.7	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source : Same as Table 2.13

Table 2.16
Keralaite emigration by destination countries

Countries	Number of emigrants			Increase or Decrease (per cent)	
	2011	2008	2003	2008-11	2003-08
UAE	8,83,313	9,18,122	6,70,150	-3.79	37.00
Saudi Arabia	5,74,739	5,03,433	4,89,988	14.16	2.74
Oman	1,95,300	1,67,628	1,52,865	16.50	9.65
Kuwait	1,27,782	1,29,282	1,13,967	-1.16	13.43
Bahrain	1,01,556	1,01,344	1,08,507	0.20	6.60
Qatar	1,48,427	1,21,613	98,953	22.04	22.89
Other West Asia	6,696	0	2,047	0	0
Total Gulf Countries	20,37,813	19,41,422	16,36,477	4.73	18.63
Other Countries	2,42,730	2,51,993	2,02,001	-3.67	24.74
Total	22,80,543	21,93,415	18,38,478	3.97	19.30

Table 2.17
Keralaite emigration by destination countries (other than Gulf)

Countries	Number of emigrants			Increase or Decrease (per cent)	
	2011	2008	2003	2008-11	2003-08
USA	68,076	1,02,440	98,271	-33.54	4.24
Canada	9,486	13,695	4,777	-30.73	186.68
United Kingdom	44,640	38,894	22,520	14.77	72.70
Other Europe	10,602	9,861	14,331	7.51	-31.19
Africa	12,834	12,600	15,696	1.85	-19.72
Singapore	11,160	11,504	14,331	-2.99	-19.72
Maldives	7,254	7,091	13,649	2.29	-48.04
Malaysia	13,392	12,052	4,777	11.11	152.29
Other South East Asia	16,182	8,766	7,507	84.59	16.77
Australia/New Zealand	24,552	21,364	6,142	14.92	247.83
Other Countries	24,552	13,726	0	78.87	-
Total	2,42,730	2,51,993	2,02,001	-3.67	24.74

stock of Keralaite emigrants which was 2.65 lakh in 1973 witnessed a continuous increase in the 1980s and 1990s. It increased to 4.58 lakh in 1983, 7.52 lakh in 1991 and 15 lakh in 1999.

2.32. Four State-wide surveys on migration conducted by Centre for Development Studies in 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2011 give somewhat reliable estimates about the international migration from Kerala. Compared to the previous estimates, the surveys used better concepts of migration and

statistical methods to collect data. And for the same reason, these surveys provide more realistic and reliable estimates about the trends in emigration from Kerala. Based on these surveys, we present the trends and patterns of emigration from Kerala from 1998 to 2011 (Table 2.13).

2.33. According to the migration survey of 1998, the total emigrants from Kerala were estimated as 13.62 lakh. The subsequent surveys had estimated the total emigrants as 18.38 lakh in 2003 and

Table 2.18
Emigrants by destination (percentage share)

Countries	Increase / Decrease (per cent)		
	2011	2008	2003
UAE	38.7	41.9	36.5
Saudi Arabia	25.2	23.0	26.7
Oman	8.6	7.6	8.3
Kuwait	5.6	5.9	6.2
Bahrain	4.5	4.6	5.9
Qatar	6.5	5.5	5.4
Other West Asia	0.3	0.0	0.1
Total Gulf	89.4	88.5	89.0
Others	10.6	11.5	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source : Same as Table 2.13

Table 2.19
Number of return emigrants in Kerala, 2003 – 2011

Districts	Number			Increase/Decrease (per cent)	
	2011	2008	2003	2008-2011	2003-2008
Thiruvananthapuram	1,96,101	2,15,280	1,03,059	-8.90	108.89
Kollam	1,16,927	1,24,066	69,314	-5.75	78.99
Pathanamthitta	15,297	60,554	83,502	-74.73	-27.48
Alappuzha	54,688	51,024	43,109	7.18	18.36
Kottayam	11,846	26,448	28,368	-55.20	-6.76
Idukki	6,738	3,213	3,766	109.71	-14.68
Ernakulam	62,312	68,860	74,435	-9.50	-7.48
Thrissur	1,49,132	1,74,655	86,029	-14.61	103.01
Palakkad	83,388	85,318	55,008	-2.26	55.10
Malappuram	1,54,122	2,19,736	1,41,537	-29.86	55.24
Kozhikode	1,14,424	72,405	1,09,101	58.03	-33.63
Wayanad	14,489	1,930	3,852	650.72	-49.89
Kannur	1,25,303	26,416	45,394	374.34	-41.80
Kazargode	45,580	27,222	47,468	67.43	-42.65
Kerala	11,50,347	11,57,127	8,93,942	-0.58	29.44

Source : Same as Table 2.13

21.93 lakh in 2008. The latest survey conducted in 2011 estimates the total emigrants as 22.80 lakh of which 89 percent belonged to Gulf countries. Compared to the previous surveys, there has been a substantial decline in the growth of emigrants from Kerala during the post-global crisis period between 2008 and 2011. Based on this evidence, the authors of the survey say that Kerala's migration to the Gulf is edging towards a turning point. They conclude that Gulf migration from Kerala seems to be approaching an inflection point in history. This is the most serious disturbing development that has been taking place in a State which is heavily relying on emigration and foreign remittances for its survival.

District-wise distribution of emigrants

2.34. An analysis of the district-wise emigration in Kerala shows that emigration is not uniform in all districts or regions. The districts which are having a high rate of emigration during the last two decades are Malappuram, Thrissur, Thiruvananthapuram, Kannur and Kozhikode. On the other hand, the rate of emigration in Wayanad and Idukki districts are very small. The other districts have moderate rate of emigration. The 2011 survey on migration shows that there has been a substantial fall in emigration during the post global crisis period compared to the earlier period in 8 districts of Kerala (Table 2.14). The districts which experienced negative growth are Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur and Palakkad. The districts which registered a fall in the rate of emigration are Alappuzha, Malappuram and Kozhikode. Thus the evidence suggest that though there was a small increase in the number of emigrants at the State level, most of the traditional centers of emigration in the State had experienced a decline in emigration. This is the most serious disturbing development that has been taking place in Kerala at present.

2.35. An examination of the rate of emigration, i.e, emigrants per 100 households, also indicates that the rate remained at a stagnant level between 2008 and 2011 in Kerala (Table 2.15). The emigration rate of Kerala remained as 29 per 100 households in 2008 and 2011. The rate registered a decline in seven districts between 2008 and 2011. There was also a decline in the share of emigrants in 5 districts.

In another two districts, the rate remained without any change during this period.

Countries of destination of Keralite emigrants

2.36. The principal countries of destination of Keralite emigrants since the mid-1970s had been the Gulf countries. During the last one decade, the share of Keralite emigrants in the Gulf was estimated as 89 percent. The surveys indicate that there had been a substantial decline in the emigration to the Gulf during the post global crisis period. It is estimated that the growth in the number of emigrants in the Gulf was 4.73 percent during the post global crisis period to 18.63 percent growth in the pre-global crisis period (Table 2.16). The number of emigrants in UAE witnessed a negative growth of 3.79 percent during post global crisis period. There was also a substantial fall in the growth of Keralite emigrants in Kuwait and Bahrain during the global crisis period. The Keralite emigrants in the non-Gulf countries also witnessed a decline in the post global crisis period (Table 2.17).

2.37. A country-wise analysis of the share of Keralite emigrants in the Gulf shows that there was a fall in the share of UAE from 41.9 percent in 2008 to 38.7 percent in 2011 (Table 2.18). There was also a marginal fall in the share of Keralite emigrants in Kuwait and Bahrain during the post global crisis period. A notable development is that the share of Keralite emigrants in the non-Gulf countries also registered a decline during the post global crisis period.

Return emigrants

2.38. The migration surveys have estimated the return emigrants from the foreign countries to Kerala for the years 2003, 2008 and 2011. According to the survey of 2003, the total return emigrants were 8.93 lakh in Kerala. It increased to 11.5 lakh in 2008 and registered a marginal decline to 11.50 lakh in 2011 (Table 2.19). According to the survey of 2008, there has been a decline in return emigrants in eight districts. A notable point is that there has been a marginal decline in the number of return emigrants during the global crisis period. This can be largely attributed to the steep fall in emigration during the post global crisis

Table 2.20**Return emigrants in Kerala: Return emigration rate and share of return emigrants**

Districts	Emigrants per 100 Household			Percent		
	2011	2008	2003	2011	2008	2003
Thiruvananthapuram	23.3	24.9	13.2	17.0	18.6	11.5
Kollam	17.4	18.4	11.4	10.2	10.7	7.8
Pathanamthitta	4.8	18.7	27.7	1.3	5.2	9.3
Alappuzha	10.2	9.4	8.7	4.8	4.4	4.8
Kottayam	2.4	5.4	6.4	1.0	2.3	3.2
Idukki	2.4	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.3	0.4
Ernakulam	7.2	8.6	10.4	5.4	6.0	8.3
Thrissur	21.9	23.9	13.1	13.0	15.1	9.6
Palakkad	13.2	14.4	10.1	7.2	7.4	6.2
Malappuram	19.5	35.1	23.5	13.4	19.0	15.8
Kozhikode	16.2	11.0	18.6	9.9	6.3	12.2
Wayanad	7.6	1.0	2.2	1.3	0.2	0.4
Kannur	22.7	5.0	9.7	10.9	2.3	5.1
Kasargode	15.7	10.5	20.3	4.0	2.4	5.3
Kerala	14.7	15.3	13.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source : Same as Table 2.13

Table 2.21**Remittances to Kerala (Rs. in Crore)**

Year	Amount (Rs.crore)	Growth (percent)	Remittances as percent of NSDP
1998	13,652	-	25.5
2003	18,465	35.25	22.0
2008	43,296	134.47	30.7
2011	49,695	14.77	31.2

period. Usually a sizeable share of migrants used to return to native places within a brief period ranging between one to three years. This has not happened here owing to the absence of fresh migration during the global crisis period.

2.39. An analysis of the return emigration rate shows that there has been a marginal decline in the rate between 2008 and 2011 (Table 2.20). The return

emigrants per 100 households declined from 15.3 in 2008 to 14.7 in 2011. There has been a decline in the return emigration rate in eight districts. On the other hand, there has been an increase in the return emigration rate in the rest of the districts. According to the survey of 2011, the districts having a higher share of return emigration are Thiruvananthapuram,

Table 2.22**Number of persons cleared ECR from the Office of the Protector of Emigrants, Thiruvananthapuram (Country-wise)**

Country	2008	2009	2010	2011
Afghanistan	232	0	0	0
Bahrain	2,485	18	20	22
Oman	9,391	4,578	346	75
Qatar	2,130	398	378	594
Kuwait	469	707	419	288
KSA	3,479	2,228	2,074	3,542
UAE	19,621	6,238	142	984
Total	37,807	14,167	3,379	5,505

Source: Office of the Protector of Emigrants, Thiruvananthapuram

Table 2.23**Number of persons cleared ECR from the Office of the Protector of Emigrants, Thiruvananthapuram (Country-wise & Growth rate)**

Country	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Afghanistan	-	-	-
Bahrain	-99.30	11.11	10.00
Oman	-51.25	-92.44	-78.32
Qatar	-81.31	-5.03	57.14
Kuwait	50.75	-40.73	-31.26
KSA	-35.96	-6.91	70.78
UAE	-68.20	-97.72	592.95
Total	-62.53	-76.15	62.92

Source: Office of the Protector of Emigrants, Thiruvananthapuram

Table 2.24**Number of persons cleared ECR from the Office of the Protector of Emigrants, Thiruvananthapuram**

Year	Number of Keralities Who cleared ECR	Number of Non-Keralites who cleared ECR	Total Number of ECR cleared persons	Percentage share of Keralities
2008	34,314	4,469	38,783	88.48
2009	11,396	2,722	14,118	80.72
2010	1,739	1,638	3,377	51.50
2011	2,012	3,503	5,515	36.48

Source: Office of the Protector of Emigrants, Thiruvananthapuram

Table 2.25**Number of persons cleared ECR from the office of the Protector of Emigrants, Thiruvananthapuram (Growth rate)**

Year	Number of Keralites who cleared ECR	Growth Percent	Number of Non-Keralites who cleared ECR	Growth Percent	Total number of ECR cleared Persons	Growth Percent
2008	34,314	-	4,469	-	38,783	-
2009	11,396	-66.80	2,722	-39.10	14,118	-63.60
2010	1,739	-84.74	1,638	-39.82	3,377	-76.08
2011	2,012	15.69	3,503	113.86	5,515	63.31

Source: Office of the Protector of Emigrants, Thiruvananthapuram

Kollam, Thrissur, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Kannur.

Remittances

2.40. These surveys have estimated the total remittances received in Kerala from the migrant workers. According to the survey of 1998, the total remittances from workers received in Kerala were Rs 13,652 crore which was equivalent to 25.50 percent of the Net State Domestic Product. The remittances received increased to Rs 18,465 crore in 2003, Rs 43,296 crore in 2008 and Rs 49,695 crore in 2011. The amount of remittances received in 2008 was equivalent to 31 percent of the Net State Domestic Product (Table 2.21). A notable point is that there has been a steep decline in the rate of growth of remittances during the global crisis period compared to the earlier period.

Trends in emigration of Emigration Check Required category (ECR)

2.41. In order to study the trends in emigration of emigrants belonging to the category of Emigration Check Required (ECR), we have collected data from the office of the Protector of Emigrants, Thiruvananthapuram.

The ECR migrants mostly belong to unskilled and semi-skilled categories of workers like farm workers, household workers etc. They have an educational level of below Secondary School Leaving Certificate. The names of the ECR required countries and the list of categories of workers in whose case Emigration Check is Not Required (ECNR) are given in

Appendix V. The data on ECR migrants from Thiruvananthapuram suggest that there has been an unprecedented decline in the number of Keralite migrants since the global crisis year of 2008. The total number of ECR migrants fell from 37,807 in 2008 to 14,167 in 2009, a decline of 62 percent (Tables 2.22 and 2.23). During the period from 2009-2010, the decline of the category of emigrants was 76 percent. Compared to 2008, only a small number of the ECR emigrants migrated to the Gulf during the year 2011. There has been a substantial decline in emigration of ECR emigrants from Kerala to all the Gulf countries during the period between 2008 and 2011, with a few exceptions (Tables 2.22 and 2.23).

This data also support the other statistical evidence in support of the fact that the post global crisis period witnessed an unprecedented fall in the emigration from Keralite migrants to the Gulf. Another notable point about the ECR migrants from Kerala is that, majority of them who obtain clearance from the Protector of Emigrants are non-Keralites, and that they belong to other States.

During the year 2009, of the total ECR emigrants who got clearance from the Protector of Emigrants, Thiruvananthapuram, the share of Keralites was 81 percent (Tables 2.24 and 2.25). During the subsequent years, the share of Keralites fell to 51 percent in 2010 and 36 percent in 2011. This indicates that only a small number (2012) of unskilled and semi-skilled categories migrated from Kerala to Gulf in 2011. This is another major change that occurred in the composition of emigrants from Kerala to the Gulf during the post-

global crisis period. The high wage-rate prevailing for casual and manual categories of workers in Kerala has discouraged the migration of unskilled and semi-skilled categories of workers to the Gulf in the context of economic recession in the Gulf.

Conclusion

The global economic crisis of 2008, the worst of its kind since the world depression of the 1930s, has resulted in massive decline in investments, economic activities and employment, leading to a steep fall in the demand for emigrant workers in the West Asia. In the context of the crisis, the Gulf countries began to restrict emigration, resorted to strict enforcement of illegal migration laws and encouraged the return of many categories of emigrant workers. Due to

the unfavourable changes taking place in the labour market in the Gulf economies, the contract migrant workers became more vulnerable and were forced to return to their native countries in large numbers. Available evidence suggests that there has been a substantial increase in return emigration from West Asia to India on the one hand, and a decline in emigration on the other. The survey results of a State-wide migration survey in Kerala indicate that there has been an unprecedented decline in emigration from Kerala to the Gulf during the post-global crisis period. Available evidence also suggests that there has been a similar decline in the emigration of the unskilled and low-skilled categories of Keralite emigrants belonging to the Emigration Check Required category.

3

A Survey of Return Emigrant Households in Kerala.

Demographic Profile, Return Emigrants, Emigrants and Out-Migrants

3.1 In order to study the causes of return, country-wise return, the period of return, the current status and socio-economic profile of return emigrants, we conducted a sample survey of 800 return emigrant households in four districts of Kerala viz, Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur and Malappuram during May to July 2011 (Table 3.1). The survey also collected data about the demographic profile of return emigrant households, the details of emigrants and out migrants of the households.

In the survey, we have collected data using an interview schedule from 800 return emigrant households belonging to 13 Grama Panchayats and 3 Municipalities coming under four districts of Kerala (Table 3.2). The municipalities covered in the survey are Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram district and Chavakkadu and Guruvayoor in Thrissur district.

In the first part of the chapter, we present the survey findings on demographic profile of the return emigrant households and the activity status of the population. The second part gives the details of return emigrants such as year of emigration, year of return and country of return. The third part examines the details of the emigrants belonging to the sample households and the fourth on out-migrants

I. Demographic profile of the return emigrant households

Population

3.2. The total population in the 800 sample households was 4,114 persons comprising 2,060 males and 2,054 females. The average size of the sample households is calculated at 5.14 persons. Among the districts, Malappuram district has the highest average size (5.94) and Pathanamthitta the lowest (4.07). Table 3.3 gives the district-wise male-female breakup of the population and average size of the households. Distribution of population by marital status shows that 39.13 percent are unmarried, 56.15 percent married, 4.35 percent widows or widowers, 0.07 percent divorced and 0.29 percent separated (Table 3.4). Pathanamthitta district has the highest share of married and widow / widower population. An age-group-wise distribution of population reveals that 23.41 percent are children and 8.87 percent are old people. The population belonging to young labour force (age group of 15-30) accounts for 26.98 percent. Table 3.5 presents the distribution of population belonging to different age groups. Pathanamthitta district has the highest share of old people compared to other districts. A notable feature of the population of the return emigrant households is the higher levels of

Table 3.1
Distribution of sample Grama Panchayat / Municipality

Sl. No	District	Grama Panchayat (GP) / Municipality (M)	Total number of sample return emigrant households
1	Thiruvananthapuram	Edava (GP)	50
		Navaikulam (GP)	50
		Chirayinkeezhu (GP)	50
		Varkala (M)	50
		Total	200
2	Pathanamthitta	Mallappally (GP)	50
		Koippuram (GP)	50
		Kozhenchery (GP)	50
		Thumpamon (GP)	50
		Total	200
3	Thrissur	Punnayur (GP)	50
		Kadangodu (GP)	50
		Chavakadu (M)	50
		Guruvayoor (M)	50
		Total	200
4	Malappuram	Kalpakancheri (GP)	50
		Valancheri (GP)	50
		Parappanangadi (GP)	50
		Alamcode (GP)	50
		Total	200
		Grand Total	800

Table 3.2
Distribution of sample return emigrant households

District	Number of Grama Panchayat	Number of Municipality	Total	Sample size	Percent
Thiruvananthapuram	3	1	4	200	25.00
Pathanamthitta	4	0	4	200	25.00
Thrissur	2	2	4	200	25.00
Malappuram	4	0	4	200	25.00
Total	13	3	16	800	100.00

Table 3.3
Population in the sample return emigrant households

Sl. No	District	Number			Average household size (Number)
		Male	Female	Total	
1	Thiruvananthapuram	531	559	1090	5.45
2.	Pathanamthitta	400	414	814	4.07
3.	Thrissur	545	477	1022	5.11
4.	Malappuram	584	604	1188	5.94
	Total	2060	2054	4114	5.14
Percent					
1.	Thiruvananthapuram	25.78	27.22	26.49	25.78
2.	Pathanamthitta	19.42	20.16	19.79	19.42
3.	Thrissur	26.46	23.22	24.84	26.46
4.	Malappuram	28.35	29.41	28.88	28.35
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 3.4
Distribution of population by marital status (number)

Number						
Sl. No.	Marital Status	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1	Unmarried	445	278	397	490	1610
2	Married	583	480	589	658	2310
3	Widower/ Widow	51	55	36	37	179
4	Divorced	1	0	0	2	3
5	Separated	10	1	0	1	12
	Total	1090	814	1022	1188	4114
Percent						
Sl. No.	Marital Status	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1	Unmarried	40.83	34.15	38.85	41.25	39.13
2	Married	53.49	58.97	57.63	55.39	56.15
3	Widower/ Widow	4.68	6.76	3.52	3.11	4.35
4	Divorced	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.07
5.	Separated	0.92	0.12	0.00	0.08	0.29
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

literacy and education. The survey found that 98 percent of the population in the sample households are literates. Of the total population, 38.49 percent are having an educational level of secondary and 12.86 percent of higher secondary. Another 13.12 percent of the population have an educational level of diploma, degree, professional degree or post graduate degree (Table 3.6).

Religion

3.3 Distribution of population by religion shows that Muslims account for the largest share followed by Christians and Hindus. Muslims account for 64 percent of the total population in the sample households. In Malappuram district, Muslims account for 96 percent of the population. The corresponding share in Thrissur and Thiruvananthapuram are 72 percent and 70 percent. On the other hand, in Pathanamthitta no household belonged to Muslim community (Table 3.7). Pathanamthitta has the largest share of Christians compared to other districts.

A caste-wise distribution of the population shows that other backward communities account for 74 percent, forward castes 23.21 percent, other eligible communities 0.49 percent and Scheduled Castes and Tribes 2.26 percent. This suggests that the communities like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled

Tribes and other eligible communities are not able to gain much from international migration (Table 3.8). The lower economic and social status of these sections has contributed to this.

Employment

3.4. The survey collected data about the activity status of population viz, employed, unemployed and not in labour force. It is found that of the total population, 25.23 percent are employed, 6.12 percent unemployed and 68.64 percent are not in the labour force (Table 3.9).

Among the districts, Malappuram has the lowest share of workers and highest share of non-labour force. The survey results show a higher proportion of 'Not in the Labour Force' population in the return emigrant households.

We have classified the workers in the return emigrant households into three categories viz., self-employed, casually employed and regular-employed. Self-employed are those engaged in part time or full time employment in primary, secondary, or tertiary activities. Casual labourers are employed on a daily or piece wage basis mostly by private employers. Regular workers are those who work in private or public establishments or households on a regular basis.

Table 3.5
Distribution of population by age

Number					
Age Group	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
0-15	292	156	190	325	963
15-30	303	146	318	343	1110
30-45	245	163	214	218	840
45-60	191	217	208	220	836
> 60	59	132	92	82	365
Total	1090	814	1022	1188	4114
Percent					
0-15	26.79	19.16	18.59	27.36	23.41
15-30	27.80	17.94	31.12	28.87	26.98
30-45	22.48	20.02	20.94	18.35	20.42
45-60	17.52	26.66	20.35	18.52	20.32
> 60	5.41	16.22	9.00	6.90	8.87
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 3.6
Distribution of population by educational status (Population 7 Years & above)

Number						
Sl. No.	Educational Status	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1	Illiterate	32	5	16	21	74
2	Primary	138	66	172	251	627
3	Upper Primary	131	85	189	181	586
4	Secondary	428	280	307	380	1395
5	Higher Secondary	110	133	96	127	466
6	Degree/Diploma	65	135	118	50	368
7	Prof*Degree	9	22	5	13	49
8	PG/Prof*PG	10	13	11	6	40
9	Others	6	9	1	3	19
	Total	929	748	915	1032	3624
Percent						
1	Illiterate	3.44	0.67	1.75	2.03	2.04
2	Primary	14.85	8.82	18.80	24.32	17.30
3	Upper Primary	14.10	11.36	20.66	17.54	16.17
4	Secondary	46.07	37.43	33.55	36.82	38.49
5	Higher Secondary	11.84	17.78	10.49	12.31	12.86
6	Degree/Diploma	7.00	18.05	12.90	4.84	10.15
7	Prof*Degree	0.97	2.94	0.55	1.26	1.35
8	PG/Prof*PG	1.08	1.74	1.20	0.58	1.10
9	Others	0.65	1.20	0.11	0.29	0.52
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

*Professional

Among the employed, 28.90 percent are self-employed, 39.11 percent are casually employed and 32 percent are regular-employed. Nearly one third is in the category of regular- employed. Among the districts Pathanamthitta has the highest share of self-employed and Thiruvananthapuram has the lowest share. Regarding casual employment, Thiruvananthapuram district has the largest share and Pathanamthitta has the smallest share. Thrissur district has the largest share of regular employment and Thiruvananthapuram has the smallest share (Table 3.10)

Unemployment

3.5. A disturbing trend is the high incidence of unemployment in the return emigrant households. The unemployment rate i.e., the percentage of unemployed to total labour force is 19.53 percent. In Pathanamthitta district, more than one-fourth of the labour force is unemployed denoting high incidence of unemployment. In Thrissur, 19 percent of the labour force is unemployed. In Thiruvananthapuram and Malappuram districts,

Table 3.7
Distribution of population by religion

Number						
Sl	Religion	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1	Hindu	228	265	198	46	737
2	Christian	101	549	91	0	741
3	Muslim	761	0	733	1142	2636
	Total	1090	814	1022	1188	4114
Percent						
1	Hindu	20.92	32.56	19.37	3.87	17.91
2	Christian	9.27	67.44	8.90	0.00	18.01
3	Muslim	69.82	0.00	71.72	96.13	64.07
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 3.8
Distribution of population by caste

Number					
Caste	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Forward caste	130	709	111	5	955
OBC	920	73	870	1183	3046
OEC	1	4	15	0	20
SC/ST	39	28	26	0	93
Total	1090	814	1022	1188	4114
Percent					
Forward caste	11.93	87.10	10.86	0.42	23.21
OBC	84.40	8.97	85.13	99.58	74.04
OEC	0.09	0.49	1.47	0.00	0.49
SC/ST	3.58	3.44	2.54	0.00	2.26
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

nearly 16 percent of the labour force is unemployed (Table 3.11).

Not in labour force

3.6. A notable demographic feature of the return emigrant households is the high proportion of population belonging to the category of 'not in the labour force' (Table 3.9). This category comprises pensioners, old, sick and disabled people, students, infants, housewives and others. Among this category,

house wives account for the largest share in all the four districts (Table 3.12). Thrissur district has the highest share of housewives and Pathanamthitta, the lowest. The second largest category of 'not in labour force' comprises students; Malappuram district has the largest share of students. Infants account for 11.20 percent of the 'not in labour force' category of population. The fourth largest category is old people (8.99%).

Table: 3.9**Distribution of population by activity status**

Sl. No	Districts	Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labour Force	Total
Number					
1	Thiruvananthapuram	286	58	746	1090
2	Pathanamthitta	204	75	535	814
3	Thrissur	280	67	675	1022
4	Malappuram	268	52	868	1188
	Total	1038	252	2824	4114
Percent					
1	Thiruvananthapuram	26.23	5.32	68.44	100.00
2	Pathanamthitta	25.06	9.21	65.72	100.00
3	Thrissur	27.39	6.55	66.04	100.00
4	Malappuram	22.55	4.37	73.10	100.00
	Total	25.23	6.12	68.64	100.00

Table: 3.10**Distribution of population by employment**

Sl. No	Districts	Self employed	Casual employed	Regular employed	Total
Number					
1	Thiruvananthapuram	34	182	70	286
2	Pathanamthitta	102	40	62	204
3	Thrissur	90	76	114	280
4	Malappuram	74	108	86	268
	Total	300	406	332	1038
Percent					
1	Thiruvananthapuram	11.88	63.64	24.47	100.00
2	Pathanamthitta	50.00	19.61	30.40	100.00
3	Thrissur	32.14	27.14	40.71	100.00
4	Malappuram	27.61	40.30	32.10	100.00
	Total	28.90	39.11	32.00	100.00

Table: 3.11**Unemployment rate**

Sl. No.	Districts	Employed (Number)	Unemployed (Number)	Total labour force (Number)	Unemployment rate (percent)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	286	58	344	16.86
2	Pathanamthitta	204	75	279	26.88
3	Thrissur	280	67	347	19.31
4	Malappuram	268	52	320	16.25
	Total	1038	252	1290	19.53

Table 3.12
Distribution of persons who are not in labour force

Sl.No	Category	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Number						
1	Pensioner	1	16	9	2	28
2	Old People	59	75	49	71	254
3	Sick	15	11	10	22	58
4	Disabled	2	3	1	0	6
5	Students	256	197	215	330	998
6	Infants	112	32	75	97	316
7	Housewives	290	198	314	341	1143
8	Others	11	3	2	5	21
	Total	746	535	675	868	2824
Percent						
i	Pensioner	0.13	3.00	1.33	0.23	0.99
2	Old people	7.91	14.02	7.26	8.18	8.99
3	Sick	2.01	2.06	1.48	2.54	2.05
4	Disabled	0.27	0.56	0.15	0.00	0.21
5	Students	34.32	36.82	31.85	38.01	35.34
6	Infants	15.01	5.98	11.11	11.18	11.20
7	Housewives	38.87	37.00	46.52	39.29	40.48
8	Others	1.48	0.56	0.30	0.57	0.74
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

II Return emigrants in the sample households

Number of return emigrants

3.7. In this section, we present the survey results relating to the number of return emigrants, year of emigration, year of return and the country of return. According to the survey, the total number of return emigrants in the 800 sample households are 884 (Table 3.13). Among the four districts, the largest number of return emigrants belong to Pathanamthitta district (26.02 percent). The share of other districts: Thiruvananthapuram 24.89 percent, Thrissur 23.98 percent and Malappuram 25.11 percent.

Year of emigration of the return emigrants

3.8. The survey results on year of emigration indicate that except a few, all of the emigrants migrated between 1970 and 2010 (Table 3.14). During the decades 1970s and 1980s 32 percent

migrated to Gulf. One-fourth of the return emigrants migrated to the Gulf during the decade 1990s. Another 15 percent migrated during the first half of the first decade of the present century. But there has been a decline in emigration since the global crisis year of 2008.

Year of return of return emigrants

3.9. Based on the survey results, we can draw the following observations about the period of return emigrants (Table 3.15). Of the total return emigrants, only a small share returned till 1999 (5.43 percent). The percentage of emigrants returned between 2000 and 2007 was 23.65 percent. The survey results suggest that 2008, the year of global crisis is the crucial year in return emigration. Of the total 884 return emigrants, 71 percent returned during the post-global crisis period between 2008 and 2011. This evidence clearly indicates that the global crisis and the consequent acute recession experienced in Gulf countries have triggered mass return migration of workers to Kerala.

Table 3.13**Number of return emigrants in the sample households**

Sl. No	District	Number of sample households	Return emigrants	
			Number	Percent
1	Thiruvananthapuram	200	220	24.89
2	Pathanamthitta	200	230	26.02
3	Thrissur	200	212	23.98
4	Malappuram	200	222	25.11
	Total	800	884	100.00

Table 3.14**Distribution of return emigrants by year of emigration**

Year	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1950-1959	0	1	0	0	1
1960-1969	0	8	1	3	12
1970-1979	18	36	36	31	121
1980-1989	24	48	34	55	161
1990-1999	59	64	45	57	225
2000-2005	42	27	22	42	133
2006	15	17	17	11	60
2007	23	15	22	10	70
2008	26	9	21	10	66
2009	10	2	9	3	24
2010	3	2	5	0	10
2011	0	1	0	0	1
Total	220	230	212	222	884
Percent					
1950-1959	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.11
1960-1969	0.00	3.48	0.47	1.35	1.36
1970-1979	8.18	15.65	16.98	13.96	13.69
1980-1989	10.91	20.87	16.04	24.77	18.21
1990-1999	26.82	27.83	21.23	25.68	25.45
2000-2005	19.09	11.74	10.38	18.92	15.05
2006	6.82	7.39	8.02	4.95	6.79
2007	10.45	6.52	10.38	4.50	7.92
2008	11.82	3.91	9.91	4.50	7.47
2009	4.55	0.87	4.25	1.35	2.71
2010	1.36	0.87	2.36	0.00	1.13
2011	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.11
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 3.15
Distribution of return emigrants by year of return

Number					
Year	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1980-1989	-	7	-	-	7
1990-1999	-	33	4	4	41
2000-2005	4	36	32	26	98
2006	6	7	15	20	48
2007	10	13	14	26	63
2008	35	34	37	33	139
2009	39	46	39	43	167
2010	91	33	46	48	218
2011	35	21	25	22	103
Total	220	230	212	222	884
Percent					
Year	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1980-1989	0.00	3.04	0.00	0.00	0.79
1990-1999	0.00	14.35	1.89	1.80	4.64
2000-2005	1.82	15.65	15.09	11.71	11.09
2006	2.73	3.04	7.08	9.01	5.43
2007	4.55	5.65	6.60	11.71	7.13
2008	15.91	14.78	17.45	14.86	15.72
2009	17.73	20.00	18.40	19.37	18.89
2010	41.36	14.35	21.70	21.62	24.66
2011	15.91	9.13	11.79	9.91	11.65
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 3.16
Distribution of return emigrants by country of return

Sl. No.	Name of country	Number of return emigrants	Percent
1	UAE	482	54.52
2	Saudi Arabia	158	17.87
3	Qatar	62	7.01
4	Oman	95	10.75
5	Kuwait	45	5.10
6	Bahrain	29	3.28
7	Others	13	1.47
	Total	884	100.00

Table 3.17
Distribution of emigrants by male and female

District	Number of emigrants			Percent		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Thiruvananthapuram	56	1	57	22.32	4.16	20.73
Pathanamthitta	40	17	57	15.93	70.83	20.73
Thrissur	54	5	59	21.52	20.83	21.45
Malappuram	101	1	102	40.23	4.16	37.09
Total	251	24	275	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 3.18
Distribution of emigrants by age and sex

Number			
Age group	Male	Female	Total
Below 20	2	3	5
20-24	25	1	26
25-29	79	8	87
30-34	56	3	59
35-39	49	4	53
40-44	24	2	26
45-49	6	1	7
50-60	10	1	11
Above 60	-	1	1
Total	251	24	275
Percent			
Age group	Male	Female	Total
Below 20	0.80	12.50	1.82
20-24	9.96	4.17	9.45
25-29	31.47	33.33	31.64
30-34	22.31	12.50	21.45
35-39	19.52	16.67	19.27
40-44	9.56	8.33	9.45
45-49	2.39	4.17	2.55
50-60	3.99	4.17	4.00
Above 60	0.00	4.17	0.36
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Country of return

3.10. A country-wise analysis of return of the emigrants revealed that except a few, all of them returned from the Gulf countries viz, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. The survey found that majority of the emigrants returned from the UAE (54.52 percent). Nearly 18 percent returned from the Saudi Arabia and 11 percent from Oman. The percentage of return emigrants from Kuwait and Bahrain was 5.10 and 3.28 respectively (Table 3.16).

III Emigrants in sample households

Profile of emigrants

3.11. The survey collected data about the emigrants who are currently living in foreign countries. The survey found that 275 persons are living in foreign countries belonging to the 800 sample households. Of the total emigrants, 91.27 percent are males and 8.73 percent are females (Table 3.17).

Among the districts, Pathanamthitta has the largest number of female emigrants (70 percent). Of

the 24 female emigrants, the number of emigrants was one each from Thiruvananthapuram and Malappuram districts. An age-wise distribution of the emigrants shows that 42 percent belonged to the age group between 20 and 29. Another 21.45 percent belonged to the age group of 30 and 34. This suggests that the majority of the emigrants belonged to the young age group. On the other hand, only a small percent of emigrants belonged to the age group of 50 and above (Table 3.18). Distribution of the emigrants by the marital status revealed that 71 percent of them are married and nearly 29 percent are unmarried (Table 3.19). Among the districts, Thrissur has more unmarried emigrants compared to others. Compared to the earlier decades, the present generations of migrants are mostly educated people.

Of the total emigrants, those who have an educational level of below SSLC is 8.45 percent (Table 3.20). Another 43 percent of the migrants have an educational level of SSLC and 18 percent higher secondary. Twenty-two percent of migrants have degrees or diplomas and 8 percent have professional or Post-Graduate degrees. Thus the survey results suggest that emigrants are mostly

Table 3.19
Distribution of emigrants by marital status

Number					
Marital status	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Unmarried	13	12	21	33	79
Married	44	45	38	68	195
Widow /Widower	-	-	-	1	1
Total	57	57	59	102	275
Percent					
Unmarried	22.81	21.05	35.59	32.35	28.73
Married	77.19	78.95	64.41	66.67	70.91
Widow/Widower	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.36
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 3.20
Distribution of emigrants by educational status
(Population 7 years & above)

Educational status	Number of emigrants	Percent
Illiterate	0	0.00
Primary	4	1.47
Upper Primary	19	6.98
Secondary	118	43.38
Higher Secondary	50	18.38
Degree & Diploma	59	21.70
Professional Degree	10	3.70
PG / Professional PG	10	3.70
Others	2	0.74
Total	272	100.00

Table 3.21
Distribution of emigrants by country of present migration

Country	Number of Emigrants	Percent
UAE	166	60.36
Saudi Arabia	50	18.18
Qatar	26	9.45
Oman	12	4.36
Kuwait	10	3.63
Bahrain	5	1.81
Canada	3	1.09
UK	1	0.36
USA	1	0.36
Singapore	1	0.36
Total	275	100.00

Table 3.22
Emigrants in UAE: Emirates-wise

Emirates	Number of emigrants	Percent
Dubai	73	43.96
Abu Dhabi	40	24.10
Sharjah	8	4.82
Ras-Al-Khaima	3	1.81
Other Areas	42	25.30
Total	166	100.00

Table 3.23
Distribution of emigrants by activity status

Activity status	Number of emigrants	Percent
Self employed	4	1.45
Casual labour	6	2.18
Public Sector	11	4.00
Private Sector	237	86.18
Unemployed	6	2.18
Students	3	1.09
Children	2	0.73
House wife	6	2.18
Total	275	100.00

males belonging to young age group and have an educational level of secondary and above.

Country of emigration

3.12. The survey results suggest that except a few, all of them migrated to Gulf countries. The important destinations of the migrants are UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain (Table 3.21). Of the total emigrants in the sample households, 60.36 percent migrated to United Arab Emirates. The second major destination of Keralite emigrants is Saudi Arabia. The other destinations in Gulf are Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. Besides this, a few have migrated to Canada, UK, USA and Singapore.

As UAE is the principal destination of Keralite emigrants, we have collected information about the regions and localities in UAE where the emigrants are living. The survey found that of the total emigrants in UAE, 43.96 percent are living in Dubai. Abu Dhabi is the second major destination of Keralite emigrants. The other destinations are Sharjah and Ras-Al-Khaima (Table 3.22).

Activity status of emigrants

3.13. A distribution of emigrants by activity status shows that 93.81 percent of the emigrants are workers. Of them, 86.18 percent work in the private sector establishments and 4 percent in public sector. A few are self-employed or casual labourers. The unemployed emigrants account for 2.18 percent. The rest of them belonged to the

category of 'not in labour force' namely students, children and housewives (Table 3.23).

Employment of emigrants

3.14. To study the details of employment, we have collected data on the nature of the work place and the locality in which the emigrants are currently working. It shows that the majority of the emigrants (54 percent) are working in white collar categories of jobs in office and shops. Sales-related work in shops provide the largest employment. Office-related work provide the second largest employment. Construction is the third major category of jobs. Nearly four percent of the workers are household workers (Table 3.24).

Duration of employment

3.15. We have collected data about the duration of employment of the emigrants currently working in foreign countries. It is reported that out of the 275 emigrants, 258 are currently employed. A distribution of the employment by duration of employment reveals that 10 percent have been working for less than one year, another 10 percent has one to two years and 14 percent between two to three years (Table 3.25).

Thus, more than one-third have worked for a period one to three years. Another one-third have been working for a period between 3 to 7 years. Only 15 percent of the emigrants have worked for more than 10 years. A distribution of the emigrants by place of work reveals that 74 percent work in

Table 3.24**Distribution of emigrants by nature of workplace**

Nature of workplace	Number of emigrants	Percent
Office	73	26.55
Shop	75	27.27
Factory	13	4.73
Work shop	14	5.09
Construction site	31	11.27
House	10	3.64
Others	59	21.45
Total	275	100.00

Table 3.25**Distribution of emigrants by duration of employment**

Year	Number of emigrants	Percent
Below 1 year	27	10.47
1-2	25	9.69
2-3	36	13.95
3-5	42	16.28
5-7	40	15.50
7-10	48	18.60
above 10 years	40	15.51
Total	258	100.00

Table 3.26**Distribution of emigrants by place of work**

Place of work	Number of emigrants	Percent
City	203	73.82
Rural area	31	11.27
Isolated area	9	3.27
Desert	5	1.82
Others	27	9.82
Total	275	100.00

cities. It is reported that 11.27 percent of the workers work in rural areas and 3.27 percent in isolated areas. Nearly two percent of the emigrants are working in desert areas (Table 3.26).

Working conditions

3.16. A major labour problem faced by the emigrant workers in Gulf countries is the long

working hours. Eight hours of work per day is the internationally accepted norm. But in most of the Gulf countries, the workers have to work 8 to 10 hours or more. The survey results suggest that nearly half of the emigrant workers work 8 hours per day. Another one-fifth of the workers work 8 to 10 hours per day. It is reported by 22 percent of

Table 3.27
Distribution of emigrants by working hours

Place of work	Number of emigrants	Percent
8 Hrs	129	46.91
8 - 10 Hrs	56	20.36
Above 10 hrs	61	22.18
Others	29	10.55
Total	275	100.00

Table 3.28
Distribution of emigrants by nature of accommodation

Sl. No	Place of work	Number of emigrants	Percent
1	Flat	56	20.36
2	Rented room	116	42.18
3	Labour camp	79	28.73
4	Others	24	8.73
	Total	275	100.00

Table 3.29
Distribution of emigrants by status of stay

Stay	Number of emigrants	Percent
Staying alone	230	83.64
Staying with family	45	16.36
Total	275	100.00

Table 3.30
Distribution of emigrants by monthly wages

Monthly wages(Rs)	Number of emigrant workers	Percent
1-5000	23	8.91
5001-10000	81	31.39
10001-15000	62	24.03
15001-20000	52	20.16
20001-25000	16	6.20
25001-30000	10	3.88
30001-35000	2	0.78
35001-40000	5	1.94
45001-50000	4	1.56
>50001	3	1.15
Total	258	100.00

Table 3.31
Distribution of emigrant workers by monthly remittances

Amount	Number of emigrants	Percent
1-1000	4	1.84
1001-2000	10	4.60
2001-3000	16	7.38
3001-4000	11	5.07
4001-5000	100	46.08
5001-6000	12	5.53
6001-7000	7	3.23
7001-8000	9	4.15
8001-9000	40	18.43
>10001	8	3.69
Total	217	100.00

Table 3.32
Distribution of emigrant workers by remittance sent last one year

District	Total amount Sent	Number of employed persons	Average amount sent
Thiruvananthapuram	4338000	56	77464.29
Pathanamthitta	1805000	47	38404.26
Thrissur	6575000	100	65750.00
Malappuram	3108000	55	56509.09
Total	15826000	258	61341.09

Table 3.33
Distribution of out-migrants by male & female

Number				
Sl. No	District	Male	Female	Total
1.	Thiruvananthapuram	1	0	1
2.	Pathanamthitta	23	22	45
3.	Thrissur	6	1	7
4	Malappuram	1	1	2
	Total	31	24	55
Percent				
1	Thiruvananthapuram	3.23	0.00	1.82
2	Pathanamthitta	74.19	91.67	81.82
3	Thrissur	19.35	4.17	12.73
4	Malappuram	3.23	4.17	3.64
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

the workers that they work above 10 hours per day (Table 3.27).

Lack of proper accommodation in labour camps and the higher rent rates for rented accommodation are the problems faced by emigrant workers in the Gulf countries. The survey results suggest that 20 percent of the emigrants are living in flats and another 42 percent live in rented rooms (Table 3.28).

Nearly 29 percent of the migrants are living in labour camps. A feature of the contract migration is that the emigrants are mostly male and they are living alone in the foreign country. Survey results suggest that out of the emigrants, 84 are single emigrants staying alone where as only 16 percent emigrants are staying with their families (Table 3.29).

Wages and remittances

3.17. According to the survey, 258 persons are currently working and earning wages. We have collected data about the monthly wages or income of the migrant workers. It is reported that 9 percent of the emigrants are getting a very low monthly wage of less than Rs. 5,000. Thirty-one percent received a monthly wage ranging from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000. Another 24 percent receive a monthly wage ranging from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 (Table 3.30). This indicates that majority of the emigrants are getting a low monthly wage. As a good part of the wage income is spent on accommodation, food, travel, medical expenses etc, their actual savings will be negligible.

The survey results show that due to low monthly wages and savings, nearly 16 percent of the emigrant workers are not sending remittances on a monthly basis. And those who are sending remittances on monthly basis send only smaller amounts. It is reported that 14 percent of the emigrant workers sent an amount less than Rs. 3, 000 per month. Nearly half of the emigrants are sending an amount ranging between Rs. 4, 000 to Rs. 5,000 (Table 3.31). Those who are sending more than Rs. 10,000 per month account only about 4 percent.

We have estimated the average amount of remittances sent by the emigrants during the last one year. It is found that the average amount sent per year was Rs. 61,341. There is much variation in the amount of remittances sent by the emigrants

belonging to the four districts. During the last year, the emigrants belonging to Thiruvananthapuram sent an average amount of Rs. 77,464. On the other hand, the average amount sent by the emigrants belonging to Pathanamthitta was Rs. 38,404 (Table 3.32).

IV Out-migrants in the sample households

Profile of out-migrants

3.18. This section presents the survey findings relating to the out-migrants in the sample households. Out-migrants are those natives of Kerala who migrated to other States and Union Territories of India for employment, business, studies, marriage or other reasons and currently belonging to a family or household in Kerala or having a residence in Kerala. The survey results show that 55 persons comprising 31 males and 24 females migrated from the sample households to other States and Union Territories in India (Table 3.33).

Of the out-migrants, 82 percent migrated from Pathanamthitta. The out-migrants from the other three districts are only a few. In Thiruvananthapuram, we have one out-migrant and two in Malappuram. Most of the out-migrants are young people belonging to the age groups between 20 and 34. About three-fourth of the out-migrants belonged to this age group (Table 3.34). Distribution of emigrants by marital status revealed that majority are married persons (Table 3.35). Compared to the emigrants, the out-migrants have higher educational attainments. Distribution of educational status of the out-migrants shows that 41 percent had a degree or diploma. Another 22 percent have either a professional degree or Post-Graduate degree (Table 3.36). Thus persons with higher educational qualifications are migrating to other parts of India for getting better, regular and remunerative employment.

Destination of out-migrants

3.19. The survey results suggest that most of the out-migrants have migrated to other parts of India during the first decade of the present century. Of the total out-migrants, about 90 percent migrated

Table 3.34
Distribution of out-migrants by male and female(Age-wise)

Sl. No	Age group	Number			Percent		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	Below 20	3	4	7	9.68	16.67	12.72
2.	20-24	6	4	10	19.35	16.67	18.18
3.	25-29	9	12	21	29.03	50.00	38.18
4.	30-34	7	3	10	22.58	12.50	18.18
5.	35-39	1	0	1	3.23	0.00	1.82
6.	40-44	5	0	5	16.13	0.00	9.09
7.	45-49	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	50-60	0	1	1	0.00	4.17	1.82
9	Above 60	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	31	24	55	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 3.35
Distribution of out-migrants by marital status

Marital status	Number of out migrants	Percent of out migrants
Unmarried	26	47.27
Married	28	50.91
Widower/Widow	1	1.82
Total	55	100.00

Table 3.36
Distribution of out-migrants by educational status
(Population 7 years & above)

Sl. No	Educational status	Number of out-migrants	Percent
1	Upper Primary	2	3.77
2	Secondary	9	16.98
3	Higher Secondary	6	11.32
4	Degree & Diploma	22	41.52
5	Professional Degree	6	11.32
6	PG / Professional PG	6	11.32
7	Others	2	3.77
	Total	53	100.00

Table 3.37**Distribution of out-migrants by year of first emigration**

Year of first emigration	Number of out migrants	Percent
1975-1984	0	0.00
1985-1994	3	5.45
1995-1999	3	5.45
2000-2004	13	23.64
2005	3	5.45
2006	2	3.64
2007	4	7.27
2008	8	14.55
2009	8	14.55
2010	7	12.73
2011	4	7.27
Total	55	100.00

Table 3.38**Distribution of out-migrants by State of present migration**

Sl. No	State	Number of out-migrants	Percent
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	5.45
2.	Gujarat	1	1.82
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1.82
4.	Karnataka	10	18.20
5.	Madhya Pradesh	2	3.64
6.	Maharashtra	17	30.91
7.	New Delhi	8	14.55
8.	Tamil Nadu	13	23.64
	Total	55	100.00

Table 3.39**Distribution of out-migrants by activity status**

Sl. No	Activity status	Number of out-migrants	Percent
1	Public sector	2	3.64
2	Private sector	35	63.64
3	Unemployed	1	1.82
4	Students	12	21.82
5	Children	2	3.64
6	House wives	3	5.45
	Total	55	100.00

Table 3.40**Distribution of out-migrants by nature of workplace (Present work)**

Sl. No	Nature of work place	Number of out-migrants	Percent
1.	Office	26	47.30
2.	Shop	4	7.30
3.	Factory	2	3.64
4.	Workshop	4	7.30
5	Others	1	1.82
6	Non-workers	18	32.73
	Total	55	100.00

Table 3.41**Distribution of out-migrants by current place of work**

Sl. No	Place	Number of out-migrants	Percent
1.	City	31	56.36
2.	Rural Area	5	9.09
3.	Isolated Area	1	1.82
4	Non-workers	18	32.73
	Total	55	100.00

Table 3.42**Distribution of out-migrants by working hours**

Sl. No	Working hours	Number of out-migrants	Percent
1.	8 hours	33	60.00
2.	8-10 hours	1	1.82
3.	Above 10 hours	2	3.64
4.	Others	1	1.82
5	Non-workers	18	32.73
	Total	55	100.00

Table 3.43**Distribution of out-migrants by wages**

Monthly wages(Rs)	Number of out-migrants	Percent
1-5000	12	32.45
5001-10000	16	43.24
10001-15000	4	10.81
15001-20000	1	2.70
20001-25000	2	5.40
30001-35000	1	2.70
35001-40000	1	2.70
Total	37	100.00

during a period between 2000 and 2011 (Table 3.37).

This gives an indication of the new trend in out-migration. Another trend is the increase in out-migration during the post-global crisis period. It is likely that in the backdrop of the bleak migration prospects in the Gulf countries, the educated youth began to migrate to other parts of India. The destinations of the out-migrants are to the States like Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and to the capital city of New Delhi. The largest number of out-migrants migrated to cities in Maharashtra State. Tamilnadu and Karnataka are the other major destinations of out-migrants. Most of them migrated to the cities in the above States (Table 3.38).

Activity status of out-migrants

3.20. A distribution of the out-migrants by activity status shows that 64 percent of the workers mostly work in private establishments. Students account for 22 percent of the out-migrants. The other categories of non-workers such as children and housewives account for 9 percent (Table 3.39). Thus the major purpose of the out-migration is for employment and education. Information has been collected about the nature of the workplace of the out-migrants. It is found that out-migrants mostly work in offices and a few of them work in shops, factories and workshops (Table 3.40). This suggests that most of the out-migrants are working in white collar categories of work.

A distribution of the out-migrants by place of work reveals that most of the workers work in offices and other establishments in urban areas. Only a few work in rural areas or isolated areas (Table 3.41). This is in contrast to the situation of emigrant workers in Gulf countries who work in rural areas, isolated areas and deserts. In this respect, the out-migrant workers are better placed than the emigrants in the Gulf. The survey collected data relating to the working hours of the out-migrants.

Another significant finding was that most of the workers work 8 hours per day and a very few work more than 8 hours per day (Table 3.42). Thus with regard to the hours of work, the out-migrants are better placed compared to the emigrant workers in Gulf. The study revealed that except a few, all out-migrants live in rented accommodation such as houses, flats or rented rooms. High rate of rent is a major problem faced by out-migrants.

Monthly wages

3.21. We have collected information about the wages received by the out-migrants. Among the out-migrants, 37 persons are employed and getting wages. It is reported that 32 percent received a monthly wage below Rs. 5,000 (Table.3.43). Forty-three percent of the out migrants received a monthly wage ranging between Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10, 000. This suggests that majority of the out-migrants are getting very low wages.

Conclusion

3.22. The return emigrant households have three categories of migrants viz., return emigrants, emigrants and out-migrants. Return emigrants returned mostly from the Gulf countries during the post-global crisis period. Most of the migrants migrated to the Gulf countries. Majority of them are working in white collar categories of jobs in offices and shops and earn low amount of monthly wages and sending small amounts of money to their households. The survey result suggests that there has been an increase in the trend in migration of Keralites to other parts of India during the post-global crisis period. This may be attributed to the decline in the prospects of the migration to the Gulf countries in recent period. Out-migrants are mostly young people comprising of workers, students, children and housewives. Their major destinations are States such as Maharastra, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and the Capital city New Delhi.

4

Return Emigration: Country, Period of Return and Causes of Return

In this Chapter, we present the survey findings on the country-wise return, year of return, period of stay in foreign countries, employment and wages of return emigrants prior to return and the causes of return. These findings are based on a sample survey of 800 return emigrant households in the four districts of Kerala.

I. Country of return

4.1. In order to study the trends and patterns of return emigration, we have collected data about the country-wise and year-wise return of emigrants. In our survey, the total number of return emigrants in

the 800 return emigrant households is 884 (Table 4.1).

The average number of return emigrants per household is 1.10. An important finding of the study is that the emigrants are returned mostly from the West Asian countries viz., UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. Of the return emigrants, 98.5 percent returned from the West Asian countries (Table 4.2). Hence the return emigration issue in Kerala is predominantly a problem of return emigration of contract workers from the Gulf Countries. Another finding of the survey is that more than half (54.52 percent) of the

Table 4.1
Number of return emigrants in the sample households

Sl. No	Districts	Number of sample return households	Number of return emigrants	Average number of return emigrants per household
1.	Thiruvananthapuram	200	220	1.10
2.	Pathanamthitta	200	230	1.15
3.	Thrissur	200	212	1.06
4.	Malappuram	200	222	1.11
	Total	800	884	1.10

Table 4.2
Distribution of return emigrants by country of return

Number						
Sl.No	Country	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1.	UAE	120	98	135	129	482
2.	Saudi Arabia	49	32	13	64	158
3.	Qatar	11	18	22	11	62
4.	Oman	26	28	31	10	95
5.	Kuwait	6	32	5	2	45
6.	Bahrain	4	15	5	5	29
7.	Others	4	7	1	1	13
	Total	220	230	212	222	884
Percent						
1	UAE	54.54	42.60	63.67	58.10	54.52
2	Saudi Arabia	22.27	14.0	6.13	28.82	17.87
3	Qatar	5.0	7.82	10.38	5.0	7.01
4	Oman	11.82	12.18	14.60	4.50	10.75
5	Kuwait	2.73	14.0	2.36	0.90	5.10
6	Bahrain	1.82	6.52	2.36	2.25	3.28
7	Others	1.80	3.02	0.47	0.45	1.47
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 4.3
Distribution of return emigrants by country of return (percent)

Percent						
Sl. No	Country	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1.	UAE	24.90	20.33	28.00	26.76	100.00
2.	Saudi Arabia	31.01	20.25	8.23	40.50	100.00
3.	Qatar	17.74	29.03	35.50	17.74	100.00
4.	Oman	27.37	29.47	32.63	10.52	100.00
5.	Kuwait	13.33	71.11	11.11	4.44	100.00
6.	Bahrain	13.80	51.72	17.24	17.24	100.00
7.	Others	30.80	53.85	7.70	7.70	100.00
	Total	24.89	26.02	24.00	25.15	100.00

Table 4.4
Distribution of return emigrants by other countries

Sl.No	Country	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1.	Iraq	0	0	1	0	1
2.	Australia	0	0	0	1	1
3.	Brunei	0	1	0	0	1
4.	China	0	1	0	0	1
5.	Germany	0	2	0	0	2
6.	Libya	1	1	0	0	2
7.	Nigeria	0	1	0	0	1
8.	Singapore	2	0	0	0	2
9.	South Africa	0	1	0	0	1
10	UK	1	0	0	0	1
	Total	4	7	1	1	13

return emigrants returned from one country, ie. UAE (Table 4.2). Of the total return emigrants, 17.87 percent returned from Saudi Arabia and 10.75 percent from Oman. The other Gulf countries from where substantial numbers of emigrants returned are Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Most of the return emigrants in the four districts under survey returned mainly from four countries viz, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman. However, in Pathanamthitta a good number of emigrants returned from Kuwait, Bahrain and non-Gulf countries. It indicates that the centres of return emigration are slightly different in Pathanamthitta District compared to other three districts viz, Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur and Malappuram (Table 4.3). This may be attributed to the fact that the emigrants in Pathanamthitta have a higher level of education compared to other districts.

Besides, the return emigrants from the Gulf countries, 13 persons have returned from countries in Europe, Africa and other regions. The survey results show that 2 persons each has returned from Germany, Libya and Singapore. The other countries

from which one person each has returned are Iraq, Australia, Brunei, China, Nigeria, South Africa and UK. Table 4.4 gives the distribution of return emigrants by countries and districts.

UAE: The country of return of the majority of return emigrants.

4.2. The survey results provide two important findings relating to the country and region from where a large number of emigrants returned. The first is that more than half of the total return emigrants returned from one country ie, UAE and the second being that, Dubai an Emirate in UAE accounts for one-fourth of the total emigrants returned. This indicates that the changes that have been taking place during the last few years in the economy and labour market in UAE are a principal cause for the large scale return of emigrants to Kerala. Among the regions or areas in all the Gulf countries, the largest return is from Dubai. It is likely that Dubai was severely affected by the impact of Global Crisis of 2008.

Table 4.5
Distribution of return emigrants from emirates in UAE

Sl. No	Emirates	Number				Total
		Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	
1.	Dubai	82	59	38	47	226
2.	Abu Dhabi	20	22	12	43	99
3.	Sharjah	9	10	11	6	36
4.	Ajman	3	0	0	2	5
5.	Fujairah	0	0	0	2	2
6.	Ras-Al-Khaima	0	0	0	2	2
7.	Emirates not reported	6	7	74	27	114
Total		120	98	135	129	482
Sl. No	Emirates	Percent				Total
		Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	
1.	Dubai	68.33	60.20	28.15	36.43	46.89
2.	Abu Dhabi	16.67	22.45	8.89	33.34	20.53
3.	Sharjah	7.50	10.20	8.15	4.65	7.46
4.	Ajman	2.50	0.00	0.00	1.55	1.04
5.	Fujaira	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.55	0.41
6.	Ras-Al-Khaima	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.55	0.41
7.	Other UAE	5.00	7.14	54.81	21.00	23.65
Total		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.0

Table 4.5 presents a region-wise distribution of return emigrants from UAE. From the table, we can draw the following observations: Among the total return emigrants from UAE, nearly half returned from one Emirate, Dubai (47 percent). Another 20 percent returned from Abu Dhabi and 7 percent from Sharjah. Thus these three Emirates account for the three-fourth of the return emigrants from UAE.

II. Period of Return: Majority of the return emigrants returned during the post global crisis period

4.3. A significant finding of the survey is that the global Crisis of 2008 and the consequent acute recession experienced in Gulf economies is the principal cause for the return of emigrants. The global crisis year of 2008 is a major turning point in the history of emigration in the West Asian Countries. The survey results suggest that of the

total return emigrants, 71 percent returned during the post global crisis period between 2008 and 2011 (Table 4.6).

Prior to the Global Crisis of 2008, the Gulf economies have been witnessing a decline in the demand for foreign migrant workers due to the changes in the labour market conditions in these countries. The labour market conditions were not attractive to the migrants due to excess supply of foreign workers from other labour exporting countries, availability of cheap labour and higher cost of migration due to the shifting of entire recruitment cost, travel costs and other items of costs to migrants, stagnation of wage rates, malpractices and exploitation by employers, long hours of daily work, the immigration policy of promoting native workers and discouraging migration of unskilled and semi-skilled categories of migrants. These developments in the labour market have resulted in the increase in the cost of migration on the one side

Table 4.6
Distribution of return emigrants by year of return

Number					
Year	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1980-1989	0	7	0	0	7
1990-1999	0	33	4	4	41
2000-2005	4	36	32	26	98
2006	6	7	15	20	48
2007	10	13	14	26	63
2008	35	34	37	33	139
2009	39	46	39	43	167
2010	91	33	46	48	218
2011	35	21	25	22	103
Total	220	230	212	222	884
Percent					
1980-1989	0.00	3.04	0.00	0.00	0.79
1990-1999	0.00	14.35	1.89	1.80	4.64
2000-2005	1.82	15.65	15.09	11.71	11.09
2006	2.73	3.04	7.08	9.01	5.43
2007	4.55	5.65	6.60	11.71	7.13
2008	15.91	14.78	17.45	14.86	15.72
2009	17.73	20.00	18.40	19.37	18.89
2010	41.36	14.35	21.70	21.62	24.66
2011	15.91	9.13	11.79	9.91	11.65
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

and a decline in wage rate and fall in the savings of workers on the other. The global crisis occurred in this context made the vulnerable migrant workers more vulnerable due to large scale loss of employment and salary cuts forcing them to return to their native countries in large numbers.

Year wise return

4.4. We have presented the survey findings on the distribution of return emigrants by country and year of return in Table 4.7. Based on the table, the following observation can be made: During the decades 1980s and 1990s the number of emigrants returned from Gulf countries were very small.

However, there has been an increase in the return emigration in the first decade of the present century. But a major change in the trend in return emigration occurred since the global crisis of 2008. The survey findings show that there has been a spurt in return emigration from 2008 onwards from the Gulf countries. This suggests that the impact of global crisis was severe in all the Gulf countries resulting in substantial fall in economic activities, employment and demand for migrant workers. Though the impact of the global crisis was felt in all the Gulf countries, the country which was severely affected was UAE which houses the largest stock of Indian emigrants. Among the return emigrants from UAE,

Table 4.7
Distribution of return emigrants by country and year of return

Number											
Sl. No	Year Country	1980-1989	1990-1999	2000-2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
1	UAE	1	17	42	26	31	79	97	129	60	482
2	Saudi Arabia	1	6	16	6	14	21	32	40	22	158
3	Qatar	1	2	7	2	2	13	14	15	6	62
4	Oman	0	3	20	8	7	16	11	20	10	95
5	Kuwait	1	7	8	1	4	5	9	8	2	45
6	Bahrain	0	4	4	4	4	5	3	5	0	29
7	Others	3	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	13
	Total	7	41	98	48	63	139	167	218	103	884
Percent											
1	UAE	0.21	3.53	8.71	5.40	6.43	16.40	20.12	26.76	12.45	100.00
2	Saudi Arabia	0.63	3.80	10.13	3.80	8.86	13.30	20.25	25.32	13.92	100.00
3	Qatar	1.61	3.23	11.30	3.22	3.22	20.97	22.58	24.20	9.70	100.00
4	Oman	0.00	3.16	21.05	8.42	7.37	16.84	11.58	21.05	10.53	100.00
5	Kuwait	2.22	15.56	17.78	2.22	8.90	11.11	20.00	17.78	4.44	100.00
6	Bahrain	0.00	13.80	13.8	13.8	13.80	17.74	10.34	17.24	0.00	100.00
7	Others	23.10	15.40	7.70	7.70	7.70	0.00	7.70	7.70	23.10	100.00
	Total	0.79	4.64	11.10	5.43	7.13	15.72	18.90	24.66	11.65	100.00

75 percent returned during the post-global crisis period.

An attempt is also made to study the region-wise distribution and year of return of the return emigrants from UAE. Table 4.8 presents the survey findings on the Emirates-wise distribution of return emigrants. The survey results indicate that there has been an unprecedented increase in the return of emigrants from all the Emirates in UAE during the post global crisis period between 2008 and 2011. The largest number of emigrants returned from one Emirate, Dubai. This result suggests that the emirate that was severely hit due to the global crisis is Dubai.

III. Period of employment of the return emigrants

4.5 An important finding of the survey is that 30 percent of the emigrants returned from the foreign countries after working for a brief period ranging between 1 to 3 years (Table 4.9). Among the 884 return emigrants, all of them except 8 were workers. The return emigrant workers worked in the foreign countries for a period between below 1 year to above 10 years. Of the total return emigrants, 30 percent worked up to 3 years, 11 percent between 3 to 5 years, 17 percent between 5 to 10 years and

41 percent above 10 years. It may be noted that the majority of migrant workers who worked a short period in the foreign country cannot earn much from migration. Usually, a fresh migrant will have to incur a good amount as initial cost of migration such as cost on Passport, VISA, other travel documents, recruitment agent's fee, travel expenses etc. In the case of migrants belonging to unskilled, semi-skilled or skilled categories, savings earned are often insufficient to cover the initial cost incurred to migrate within a year or two. Hence the migrant became a loser if he was forced to return within a short period. Thirty percent of migrants who returned within 3 years have not benefited much from the migration. Among the return emigrants

in our survey, the largest share who spent more than 10 years in the foreign country belonged to Malappuram District. On the other hand, the share of this category of return emigrants is relatively smaller in Thiruvananthapuram District.

Period of Employment: Countrywide

4.6. The survey provides information about the distribution of return emigrants by country of employment (Table 4.10). From the table, we can draw the following observations. More than one-fourth of the emigrants returned from UAE and Saudi Arabia after a brief period of work ranging between 1 to 3 years.

Table 4.8
Distribution of return emigrants in UAE and year of return

Number											
Sl. No.	Country	1980-1989	1990-1999	2000-2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
1.	Dubai	0	7	24	10	10	37	47	65	26	226
2.	Abu Dhabi	1	5	12	9	9	13	7	23	18	97
3	Sharjah	0	1	2	2	1	7	8	10	5	36
4.	Ajman	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	5
5.	Fujaira	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
6.	Ras-Al-Khaima	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
7.	Other UAE	0	4	4	5	10	20	33	27	11	114
	Total	1	17	42	26	31	79	97	129	60	482
Percent											
1	Dubai	0.00	3.10	10.62	4.42	4.42	16.37	20.80	28.76	11.50	100.00
2.	Abu Dhabi	1.03	5.15	12.37	9.28	9.28	13.40	7.22	23.71	18.56	100.00
3	Sharjah	0.00	2.78	5.55	5.55	2.78	19.44	22.22	27.78	13.90	100.00
4	Ajman	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	40.00	0.00	100.00
5	Fujaira	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	100.00
6	Ras-Al-Khaima	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	100.00
7	Other UAE	0.00	3.51	3.51	4.40	8.80	17.54	28.94	23.68	9.65	100.00
	Total	0.21	3.53	8.71	5.40	6.43	16.40	20.12	26.76	12.45	100.00

Table 4.9
Distribution of return emigrants by number of years they worked in the foreign country

Number						
Sl. No	Worked duration	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1.	< 1 Year	21	8	21	5	55
2.	1 - 2 Year	43	29	31	21	124
3.	2 - 3 Year	28	26	18	15	87
4.	3 - 5 Year	33	22	17	23	95
5.	5 - 7 Year	17	14	12	16	59
6.	7 - 10 Year	25	30	18	19	92
7.	10 > Years	53	94	94	123	364
8.	Not worked persons	NA	NA	NA	NA	8
	Total	220	223	211	222	884
Percent						
1.	< 1 Year	9.55	3.59	9.95	2.25	6.22
2.	1 - 2 Year	19.55	13.00	14.69	9.46	14.02
3.	2 - 3 Year	12.73	11.66	8.53	6.76	9.84
4.	3 - 5 Year	15.00	9.87	8.06	10.36	10.75
5.	5 - 7 Year	7.73	6.28	5.69	7.21	6.67
6.	7 - 10 Year	11.36	13.45	8.53	8.56	10.40
7.	10 > Years	24.09	42.15	44.55	55.41	41.12
8.	Not worked persons	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.90
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

In the case of return emigrants from Qatar, 46 percent returned within 3 years. The corresponding share of workers returned from Oman is 38 percent and Kuwait 29 percent. Thus, except Bahrain, all the countries in the Gulf witnessed a similar trend in return emigration during the last 3 years.

As UAE is the principal centre of return of emigrants, an attempt is made to examine the period of employment of return emigrants from the various Emirates of UAE. Table 4.11 gives the

distribution of return emigrants from UAE by Emirates and number of years worked.

Nearly 29 percent of the emigrant workers returned to Kerala from Dubai during a period between below one to three years. The corresponding percentage of return emigrants from Abu Dhabi and Sharjah is 22 percent and 39 percent respectively. This indicates that the labour market conditions prevailed in the various Emirates in UAE were not favourable for the migrants to

Table 4.10**Distribution of return emigrants by country and number of years they worked.**

		Number									
Sl. No	Country	< 1 year	1 - 2 year	2 - 3 year	3 - 5 year	5 - 7 year	7 - 10 year	10 > year	Non workers	Total	
1.	UAE	25	59	51	57	31	53	201	5	482	
2.	Saudi Arabia	9	23	13	15	11	15	70	2	158	
3.	Qatar	7	14	8	4	3	7	19	0	62	
4.	Oman	9	17	10	8	7	7	37	0	95	
5.	Kuwait	3	6	4	3	3	7	18	1	45	
6.	Bahrain	1	4	1	6	1	3	13	0	29	
7.	Others	1	1	0	2	3	0	6	0	13	
	Total	55	124	87	95	59	92	364	8	884	
		Percent									
1	UAE	5.20	12.24	10.60	11.83	6.43	11.00	41.70	1.04	100.00	
2	Saudi Arabia	5.70	14.56	8.23	9.50	6.96	9.50	44.30	1.27	100.00	
3	Qatar	11.30	22.60	12.90	6.45	4.84	11.30	30.65	0.00	100.00	
4.	Oman	9.47	17.90	10.53	8.42	7.37	7.37	38.95	0.00	100.00	
5.	Kuwait	6.67	13.33	8.89	6.67	6.67	15.56	40.00	2.22	100.00	
6.	Bahrain	3.45	13.80	3.45	20.70	3.45	10.34	44.83	0.00	100.00	
7	Others	7.70	7.70	0.00	15.40	23.10	0.00	46.15	0.00	100.00	
	Total	6.22	14.03	9.84	10.75	6.67	10.41	41.20	0.90	100.00	

continue beyond a short period. However, a sizable share of return emigrants (42 percent) returned from UAE after working for more than 10 years. Among the Emirates in UAE, where a larger share of return emigrants worked for more than 10 years is Abu Dhabi compared to other Emirates prior to their return.

IV. Employment and wages prior to return

Employment of the return emigrants

4.7. In the survey, data is collected about the activity status of return emigrants at the time of return (Table 4.12). Among the 884 return emigrants, 871 belonged to the category of emigrant workers and 13 were unemployed and non-workers. The survey

results show that 85 percent worked in the private sector establishments or enterprises on a regular basis at the time of return. Another 5.54 percent of the workers were employed in public sector. The workers engaged in casual work on daily and piece-wage was 5.32 percent. On the other hand, only a few workers were engaged in self-employment activities like trade, commerce and service activities. Thus, private sector jobs are the major category of jobs in which most of the emigrants were employed at the time of return.

Return emigrants: Male and female break up

4.8. Contract migration to the Gulf countries is characterized by predominance of male migrants,

Table 4.11
Distribution of return emigrants in UAE and number of years they worked

Number										
Sl. No.	Country	< 1 year	1 - 2 years	2 - 3 years	3 - 5 years	5 - 7 years	7 - 10 years	10 >	Not worked persons	Total
1.	Dubai	13	25	28	27	12	30	89	2	226
2.	Abu Dhabi	4	9	8	7	7	8	53	1	97
3.	Sharjah	2	7	5	5	2	1	14	0	36
4.	Ajman	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	5
5.	Fujairah	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
6.	Ras-Al-Khaima	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
7.	Other UAE	6	15	10	18	10	13	40	2	114
	Total	25	59	51	57	31	53	201	5	482
Percent										
1.	Dubai	5.75	11.10	12.40	11.95	5.31	13.27	39.38	0.88	100.00
2	Abu Dhabi	4.12	9.28	8.25	7.22	7.22	8.24	54.64	1.03	100.00
3.	Sharjah	5.56	19.44	13.89	13.89	5.56	2.78	38.89	0.00	100.00
4.	Ajman	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	40.00	0.00	100.00
5.	Fujairah	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	100.00
6	Ras-Al Khaima	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
7	Other UAE	5.26	13.16	8.78	15.80	8.78	11.40	35.10	1.75	100.00
	Total	5.19	12.24	10.60	11.83	6.43	11.00	41.70	1.04	100.00

especially single migrants. Due to income and other restrictions imposed by Gulf countries to bring the spouse, only a small share of high salaried category of emigrants can bring their spouse to these countries. The social customs and practices prevailing in the Gulf are not favourable for the promotion of female migration. In most of the Gulf countries, a major proportion of the female workers belong to the category of wives of the emigrant workers. The survey results indicate that the proportion of females to the total return emigrants is 18 percent (Table 4.13). Among the return emigrants from

Qatar and Bahrain, the share of female persons was 21 percent each in both the countries. In the case of UAE, females account for nearly 20 percent of the total return emigrants.

Nature of work place

4.9. An analysis of the return emigrants by nature of workplace gives an idea about the nature of work they were engaged in the foreign country. A notable finding is that the category of work which provided largest employment to the return emigrants was trade. Nearly one-fourth of the return emigrants

Table 4.12**Distribution of return emigrants by activity status at the time of return**

Number									
Sl. No.	Activity status	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Others	Total
1.	Self-employed	13	0	2	3	0	1	0	19
2.	Casual employed	29	12	1	5	0	0	0	47
3.	Public sector	30	2	4	5	3	0	5	49
4.	Private sector	402	142	54	82	40	28	8	756
5	Unemployed & non workers	8	2	1	0	2	0	0	13
	Total	482	158	62	95	45	29	13	884
Percent									
1	Self-employed	2.70	0.00	3.23	3.16	0.00	3.45	0.00	2.15
2	Casual employed	6.02	7.59	1.61	5.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.32
3	Public sector	6.22	1.27	6.45	5.26	6.67	0.00	38.46	5.54
4	Private sector	83.40	89.87	87.10	86.32	88.89	96.55	61.54	85.52
5	Unemployed & non workers	1.66	1.27	1.61	0.00	4.44	0.00	0.00	1.47

Table 4.13**Distribution of return emigrants by sex**

Sl. No	Country	Number of return emigrants			Percent		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	UAE	387	95	482	80.29	19.71	100.00
2.	Saudi Arabia	133	25	158	84.18	15.82	100.00
3.	Qatar	49	13	62	79.03	20.97	100.00
4.	Oman	80	15	95	84.21	15.79	100.00
5.	Kuwait	37	8	45	82.22	17.78	100.00
6.	Bahrain	23	6	29	79.31	20.69	100.00
7.	Others	10	3	13	76.92	23.07	100.00
	Total	719	165	884	81.33	18.67	100.00

worked in shops as sales and related works (Table 4.14). It is likely that the global crisis had a severe impact on the trade and commerce resulting in substantial loss in employment in the sector. The second category who lost jobs was construction

workers. Twenty two percent of the return emigrants were construction workers at the time of return.

The workplaces of other return emigrants were offices, factories, workshops and houses. Thus, the

Table 4.14
Distribution of return emigrants by nature of work place

Number									
Sl. No	Nature of work place	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Others	Total
1.	NA	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
2.	Office	83	9	14	18	10	6	6	146
3.	Shop	119	50	6	23	6	3	2	209
4.	Factory	35	9	3	7	5	3	2	64
5.	Workshop	35	9	3	8	2	4	0	61
6.	Construction site	103	25	20	26	10	7	1	192
7.	House	23	16	8	3	10	0	0	60
8.	Others	77	38	7	10	0	6	2	140
	Total	477	156	62	95	44	29	13	876
Percent									
1.	NA	0.42	0.00	1.61	0.00	2.27	0.00	0.00	0.46
2.	Office	17.40	5.77	22.58	18.95	22.73	20.69	46.15	16.67
3.	Shop	24.95	32.05	9.68	24.21	13.64	10.34	15.38	23.86
4.	Factory	7.34	5.77	4.84	7.37	11.36	10.34	15.38	7.31
5.	Workshop	7.34	5.77	4.84	8.42	4.55	13.79	0.00	6.96
6.	Construction site	21.60	16.03	32.26	27.37	22.73	24.14	7.69	21.92
7.	House	4.82	10.26	12.90	3.16	22.73	0.00	0.00	6.85
8.	Others	16.14	24.36	11.29	10.53	0.00	20.69	15.38	15.98
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 4.15
Sex-wise distribution of return emigrants by nature of workplace

Sl. No	Nature of work place	Number of return emigrants			Percent		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	Office	118	28	146	16.43	17.72	16.67
2.	Shop	169	40	209	23.53	25.31	23.85
3.	Factory	56	8	64	7.79	5.06	7.30
4.	Work shop	52	9	61	7.24	5.69	6.96
5.	Construction site	163	29	192	22.70	18.35	21.91
6.	House	43	17	60	5.98	10.75	6.84
7.	Others	115	25	140	16.01	15.82	15.98
8.	Not applicable	2	2	4	0.27	1.26	0.45
	Total	718	158	876	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 4.16**Distribution of return emigrants by location of workplace**

Number									
Sl. No	Location of work place	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Others	Total
1.	NA	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
2.	City	294	83	36	51	28	19	11	522
3.	Rural area	94	45	12	23	7	4	0	185
4.	Isolated area	26	11	2	8	3	2	0	52
5.	Desert	25	11	4	6	4	2	0	52
6.	Others	36	6	7	7	1	2	2	61
	Total	477	156	62	95	44	29	13	876
Percent									
1.	NA	0.42	0.00	1.61	0.00	2.27	0.00	0.00	0.46
2.	City	61.63	53.21	58.06	53.68	63.64	65.52	84.62	59.59
3.	Rural area	19.71	28.85	19.35	24.21	15.91	13.79	0.00	21.12
4.	Isolated area	5.45	7.05	3.23	8.42	6.82	6.90	0.00	5.94
5.	Desert	5.24	7.05	6.45	6.32	9.09	6.90	0.00	5.94
6.	Others	7.55	3.85	11.29	7.37	2.27	6.90	15.38	6.96
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

survey results indicate that trade, commerce and construction are the activities which are severely affected in the Gulf countries due to global economic crisis. A sex-wise distribution of return emigrants by work place reveals that the females worked in all the above workplaces (Table 4.15).

A large number of females were employed in shops, construction sites, offices and houses. A notable finding is that 11 percent of the female emigrants worked in houses as domestic workers prior to their return.

Location of workplace

4.10. We have also collected data about the location of workplaces of the return emigrants (Table 4.16). Majority of the return emigrants worked in offices, shops, construction sites, factories and houses located in the cities (60 percent). Another 21 percent worked in rural areas and 6 percent in isolated areas. Six percent of the return emigrants reported that they worked in deserts facing severe

hardships like lack of proper food, accommodation and living facilities. A sex-wise distribution of the location of workplace is given in Table 4.17. It reveals that except a few, all the females worked in the places located in cities and rural areas. Two females worked in deserts and 6 in isolated places.

Working Hours

4.11. A feature relating to the duration of daily work of emigrant workers in Gulf countries is longer working hours. Majority of the return emigrants reported that they used to work 8 to 10 hours or above ten hours per day (Table 4.18). Twenty eight percent of the return emigrants reported that they had to work more than 10 hours per day. The long working hours in the hot, unhealthy climate in open spaces, construction sites, factories etc make the workers unhealthy and sick. Unhealthy climate, sickness and accidents are causes for the return of a sizeable number of return emigrants. A sex-wise distribution of the return

Table 4.17**Sex-wise distribution of return emigrants by location of workplace**

Sl. No	Location of work place	Number of return emigrants			Percent		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	NA	2	2	4	0.27	1.26	0.45
2.	City	421	101	522	58.63	63.92	59.58
3.	Rural area	151	34	185	21.03	21.51	21.11
4.	Isolated area	46	6	52	6.40	3.79	5.93
5.	Desert	50	2	52	6.96	1.26	5.93
6.	Others	48	13	61	6.68	8.22	6.96
	Total	718	158	876	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 4.18**Distribution of return emigrants by working hours**

Number									
Sl. No	Working hours	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Others	Total
1.	NA	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
2.	8 Hrs	196	49	28	42	30	22	10	377
3.	8 – 10 Hrs	103	26	13	13	4	4	1	164
4.	Above 10 Hrs	134	56	16	29	5	3	1	244
5.	Others	42	25	4	11	4	0	1	87
	Total	477	156	62	95	44	29	13	876
Percent									
1	NA	0.42	0.00	1.61	0.00	2.27	0.00	0.00	0.46
2	8Hrs	41.10	31.41	45.16	44.21	68.18	75.86	76.92	43.04
3	8-10 Hrs	21.60	16.67	20.97	13.68	9.09	13.79	7.69	18.72
4.	Above 10 Hrs	28.10	35.90	25.81	30.53	11.36	10.34	7.69	27.85
5	Others	8.80	16.03	6.45	11.58	9.09	0.00	7.69	9.93
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

emigrants reveals that except 43 percent, all of them worked for more than 8 hours per day (Table 4.19). Among the female return emigrants, 32 percent worked for more than 10 hours per day.

Nature of Accommodation

4.12. The survey results give information about the nature of accommodation of the return emigrants at the time of return. The emigrants lived

in flats or part of flats, rented rooms and labour camps in the Gulf countries. The survey results show that 42 percent of the return emigrants lived in labour camps meant for accommodating labourers, located away from the cities (Table 4.20).

Twenty-eight percent of the return emigrants lived in the rented rooms and 17 percent in flats or part of flats. Increase in the cost of accommodation due to the hike in the rent rate is cited as the major problem faced by the return emigrants. In all the

Table 4.19**Sex-wise distribution of return emigrants by working hours**

Sl. No	Working hours	Number of return emigrants			Percent		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	NA	2	2	4	0.27	1.26	0.45
2.	8 Hrs	323	54	377	45.00	34.17	43.03
3.	8 – 10 Hrs	130	34	164	18.10	21.52	18.72
4.	Above 10 Hrs	194	50	244	27.01	31.64	27.85
5	Others	69	18	87	9.61	11.39	9.93
	Total	718	158	876	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 4.20**Distribution of return emigrants by nature of accommodation**

Number									
Sl. No.	Nature of accommodation	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Others	Total
1.	Flat & part of flat	84	22	8	14	13	9	4	154
2.	Rented room	144	40	20	23	10	8	4	249
3.	Labour camp	207	64	25	47	11	12	2	368
4.	Others	47	32	9	11	11	0	3	113
	Total	482	158	62	95	45	29	13	884
Percent									
1.	Flat & part of flat	17.43	13.92	12.90	14.74	28.89	31.03	30.77	17.42
2.	Rented room	29.87	25.32	32.26	24.21	22.22	27.59	30.77	28.17
3.	Labour camp	42.95	40.51	40.32	49.47	24.44	41.38	15.38	41.63
4	Others	9.75	20.25	14.52	11.58	24.44	0.00	23.08	12.78
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Gulf countries, workers belonging to unskilled, semi-skilled and manual categories of labourers are accommodated in the workers' camps meant for migrant workers.

Monthly Wages

4.13. Wage rate in a foreign country is the most important factor which promotes emigration as well as return emigration. The information supplied by the return emigrants reveals that the low wage rate prevailed in the Gulf countries was not attractive to retain the majority of the return emigrants. Table 4.21 presents the distribution of return emigrants

by employment category and monthly salary. The survey results show that 7.24 percent of the return emigrants received a monthly salary up to Rs. 5,000 and 9.5 percent between 5,001 and 7,500. Thirty percent of the return emigrants received a monthly salary of Rs. 7,501 and Rs. 10,000. This suggests that 47 percent received a monthly salary up to Rs. 10,000. This can be considered as a very low salary for a migrant worker, where we take into consideration the initial cost of migration, cost of living, cost of return travel etc. Another 24 percent of the return emigrants received a monthly salary

between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 15,000. Only 11 percent of the return emigrants received a monthly salary above Rs. 25,000. Among the categories of workers, viz., self-employed, casual labourers, public and private sector workers, the lowest rates of salary was received by casual labourers. Majority of the return emigrants worked in public sector received fairly better salaries. On the other hand, 74 percent who worked in the private sector

establishments and enterprises received low salaries i.e. below Rs. 15,000 per month. The wages received by the return emigrants at the time of return clearly indicate that the declining trend in wages, the low wage rate and fall in their savings are the major causes for their return. It is likely that the Gulf economies experienced acute recession during the post global crisis period resulting in substantial fall in employment and created a situation of excess

Table 4.21
Distribution of return emigrants by employment category & monthly salary

Number						
Monthly salary	Self employed	Casual employed	Public sector	Private sector	Unemployed & Non-Workers	Total
0	0	0	0	0	13	13
1-5000	2	5	7	50	0	64
5001-7500	0	7	1	76	0	84
7501-10000	4	18	7	241	0	270
10001-12500	3	9	3	86	0	101
12501-15000	1	4	5	105	0	115
15001-17500	0	0	0	14	0	14
17501-20000	2	2	2	58	0	64
20001-25000	4	1	4	53	0	62
25001-30000	0	1	4	26	0	31
30001-40000	1	0	6	23	0	30
40001-50000	0	0	5	11	0	16
50001-75000	1	0	4	7	0	12
75001-100000	0	0	1	5	0	6
>100001	1	0	0	1	0	2
Total	19	47	49	756	13	884
Percent						
0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	1.47
1-5000	10.53	10.64	14.29	6.61	0	7.24
5001-7500	0.00	14.89	2.04	10.05	0	9.50
7501-10000	21.05	38.30	14.29	31.88	0	30.54
10001-12500	15.79	19.15	6.12	11.38	0	11.43
12501-15000	5.26	8.51	10.20	13.89	0	13.01
15001-17500	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.85	0	1.58
17501-20000	10.53	4.26	4.08	7.67	0	7.24
20001-25000	21.05	2.13	8.16	7.01	0	7.01
25001-30000	0.00	2.13	8.16	3.44	0	3.51
30001-40000	5.26	0.00	12.24	3.04	0	3.39
40001-50000	0.00	0.00	10.20	1.46	0	1.81
50001-75000	5.26	0.00	8.16	0.93	0	1.36
75001-100000	0.00	0.00	2.04	0.66	0	0.68
>100001	5.26	0.00	0.00	0.13	0	0.23
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 4.22
Distribution of return emigrants by causes of return

Number									
Sl. No.	Casuses of return	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Others	Total
1.	No reason reported	11	2	1	1	3	0	0	18
2.	Labour problems only	98	52	25	27	18	14	7	241
3.	Lack of employment only	56	12	5	5	1	1	0	80
4.	Low savings only	8	4	0	1	0	1	0	14
5.	Health problems only	52	23	7	11	7	7		107
6.	Family problems only	30	7	4	7	7	2	5	62
7.	Labour problems & low savings	44	18	7	13	1	0	0	83
8.	Labour problems & lack of employment	113	15	7	12	1	3	0	151
9.	Labour problems, lack of employment & low savings	31	3	1	4	1	0	0	40
10	Other multiple reasons	39	22	5	14	6	1	1	88
	Total	482	158	62	95	45	29	13	884
Percent									
1	No reason reported	2.28	1.27	1.61	1.05	6.67	0.00	0.00	2.04
2	Labour problems only	20.33	32.91	40.32	28.42	40.00	48.28	53.85	27.26
3	Lack of employment only	11.62	7.59	8.06	5.26	2.22	3.45	0.00	9.05
4	Low saving only	1.66	2.53	0.00	1.05	0.00	3.45	0.00	1.58
5	Health problems only	10.80	14.56	11.29	11.58	15.56	24.14	0.00	12.10
6	Family problems only	6.22	4.43	6.45	7.37	15.56	6.90	38.46	7.01
7	Labour problems& low savings	9.13	11.39	11.29	13.68	2.22	0.00	0.00	9.39
8	Labour problems& lack of employment	23.44	9.49	11.29	12.63	2.22	10.34	0.00	17.08
9	Labour problems,lack of employment& low savings	6.43	1.90	1.61	4.21	2.22	0.00	0.00	4.52
10	Other multiple reasons	8.10	13.92	8.06	14.74	13.33	3.45	7.69	9.95
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

supply of migrant labour. This excess supply of labour has led to a steep fall in the wage rates to the subsistence level for many categories of labour forcing them to return to their native countries. Another reason for the low wage is the malpractices of labour supply companies. The Gulf migrants who returned have reported about the cheating indulged in the labour supply companies which supply labourers to different companies as per their requirements. The labourers have to do different

jobs in construction sites, road maintenance, cargo services etc. Usually, the labour supply companies don't give them full wage, given by the company which employs the workers. The labour supply companies usually deduct a share from their wages as commission. Generally, the labourers are paid 8 Dirhams per hour by the employer, but the labour supply companies on their part deduct around 3 to 5 Dirhams and only the rest is paid as wages.

Table 4.23**Distribution of return emigrants by causes of return (labour problems)**

Number									
Sl. No.	Labour problems	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Others	Total
1.	Contract expired only	48	10	9	9	7	4	2	89
2.	Compulsory repatriation only	109	21	10	14	2	2	4	162
3.	Low salary only	82	36	12	23	8	7	0	168
4.	Non-payment of salary only	33	12	5	7	3	1	1	62
5.	Cruel behaviour of employer only	3	7	2	4	2	2	0	20
6.	Bad labour atmosphere only	22	8	3	6	1	1	0	41
7.	Others	5	0	1	2	3	0	0	11
Total		302	94	42	65	26	17	7	553
Percent									
1.	Contract expired only	15.96	10.64	21.43	13.85	26.92	23.53	28.57	16.10
2.	Compulsory repatriation only	36.10	22.34	23.81	21.54	7.70	11.76	57.14	29.29
3.	Low salary only	27.15	38.30	28.57	35.38	30.77	41.17	0.00	30.38
4.	Non-payment of salary only	10.92	12.76	11.90	10.77	11.54	5.90	14.28	11.21
5.	Cruel behaviour of employer only	0.99	7.45	4.76	6.15	7.70	11.76	0.00	3.62
6.	Bad labour atmosphere only	7.30	8.51	7.14	9.23	3.85	5.90	0.00	7.41
7.	Others	1.65	0.00	2.40	3.10	11.54	0.00	0.00	1.99
Total		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Cheating by recruiting agents

4.14. Some of the return emigrants from Saudi Arabia reported that they were cheated by the VISA sponsors and brokers. They paid huge amount of money to the brokers and sponsors for getting VISA and were forced to consider it as genuine. Only when the victims reached Gulf, they realized the real status of the VISA. They were forced to work as housemaids or servants in livestock rearing farms in remote areas. But these people could not escape from those places because their employers had taken possession of their Passports and other documents. Most of these people were shifted to isolated areas and treated cruelly if they tried to complain or escape. Those who escaped without

documents were captured and imprisoned by the police as they became illegal migrants. Among them, few were rescued and brought back home by the Malayalee Association of NRI's and other good-hearted people in Gulf. The victims reported that they are facing bankruptcy on their return as they have lost everything for arranging money for the VISA and that they didn't get any benefit from their migration. They have rightly commented that now they are willing to do any job in the home country and are also satisfied with their present life.

V. Causes of return

4.15. In this section, we present the causes of return based on the survey results. For studying

Table 4.24**Distribution of return emigrants by causes of return (lack of employment)**

Number									
Sl. No	Lack of Employment	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Others	Total
1	Global crisis of 2008 only	193	25	14	12	4	3	0	251
2.	Competition of labour from other countries only	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	7
3.	Preference given to native workers only	6	6	1	10	0	0	0	23
4.	Illegal migration only	1	3	0	1	1	1	0	7
5	Others	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
Total		207	37	15	25	5	4	0	293
Percent									
1.	Global crisis of 2008 only	93.23	67.56	93.34	48.00	80.00	75.00	0.00	85.67
2.	Competition of labour from other countries only	1.93	8.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.39
3.	Preference given to native workers only	2.89	16.21	6.66	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.84
4.	Illegal migration only	0.48	8.10	0.00	4.00	20.00	25.00	0.00	2.39
5.	Others	1.45	0.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.70
Total		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00

Table 4.25**Distribution of return emigrants by causes of return (low wages)**

Number									
Sl. No.	Problems	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Others	Total
1.	High cost of living	14	5	1	3	1	1	0	25
2.	Low wages	76	32	8	17	1	0	0	134
3.	Low savings	9	0	0	6	2	1	0	18
Total		99	37	9	26	4	2	0	177
Percent									
1	High cost of living	14.14	13.51	11.11	11.54	25.00	50.00	0.00	14.12
2.	Low wages	76.76	86.49	88.89	65.38	25.00	0.00	0.00	75.71
3.	Low savings	9.10	0.00	0.00	23.08	50.00	50.00	0.00	10.17
Total		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00

Table 4.26
Distribution of return emigrants by causes of return (health problems)

Number									
Sl. No.	Health problems	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Others	Total
1.	Unhealthy climate	15	10	5	5	1	2	1	39
2.	Sickness	57	27	5	13	5	4	0	111
3.	Accidents	6	1	0	2	2	2	0	13
4.	Lack of adequate treatment facilities	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	5
	Total	80	39	10	22	8	8	1	168
Percent									
1.	Unhealthy climate	18.75	25.64	50.00	22.73	12.50	25.00	100.00	23.21
2.	Sickness	71.25	69.24	50.00	59.09	62.50	50.00	0.00	66.07
3.	Accidents	7.50	2.56	0.00	9.09	25.00	25.00	0.00	7.74
4.	Lack of adequate treatment facilities	2.50	2.56	0.00	9.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.98
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

the causes of return, we have collected data on five aspects viz, labour problems, lack of employment, low savings, health problems and family problems in the native country.

1) Labour problems comprises the issues such as expiry of contract, compulsory repatriation, low salary, non-payment of salary, cruel behaviour of employer and bad labour atmosphere.

(2) Under lack of employment, we have included global crisis of 2008, competition of labour from other countries, preference given to native workers and illegal migration.

(3) Low savings includes high cost of living, low wages and consequent low savings.

(4) Health problems comprise adverse health impacts due to unhealthy climate, sickness, accidents and lack of adequate treatment facilities.

(5) Family problems include health problem of family members, death of family members, education of children and others.

Based on the survey results we have analysed the causes of return from following countries in the Gulf viz., UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Major causes for return

4.16. According to the survey, the principal reason for the return of emigrants to Kerala is the labour problems such as expiry of contract, compulsory repatriation, low salary, non-payment of salary, cruel behaviour of employer and bad labour atmosphere. Twenty seven percent of the return emigrants reported that labour problem is the only reason for their return (Table 4.22). Nine percent

Table 4.27**Distribution of return emigrants by causes of return (family problems)**

Number									
Sl. No.	Family problems	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Others	Total
1.	Health problems of family members	12	6	3	3	3	2	0	29
2.	Death of family members	7	0	0	0	1	0	1	9
3.	Education of children	5	2	1	1	4	1	3	17
4.	Others	17	5	2	7	4	0	1	36
	Total	41	13	6	11	12	3	5	91
Percent									
1	Health problems of family members	29.28	46.15	50.00	27.27	25.00	66.67	0.00	31.87
2.	Death of family members	17.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.33	0.00	20.00	9.89
3.	Education of children	12.19	15.38	16.67	9.09	33.33	33.33	60.00	18.68
4	Others	41.46	38.46	33.33	63.64	33.33	0.00	20.00	39.56
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

reported that lack of employment opportunities is the main reason for their return. Another nine percent cited labour problems and low savings as the reasons for their return. Seventeen percent of the return emigrants told us that labour problems and lack of employment are the reasons for their return. Thus out of the total return emigrants, 69 percent have returned due to labour problems, lack of employment, low savings and a combination of the above three problems. Thus the main cause for the return of emigrants in all the Gulf countries is labour related issues. Health problems constituted the second major reason for the return of the emigrants; 12 percent of the emigrants returned on this count. Family problems also contributed to the return of seven percent of the return emigrants.

We give below the specific reasons mentioned by each item of cause viz. return due to labour problems lack of employment, low wages, health problems, and family problems.

Return due to labour problems

4.17. Among the 884 return emigrants, 553 reported that their return was necessitated by labour problems such as expiry of contract, compulsory

repatriation, low salary, non-payment of salary, cruel behavior of employer and bad labour atmosphere (Table 4.23). Of the total return emigrants who have reported labour problems, 87 percent returned due to expiry of contract, compulsory repatriation, low salary and non-payment of salary. This indicates the existence of an unfavourable and hostile labour market situation in the Gulf countries forcing the workers to return to their native country. It is disturbing to note that 11 percent of the emigrants were forced to return due to non-payment of salaries. The survey results also indicate that the labour market situation is highly unfavourable for migrant workers in all the Gulf countries having large stocks of foreign migrant workers.

Methods of Repatriation

4.18. The following methods of repatriation are followed by the employers to repatriate the workers.

1. In order to avoid the payment of labour benefits to the labourers, the employers practise the policy of not declaring layoffs. Instead, they ask the workers to wait till the company gets new contracts. As the workers cannot live without wages, they are

forced to give up the job and return to their native country.

2. Another method is to give compulsory long leave to the workers. Once the workers returned to native country, they would not be called back by the employers.

3. The third method is to share the available work among all the workers. In this situation, a worker will have to work just one or two hours a day and gets a low wage, which cannot sustain him to continue in the Gulf country.

Return due to lack of employment

4.19. Fall in employment opportunities is one of the reasons for the return of emigrants. Out of 884 return emigrants, 293 reported that lack of employment is the cause for their return. Among the causes for lack of employment, the principal one is global crisis of 2008 (Table 4.24). Among the return emigrants who have reported lack of employment, 86 percent cited global crisis of 2008 as the reason for the fall in employment opportunities. More than 90 percent of the return emigrants from UAE and Qatar reported that global crisis is the cause for the fall in employment opportunities for migrant workers. At the same time, other reasons such as competition of labour from other countries, preference given to native workers and illegal migration, account for 14 percent. A country-wise analysis also suggests that global crisis is the main cause for the decline in employment opportunities in all the countries. In Oman, preference given to native workers is also a major cause for the decline in employment opportunities for migrant workers.

Return due to low wages

4.20. In contract migration, an emigrant has to spend a good amount of money to meet the cost of Passport, VISA and travel agent's fees, travel costs etc. at the time of migration. This initial cost is high in the case of unskilled, semi-skilled and other low-paid categories of workers. Due to the availability of cheap migrant labour in the Gulf countries, most of the employers are shifting the initial cost of migration and the subsequent costs such as for accommodation, transport, treatment, return travel etc. to the emigrants. The cost of living is also high on account of increase in rent,

expenditure on consumption and other items. On the other hand, the income of the migrant workers registered a fall due to decrease in wages and the average number of working days per month. Out of the 884 total return emigrants, 177 reported that low wages, high cost of living and low savings are the reasons for their return (Table 4.25).

Return due to health problems

4.21. Keralites, who are migrating from an environment of moderate climate, find it difficult to face the extreme hot climate in the Gulf countries. Working in the unhealthy hot climate makes Keralite emigrants sick. Secondly, due to availability of public and private hospitals throughout Kerala, medical treatment is not a problem for the ordinary people in Kerala, where as medical treatment is a costly and non-accessible service in Gulf especially for low-paid category of workers. Hence, unhealthy climate, sickness, accidents, lack of treatment facilities also contribute to the return emigrants. Out of the 884 return emigrants, 168 reported that they returned due to health problems (Table 4.26). A notable point is that sickness of Keralite emigrants is one of the major causes for their return from the Gulf. Among the return emigrants, 66 percent reported health problems or sickness as the reason for their return.

Return due to family problems

4.22. In contract migration, usually males are migrating to the foreign country without their wives and children. Married men, depending on their earnings, return during holidays every year or once in two or three years. Those who work in public sector or established companies or enterprises get travel concessions to visit their home country during their vacation. But a major concern of the emigrants is about the health and welfare of their wives, children, parents and other relatives. Return emigrants reported that they returned to their native places due to the reasons such as health problems of family members, death of family members, education of children etc. Out of 884 return emigrants, 91 reported that they returned due to family problems such as health problems of family members, death of family members, education of children and other family problems (Table 4.27).

Conclusion

4.23. From this analysis, we can conclude that the Global crisis of 2008 is a major turning point in the history of return emigration from West Asian countries. The changes that have been taking place during the last few years in the economy and labour market in Gulf countries have contributed to the return of large number of emigrant workers to Kerala. The emigrants have returned mostly from the West Asian countries viz., UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. Among the total return emigrants, more than half returned from a single country, UAE. Dubai, an emirate in UAE accounts for one-fourth of the total return emigrants. The return emigrants worked only for a brief period in the Gulf countries. Majority of

the return emigrants worked in offices, shops, construction sites, factories and houses located in the cities. Long hours of daily work is a negative feature among the working conditions in the Gulf. Majority of the return emigrants worked for 8 to 10 hours or more per day. The information supplied by the return emigrants reveals that the wage rates prevailed in the Gulf countries were not conducive to retain the majority of the return emigrants. The conclusion emerged from the study is that the principal reason for the return of emigrants to Kerala is gravity of labour problems such as expiry of contract, compulsory repatriation, low salary, non-payment of salary, cruel behaviour of employer and bad labour atmosphere. Lack of employment, low savings and a combination of above problems also contributed to the return of workers.

5

Return Emigrants: Current Status, Social Problems And Economic Effects

In this chapter, we present the survey findings relating to the three aspects of return emigration viz, current activity status of return emigrants, social problems faced by them and economic effects of return migration in their locality. In the first part, we are examining the activity status viz., the employed, unemployed and 'not in labour force' status of the return emigrants as well as their income from various sources. In the second part, we present the social problems faced by the return emigrants, as well as their family members during their stay abroad. The third section presents the economic effects of return emigration in their localities.

I. Current activity status of return emigrants

5.1. One of the major issues in migration is whether the return migrants are absorbed by the local labour market or not. The common tendency is that those who are well-off as a result of migration and earn an income from their past accumulated savings or investments are not keen to work after return. At the same time, those belonging to low income groups, without much savings, are forced to seek jobs for their survival. The survey results suggest that, of the total return emigrants, 70 percent are employed, 19 percent unemployed and 11 percent not in the labour force (Table 5.1).

A positive feature of the activity status is that 70 percent of the return emigrants are employed either on a part time or full time basis. A breakup of the return emigrants by sex reveals that only a few women are currently working. Of the total female return emigrants, 80 percent are in the category of 'not in the labour force' (Table 5.2).

5.2. We have attempted an analysis of the rate of unemployment of return emigrants. The survey results suggest that the rate of unemployment varies between, 15.53 percent to 26.42 percent (Table 5.3). National Sample Survey estimate of unemployment based on current daily status definition for rural as well as urban unemployment was 25 percent of the labour force for 2004-2005. The study revealed that except Pathanamthitta district, the unemployment rate of return emigrants is lower compared to the State's average. This suggests that the rate of unemployment among the return emigrants is lower to the State average. However, we have to note that an unemployment rate of 20 percent and above is a high rate of unemployment by any standards.

5.3. 'Not in labour force' consists of that population outside the category of labour force and this category includes old, sick, disabled, students, housewives, children etc. A distribution of the 'not in labour force' return emigrants indicate that 33 percent belonged to the category of 'too old to work' (Table

Table: 5.1**Distribution of return emigrants by present activity status**

Number					
Activity status	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Employed	174	142	152	154	622
Unemployed	32	51	43	40	166
Not in labour force	14	37	17	28	96
Total	220	230	212	222	884
Percent					
Employed	79.10	61.73	71.70	69.40	70.36
Unemployed	14.55	22.20	20.28	18.01	18.78
Not in labour force	6.36	16.10	8.02	12.60	10.86
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table.5.2**Distribution of return emigrants by activity status**

Activity status	Number			Percent		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Employed	619	3	622	72.99	8.33	70.36
Unemployed	162	4	166	19.10	11.11	18.77
Not in labour force	67	29	96	7.90	80.55	10.86
Total	848	36	884	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 5.3**Unemployment rate**

District	Employed (Number)	Unemployed (Number)	Total labour force (Number)	Unemployment rate (Percent)
Thiruvananthapuram	174	32	206	15.53
Pathanamthitta	142	51	193	26.42
Thrissur	152	43	195	22.05
Malappuram	154	40	194	20.62
Total	622	166	788	21.06

5.4). Another 35 percent of them are sick people who do not have the capacity to work. Housewives account for another 28 percent of the 'not in labour force' category. Thus these three categories account for 96 percent of the total share of 'not in labour force' category of return emigrants.

Current employment of return emigrants

5.4. The return emigrants are self-employed, regular-employed in private sector establishments or working as casual labourer. Thirty six percent of them are working in low-earning categories of self-employment and in agriculture (Table 5.5). Self-employment category includes small farming,

livestock rearing, other agricultural activities and small trade or service activities. Nearly 20 percent of them are engaged in self employed activities. From these rural activities, one cannot get a reasonable income for living. The category in which the largest number are employed is casual labour. Though the casual wage rate in Kerala is high compared to other States, the average number of days of employment per person per month is very low.

Thirty-seven percent of the employed are working as casual labourers. Due to the low percapita holding of land, high labour cost and increase in the cost of cultivation, the earning one gets from agriculture is meagre. Among the categories of jobs mentioned here, the only category from which one can get a reasonable wage is from the private sector establishments and enterprises. Twenty-seven percent of the employed are working in the private sector establishments or enterprises.

Source of income

5.5. In the survey, data have been collected from the return emigrants about their sources of income viz., rent, vehicles, bank deposits, employment etc. The survey results suggest that only a few of them are getting income from buildings, vehicles or bank deposits. Of the 884 return emigrants, only 15 persons (1.7 percent) are getting some income as rent from their buildings. Among them, nearly half is getting a rent less than Rs. 1,000 per month (Table 5.6). The return emigrants who get income from vehicles are also few in number. Of the 884 return emigrants, only 12 persons (1.35 percent) are getting income from the vehicles owned by them. Among, them, nearly half receive an income up to Rs. 3,000 per month (Table 5.7).

Of the 884 return emigrants, only 41 persons (4.6 percent) are getting interest from their bank deposits. Majority of them are getting a monthly

Table: 5.4
Distribution of return emigrants by 'not in labour force'

Number					
Activity status	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Pensioner	0	1	1	0	2
Too old to work	1	11	6	14	32
Sick people	7	5	8	14	34
Disabled	0	0	0	0	0
Student	0	1	0	0	1
Children	0	0	0	0	0
House wives	6	19	2	0	27
Total	14	37	17	28	96
Percent					
Pensioner	0.00	2.70	5.88	0.00	2.08
Too old to work	7.14	29.73	35.29	50.00	33.33
Sick people	50.00	13.51	47.06	50.00	35.42
Disabled	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Student	0.00	2.70	0.00	0.00	1.04
Children	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
House wives	42.86	51.35	11.76	0.00	28.13
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 5.5
Distribution of return emigrants by category of employment

Number					
Activity status	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Self-employed	17	25	41	43	126
Casual labour	105	26	41	61	233
Agricultural labour	0	1	0	0	1
Public sector	1	0	0	0	1
Private sector	46	28	53	39	166
Agriculture	5	62	17	11	95
Unpaid family work	0	0	0	0	0
Total employed	174	142	152	154	622
Percent					
Self-employed	9.77	17.61	26.97	27.92	20.26
Casual labour	60.34	18.31	26.97	39.61	37.46
Agricultural labour	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.16
Public sector	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16
Private sector	26.44	19.72	34.87	25.32	26.69
Agriculture	2.87	43.66	11.18	7.14	15.27
Unpaid family work	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Employed	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

interest of more than Rs. 1,000 (Table 5.8). From the above analysis, it is clear that only a few return emigrants have invested in buildings, vehicles and banks and are getting a return from their investments.

5.6. We have also estimated the monthly income of all the return emigrants taking into consideration the income from all sources as majority of the return emigrants are earning income from multiple sources. Majority of the return emigrants are earning income from self-employment and casual work and their income levels are very low. Only a small group of return emigrants are getting income from their investments in buildings, vehicles, bank deposits etc. It is found that, of the total return emigrants getting income, 37 percent is getting a monthly income below Rs. 3,000/- (Table 5.9).

Another 28 percent is getting a monthly income ranging from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000. A notable thing is that only 3 percent of the employed return emigrants are getting an income above Rs. 10,000 per month. This suggests that one-third of the total return emigrants getting a very low income which is less than Rs. 3,000, another one third Rs. 3,000

to Rs. 5,000 and the rest above Rs. 5,000. Thus, we can conclude that two-third of the return emigrants are getting only a small income from various sources and are facing financial hardships.

Membership in pension schemes for migrants

5.7. Information about the membership in pension schemes for migrants shows that only a few return emigrants have joined the schemes. Of the 884 return emigrants, only 18 persons have joined the pension schemes (Table 5.10).

Among the 18 persons, 15 have joined the Pravasi Pension Scheme of the Government of Kerala started in 2009. Only one person has joined the scheme of the Central Government. Lack of awareness about the pension schemes is a major reason for the poor response towards pension schemes from the emigrants working in foreign countries.

Willingness for re-migration of return emigrants

5.8. An interesting finding of the survey is that nearly one-third of the return emigrants are willing to re-migrate to the Gulf countries (Table 5.11).

Table: 5.6**Distribution of return emigrants by source of monthly income (rent)**

Number					
Amount	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1-1000	2	0	4	1	7
1001-3000	0	1	3	1	5
3001-5000	0	0	0	2	2
5001-7000	1	0	0	0	1
Total	3	1	7	4	15
Percent					
1-1000	66.67	0.00	57.14	25.00	46.67
1001-3000	0.00	100.00	42.86	25.00	33.33
3001-5000	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	13.33
5001-7000	33.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.67
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 5.7**Distribution of return emigrants by source of monthly income (vehicles)**

Number					
Amount	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1-1000	0	1	1	0	2
1001-3000	2	1	0	0	3
3001-5000	0	0	1	2	3
5001-10000	1	0	1	2	4
Total	3	2	3	4	12
Percent					
1-1000	0.00	50.00	33.33	0.00	16.67
1001-3000	66.67	50.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
3001-5000	0.00	0.00	33.33	50.00	25.00
5001-10000	33.33	0.00	33.34	50.00	33.33
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 5.8**Distribution of return emigrants by bank deposits**

Number					
Monthly Amount	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1-1000	0	3	0	7	10
Above 1000	2	11	1	17	31
Total	2	14	1	24	41
Percent					
1-1000	0.00	21.43	0.00	29.17	24.39
Above 1000	100.00	78.57	100.00	70.83	75.61
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Of the total return emigrants in Thiruvananthapuram district, majority reported that they are interested in re-migration. From Thrissur, more than one-third reported that they are interested to re-migrate. On the other hand, the share of return emigrants who are interested to re-migrate is lowest in Malappuram district (13 percent). This suggests that lack of regular and income earning opportunities in their localities make the return emigrants think in favour of re-migrating to the Gulf.

Migration and socio-economic status

5.9. The general perception of the people in Kerala about the emigration for employment is that it will enhance their social and economic status. The experience of emigration to the West Asia for employment during the previous decades also indicates that emigration has a positive correlation with improvement in socio-economic status. This is the basic motive behind emigration of youth belonging to unskilled, semi-skilled and other categories of emigrants to the Gulf. But the survey finding does not support this hypothesis in the case of a sizeable share of return emigrants. The survey results show that there is no improvement in the socio economic status of 40 percent of the return

emigrants (Table 5.12). In this context, there is a need for rethinking in the policy of migration to promote the migration of unskilled, semi-skilled and low-skilled categories as well as household workers to the West Asia. The Ministry of Indian Overseas Affairs should take steps to publish pamphlets describing the labour market situation in Gulf, categories of jobs available, wage rates, non-wage benefits, cost of living, problems of accommodation, cost of travel etc for the benefit of fresh migrants.

Financial and other problems created due to return of emigrants

5.10. The survey collected data relating to the financial, health, educational and other problems created by the return of emigrants in their households. The major issues created are the following: (1) The main issue is centres around the financial problems due to the loss of jobs and income. With the return of emigrants, the households lost their main source of income, i.e., remittances from migrants. Of the total households, 64 percent reported that they are facing serious financial problems due to the return of a member of their household (Table 5.13). (2) Another major problem is the increase in the debt of their households. Nineteen percent of the households

Table: 5.9
Distribution of return emigrants by all sources of income (employment)

Number					
Amount	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1-1000	3	43	57	1	104
1001-3000	22	47	37	24	130
3001-5000	70	33	22	56	181
5001-10000	77	18	46	59	200
>10001	2	3	13	1	19
Total	174	144	175	141	634
Percent					
1-1000	1.72	29.86	32.57	0.71	16.40
1001-3000	12.64	32.64	21.15	17.02	20.50
3001-5000	40.24	22.92	12.57	39.71	28.55
5001-10000	44.25	12.50	26.28	41.85	31.55
>10001	1.15	2.08	7.43	0.71	3.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 5.10**Distribution of return emigrants by pension scheme**

Schemes	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
State Pension Scheme	2	8	3	2	15
Central Pension Scheme	0	0	1	0	1
Others	0	2	0	0	2
Total	2	10	4	2	18
Total number of return emigrants	220	230	212	222	884
Percent to total	0.91	4.35	1.89	0.90	2.04

Table: 5.11**Distribution of return emigrants by interest for re-migration**

Districts	Number having interest	Total number of returned emigrants	Percent share of interested in remigration
Thiruvananthapuram	116	220	52.73
Pathanamthitta	55	230	23.91
Thrissur	77	212	36.32
Malappuram	29	222	13.06
Total	277	884	31.33

Table: 5.12**Migration & improvement in socio-economic status**

Number					
Socio-economic status	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Improved	95	135	118	127	475
Not improved	105	65	82	73	325
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
Improved	47.50	67.50	59.00	63.50	59.38
Not improved	52.50	32.50	41.00	36.50	40.62
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

reported that they are facing serious problems due to mounting of debt incurred for meeting the cost of migration as well as for other purposes. It may be noted that a good number of return emigrants borrowed substantial amount of money for meeting the cost of migration. As they were forced to return within a short period, they were not able to earn

sufficient savings to repay the debts. (3) The third problem is the disappointment of the family due to the sudden return of their family member. The household was expecting a continuous flow of income from the migrant which did not happen. (4) Five percent of the emigrants became sick due to emigration and are facing serious health problems.

Table 5.13**Financial and other problems created due to the return of emigrants**

Number						
Sl.No	Items	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1	Financial problems	122	195	115	77	509
2	Debt	73	20	18	43	154
3	Mentally disappointed	37	20	10	31	98
4	Health problems	12	6	18	6	42
5	Adversely affected childrens' education	5	34	12	14	65
6	Job loss	7	10	7	12	36
7	Others	17	14	11	12	54
Percent on total households						
1	Financial problems	61.00	97.50	57.50	38.50	63.62
2	Debt	36.50	10.00	9.00	21.50	19.25
3	Mentally disappointed	18.50	10.00	5.00	15.50	12.25
4	Health problems	6.00	3.00	9.00	3.00	5.25
5	Adversely affected childrens' education	2.50	17.00	6.00	7.00	8.12
6	Job loss	3.50	5.00	3.50	6.00	4.50
7	Others	8.50	7.00	5.50	6.00	6.75

This has created enormous financial burden to the households for meeting the expenses of medical treatment. (5) Eight percent of the households felt that the return emigration has adversely affected the childrens' education due to lack of income. Thus, we can conclude that the return of emigrants has created severe financial problems to two- thirds of households.

II. Social problems

5.11. The long separation of migrants from their family due to international migration creates mental stress and problems to the migrants as well as to their family members. This is the social cost that the society is forced to bear due to foreign migration.

We have examined the social problems faced by the emigrants as well as their wives and children during the period of emigration to the foreign country. In contract type of migration, the husbands or sons migrate to the foreign countries and the women, especially wives of the emigrants, are left in their households. Usually, a male emigrant returns home for vacation once in a year or once in a few years. This long separation of the family members and isolated life of the emigrants in the Gulf creates tension and anxieties to the emigrants. The survey results show that among the wives of the sample households, 26 percent stayed alone. Another 63 percent of the wives of the return emigrants lived with their parents/in-law or other relatives (Table 5.14). Nearly 20 percent of the wives of return

Table: 5.14**Stay of migrants' wives during migration period**

Number					
Stay of migrants' Wives	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Not reported	5	28	22	35	90
Stay with parents/ relatives	156	83	143	119	501
Stayed alone	39	89	35	46	209
Total	200	200	200	200	200
Percent					
Not reported	2.50	14.00	11.00	17.50	11.24
Stay with parents/ relatives	78.00	41.50	71.50	59.50	62.63
Stayed alone	19.50	44.50	17.50	23.00	26.13
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 5.15**Problems faced by wives of migrants**

Number					
Problems	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Not reported	6	58	23	43	130
Faced problems & Mental tension	36	16	92	12	156
No problem	158	126	85	145	514
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
Not reported	3.00	29.00	11.50	21.50	16.25
Faced problems & Mental tension	18.00	8.00	46.00	6.00	19.50
No problem	79.00	63.00	42.50	72.50	64.25
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

emigrants reported that they faced problems and mental stress during the stay of their husbands abroad.

But, 64 percent reported that they have not faced any problems (Table 5.15). Though majority of the wives and children have adjusted to the problems associated with the absence of their husbands or fathers, one-fifth still considers this as a serious problem. This is a social cost that the society bears

following the emigration of male members and head of the households to the foreign countries.

5.12. A serious social issue is whether the migration and the long absence of head of the households from the family will affect the education of the children. It is believed that the absence of father will result in loss of discipline of children. The survey results show that in the case of 17 percent households, the absence of parents due to emigration has adversely affected the education of

Table: 5.16
Migration and education of children

Number					
Views	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Not reported	7	49	55	56	167
Adversely affected education	50	28	51	5	134
Not affected	143	123	94	139	499
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
Not reported	3.50	24.50	27.50	28.00	20.88
Adversely affected education	25.00	14.00	25.50	2.50	16.75
Not affected	71.50	61.50	47.00	69.50	62.37
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

the children. But, 62 percent of the households reported that it has not affected the education (Table 5.16).

5.13. Another social issue is whether emigration will adversely affect the character formation of children. This is due to the difference in the influence a father and a mother can exert on their children. It is believed that a father can enforce discipline on his children more rigorously than a mother. Usually mothers are said to be soft towards their children. Twenty-one percent of the sample households reported that the migration of father has adversely affected the character formation of children (Table 5.17). But, 54 percent of the households reported that the migration of parents have not affected the character formation of their children. Thus the survey results on the social effects of migration indicate that the migration may have a negative effect on the education and character formation of children.

5.14. Another social effect of migration is the isolation from society and social life due to the long absence from the native place. Majority of the return emigrants are of the view that they are isolated from the society due to their absence (Table 5.18). On the other hand, 47 percent reported that migration has not isolated them from society or social life.

From the above analysis, it is clear that the emigration to the Gulf brings about a big social cost for the society to bear. Though the emigration has a positive effect of getting remittances and other economic benefits, the society is paying a huge social cost in terms of long separation of wives from husbands and children from parents, and adversely affecting the education and character formation of children and isolation of emigrants from society and social life.

III. Effects of return emigration

The survey has collected the views of the households about the trends in return migration, shift in migration, impact of higher wages on migration and trends in the construction, trade, commerce and service activities in their localities.

Trends in return emigration

5.15. In order to get an idea about the overall trends in return emigration, we had posed certain questions before the informants. The overall response is that the trends in return emigration has been continuing for the last two years, viz, 2010 and 2011. Eighty-three percent of the informants told us that many emigrants returned to their locality from the Gulf during the years 2010 and 2011

Table: 5.17
Migration and character of children

Number					
Views	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Not reported	12	57	56	76	201
Adversely affected education	64	31	63	10	168
Not affected	124	112	81	114	431
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
Not reported	6.00	28.50	28.00	38.00	25.13
Adversely affected education	32.00	15.50	31.50	5.00	21.00
Not affected	62.00	56.00	40.50	57.00	53.87
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 5.18
Impact of migration on social life

Number					
Impact	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Isolated from society& social life	116	69	142	100	427
Not affected	84	131	58	100	373
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
Isolated from society& social life	58.00	34.50	71.00	50.00	53.37
Not affected	42.00	65.50	29.00	50.00	46.63
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

(Table 5.19). In all the districts, it is reported that many returned during the last two years. Twelve percent reported that only a few has returned to their Grama Panchayats or Municipalities during the last two years.

Changing pattern of migration

5.16. Another issue is whether there is any change in the destination of migration in the context of the bleak job prospects in the Gulf. The households reported that there is a shift in the destination of migration from Gulf to Indian cities in the case of new migrants. Forty-one percent of the informants told us that there is a change in the destination of migration to Indian cities (Table 5.20). However, majority of the informants are of the view that there

is no change in the preference of the destination of migration, even in the context of bleak job prospects in the Gulf.

High wage rate and migration of unskilled workers

5.17. The high rate of wages of casual workers especially those doing manual work prevailing in Kerala is a factor which influences the migration. Here, the question is whether the high wage rate discourages the emigration of unskilled and semi-skilled categories of workers to the Gulf countries. The survey results suggest that the high wage rate has discouraged the emigration of unskilled categories of persons to the Gulf countries. Seventy-two

Table: 5.19
Trends in return migration in their area: Views of the informants

Number					
Trend	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Many returned during the last two years (2010 & 2011)	187	155	170	152	664
Only few returned during last two years	13	29	20	32	94
No change in emigration	0	16	10	16	42
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
Many returned during the last two years (2010 & 2011)	93.50	77.50	85.00	76.00	83.00
Only few returned during last two years	6.50	14.50	10.00	16.00	11.75
No change in emigration	0.00	8.00	5.00	8.00	5.25
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 5.20
Shift in migration to Indian cities other than to Gulf

Number					
Views	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Shifted	10	131	101	90	332
Not shifted	190	69	99	110	468
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
Shifted	5.00	65.50	50.50	45.00	41.50
Not shifted	95.00	34.50	49.50	55.00	58.50
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

percent of the informants pointed out that this has discouraged the migration of the unskilled categories of workers (Table 5.21). This indicates a change in the attitude towards the prospects of migration of the unskilled and semi-skilled categories of workers to the Gulf.

Prospects of emigration

5.18. In the context of the negative changes that have been taking place for migrant labour in the Gulf countries, a basic issue is about the future prospects of migration. The return emigrant households who

are observing the recent trends in return emigration in their locality have given their views on this issue. Thirty-four percent of the informants told us that there is no scope for future migration to the Gulf countries (Table 5.22).

Forty-four percent of the households are of the view that there is only little scope for migration to the Gulf. From this evidence and other facts presented earlier, we can conclude that a major change has occurred in the demand for migrant labour in the Gulf countries since the global crisis of 2008. The year 2008 can be considered as a major turning point

Table: 5.21
Higher wages in Kerala and impacts on migration of the unskilled & semi-skilled migrants

Number					
Impact	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Discouraged	140	118	170	147	575
Not discouraged	60	82	30	53	225
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
Discouraged	70.00	59.00	85.00	73.50	71.88
Not discouraged	30.00	41.00	15.00	26.50	28.13
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 5.22
Views about migration prospects

Number					
Views	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Little scope for migration	107	66	101	77	351
No scope	88	100	55	30	273
Present trend will continue	5	34	44	93	176
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
Little scope for migration	53.50	33.00	50.50	38.50	43.88
No scope	44.00	50.00	27.50	15.00	34.13
Present trend will continue	2.50	17.00	22.00	46.50	22.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 5.23
Trends in house construction: Views of the informants

Number					
Views	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Small decline	105	72	88	97	362
Large decline	14	28	17	42	101
No change	81	100	95	61	337
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
Small decline	52.50	36.00	44.00	48.50	45.25
Large decline	7.00	14.00	8.50	21.00	12.63
No change	40.50	50.00	47.50	30.50	42.12
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 5.24**Impacts of return migrants on trade, commerce & services**

Number					
Views	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
Small decline	112	68	161	64	405
Huge decline	13	64	23	58	158
Not affected	75	68	16	78	237
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
Small decline	56.00	34.00	80.50	32.00	50.63
Huge decline	6.50	32.00	11.50	29.00	19.75
Not affected	37.50	34.00	8.00	39.00	29.63
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

in the history of migration witnessing a substantial fall in the demand for migrant workers.

Economic effects of return emigration on the locality

5.19. In order to study the effects of return emigration on the localities, we have collected data on the trends in house construction, trade and commercial activities in the study areas. It is found that the return emigration has created a mild or moderate recession in economic activities in the study areas. Forty-five percent of the households reported that there is a small decline in house construction in their locality in recent years. However, another 13 percent reported that there is a large decline in the house construction activities (Table 5.23). Regarding the trends in trade, commerce and service activities a similar view is expressed by the households. Fifty percent of the households reported that there is a small decline in trade, commerce and service activities in recent years (Table 5.24).

On the other hand, 20 percent reported huge decline in trade and commerce. Thus, the large scale return of emigrants from the Gulf since 2008 has created mild or moderate level recession in the areas or regions having high concentration of migrant households. It is likely that the areas which experienced recession are those areas having a high concentration of emigrant households.

Conclusion

From the above analysis, we may draw the following conclusions. Among the return emigrants, majority are employed either on part time or full time basis. Nearly one-fifth of the return emigrant labour force is unemployed. From the self-employment and wage employment, majority of return emigrants get a small amount as monthly income or wage. A notable finding of the survey is that there is no improvement in the socio-economic status of 40 percent of return emigrants due to emigration to Gulf. The return emigrants have created severe financial problems to two-thirds of the households. The migration of the head of the household and other members of the family has created social tension and problems for a sizeable number of return emigrant households. The emigration has adversely affected the education as well as character formation of the children and has created mental stress and other problems to wives of emigrants. Majority of the return emigrants are of the view that they are isolated from the society due to emigration. The high wage rate prevailing in Kerala for the casual labourers has discouraged the emigration of unskilled categories of workers to the Gulf. The return emigration has also created a mild or moderate recession in economic activities in the localities having high concentration of emigrant households.

6

Socio-Economic Profile of Return Emigrant Households

This Chapter presents the socio-economic profile of the return emigrant households. Here we are presenting the socio-economic background, asset ownership, consumer durables possessed, income, expenditure and the debt of the households. In order to provide a comparative analysis, we have given district-wise data on the above items.

Below Poverty Line households

6.1 In order to study the socio-economic profile of the households we have collected data on the category of households (APL/BPL), possession of land, income from land, ownership of houses, the livestock possessed etc. Ration cards issued by the Government of Kerala containing the names of all members of households are used for the distribution of food grains and other items through

public distribution system. The card is also used as an identity card for distributing various benefits and subsidies meant for poorer sections of the society.

6.2 A common notion is that the emigrants' households usually belong to the category of economically well-off sections. It is argued that the households are getting remittances sent by the emigrant members. But the survey results indicate that nearly one-fourth of the return emigrant households belong to the poor category. Of the total 800 return emigrant households, 7 percent have no ration cards (Table 6.1). Among the households possessing ration cards, 24 percent belonged to the category of below poverty line households (BPL) (Table 6.2). In Thiruvananthapuram district, nearly 42 percent of the return emigrant households belong to the category of BPL households. In Thrissur, 27 percent of the households are BPL households. The

Table: 6.1
Distribution of households by ration cards

Sl. No.	Districts	Having ration cards(number)	Not having ration cards(number)	Total	Percent of not having ration cards
1	Thiruvananthapuram	198	2	200	1.00
2	Pathanamthitta	167	33	200	16.50
3	Thrissur	179	21	200	10.50
4	Malappuram	197	3	200	1.50
	Total	741	59	800	7.37

Table : 6.2**Distribution of households by APL/BPL ration cards**

Sl. No	Districts	Number of APL	Number of BPL	Total	Percent of BPL
1	Thiruvananthapuram	115	83	198	41.92
2	Pathanamthitta	152	15	167	8.98
3	Thrissur	131	48	179	26.82
4	Malappuram	166	31	197	15.74
	Total	564	177	741	23.89

corresponding share in Malappuram district is 16 percent. Pathanamthitta district has a lower share of poor households (9 percent).

Possession of land

6.3 The area of land possessed by return emigrant households gives an idea about their economic status. Two percent of the households belonged to the category of landless households. Thirty five percent of the households possessed an area of land ranging from 1 to 10 cents (Table 6.3). Another 25 per cent of the households have land ranging from 10 to 20 cents. Thus 60 percent of the households have land less than 20 cents. The households having an area of land between 20 to 50 cents come to 25 percent. Only four percent of the households have more than one acre of land. Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur districts have a lower percapita land holding compared to Pathanamthitta and Malappuram districts.

It is reported that two-thirds of the households got land as parental property. On the other hand, nearly one- third purchased the land possessed by them (Table 6.4).

In Pathanamthitta and Malappuram, a higher proportion of households purchased land compared to other districts. It may be noted that these are the districts having a higher rate of emigration from 1980 onwards. As per-capita holding of the land is very small, 72 percent of the return emigrant households are not getting any income from land (Table 6.5). The rest of the households are getting only very small income from the land. Fifteen percent of the households get an annual income of less than Rs. 5,000 from the land. Another 10 percent receive an annual income ranging from Rs.5,001 to Rs. 25,000. The share of households getting an annual income above Rs.25,000 per year is only 3.4 percent.

Table: 6.3**Distribution of households by land possessed (cents)**

Land possessed (Cents)	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total	Percent
0	3	4	7	1	15	1.88
1-5	47	17	17	21	102	12.75
5-10	50	32	62	34	178	22.25
10-20	58	43	45	50	196	24.50
20-50	31	64	56	52	203	25.38
50-75	7	16	4	16	43	5.38
75-100	3	10	4	11	28	3.50
>100	1	14	5	15	35	4.38
Total	200	200	200	200	800	100.00

Table: 6.4**Distribution of households by purchase of land possessed**

		Number				
Sl. No.	Type of land	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1.	NA	3	4	7	1	15
2.	Purchased	49	80	52	73	254
3.	Not purchased	148	116	141	126	531
	Total	200	200	200	200	800
		Percent				
1.	NA	1.50	2.00	3.50	0.50	1.88
2.	Purchased	24.50	40.00	26.00	36.50	31.75
3.	Not purchased	74.00	58.00	70.50	63.00	66.38
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 6.5**Distribution of households by annual income from land**

		Number				
Amount (Rs)	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total	
0	190	127	84	163	564	
1-5000	2	53	58	5	118	
5001-10000	-	9	25	5	39	
10001-25000	4	2	21	10	37	
Above 25000	1	5	5	16	27	
Total	197	196	193	199	785	
		Percent				
0	96.45	64.80	43.52	81.91	71.85	
1-5000	1.02	27.04	30.05	2.51	15.03	
5001-10000	0.00	4.59	12.95	2.51	4.97	
10001-25000	2.03	1.02	10.88	5.03	4.71	
Above 25000	0.51	2.55	2.59	8.04	3.44	
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	

Possession of livestock

6.4. Livestock rearing is found to be a minor economic activity of the return emigrant households. It is found that only 24 percent of the total households have livestock such as cow, calf, buffalo, goat and poultry (Table 6.6). Though there is much scope for livestock rearing, the households are not pursuing the occupation. Among the return emigrant households, seven percent have cow, two percent have calf, 8 percent have goat and 12 percent have poultry. From the livestock, the households receive only a very small income.

Ownership and nature of houses

6.5 Of the 800 return emigrant households, 2.6 percent of the households do not own a house and they live in rented houses (Table 6.7). Thrissur district has the largest number of families living in rented houses (4.5 percent). On the other hand, Malappuram has the lowest number of families living in rented houses (1.50 percent). Among those living in rented houses, majority pays a monthly rent ranging between Rs. 1000 and Rs. 2000 per month.

Table: 6.6
Distribution of households category of livestock

Number						
Sl. No	Category	Trivandrum	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1.	Possessing livestock	44	67	44	35	190
2.	Cow	13	22	10	10	55
3.	Calf	1	10	1	3	15
4.	Buffalo	0	2	1	3	6
5.	Goat	27	12	12	16	67
6.	Poultry	14	47	28	8	97
Percent on total households						
1.	Possessing livestock	22.00	33.50	22.00	17.50	23.75
2.	Cow	6.50	11.00	5.00	5.00	6.88
3.	Calf	0.50	5.00	0.50	1.50	1.88
4.	Buffalo	0.00	1.00	0.50	1.50	0.75
5.	Goat	13.50	6.00	6.00	8.00	8.38
6.	Poultry	7.00	23.50	14.00	4.00	12.13

Table: 6.7
Distribution of households by ownership of house

Sl. No.	Districts	Own house	Rented house	Total	Percent of rented house
1.	Thiruvananthapuram	196	4	200	2.00
2.	Pathanamthitta	195	5	200	2.50
3.	Thrissur	191	9	200	4.50
4.	Malappuram	197	3	200	1.50
	Total	779	21	800	2.62

6.6 A common notion is that the emigrants invest their savings in real estate and houses and hence they have better houses. The survey results about the houses of return emigrants show that the above notion is not true. Twelve percent of the return emigrants are living in very small houses having a plinth area of less than 500 sq. ft. Another 53 percent of the return emigrants are living in houses having a plinth area ranging from 500 to 1000 square feet (Table 6.8). Only 10 percent live in houses having a moderate space above 1500 sq.ft.

Majority of the houses were constructed prior to 1990 using the resources other than the savings from migration.

6.7. The type of roof and floor of the houses also give an indication of the nature of houses. Among the houses, 3 percent of the houses have thatched roof indicating very poor quality of the houses (Table 6.9). Another one-third of the houses have tiled roof showing that the houses are old and built two decades back. Nearly two-thirds of the houses are pucca houses with concrete roofing.

Table: 6.8
Distribution of houses by area of house

Number					
Area (Sq. Ft)	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1-500	60	11	13	12	96
501-1000	117	87	106	118	428
1001-1500	21	58	56	56	191
Above 1500	2	44	25	14	83
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent					
1-500	30.00	5.50	6.50	6.00	12.00
501-1000	58.50	43.50	53.00	59.00	53.50
1001-1500	10.50	29.00	28.00	28.00	23.88
Above 1500	1.00	22.00	12.50	7.00	10.38
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 6.9
Distribution of houses by type of roof

Number						
Sl. No.	Type of roof	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1.	Thatched	8	6	7	1	22
2.	Tiled	51	61	67	78	257
3.	Concrete	134	118	124	118	494
4.	Partly concrete	3	6	1	3	13
5.	Others	4	9	1	0	14
Total		200	200	200	200	800
Percent						
1.	Thatched	4.00	3.00	3.50	0.50	2.75
2.	Tiled	25.50	30.50	33.50	39.00	32.13
3.	Concrete	67.00	59.00	62.00	59.00	61.75
4.	Partly concrete	1.50	3.00	0.50	1.50	1.63
5.	Others	2.00	4.50	0.50	0.00	1.75
Total		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

For flooring, cement is used in the majority of houses (56 percent) (Table 6.10). Thirty three percent of the houses used mosaic or tiles as flooring material. Only about 5 percent of the houses used marble flooring. Thus, a review of the material used for roof and floor of the houses reveal that

majority of the houses are ordinary houses using low cost materials for roof and flooring. Among the houses, 98 percent of the houses are electrified and 2 percent not electrified (Table 6.11). Malappuram district has the largest number of non-electrified houses (4 percent).

Table: 6.10
Distribution of houses by type of floor

Number						
Sl. No.	Type of floor	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1.	Cement	154	97	106	92	449
2.	Mosaic	13	27	25	20	85
3.	Marble	2	4	9	23	38
4.	Tiles	20	69	54	34	177
5.	Others	11	3	6	31	51
	Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent						
1.	Cement	77.00	48.50	53.00	46.00	56.13
2.	Mosaic	6.50	13.50	12.50	10.00	10.63
3.	Marble	1.00	2.00	4.50	11.50	4.75
4.	Tiles	10.00	34.50	27.00	17.00	22.13
5.	Others	5.50	1.50	3.00	15.50	6.38
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table: 6.11
Distribution of houses by use of electricity

Number						
Sl.No.	Category	Trivandrum	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1.	Electrified	198	199	196	192	785
2.	Not electrified	2	1	4	8	15
	Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent						
1.	Electrified	99.00	99.50	98.00	96.00	98.12
2.	Not electrified	1.00	0.50	2.00	4.00	1.88
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Possession of consumer durables

6.8 The survey has collected data about the fuel used for cooking, possession of consumer durables, telephones and other equipments. For fuel, the households use either firewood or LPG or a combination of the two. For cooking purposes, 17 percent of the households are using only firewood and 25 percent use only LPG. Majority of the

households use both firewood and LPG for cooking purposes (Table 6.12).

The survey results suggest that the return emigrant households use a number of consumer durables like television sets, fridge, mixer, washing machine and computer. It is reported that 90 percent of the households possess TV sets (Table 6.13). Sixty five percent of the households have fridge and 79 percent have mixer. However, the number of households having washing machine and computer is small. It

Table 6.12
Distribution of households by use of fuel

Number						
Sl. No.	Category	Trivandrum	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1.	Firewood only	59	5	21	54	139
2.	LPG only	124	10	4	65	203
3.	Firewood & LPG	16	183	173	81	453
4.	Others	1	2	2	0	5
	Total	200	200	200	200	800
Percent						
1.	Firewood only	29.50	2.50	10.50	27.00	17.38
2.	LPG only	62.00	5.00	2.00	32.50	25.38
3.	Firewood & LPG	8.00	91.50	86.50	40.50	56.63
4.	Others	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.62
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 6.13
Distribution of households by household equipments

Sl. No	Items	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total	Percent to total households
1.	TV	179	192	191	157	719	89.90
2.	Fridge	106	179	135	99	519	64.90
3.	Mixer	123	186	167	158	634	79.25
4.	Washing machine	9	59	60	25	153	19.12
5.	Computer	3	26	24	11	64	8.00

Table 6.14
Distribution of households having telephone connections

Number to total households						
Sl. No	Category	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
1.	Having land phone	61	163	132	125	481
2.	Having mobile phone	196	196	196	199	787
Percentage to total households						
1.	Having land phone	30.50	81.50	66.00	62.50	60.13
2.	Having mobile phone	98.00	98.00	98.00	99.50	98.38

Table: 6.15**Distribution of households by monthly household expenditure**

Amount (Rs)	Trivandrum	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total	Percent
1000 - 2500	1	9	2	2	14	1.75
2501- 5000	38	60	51	62	211	26.38
5001- 7500	37	17	52	45	151	18.88
7501- 10000	69	63	78	62	272	34.00
10001- 15000	45	36	14	25	120	15.00
15001- 20000	7	9	3	1	20	2.50
20001- 50000	3	6	0	3	12	1.50
Total	200	200	200	200	800	100.00

Table: 6.16**Distribution of households by percapita household expenditure**

District	Population	Total monthly household expenditure	Monthly percapita expenditure	Daily percapita expenditure
Thiruvananthapuram	1090	1,898,000	1741.28	58.03
Pathanamthitta	814	1,877,500	2306.51	76.88
Thrissur	1022	1,568,000	1534.25	51.14
Malappuram	1188	1,616,000	1360.27	45.34
Total	4114	6,959,500	1691.66	56.38

Table: 6.17**Distribution of households by major source of income**

Sl. No	Source	Trivandrum	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total	Percent to totalsample households
1.	Remittance	46	42	40	68	196	24.50
2.	Income from land	7	87	86	35	215	26.87
3.	Income from other assets	1	32	2	12	47	5.87
4.	Wages of non migrants	87	46	88	81	302	37.75
5.	Returnees wages	158	163	155	152	628	78.50

is reported that 19 percent of the households have washing machine and 8 percent have computer.

In Kerala, the proportion of households using mobile phone is one of the highest in the country. The use of mobile phones among the return emigrant households is very high. Ninety eight percent of the households use mobile phones (Table 6.14). However, only 60 percent of the households have land phones.

Monthly household expenditures

6.9. An estimation of total monthly household expenditure comprising consumption and non-consumption items gives us an idea about the levels of living of the return emigrants. The survey results suggest that the monthly consumption expenditure of nearly 28 percent of the households, was very low i.e., below Rs. 5,000 per month (Table 6.15). Nineteen percent of the households have a monthly

Table: 6.18
Distribution of households by debt

Sl. No	Districts	Households having debt	Not having debt	Total	Percentage of having debt
1.	Trivandrum	160	40	200	80.00
2.	Pathanamthitta	113	87	200	56.50
3.	Thrissur	151	49	200	75.50
4.	Malappuram	134	66	200	67.00
	Total	558	242	800	69.75

Table: 6.19
Distribution of households by debt amount

Amount (Rs)	Number				
	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
No debt	40	87	49	66	242
1-25000	2	10	4	5	21
25001-50000	11	14	12	12	49
50001-75000	8	4	3	6	21
75001-100000	18	7	26	13	64
100001-200000	49	28	37	33	147
200001-400000	39	23	42	37	141
400001-600000	19	19	17	16	71
>600001	14	8	10	12	44
Total	200	200	200	200	800
Amount (Rs)	Percent				
	Thiruvananthapuram	Pathanamthitta	Thrissur	Malappuram	Total
No debt	20.00	43.50	24.50	33.00	30.25
1-25000	1.00	5.00	2.00	2.50	2.63
25001-50000	5.50	7.00	6.00	6.00	6.13
50001-75000	4.00	2.00	1.50	3.00	2.63
75001-100000	9.00	3.50	13.00	6.50	8.00
100001-200000	24.50	14.00	18.50	16.50	18.38
200001-400000	19.50	11.50	21.00	18.50	17.63
400001-600000	9.50	9.50	8.50	8.00	8.88
>600001	7.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	5.50
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

consumption expenditure ranging between Rs.5, 000 and Rs. 7,500. Thus majority of the households have low consumption expenditure. However, one- third of the households have a monthly consumption expenditure ranging between Rs7,500 and Rs 10,000. Another 19 percent of the households have a monthly expenditure above Rs 10,000.

We have also estimated the monthly percapita and daily per capita expenditure of the return emigrant households. Our estimate on the average monthly percapita expenditure of the households is Rs. 1,692 and the daily per capita expenditure is Rs. 56.38 (Table 6.16). But a notable point is the wide variation in the percapita expenditure in the four districts. Pathanamthitta district has the highest percapita expenditure (Rs. 2,306) followed by Thiruvananthapuram (Rs. 1,741). Malappuram district has the lowest percapita expenditure indicating low levels of living of return emigrant

households. The daily percapita income of the district varies between Rs. 76.88 and Rs. 45.34.

Major source of income

6.10. The households have four major sources of income viz., remittances sent by migrants, income from land, income from other assets, wages of non-migrant members and return emigrants. The wage earnings of the return emigrant households is the major source of income of the households. Of the total households, 78 percent receive income from the wage earnings of return emigrants (Table 6.17). The second major item of income of the households is wages of non-migrant members (38 percent). More than one fourth of the households get some income from their land. Remittances sent by out-migrants and emigrant members of the households are also the source of income of nearly one-fourth of the households. Thus a remittance sent by the migrant workers in the return emigrant households

Table: 6.20

Distribution of households by debt amount & source

Source of loan	Number	Percent
Banks	406	58.50
Chitties	23	3.31
Relatives	191	27.52
Blade	12	1.73
Money lenders	62	8.93
Total	694	100.00

Table: 6.21

Distribution of loans by purpose

Sl. No.	Purpose	Number	Percent
1	House construction	172	20.80
2	Purchase of land	28	3.39
3	Purchase of vehicles etc	76	9.19
4	Education	57	6.89
5	Medical treatment	83	10.04
6	Migration expense	177	21.40
7	Marriage purpose	146	17.65
8	Others	88	10.64
	Total	827	100.00

is one of the major sources of income of these households.

Debt of the households

6.11 The amount of debt and the purpose of debt can give an indication about the financial situation of the return emigrant households. Seventy percent of the households borrowed money from various sources to meet the capital as well as consumption expenditure of the households. Among the districts, Thiruvananthapuram has the largest percentage of households having debt (80 percent) followed by Thrissur (75.5 percent) and Malappuram (67 percent) (Table 6.18). Pathanamthitta district has the lowest percentage of households having debt (56.50 percent).

Debt

6.12 High incidence of debt among the return emigrant households is a major problem. Of the total households 30 percent has no debt (Table 6.19). Among the rest, nearly 9 percent of the households, borrowed an amount up to Rs. 50,000.

Eleven percent borrowed an amount ranging between Rs.50, 000 and Rs. 1 lakh and 18 percent between one and two lakh. Of the total households, 5.5 percent borrowed more than Rs. 6 lakh. We have also analysed a source-wise and purpose-wise borrowing of debts. Among the loans availed from different sources, 58.50 percent have been taken from banks (Table 6.20). Borrowing from relatives is the second major source (27.52 percent). Nearly 10 percent of the loans are borrowed from non-banking financial institutions and money lenders are charging exorbitant rates of interest.

6.13 An analysis of the purpose of borrowing reveals that the principal reason is for meeting the migration expenses (Table 6.21). Of the total loans availed, 21.4 percent was used for meeting the migration expenses. House construction is the second major purpose of borrowing (20.80 percent). Meeting the marriage expenses is the third purpose for which of the loans are availed (18 percent). Ten percent of the loans are borrowed for medical treatment and 7 percent for education. An analysis of the purpose of borrowing shows that one-third of the loans are taken for house construction, purchase of land and vehicles. The rest of the loans are availed for education, medical treatment, migration, marriage and other purposes. As the sources of income of the households are limited, it is very difficult for the households to meet the repayment of their debt obligations.

Conclusion

The socio-economic profile of the return emigrant households reveals that one-fourth belongs to the poor category. Due to the very small holding of land, three-fourth of the households do not receive any income from land. Majority of the families live in small houses constructed prior to 1990 using the resources other than savings from migration. The consumption expenditure of the households is generally low. Wages of return emigrants and non-emigrant members and remittances sent by emigrants are the major sources of income of the households at present. A high incidence of debt is observed among these households due to borrowing for meeting the expenses of migration, house construction, marriage expenses, medical treatment etc.

7

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

7.1 The study has examined the causes-country-wise-the period, the current status and the socio-economic profile of return emigrants, and the impact of the return emigration. The study also suggests measures for the welfare of return emigrants. The principal source of data is a sample survey conducted in 800 return emigrant households in four districts of Kerala viz. Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur and Malappuram. Two hundred sample return emigrants were interviewed from four Grama Panchayats / Municipalities from each district.

7.2 According to the survey of return emigrants, Muslims accounted for the major share of population (64 percent). Hindus and Christians constitute an equal share of 18 percent each. A castes-wise distribution of the population showed that Other Backward Communities account for 74 percent and forward castes 23 percent. The survey results show that the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and other eligible communities, account only 3 percent of the return emigrants. This suggests that these communities in Kerala have gained only negligibly from migration during the last three-and-a-half decades of its history.

7.3 The survey results suggest that 275 persons are living in foreign countries belonging to the 800 sample return emigrant households. Of them, 92 percent are males and 9 percent are females. Seventy-one percent of the emigrants are married. Of the emigrants, 98 percent migrated to West Asian

countries viz. UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain. It may be noted that UAE is the destination of 60 percent of the emigrants. A distribution of emigrants by activity status shows that 92 percent of the emigrants are workers. Majority of the emigrants are working in white collar categories of jobs in offices and shops. The rest of them work in construction sector, workshops, factories, houses etc. A major problem faced by the emigrant workers in Gulf countries is the length of working hours per day. Twenty percent of them work 8 to 10 hours per day and another 23 percent work above 10 hours. Among the emigrants, 84 percent are single emigrants staying alone and 16 percent are living with their family. The households reported that the emigrants are getting a low salary in the Gulf. Of the total emigrant workers, 9 percent are getting low monthly wage of less than Rs. 5000. Thirty-two percent receive a monthly wage between Rs.5, 000 and Rs. 10,000. Due to low monthly wages and savings, nearly 16 percent of the emigrant workers are not sending remittances on monthly basis. And those who are sending remittances on monthly basis send only smaller amounts.

7.4 According to the survey, the sample households have 55 out-migrants comprising 31 males and 24 females. A distribution of the out-migrants by activity status shows that 67 percent are workers, 22 percent are students and 9 percent are non-workers such as children and housewives. Of the out-migrants, 82 percent migrated from

Pathanamthitta district. Most of the out-migrants are young people belonging to the age group of 20-34 having higher educational status. The major States of destination of the out-migrants from Kerala are Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and the capital city New Delhi. The out-migrants mostly work in white collar category jobs in offices, but the wages they receive are much lower compared to the wages in the public sector.

7.5 According to the survey, the total number of return emigrants in the 800 sample return emigrant households is 884. The survey results suggest that the return emigration issue in Kerala is basically a problem of return emigration of contract workers from West Asian countries viz. UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. Among the return emigrants, 54.52 percent returned from UAE, 17.87 percent from Saudi Arabia, 10.75 percent from Oman, 7.01 percent from Qatar, 5.10 percent from Kuwait and 3.28 percent from Bahrain. Thus of the total return emigrants, 98.5 percent returned from the West Asian countries. The changes that have been taking place during the post global crisis period in the economy and labour market in the Gulf is the principal reason for large-scale return of emigrants to Kerala. The study found that Dubai, an Emirate of UAE accounts for one-fourth of the total return emigrants.

7.6 The global crisis of 2008 is a major turning point in the history of emigration in the West Asian countries. The survey results suggest 71 percent of the return emigrants returned during the post global crisis period between 2008 and 2011. The return emigrants worked only for a brief period in the Gulf countries. Thirty percent of the migrant workers returned after working for a brief period between one to three years. Another 11 percent returned within three to five years of stay in the foreign countries.

7.7 The survey findings relating to the wages and working conditions of the return emigrants are as follows: Among the 884 return emigrants, 98 percent were workers and the remaining 2 percent unemployed and non-workers. Eighty-one percent of the return emigrants are males and 19 percent are females. Eighty-five percent of the return emigrants were working in private sector establishments or enterprises on a regular basis at

the time of return. Another 5.5 percent worked in public sector. The category of work which provided largest employment to the return emigrants in the Gulf was trade and commerce. Majority of the return emigrants worked in offices, shops, construction sites, factories, and houses located in cities (60 percent). More than one-fifth worked in isolated areas and deserts. Long hours of daily work are a feature of the working condition in the Gulf. Majority of the return emigrants worked 8 to 10 hours or above ten hours per day. Forty-two percent of the return emigrants lived in labour camps meant for accommodating labourers, located away from the cities at the time of their return. Twenty-eight percent lived in rented rooms and 17 percent in flats or in the parts of flats. The information supplied by the return emigrants reveals that the wages they received were very low. The survey results indicate low wages, fall in wages and savings are the major factors which contributed to the return of the emigrant workers.

7.8 The conclusion emerged from the study is that the principal cause for the return of emigrants to Kerala is global crisis and its resultant labour problems such as expiry of contract, compulsory repatriation, low salary, non-payment of salary, cruel behaviour of employer and bad labour atmosphere. Lack of employment, low savings and a combination of the above problems had also contributed to the return of workers. Sixty-seven percent of the emigrants returned due to the above causes. Health problem is the second major cause for the return. Unhealthy climate, sickness, accidents and lack of treatment facilities also contributed to the return of emigrants. This was the reason for the return of twelve percent of the emigrants. Family problems such as health problems of family members, death of family members, education of children etc. contributed to the return of seven percent of the emigrants.

7.9 The study arrived at the following conclusions regarding the current activity status of return emigrants: The survey results suggest that, of the total return emigrants, 70 percent are employed, 19 percent unemployed and 11 percent not in the labour force. The unemployment rate is 21 percent among the return emigrants. Among the employed, nearly three-fourth of them are employed in low

earning category of jobs such as self-employment, casual labour and agriculture. Among the categories of jobs, the one which provides a reasonable wage is the employment in private sector. Among the return emigrants, 37 percent get a wage below Rs. 3,000 per month and 28 percent is getting a monthly income ranging from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000. Those who are getting income from their investment in buildings, vehicles, bank deposits etc. are a few in number. Only a few return emigrants have joined the pension schemes. They pointed out that the schemes are not attractive or adequate to provide help to the poor return emigrants.

7.10 An analysis of the socio-economic impacts of migration revealed that it has not produced much positive effects as expected. A notable result of the survey is that the emigration has not contributed to an improvement in the socio-economic status of 40 percent of the return emigrant households. The long separation from the family members and isolated life in the Gulf creates tension and anxieties to the emigrants who live in the foreign country as well as to their families back home. Nearly 20 percent of the emigrants' wives reported that they had faced problems and mental tension during the period of stay of their husbands abroad. In the case of 17 percent of the households, the absence of parents or head of the household has adversely affected the education of the children. Twenty-one percent of the sample households reported that the migration of the head of the household had adversely affected the character formation of children. Majority of the return emigrants are of the view that they were isolated from the society due to their absence.

7.11 The survey has arrived at the following conclusions relating to the effects of return emigration on locality. Eighty-three percent of the informants told us that a large number of emigrants belonging to their locality had returned from the Gulf during the last two years. The households reported that recently there has been a shift in the destination of migration to Indian cities in the case of new migrants. Majority of households told us that the high wage-rate of casual workers prevailed in Kerala has discouraged the emigration of unskilled categories of workers to the Gulf. Nearly three-fourth of the households are of the view that there is no scope or very little scope for future migration

in the Gulf. Majority of the households reported that there has been a decline in trade, commerce and service activities in recent years due to return emigration. Thus the survey results suggest that the return of large number of emigrants from the Gulf since 2008 has created mild or moderate level recession in the areas or regions with a high concentration of migrant households.

7.12 The survey arrived at the following conclusions relating to the socio-economic profile of return emigrant households. The socio-economic profile of the sample return emigrants households revealed that one-fourth of them belonged to the poor category or Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. This suggests that the impact of migration is too small to make any significant impact on a sizeable share of poor migrant households in Kerala. With a very small holding of land, three-fourth of the return emigrant households are not getting any income from land. Majority of the emigrants are living in small houses constructed prior to 1990 using the resources other than the savings from migration. The monthly consumption expenditure of nearly half of the households is low. Wages of the return emigrants, non-migrant members and remittances sent by emigrants are the major sources of income of the households at present. The households show a high incidence of debt due to borrowing for meeting the expenditure of migration, house construction, medical treatment, marriage etc.

Recommendations

7.13. As 90 percent of the Keralite emigrant workers migrate to the Gulf and as the State heavily relies on their remittances, the return of large number of emigrants will create very serious economic consequences especially in employment, unemployment, consumption, savings and investment and in the general well-being of the people. So, the State as well as the Central Government should give high priority to the issues of return emigration and rehabilitation of return emigrants. Policies should aim at providing credit and other support for providing gainful employment to the return emigrants and relief to those households who lost their head of the household after migration.

7.14. Global crisis and the consequent recession in the Gulf countries is the principal reason for the return of more than two-third of the emigrants. It is likely that the return of emigrants from the Gulf will continue. In this context, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs may conduct a study to assess the changes in labour situation for migrant workers in the Gulf, the scope of future emigration, categories of emigrants likely to be returned, the measures to provide employment and relief to the return emigrants etc.,

7.15. Health issues like sickness, accidents, lack of treatment facilities, unhealthy climates etc. contribute to the return of a sizeable section of emigrants. In order to provide medical assistance to this category of return emigrants a health insurance scheme exclusively for the emigrants may be formulated. Treatment facilities for the emigrants in the Gulf countries may also be provided through the insurance schemes. An insurance Company may be entrusted to administer this insurance scheme.

7.16. The survey results suggest that the emigration has not contributed to an improvement in the socio-economic status of 40 percent of the return emigrants due to higher initial cost of migration, low salary, low saving and brief period of employment in the Gulf. In this context, there is a need to discourage the migration of unskilled, low-skilled categories of manual labourers, female domestic workers and other categories that are offered a job with low salary. Workers may not be allowed to migrate under the foreign employers who are not willing to pay for the onward and return journey and to provide subsidized accommodation and medical facilities to job seekers. Likewise, the migration of workers to those countries which do not pay wages as per labour contract or protect the rights of labourers should be discouraged. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs may formulate a policy of migration of Indian workers to the Gulf.

7.17. As return emigration from the Gulf is emerging as an important issue in Kerala, it is recommended that the State Government takes steps to address this issue. Measures may be taken by the Government to provide employment and credit support to the return emigrants to start self-employment ventures. As the return emigration has contributed to a mild recession in the localities

or districts having high rate of emigration, it is recommended that the State Government may follow a policy to spend more public money to revive the local economy.

7.18. One-fourth of the emigrant households are BPL households. From a very small holding of land, three-fourth of the return emigrant households are not getting any income from land. In this context, there is a need to give special credit support and other assistance by the State and the Central Governments.

7.19. As three-fourth of the return emigrants are employed in low earning categories of jobs in self-employment, casual labour and agricultural activities, they may be provided credit support by commercial banks, co-operative banks and other financial institutions in the public sector. An employment scheme to provide credit support may be formulated for the purpose.

7.20. The emigrants as well as the return emigrants are not aware of the various welfare schemes/pension schemes implemented by the Central Government and the State Governments. The MOIA and State Governments should take necessary steps to enroll the emigrants in the various welfare schemes. Measures to raise public awareness about such schemes should be adopted. Central and State Governments may also initiate steps to implement the welfare schemes effectively and to ensure that the needy people get the benefits.

7.21. The following welfare measures are suggested for the migrant households who lost a member of their household or who became permanently sick due to migration.

a) If a migrant with valid travel documents and a work VISA, dies in the foreign country where he works, due to accident, sickness or any other reason, a onetime payment of Rs. 3 lakh should be paid to the dependents of the deceased person by the Central Government.

b) A migrant who had gone to a foreign country for work with valid travel documents and VISA for work, and had worked for a period of three years and was forced to return to the native country due to a major accident involving physical disability or due to chronic diseases like cancer, stroke, heart attack, kidney failure etc. may be given a monthly pension of Rs. 500 per month till his death. This

benefit should be given on the basis of the report of the Medical Board of the State Government.

7.22. Grants for starting labour supply services of return emigrants: The return emigrants may be encouraged to form labour co-operatives for labour supply to private sector, public agencies and enterprises within the State. The co-operatives may start production or service units to provide employment to its members.

7.23. Grants for starting old age homes meant for return emigrants and old people belonging

to emigrant households: Grants may be given for constructing old age homes and meeting the running expenditure.

7.24. Promotion of investment of NREs by offering incentives and other support: In order to promote investment of emigrants and return emigrants, special incentives may be given for small scale production, repair and service units started by them.

Appendix – I

Interview Schedule

Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Development Studies
Indira Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram-695010

MIGRATION SURVEY

Interview Schedule

Block – I

Identification Particulars

1. District :.....2. Taluk :.....
3. Block Panchayath :..... 4. Municipality :.....
5. Grama Panchayath :..... 6. Ward Number:.....
7. Ward Name :..... 8. House Number/Name:
9. Name of Informant :.....

Details about visits to the Household	1	2
Date(s) of Interview		
Name of Investigator		
Name of the Supervisor		
Time Taken		

Notes: The respondent should be the Head of the Household. If the head of the household is not present, the information should be collected from the immediate responsible person.

Block.2 - Profile of Household (All Members)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sl. No	Name of all Members	Age	Sex	Relationship with Head	Educational Level	Marital Status	Students (Class of Study)	Employed(Occupation)
		Upto15 -1	Male 1	Head 1	Illiterate 1	Never Married -1	Below Primary 1	Self-employed -1
		15 to 60 -2	Female 2	Husband/Wife -2	Primary 2	Married -2	Primary 2	Casual Employee -2
		Above 60 -3		Son 3	Secondary 3	Widow/Widower -3	Secondary -3	Regular Employee in public sector -3
				Daughter -4	Plus Two 4	Divorced -4	Plus Two 4	Regular Employee in private sector -4
				Son-in-law -5	Degree 5	Separated -5	Degree -5	
				Daughter-in-law -6	Professional Degree -6		Professional Degree -6	
				Grand Children -7	Vocational Course 7		Vocational Course 7	
				Others 8	Others 8		Others 8	

1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Unemployed	Old People, Sick	Migrants		Returned Migrants		Religion	Community
Not a single hour work during last week -1	Old People -1	To foreign countries (Name of the Country)	To other Indian States (Name of the State)	From Foreign Countries (Name of the Country)	From other Indian States (Name of the State)	Hindu -1	ForWard -1
Not a day's work during last month -2	Permanently sick -2					Christian -2	OBC -2
	Disabled -3					Muslim -3	OEC -3
	Others -4					Others -4	SC/ST -4

Block No. 3 - Details of Emigrants

18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
SI No	Name of Emigrant	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Educational Status	Month & Year of First Emigration	Country of First Emigration	Prior Economic Status before Emigration	Country in which currently working	Cost of emigration to the present country (VISA, transport etc)	Employment (Category of job)	Category of Employer
		M-1		Never Married-1	Illiterate - 1			Self-employed-1			Regular employed-1	Public Sector-1
		F-2		Married - 2	Primary-2			Casual Labour-2			Casual Work-2	Private Sector-2
				Widow/widowe r-3	Secondary-3			Regular-Employee-3			Piece wage work-3	Establishment of Keralites/Indians-3
				Divorced-4	Plus Two-4			Unemployed-4			Self-employed- 4	Household-4
				Separated-5	Degree-5						Others - 5	
					Prof Degree - 6							
					Voc Degree-7							
					Others-8							

31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
Nature of work place	Location of Work	Working Hours (Number of hours/day)	Place of Stay	Monthly wage received (in Rs)	Monthly amount sent to home (in Rs)	Total amount sent last year (in Rs)	Living with family in the foreign country	When he/she came to native place last time (month & year)	When he/she returned back to foreign country (month & year)	Total number of years worked
Office-1	City/Town-1	8 hours-1	Flat/Part of Flat-1				Single-1			
Shops-2	Rural area -2	8-10 hours-2	Rented room-2				With Family-2			
Factory-3	Isolated place-3	More than 10 hours-3	Worker camp-3							
Workshops-4	Desert-4		Others-4							
Construction site-5										
House -6										
Others -7										

Block 4: Details of Return Emigrants

42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52				55	56
										Job related problems		Lack of Job Opportunities			
Sl. No.	Name of Return Emigrant	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Educational Status	From which country returned	Month & Year of Return	Years worked	Monthly salary/income received prior to return	Exptry of contract-1	Global crisis & recession 2008 - 1	High cost of living - 1	Unhealthy climate-1	Sickness of family members - 1	
		M-1		Never Married-1	Illiterate-1 Primary - 2					Compulsory Repatriation-2	Competition from workers from other country - 2	Low Wages - 2	Diseases-2	Death of family members - 2	
		F-2		Married - 2	Secondary-3 Plus Two-4					Very Low wage-3	Preference given to natives in job placement - 3	Low Savings - 3	Accidents- 3	Children's education - 3	
				Widow / Widower - 3	Degree-5					Non-payment of Salary-4	Illegal migrant - 4		Lack of medical facilities - 4	Others - 4	
				Divorced - 4	Professional Degree-6					Harsh behaviour of employer-5					
				Separated-5	Vocational Course-7					Poor Working conditions-6					
				Other-8	Other-8										

1.															
2.															

57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72		
																Sources of Income (Month)	
Current Activity Status		Employed		Unemployed		Land (in Rs)		Rent, Buildings, Vehcles (Rs)		Pravasi welfare scheme		Central Govt.		Others		If Yes monthly income (Rs)	
Self-employed	Casual Employment	Regular Employment	Last Month	Last 3 months	Land (in Rs)	Rent, Buildings, Vehcles (Rs)	Bank Deposits-1	Pravasi welfare scheme	Central Govt.	Others	Pravasi welfare scheme	Central Govt.	Others	Others	Others	Others	
Trade/Shop-1	Agricultural Labour-1	Private Sector-1	Fully Unemployed-1	Fully Unemployed-1			Bank Deposits-1	Yes-1	Yes-1	Yes-1	Yes-1	Yes-1	Yes-1	Yes-1	Yes-1	Yes-1	
Transport-2	Construction Worker-2	Public Sector-2	Few days of work-2	Employed a few days-2			Other investment Schemes-2	No - 2	No - 2	No - 2	No - 2	No - 2	No - 2	No - 2	No - 2	No-2	No-2
Agriculture-3	Other-3						Shares - 3										
Services-4																	
Others -5																	

1
2
3
4

Block 5: Details of Household

73. Do you have a ration card? 1. Yes 2. No

74. If Yes, 1. BPL 2. APL

75. Area of land possessed by the household (cents):.....

76. Nature of land:- 1. Garden land 2. Coconut land 3. Paddy land 4. Others

77. Is the land ancestral property? 1. Yes 2. No

78. Did you purchase whole or part of the land? 1. Yes 2. No

79. In which year?

80. Income from the land (per year):Rs.....

81. Is the house owned or rented? 1. Owned 2. Rented

82. If rented, the amount of rent paid per month Rs.....

83. Nature of roof:1. Thatched 2. Tiles 3. Concrete 4. Partly concrete 5. Others

84. Number of rooms in the house?.....

85. Floor 1. Concrete 2. Mosaic 3. Marble 4. Tile 5. Others

86. Area of the house (Sq. Ft.):.....

87. In which year was it constructed / renovated?.....

88. Cost of construction/renovation (Rs.).....

89. Do you possess other buildings?
1. Shops 2. Houses 3. Others 4. Nil

90. Is the house electrified? 1. Yes 2. No

91. Fuel Used: 1. Firewood 2. Gas 3. Others

92. Consumer durables possessed by the household:

1. TV 2. Fridge 3. Mixi 4. Washing Machine 5. Computer

93. Do you have a land telephone? 1. Yes 2. No

94. Do you have mobile phone? 1. Yes 2. No

95. If yes, how many mobile phones?.....

96. Do you possess livestock (mention the number)?

1. Cow 2. Calf..... 3. Buffaloes 4. Goat..... 5. Poultry.....

97. Do you possess vehicle?

1. Two-wheelers (bike) 2. Car 3. Auto rickshaw 4. Taxi 5. Other vehicles

98. Does the household have debt? 1. Yes 2. No

99. If yes, amount of total debt:.....

100. Sources of Debt:

1. Banks 2. Chitties 3. Relatives 4. Blade Companies 5. Money lenders

101. Purpose of borrowing:

1. Construction of house 2. Land purchase 3. Purchase of vehicles/consumer durables

4. Education 5. Treatment 6. Cost of migration 7. Marriage 8. Others

102. What are the major items of expenditure of the household?

1. Food 2. Education 3. Medical Treatment 4. Travel 5. Rent 6. Others

103. Monthly total expenditure of the household: Rs.....

104. What are the sources of income?

1. Remittances of migrants 2. Income from land 3. Income from other assets/vehicles
4. Salary/wage of non-migrants 5. Others

Block 6: Effects of migration / return migration in the locality

105. What is the general trend in migration/return migration in your locality?

1. More people have been returning during the last two years.
2. Very few people have been going to foreign countries during the last two years.
3. There has been no change in the trend in migration to foreign countries during the last two years.

106. If people are coming back what are the major reasons?

1. Global crisis and recession since 2008.
2. Decline in wages and employment in Gulf.
3. Forced repatriation.
4. Bleak employment prospects in the Gulf.

107. Whether there has been a shift in migration from Gulf countries to other foreign countries during the

- last two years (Singapore, Malaysia etc)? 1. Yes 2. No

108. Whether the educated prefer jobs in the IT sector in Indian Cities like Bangalore, Chennai,

Hyderabad, Delhi than to Gulf countries?

1. Yes 2. No

109. Whether the high wages in construction and other activities (manual labour) in Kerala discourage the migration construction and low-skilled categories of migrants to the Gulf?

1. Yes 2. No

110. What is the trend in the construction of new houses/buildings during the last two years in the locality?

1. A small decline 2. Big decline 3. No change (same trend)

111. Whether the scarcity of sand and shortage of construction workers affected the construction

activities in the last two years? 1. Very much 2. Not much 3. No change

112. What is the trend in land prices during the last two years?

1. A small decline 2. Big decline 3. No change (same trend)

4. A small increase 5. Big Increase

113. Is it connected to return migration and fall in remittances? 1. Yes 2. No.

114. Whether the return migration has reduced the trade, commerce and other services, activities

in your area? 1. A small decline 2. Big decline 3. No change

115. What are your views about the prospects of migration in Gulf?

1. Small Prospects 2. No prospects 3. Present Position will continue

Block 7: Social and family problems of Gulf migrants

116. Has the migration improved the Social status, economic security and educational level of the family?

1. Yes 2. No

117. Has the migrant's wife been staying in the joint family with in-laws?

1. Yes 2. No

118. While staying in the joint family has the wife and children faced any mental strain caused by family members?

1. Yes 2. No

119. Has the isolated life affected your wife's security? 1. Yes 2. No

120. Has the migration adversely affected your children's education? 1. Yes 2. No

121. What are the problems faced through remote fathering?
1. Lose control over children 2. Children love the mother more

122. Whether the absence of the father due to migration affected children's character and personality adversely?
1. Yes 2. No

123. Do you feel brain-drain and lack of reading habits during migration?
1. Yes 2. No

124. Does migration and isolation adversely affect social life? 1. Yes 2. No.

125. Remarks of the informant about the effects of Return migration.
.....
.....
.....
.....

Appendix – II

A note on the activities of Non Resident Keralites Affairs Department (NORKA)

The Non-Resident Keralites' Affairs Department (NORKA) was set up by the Government of Kerala in 1996 in order to ensure the welfare of the Non-Resident Keralites, redress their grievances and safeguard their rights. In 2002, Department of NORKA set up NORKA ROOTS as a field agency for addressing the NRKs' problems, safeguarding their rights and rehabilitating the returnees.

The present activities of NORKA-ROOTS

Santhwana

Government has constituted a Distress Relief Fund for NRKs called "Santhwana" for extending financial Assistance to the NRK returnees. It is one of the prominent schemes initiated by NORKA-ROOTS. Through this scheme financial Assistance is provided to NRK returnees having a minimum service of two years provided the period after return or death of NRK does not exceed the period of his working in the foreign country or ten years whichever is shorter. The applicant should belong to BPL category or the annual family income should not exceed Rs. 25,000/-. The applicants should not be employed at the time of applying and availing of assistance.

There are four types of assistance under this scheme. The financial assistance to meet the medical treatment expenses of the NRK or his/her dependant family members and death assistance to the family members of the NRK, marriage expenses of the daughter of the NRK returnee and to buy artificial limbs, crèches, wheel chair or other aids to overcome the physical disability of the NRK or his or her dependant. For medical and death assistance the maximum is Rs. 10,000/-, marriage assistance

Rs. 7,500 and for wheel chair crèches and artificial limbs Rs. 5,000 is given to the deserving applicants. Till 31st March 2010, Rs. 77 lakh was distributed to 848 beneficiaries; it was increased to an extent of 1564 beneficiaries till June 2011.

Karunyam

Karunyam is a Fund for repatriation of dead bodies of Non Resident Keralites. The deceased NRK must have a valid Indian Passport and should have been legally residing / working in the foreign country.

Chairman fund

NORKA ROOTS decided that 10 percent of the money collected through the Certificate Attestation Centres would be transferred to a separate account called Chairman's Fund. Applicants should have minimum 2 years of stay abroad and their annual family income should not exceed Rs. 25,000/-. The dependant of the applicant will also be eligible in the scheme. The applicant should not have availed himself of any financial assistance from Santhwana. The rejected applicant from Santhwana if necessary may be considered for Chairman's Fund. Under this Fund, a total of Rs.34.49 lakh has been distributed to 421 beneficiaries.

Certificate Authentication Centres

Norka has set up Certificate Attestation Centers for attesting the educational certificates of job-seekers going abroad.

Pravasi Identity Card

The Non- Resident Keralite Identity Card was introduced in August 2008. The NRKs who have either been residing or working abroad for at least

6 months and have completed 18 years of age are eligible for applying the card. The validity of the card is 3 years. The registration fees is Rs. 300/- per person. The New India Insurance Company will provide an insurance coverage up to Rs.2 lakh to the card holders for accidental death, permanent or total and partial disability of the card holder.

Pre-Departure Orientation Programme

This programme is intended to make our overseas job aspirants aware about general job situations abroad and to impart essential information relating to VISA, emigration rules, employment contract, travel formalities etc.

Skill upgradation training

NORKA-ROOTS have established Skill Up gradation Training Programmes through the selected institutions across Kerala for imparting training to the prospective emigrants. The objective of this programme is to upgrade the skill of young Keralite work force to meet the challenges in the overseas employment market. The Skill Upgradation Programmes under NORKA-ROOTS include Technical coaching, Spoken English, Communicative Skill, Computer Skill & Soft skills

including classes on Recruiting procedures, VISA, Employment Contract, Emigration etc.

Manpower Recruitment

NORKA-ROOTS obtained recruitment licence in the year 2006 from Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to recruit manpower from India to overseas countries. We do the entire recruitment exercise of sourcing candidates for the overseas employers as per their stipulations and lining up candidates for their selection process

Organization of Annual Meets for NRKs

NORKA Department is taking the initiative to discuss various issues of NRKs and provide assistance to solve those problems abroad and in the home country, NORKA-ROOTS has conducted annual meet of NRKs, which will help in the formulation of their welfare programmes.

* Besides, NORKA ROOTS has started a Job Portal for overseas job-seekers. The Companies and employers can update the vacancies in this portal.

* NORKA ROOTS has planned to establish legal cell in foreign countries for giving legal assistance to the migrants.

Appendix – III

Kerala Pravasi Welfare Fund Board

Kerala Pravasi Welfare fund Board was set up in 2009 for the welfare of NRIs and NRKs. It had more than 8000 active members till 2011.

Every Non-Resident Keralite of 18-55 age is entitled to register his name as a member of the Fund. A Non-Resident Keralite (India) above 18 years of age who has left Kerala for employment or otherwise and resides for more than 6 months in a place in India outside Kerala and continues there can register his name as a member. A Non Resident Keralite (abroad) can register his name immediately on obtaining the emigration clearance and before leaving the State. Non-Resident Keralites who left Kerala prior to the commencement of the Act and the Welfare Scheme implemented under it can register their names to the Fund within a period prescribed by the scheme. The registration fee is Rs. 200.

A Non-Resident Keralite (India) who has returned to Kerala leaving his employment or residence outside Kerala and resides permanently within Kerala can continue as a deemed member to the Fund on continuous payment of contribution to the Fund until the attainment of 60 years of age.

The Act enVISAges the formation of the Welfare Fund through contribution from the registered members @ of Rs. 300/- per month as contribution from each Non Resident Keralite (abroad). Every Non Resident Keralite (abroad) member when he returns and settles down permanently in the State has to pay Rs. 100 only. Non Resident Keralites (India) member has to pay Rs. 100 as contribution per month. Every deemed member shall contribute Rs. 50 per month. The Board can avail itself of Fund grants or loans or advances from the Government of India, the State Government or from the local Self-Government institutions or any other institution/ organization. Board can attract donations from any individual or any organization in India or abroad or from any Government agencies in India or aboard or from any other sources.

Benefits to Member

- Pension to members and deemed members who have completed 60 years of age and have remitted contribution for not less than five years.
- Family pension on the death of a member or a deemed member who had remitted contribution for not less than five years.
- Financial assistance on the death of a member due to illness or accident.
- Financial assistance for medical treatment of the members affected with serious illnesses
- Financial assistance for marriage of women members and daughters of the members and for maternity benefit to women members.
- Financial assistance or loans or advances to members for the construction of dwelling houses or for the purchase of land and building or for the purchase of land or for the maintenance of house.
- Financial assistance for education including higher education to the children of members.
- Self-employment assistance to reputed persons
- Financial assistance to members incapacitated to attend work due to permanent physical disability.
- Financial assistance investment in any Company or firm or co-operative society or institution constituted under the Act.

Most of the benefits can be given to the members after completion of a minimum of three years only. Benefits from the different schemes will be active only after 2012. Now the Welfare Fund Board is giving two types of benefits only i.e., Death Assistance and Medical Aid. The Board has distributed Rs. 4, 70,000/- for 33 beneficiaries as death assistance and has given medical aid to only one person (Rs. 24,146/-) as on 11/01/2012.

Appendix – IV

Welfare Schemes of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for Emigrant Workers

Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana

On the occasion of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in 2003, the Government had announced the compulsory Insurance Scheme for the emigrants going abroad for employment. In pursuance of this announcement, a compulsory insurance scheme known as Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) 2003 came into force from 25.12.2003. The PBBY, 2003 has now been upgraded as the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2006 to provide broader coverage to the emigrant workers. The PBBY, 2006 has come into effect from 01.02.2006. The scheme has been further upgraded to provide more benefit to the emigrant workers vide order dated 28.2.2008. The emigrant workers will now get a minimum insurance cover of Rs.10 lakh (instead of Rs.5 lakh) and the policy will be valid for the entire period of employment contract. An additional cover of Rs.30,000/- for the legal expenses incurred by the emigrants in connection with their employment has also been included. The scheme also covers medical expenses upto Rs.75,000 and maternity benefit of Rs.25,000.

Benefits of the Scheme:-

- An insurance cover of a minimum sum of Rs. 10.00 lakh payable to the nominee/legal heir in the event of death or permanent disability of any Indian emigrant who goes abroad for employment purpose after obtaining emigration clearance from the concerned Protector of Emigrants (POE).
- The Insurance policy shall be valid for a minimum period of two years or the actual period of employment contract, whichever is longer.
- In case of death, besides the cost of transporting the dead body, the cost incurred on economy class return airfare of one attendant shall also be re-imbursed by the Insurance Company. The claim for reimbursement shall be filed with the Insurance Company within ninety days of completion of journey.
- In the event of death or permanent disability due to any accident/physical injury sustained while in employment abroad, the Insurance Company shall re-imburse the sum assured even after expiry of the Insurance Policy provided the accident occurred during the currency of the insurance cover and claim in this regard is filed within 12 calendar months from the date of the accident.
- If the emigrant worker is not received by the employer or if there is any substantive change in the Job/Employment Contract/Agreement to the disadvantage of the insured person, or if the employment is prematurely terminated within the period of employment for no fault of the emigrant, the Insurance Company shall re-imburse one-way Economy Class airfare of the one attendant provided the grounds for repatriation are certified by the concerned Indian Mission/Post and the Air-tickets are submitted in original.
- A medical insurance cover of a minimum of Rs 75000 only in case of hospitalization of the insured worker in an emergency on grounds of accidental injuries and/or sickness/ailments/diseases occurring during the period of Insurance whether in India or in the country of his employment.
- The Insurance company shall either provide cash-less hospitalization and/or re-imburse the actual medical expenses in above eventuality, provided the medical treatment is in India.
- Hospitalisation cover of Rs. 50,000 per annum for the family of the emigrant worker in India consisting of spouse and two

dependent children up to twenty-one years of age in the event of death or permanent disability of the insured person.

- In case of falling sick or declared medically unfit to commence or continue or resume working and the service contract is terminated by the FE within the 1st 12 months of taking the insurance cover, the actual one-way Economy Class airfare shall be re-imbursed by the Insurance Company provided the grounds for repatriation are certified by the concerned Indian Mission/Post and the Air-tickets are submitted in original.
- In case the repatriation is arranged by the Indian Mission/Post, the Insurance Company shall reimburse the actual expenses to the concerned Indian Mission/Post.
- Maternity benefits to women emigrants, subject to a minimum cover of Rs. 25,000/-. In case of medical treatment in the country of employment, the maternity benefits would be provided only if the requisite documents are certified by the concerned Indian Mission/Post. The re-imburement shall be restricted to actual.
- A cover of Rs. 30,000/- for legal expenses incurred by the emigrant in any litigation relating to his/her employment, provided the necessity of filing such a case is certified by the appropriate Ministry of that country. The actual expenses incurred will be certified by the concerned Indian Mission/Post.
- The premium charged will be Rs. 275 and Rs. 375/- +service tax, for policy periods of 2 and 3 years respectively.

Pension and Life Insurance Fund

The Scheme

The PLIF scheme aims to encourage, enable and assist overseas Indian migrant workers having Emigration Check Required (ECR) Passports and who have emigrated overseas or are in the process of emigrating overseas on a valid temporary employment/ contract VISA to voluntarily (a) save for their return and resettlement, (b) save for their old age pension and (c) obtain a Life Insurance cover against natural death.

Eligibility

Male and female overseas Indian workers with ECR Passports and aged between 18 and 50 years who are emigrating overseas or have already emigrated overseas on employment/ contract VISA are eligible to join the Fund.

Benefits available under the PLIF scheme:

- a) A Government co-contribution of Rs.1000 per annum in line with Swavalamban for all PLIF subscribers who save between Rs.1000 and Rs.12000 per year in NPS-Lite for a period of five years;
- b) A special additional co-contribution of Rs.1000 per annum by MOIA for overseas Indian women workers who save between Rs.1000 and Rs.12000 per annum in NPS-Lite for a period of five years; and
- c) A special Return and Resettlement co-contribution of Rs.1000 by MOIA to overseas Indian workers who save Rs.4000 per annum towards Return and Resettlement for a period of five years.

Old Age Savings by PLIF Subscribers

Individual workers will be encouraged to save between Rs.1, 000 and Rs.12,000 per year towards their old age in the PFRDA regulated NPS-Lite Scheme. NPS-Lite contributions will be managed by the PSU pension funds as per investment regulations for Central and State Government subscribers.

Return and Resettlement Savings by PLIF Subscribers

Individual workers will be encouraged to save Rs. 4,000 per year to accumulate savings for their return and resettlement in a designated mutual fund under the Scheme. R&R savings will be managed by UTI AMC.

Management of the PLI Fund

Old age and R&R savings by PLIF subscribers and corresponding government contributions shall flow to the designated fund managers regulated by PFRDA and SEBI. The old age savings of eligible overseas Indian workers, as well as corresponding contributions by the Government and/ or employers shall flow to the NPS-Trust Bank and shall be managed by PFRDA regulated Public Sector pension

funds that manage the NPS-Lite assets and shall be invested as per PFRDA investment regulations. The R&R savings of PLIF subscribers, along with the corresponding Government co-contributions shall flow to UTI AMC and shall be invested in a designated mutual fund scheme of UTI and as per the investment regulations prescribed by SEBI.

Individual Bank-Linked PLIF Accounts

In order to accurately map individual worker contributions towards NPS-Lite, R&R and life insurance under the PLIF with corresponding Government co-contributions, each overseas Indian male and female worker shall be issued a unique PLIF account number upon enrolment in the proposed Scheme. The periodic savings of each individual PLIF subscriber, along with the co-contributions by MOIA and employer, shall reflect in the individual PLIF account of each subscriber. This will provide the MOIA also with a central database of PLIF subscribers and a mechanism to monitor the delivery of individual contributions and benefits. The proposed PLIF account number shall also facilitate portability of PLIF accounts to India when PLIF subscribers relocate to India. This will also help produce MIS for the Government to discontinue co-contributions after five years or when a member has relocated to India. The PLIF account number shall be linked to the bank account of individual subscribers as well as to the individual customer IDs or folio numbers issued by the Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA) under Swavalamban/ NPSLite, the R&T of UTI AMC and the life insurance Company. The proposed PLIF number shall also enable consolidated Scheme level Statements to be periodically issued to individual subscribers. A bank account will be opened for each individual PLIF subscriber upon enrolment in the Scheme and the savings of overseas Indian workers under Swavalamban/ NPS-Lite and the R&R component of the PLIF shall be channelled to designated fund managers regulated by PFRDA and SEBI respectively through their bank accounts using an ECS or Standing Instruction mandate. On their return to India, PLIF subscribers would be able to continue saving for their old age through Swavalamban/ NPS-Lite using their bank accounts and the ECS/ SI mechanism.

The pension and resettlement savings as well as the proposed co-contributions by the Government shall thus reflect in the individual PLIF account of each overseas Indian worker. The consolidated annual PLIF account Statement would enable subscribers to review and reconcile their own savings and the corresponding co-contributions by the Government or their employer, and the returns earned on these combined savings over time.

Utilization of PLIF Savings by Overseas Indian Workers

Overseas Indian workers will be able to withdraw their accumulated R&R savings as a lump sum upon their return to India. These savings will provide them a temporary income replacement to enable their resettlement in India. The savings of PLIF subscribers in Swavalamban/ NPS-Lite shall however remain invested in a PFRDA regulated pension fund and shall be returned to them when they are old and as per PFRDA rules. The lump sum R&R withdrawals as well as pension benefits through NPS-Lite shall be paid into the bank account of each individual PLIF subscriber.

Life Insurance Coverage

Migrant workers applying for emigration clearance from the Protector of Emigrants (POE) are mandated to obtain an insurance policy under the existing Scheme of Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY), 2008. However, the insurance coverage under the PBBY is limited to a minimum period of two years or the actual period of employment contract, whichever is longer and does not provide life insurance against natural death to the workers. The insurance coverage under PBBY is limited to payment in the event of death by accident or permanent disability leading to loss of employment while in employment abroad. Under the proposed PLIF, life insurance coverage will be provided to overseas Indian workers so that the families of these workers receive a reasonable compensation in case of death through natural causes of the wage earner. Moreover, while the PBBY is mandatory in nature, the PLIF is based on voluntary contribution. Accordingly, it is proposed that an IRDA-regulated Life Insurance Company would provide life insurance cover to the subscribers. Full accumulated savings in the PLIF along with the life insurance

benefit would be paid out upon death, permanent disability or terminal illness of the subscriber as a lump sum.

Funding

The scheme will be funded by grants from Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India. The grants would be given such that monthly payment in the subscriber accounts would be possible.

Indian Community Welfare Fund-ICWF

The Ministry has set up “Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)” at the disposal of the Indian Missions in all the ECR countries to meet contingency expenditure incurred by the Indian Missions for carrying out the activities related to welfare of Overseas Indian Citizens. Under this Scheme, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs will provide funding support to the Indian Missions in all the 17 Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) countries for the welfare of the workers in distress in the host countries.

The ICWF is aimed at providing ‘on site’ welfare services on a means tested basis in the most deserving cases including;

- Boarding and lodging for distressed overseas Indians in Household/domestic sectors and unskilled labourers;
- Airlifting of mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of the deceased overseas Indian in such cases where a sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and when the family is unable to meet the cost;
- Extending emergency medical care to the overseas Indians in need;
- Providing air passage to stranded overseas Indians in need;
- Providing initial legal assistance to the overseas Indians in deserving cases.
- Providing the payment of penalties in respect of Indian nationals for illegal stay in the host country where prima facie the worker is not at fault;
- Providing the payment of small fines/penalties for the release of Indian nationals in jail/detention centre;

- Providing support to local Overseas Indian Associations to establish Overseas Indian Community Centres in countries that have population of Overseas Indians exceeding 1,00,000; and
- Providing support to start and run Overseas Indian Community-based student welfare centres in countries that have more than 20,000 the presence of Indian students.

Target Beneficiaries

Overseas Indian workers duped by unscrupulous intermediaries in the host countries, runaway house maids, those who become victims of accidents, deserted spouses of Overseas Indians or undocumented Overseas Indian workers in need of emergency assistance or any other Overseas Indian citizens who are in distress would be the main beneficiaries of the Fund. The Fund will also be utilized to meet the expenditure for airlifting the mortal remains of Overseas Indian citizens to India on a means-tested basis, on the recommendation of the respective Heads of Missions. It is also meant for release of Overseas Indian Nationals from detention centres as well as a support to Overseas Indian community centres and student welfare centres.

Scholarship programme for Diaspora children

Launched in the academic year 2006-07, the Scheme seeks to promote India as a destination of choice for tertiary studies by children of our overseas community and thus develop India as an educational hub globally. At present, 100 scholarships are offered to PIO and NRI children for undergraduate courses in Engineering, Technology, Humanities, Liberal Arts, Commerce, Management, Journalism, Hotel Management, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry etc. Over 205 students have benefited so far under the Scheme where the Ministry meets up to 75% of the total institutional economic cost (which includes tuition fee, hostel charges, etc.) within a ceiling of US \$3600 per student per academic session. Deserving candidates are selected through a common entrance test conducted by Ed. CIL (Educational Consultants India Limited – a Government of India Enterprises) in forty identified countries with significant Diaspora population.

Appendix - V

ECR Required countries:

A total of 17 which includes, UAE, KSA, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Malesia, Libya, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Syria, Lebenon, Thailand & Iraq.

List of persons/categories of workers in whose case emigration check is not required / eligible for unstamped Passport

- 1) All holders of Diplomatic/Official Passports.
- 2) All Gazetted Government Servants.
- 3) All income-tax payers (including agricultural income tax payers) in their individual capacity.
- 4) All professional degree holders, such as Doctors holding MBBS degrees or Degrees in Ayurveda or Homoeopathy; Accredited Journalists; Engineers; Chartered Accountants; Lecturers; Teachers; Scientists; Advocates etc.
- 5) Spouses and dependent children of category of persons listed from (2) to (4).
- 6) Persons holding class 10 or higher qualification.
- 7) Seamen who are in possession of CDC or Sea Cadets, Desk Cadets
- (i) Who have passed final examination of three year B.SC Nautical Science Courses at T.S. Chanakya, Mumbai; and (ii) who have undergone three months' Pre-sea training at any of the Government approved Training Institutes such as T.S. Chanakya, T.S. Rehman, T.S.Jawahar, MTI (SCI) and NIPM, Chennai after production of identity cards issued by the Shipping Master, Mumbai/Calcutta/Chennai.
- 8) Persons holding permanent immigration VISAs, such as the VISAs of UK, USA and Australia.
- 9) Persons possessing two years diploma from any institute recognized by the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) or State Council of Vocational Training (SCVT) or persons holding three years diploma/equivalent degree from institutions like Polytechnics recognized by Central/State Governments.
- 10) Nurses possessing qualification recognized under the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.
- 11) All persons above the age of 50 years.
- 12) All persons who have been staying abroad for more than three years (the period of threeyears could be either in one stretch or broken) and their spouses.
- 13) Children below 18 years of age.

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