

**IMPACT OF MALE MIGRATION TO GULF
COUNTRIES ON THE EMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS
OF KOTTAYAM MUNICIPAL AREA**

Project No. 202 / 99

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**KERALA RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
LOCAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT**

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PROFILE OF KOTTAYAM MUNICIPALITY

1.	Name of Municipality	Kottayam
2.	Total area	16.44 Sq. kms
3.	Total population	63,725
4.	No. of Wards	32
5.	Number of Risk population	13,295
6.	Number of women in the Risk population	7,658
7.	Number of SC families	520
8.	Number of ST families	96
9.	Number of NHGs	74
10.	Number of ADSs	07
11.	Number of NRI's families	374
12.	Number of Gulf Migrants households	338
13.	Name of Municipal Chairman	Sri. B. Gopakumar
14.	Name of Municipal Secretary	Sri. K.C. Joseph

A word of Appreciation

Kottayam Municipality is the first municipality that proclaimed to have attained 100% literacy. People of Kottayam town have high degree of quality life. The occupants of the Municipality belong to different communities who live cordially in peace. Mostly people belonging to middle class and high-income group dominate in the town area. There are 1000 and odd families living in the slums of the town. In contrast to the slums in other cities, the so-called slums in Kottayam are found to be very neat and tidy, as if they believe that cleanliness is next to Godliness as Mahatma Gandhi has said.

Acknowledgement

At the very onset I am very happy to submit this project report to KRPLLD. It is imperative from my part to accord a word of thanks and note of appreciation to all those helped me at the various stages of the study. I first express my gratitude and extend my sincere thanks to the Project Coordinator, Dr.K. Narayanan Nair.

I express my sincere thanks to my guides Dr.P.R. Gopinathan Nair, Dr. Iyer and Dr. Mrudula, who are CDS faculties, for their timely help and proper guidance.

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I extend my heartfelt thanks to all Municipal Councilors of Kottayam Municipality, especially to the Chairman of Kottayam Municipality for his kind help to collect details for the study at its various stages. I express my thanks to the P.G. Students of CMS College for their assistance in data collection survey. Also conveying my deep gratitude to all the respondents of the survey for their sincere cooperation, and patience they expressed during the interview schedule.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr.Cherian, Principal, Yashwantrao Chavan Institute of Social Sciences, Satara, Maharashtra State, who gave me continuous encouragement and guidance for the fulfillment of this project.

Constraints

The survey had to face with many constraints. There were only 32 wards when we started the project. But later this has increased to 37 wards. Also, we had to visit most of the houses two or three times in order to complete the data collection. Many of them seemed to be afraid of even talking as if they fear somebody. In the interview, some of them confused us with contradictory statements. People's attitudes have largely affected the results in the matters of family planning, ethical problems and income disclosure.

Many times people were found to be out of homes due to various reasons and those houses required revisiting. Another limitation was locating the routes and spotting the houses, which are scattered in distributions. Despite all these limitations, efforts have been made to make the study authentic, as far as possible. As we couldn't get adequate information from them we had to visit the house again and again and it was painstaking. Moreover majority of the respondents were reluctant to reveal their income for fear of income tax and raids so that we had to assure them that our project is nothing of that kind. Even they suspect us for spying for various departments. 281 questions were given to 100 respondents of the experimental group and 233 questions are given to 50 respondents of experimental group. Thus, the interview was a Herculean task to elicit answers from the respondents for all these numerous questions.

CHAPTER 1

IMPACT OF MALE MIGRATION TO GULF COUNTRIES ON THE EMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS OF KOTTAYAM TOWN

INTRODUCTION

Migration Motivating Factors

From the very beginning of human civilization, the place of origin and the place of destination influence human migration. At the place of origin certain geographical, physical or social factors can motivate migrants to move out. At the place of destination a large number of attractive forces pull the migrants towards the focal point. So many factors act and interact together to cause human migration. There are pull and push factors. Pull factors that attract individual migration are better employment opportunity, education, recreational facilities, housing facilities etc, and push factors such as poverty, debt, social outcast, unemployment, family problems, natural calamities, etc, compel people to move out. Whenever a person wants to migrate, he is put into confusion of migration motivating conditions, and he considers all advantages and disadvantages of a new place. Objectively it is difficult for him to leave the present residence. But the past experience of migrants becomes the guideline for the movers.

Most of the migration studies have emphasized the role of economic factors in migration. Scholars are of the opinion that most of the migrations are economically motivated. Pal B.N. (1974) in his "*Family and woman in Urban India*" (Page 7) has expressed his view that relatively better

conditions of living and better prospects in cities motivate the villagers to migrate. Gulliver P.H. (1977) in his book *“The Development of Labour Migrations in Africa”* (Page 32) is of the opinion that economic necessity is almost always the real cause of human migration.

There are a large number of factors, other than economic and personal such as political, social religious, etc, which play their part and have been analysed by social scientists. Other conditions during the British rule in India also favored migration, such as development of means of transport and communication, educational facilities, the decline of caste and family solidarity, the growth of large scale industries, growth of cities and increase in security. Dhekney in his study of Hubli city, emphasized on the causes, like securing employment, better prospects, better employment or better business chances, famine, inadequacy of land, loss of land, low income, etc.

Although factors governing human migration are broadly categorized into economic and non-economic; in true sense all migration decisions remain economy-oriented factors. For choosing a destination include cost of movement, presence of relatives and friends living with them, employment offers, amenities, population composition, social facilities, familiarity with or, knowledge about the place of destination, special assistance, subsidies, information, reputation, lack of alternative destination, etc. (Sinha V.N.P., 1980, *“Migration ; an inter-disciplinary topic”*)

The attitude of the family members, especially wife and friends on emigration plans, the influence of parents or in laws, position of employment

at home, information about the immigration countries via friends or family members, the desire for social status and better employment consisting of better future of the children, solving household problems like, taxes & loans, etc also influences the migration of a person.

Demographic factors that motivate people to migrate include uneven distribution and growth of population, unbalanced growth of literacy, etc.

Political factors are also significant. International wars and treaties have forced people time to time to move from one region to another, in the form of refugee, population transfer or political asylum, etc.

Kerala state is now facing a problem of migration of men from Kerala to other parts of India and abroad, to earn their living. Under such conditions their women, who are left behind, are forced to do the duties of men also. These women are actually over burdened.

The project “Impacts of male migration to gulf countries on the emigrants households of Kottayam municipal area” investigated the impacts of male migration on the family left behind, especially on female members, in and around Kottayam town.

The study analysed the problems as well as prospects of women in these emigrant households. Also, a well-contrasted comparative study has been done between migrant and non – migrant households selecting respondents from all the 32 wards of Kottayam Municipal area. There are economic, social and psychological impacts as a result of their reversal in sex roles. The study included, how well these women adjust to the new situations thus created; measured the levels of their self-esteem and confidence and the levels of their socioeconomic conditions before and after migration.

In addition to the problems of the migrant’s spouse and children, the parents and elderly also undergo a lot of personal and social constraints as well as advantages. Therefore an analysis of elderly people in such households was also included in the study. The respondents were of 55 years and above age.

Other members of the household such as migrant’s in-laws, siblings, etc., were also interviewed to get a picture of the entire household.

Importance of the study

A number of empirical studies have been already done in the field of migration. Most of such studies are concentrated on economic and social impacts, arising out of labor outflows and inflows, in the Middle East countries. Very few studies were conducted to understand the changing role of women due to male migration.

But only limited studies are available regarding the problems faced by women in the emigrant's households, in India. This is a micro study concentrated mainly on the social, psychological problems of such women in Kottayam Municipal area. This research stands as the first of its kind in Kottayam Municipal area.

Population and sample

The population of the study constituted all the gulf male migrant's households in Kottayam Municipality. We have identified 338 households, which have male migrants, out of 19384 households in the 32 wards of Kottayam Municipality. From this we collected information from 100 migrant households. These households were selected based on simple random sampling method. The household members included in the study are migrants father / mother, wife, children and in laws, if they also share the household. So non-migrant households were selected for a comparative study. The non-migrant households selected are the neighbors of the migrant households.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the changing role and status of women due to male migration.
2. To analyze the impact of male migration on children.
3. To analyze the economic, Social and Psychological problems faced by women and other members of the household due to male migration.
4. To examine the prospects of emigrants households.

HYPOTHESES

1. Due to reversal of roles women are experiencing greater social and economic independence.
2. Income of the migrant families are greater than the expenditure.
3. Due to single parenting, the disciplining of the children become difficult in the migrants' households.
4. Women in the emigrants' households have psychological problems.

CHAPTER 2

METHODOLOGY

1. SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION

Secondary data collection started on 21st October 1999 after completing the preliminary secretarial works. We have conducted an exhaustive literature survey and made the objectives more specific.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Migration of men from India to abroad is a common phenomenon from 1950's. There is temporary migration, seasonal migration and permanent migration. The international migration from India during the post-independence period may be divided into two phases. The first phase took place during 1950's and 1960's. People with administrative, technical and professional qualifications and experience migrated in search of better jobs and prospects. The principal destinations were the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada and on a small scale, to Western Europe, Australia and African countries. The second phase of migration began in the mid-1970's toward the oil-rich Middle East countries. Available information suggests that the migrants from Kerala are about 50 to 60 percent of the total Indian migrants in the Middle East. Kerala also accounts for the major share of total remittances from the Gulf by all the Indians together [1].

“Migration in Kerala State, India: Dimensions, Determinants and

Consequences” is a macro study conducted by K.C. Zachariah. It is the first and latest study on migration taking place from Kerala that covers the entire state and comprised of both the dimensions and the analytical aspects of the phenomenon. Data were collected from 10,000 sample households during March-December 1998. The above-mentioned topic is the first of two working papers being published on the results of the study.

The overall objective of the study of the said study was to analyze the characteristics of migration and to examine its consequences on the society and economy of the state. The expectation is that such an analysis could help formulation of policies for development and solution of problems caused by the phenomenon. The main impact taking place in the migrants’ household are brought through remittances and their utilization. Therefore, remittance is an important intermediate determinant of the consequences. This is also a migration-promoting factor.

One of the priority items of disposition of an emigrants’ savings was improvement of the quality of his housing. A significant part of the remittances are used for the education of their children. But the average number of years of schooling of the members of the non-migrant households is found to be higher than that of the emigrant households.

Sex, age, marital status, education, occupation, community, etc. are some of the factors that will promote migration selectivity. Although the study had covered some comparisons between migrants and non-migrants, it is observed that the difference between migrants and non-migrants is a “mixture of selectivity and consequence”. Therefore it is not possible to differentiate between the two.

Migration involves a minimum of two areas, namely, the area of origin and the area of destination. Thus the study concludes that at a place of origin, the framework of the determinants of migration from Kerala State include four elements: demographic expansion, agricultural stagnation, educational expansion, and the failure of the state level institutions to provide the required support and milieu for growth of the secondary and tertiary sectors in the state.

At the destination, in the metropolitan cities of India and in the Gulf countries, what Kerala lacked in terms of employment opportunities was available in large measure. In brief, migration is one of the positive outcomes of the Kerala model of development [2].

Dr. P.R. Gopinathan Nair in his study on “Return of Overseas Contract Workers and their Rehabilitation and Development in Kerala (India)” gives a detailed account of the Government policies, along with performance and prospects of returned migrants. Returned migrants are in general, middle-aged persons with low levels of education, skills and experience. After return one-half remain unemployed and of the other half, a few retire from active work and the rest enter into self-employment, mostly in the services sector, or get into salaried job, or become wage labour in agriculture or fishing. The study also states that these returned migrants are receiving little assistance from the State Government or any other institution for rehabilitation and development. The socio-political and economic climate in the state has remained unfriendly to investment. Also, there are a variety of constraints such as scarcity of land, segmentation of the labour market, wage rates much higher than labour productivity, militant trade-

unionism, political ideology inimical to the growth of the private capitalist sector and inadequacy of the energy and transport infrastructure. Loss making, public capitalist sector enterprises have discouraged returned migrants from entrusting their savings with Government and other fake private sector enterprises. The study had been concluded with an optimistic hope that the novel experiment, peoples' participation programmes begun for local level developments will lead to immense possibilities of development in the state, by offering new opportunities for channeling the development potential of the returned migrants into productive investments [3].

In the review paper "Dynamics of Emigration from Kerala: Factors, Trends, Patterns and Policies", Dr. P.R. Gopinathan Nair(1998) provides the trends and Government policies of migration to the Middle East from India and from Kerala in particular. In this context, he says that while the Gulf boom of 1973 had provided opportunities for Indians, these opportunities were grasped more readily by Keralites than by persons from other parts of India. As the flow increased so rapidly by the second half of 1970's, many academics studied the various aspects of the phenomenon. These studies were based on micro-level sample surveys of households in emigration pockets in different parts of Kerala, mainly to analyze the socioeconomic characteristics of the emigrants' households. Some other surveys were also carried out by the Government of Kerala in 1987, 1992-93, respectively. The Government of Kerala conducted a sample household survey in the 14 districts of the state canvassing 42,367 households, which collected detailed information on all phases of the migration processes such as volume,

periodicity and disposition of remittances. In 1985, Dr. Nair (1986, p. 38) observed that emigrants normally come from relatively large families. Emigration to the Middle East is a 'chain' process, those already abroad helping emigration of relatives and friends through financial support, advice on job and providing with job visas. The incidence of emigration is found to be largely region and community specific.

Most of the migrants are poor, with few assets at the time of first migration. Majority of the recent studies reveal that it is the not-so-extremely poor and the not-so-extremely rich, who participate actively in the emigration process. But earlier studies had noted that most migrants came from poor, rural facilities (Mathew and Nair, 1978, p.74). Studies indicate the age profile of Kerala emigrants to the Middle East has remained almost unchanged.

The major positive result of Gulf migration in Kerala has been at the micro-level; improvement of consumption levels, housing conditions and the asset levels of individual households.

The Government of Kerala does not have any policy in respect of migration. It does not even keep reliable information about the magnitudes involved, such as the number of migrants abroad, the number of returned migrants, details of working and living conditions in the countries of work, problems faced by their households, volumes of remittances received, etc. It is the Government of Kerala, which benefited more directly from migration than the Central Government. Migration has helped to reduce the proportion of population below the poverty line and improve the standard of living in

thousands of households in an inhospitable domestic environment of stagnant production and incomes, mounting unemployment and serious resource constraints [4].

John P. Mencher conducted a study on female headed / female supported households in rural areas in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. This study focuses on female supported as well as female-headed households. This study is primarily concerned with the question of the survival of the households. Here the study concentrated on the female-headed households not only due to migration only, but due to other reasons too. After selecting the sample into two categories, landless and land-owned, 15 case studies were also conducted to support the findings of the major study.

The conclusion of the study revealed that the existence of land or other assets does not prevent a woman from becoming the sole support and the head in the household. What does play a part is whether or not the couple is embedded in a larger, extended household. In the case of landless, most of them are exceptionally poor, except for the rare case where a son sends remittances. Many cannot compete in the market for agricultural labour because of age. So they survive either working in the home of a middle-class family or begging. There are about 20 million female-headed / female-supported households in India when we take a conservative estimate. They are not all elderly widows. Some are young with small children, some with small children resulting from desertion, divorce, or husbands working away from home. Not all have been female-headed throughout the lifecycle of the household, but many have been for a significant period of time [5].

Mahmuda Islam's study was about female-headed households in rural Bangladesh. Female-headed households are a new phenomenon in the rural

society of Bangladesh. At first the study attempts to identify the female heads of households in the rural culture. Then the study moves on to an analysis of the socio-economic backgrounds of the female heads and their roles in the production, distribution and management of household resources. The survey was undertaken in three villages of Bangladesh during 1987. A total of 62 households were identified. Data for the study were gathered by questionnaire and observation methods. The female heads were induced to participate freely in the process of interview and observation.

For the study, the head of the household was taken to be that member who exercises, directly or indirectly, control over the resources and the earning potentials of the household and who is recognized as such by all the members. The crucial determinant of the headship is the ability to control and dispose of the resources of the household, not the ability to produce those resources. Mahamuda also classified the female-headed households into four categories.

- 1) Households with no adult male member living,
- 2) Households whose oldest male member is living but incapacitated by illness or disability,
- 3) Households whose adult earning male member is gainfully employed but continues to remit money to the households, and
- 4) Households in which the husband is not living but other grown-up members surrender authority and control to the adult female member.

Households headed by women are overwhelmingly poor and landless or nearly landless, and female heads are usually illiterate. They are also past their youths. Widows have the greater opportunity of heading households.

Poverty is the single most dominant characteristic of the rural female-headed households. The female heads usually participate directly in the income-earning activities and are the main breadwinners of the households. Though freed from the control of the male at the household level, female heads continue to be subjected to patriarchy at the community level [6].

In a recent study, conducted by K.C. Zachariah, E.T. Mathew and Irudaya Rajan of Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, it was observed that by the year 2000, there would be an increase in migration inflows and a decrease in migration outflows. According to a data of 1998, out of the total 63.5 lakhs families in Kerala, there are 37.5 lakhs emigrants. This means that we have 60 emigrants from every 100 families. International migration was at an increased rate in 1970's. During the periods from 1988 to 1992 and from 1993 to 1997 there were 120% increase in the number of migrants from Kerala. About 95% of the Keralite emigrants are in the Middle East countries. Of these, Saudi Arabia has 40%, Dubai has 11.2% and migration to United States of America is only 2.2%. Kerala is also receiving a huge amount of money from these Malayali emigrants. 35,304 million rupees were remitted in the year 1998 alone, by these emigrants. The state is also receiving other valuable items like gold, clothes, electrical and electronic goods, etc., through the emigrants [7].

Ms. Leela Gulati conducted a study on migration and the related effects in Kerala, especially the impact of Middle East migration on women and children, in 1973. The study was spread over two neighboring villages on the rim of Thiruvananthapuram city. The study examines the effect of the

migration, on the members who do not migrate, and what happens to women when their husbands or sons work for periods of time elsewhere. 50 migrants from 37 households were identified and surveyed. For the latter part of her study she recorded ten case studies in the form of autobiographies. In this respect, she identified the responsible female character in the household, whether she was the wife or the mother of the migrant. The findings of the case study for generalizations and observations show how the phenomenon of male migration affects the women left behind, how they respond to the situations thus created and what strategies they adopt in order to survive in the absence of their men. She classified the impact of migration in the household into long and short terms. Short-term impacts are those felt by the household immediately after the migrant leaves home, and long-term impacts are those felt in course of a few years especially after the initial migration costs are covered. The impact of migration on a family was a dynamic process, which kept constantly changing with the length of migrant's stay abroad.

With the passage of time, women took on increasing responsibilities for managing the household activities. As a result women's isolation decreases thereby increasing their mobility, which in turn widens their outlook. All these experiences resulted in gaining self-confidence. The study concluded that time seems to be a greater resolver of difficulties for most of the women in whose instances the case studies were conducted. This does not mean that there is no problem at all. But the study shows that failures are less than success. The case studies support the fact that these women are more than capable of dealing with tasks that traditionally men have excluded

them from. In a very few cases she has observed that some of them even take up income-generating activities [8].

T.V. Shekar conducted a study on the impact of male migration on women and family with specific reference to rural areas. He conducted the study in 1990, selecting two villages, one from Trissur district and the from Malappuram district. In this study he concentrated on two aspects. One is the changes in the female sex role in the absence of migrant husbands, and secondly to analyze the changes in the newly acquired roles after the return of the migrant husbands. In his study, primary data was collected from wives of 132 Gulf returnees. The study revealed that the women left behind, adjusted very well to the challenges brought by male migration. Women gained self-confidence, self-esteem and better status within the family. The general assumption that the absence of the husbands may lead to family disruption was not substantiated by the findings of this study. During their difficult times, the relatives provided necessary help. After the return of the migrant husbands, it was observed that the wives participated in decision making, but the execution of major household activities were taken over by their husbands.

Thus migration had resulted in a more capable woman and a better understanding in the family after the migrants' return. This has an important sociological relevance [9].

Status of emigrant women workers from India to abroad was studied by K.R. Lakshmy Devi. The aim of the study was to give a detailed account of the women in the host countries. For this she examined, who they were, type of work they did, the working living conditions, and thus a profile of the socio-economic status of women migrants from India to the Middle East.

Two streams constitute women migrant workers from India, according to her. One is those who are professionally qualified and are better paid. The second one is those who are uneducated, unskilled and employed in low paid jobs. The study was based on primary data collected from 504 women migrants of 8 countries of the Middle East. The countries were selected on the basis of the availability of respondents. The study found that housing was the most important problem, which the migrants face. Majority was unmarried at the time of first migration. Schooling and medical facilities were very costly. Majority of the women in the unskilled category were living alone in the host countries, whereas 70% of the women in the skilled category were living with their families. Skilled category women enjoyed a comfortable living much better than they had in India, prior to migration. On the other hand, unskilled categories like housemaids, ayahs, cleaners, etc., had a low status and got exploited and were abused [10].

K. Santhi's study is about Female Mobility and Gender Dimensions in labour migration in India. The modernization process taking place in developing countries points to the fact that the female mobility is on the increase. This paper examines the labor force participation behavior and earnings of women of migrant households. The households were identified during the course of fieldwork conducted for another project on "Women headed Households". Labor participation is found to be high among women of such migrant households. While majority of women is self-employed, the others are wage earners. Education is an important variable in the earning functions of females. Experience is found to be important in the determination of earnings for men but not so for women. While higher caste men workers earn less than the lower caste men workers, in the case of

women the result was dubious. The study concludes that in the context of rising family migration, urban housing and employment policies need intentional manipulation so as to improve women's status and labor participation [11].

One investigator (name not specified), a cultural anthropologist from the University of Michigan, studied the structure and function of female-headed households in a rural area of Yunnan, China. The study correlates the status and ability of women to exercise independent authority, with rising income levels. Using household budgets, and participant observation, formal surveys of 100 randomly selected households and semi-structured interviews with a sub-sample of 60 households, he describes the role of women in governing household budgets in areas with heavy male labor out-migration. This project is important because it will advance our understanding of gender relations in China and the role of economic development in affecting these relations [12].

Nerina Vecchio and Kartik C. Roy examine female-headed households (FHHs) in the world economy, aspects of their poverty, and the implications of those for sustainable development. Following a general discussion of FHHs in the world community, the report discusses FHHs in two regions of India, one an example of unsuccessful development and the other of successful development. The research is based on fieldwork in five rural villages. One village comprising mostly female-headed households provided a unique case study. The other four villages include both male and female-headed households with a high proportion of female-headed households. The authors found that female-headed households dominate the poorer sections of the community and women's access to resources is limited by cultural,

social and economic influences. Women, particularly those in the female-headed households, bear the heaviest burdens in times of hardship. The authors go on to show that the benefits of Government development programmes have not reached remote areas [13].

Main Sources of Secondary Data

- ★ CDS Library, Thiruvananthapuram,
- ★ Kottayam Municipal Office,
- ★ School of Legal Studies Library, Cochin University of Science and Technology,
- ★ Internet websites,
- ★ CMS College Library,
- ★ Y.C. Institute of Social Sciences, Satara, Maharastra, and
- ★ Subject experts, Researchers, Non-researchers and Stakeholders.

2. PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

We identified all the emigrant households in 32 wards of Kottayam Municipality with the help of ward councilors and municipal officers as a test sample. From this search it became clear that about 92% of the emigrant households have Middle East migrants. Therefore, it was proposed to concentrate the study only on Middle East migrant households.

TABLE 1
Number of identified Emigrant's Households in each Municipal Ward

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Total No. of houses	Emigrant households	Destination				
				Middle East	USA	England	Africa	Others
1.	1	370	10	9	1	-	-	-
2.	2	660	12	10	1	1	-	-
3.	3	515	12	12	-	-	-	-
4.	4	626	5	5	-	-	-	-
5.	5	538	13	11	1	1	-	-
6.	6	648	14	13	-	-	1	-
7.	7	429	10	8	1	1	-	-
8.	8	718	8	7	-	-	-	1
9.	9	905	10	9	-	-	-	1
10.	10	524	17	15	-	-	1	1
11.	11	818	9	8	1	-	-	-
12.	12	1518	21	19	1	-	-	1
13.	13	1275	14	12	1	-	-	1
14.	14	494	6	6	-	-	-	-
15.	15	795	7	6	-	1	-	-
16.	16	516	7	7	-	-	-	-
17.	17	900	9	8	1	-	-	-
18.	18	536	16	15	1	-	-	-
19.	19	637	9	9	-	-	-	-
20.	20	461	14	12	1	1	-	-
21.	21	382	10	10	-	-	-	-
22.	22	401	16	13	-	-	-	2

23.	23	458	17	17	-	1	-	1
24.	24	540	12	12	-	-	-	-
25.	25	374	21	18	2	1	-	-
26.	26	504	12	11	-	-	1	-
27.	27	427	10	10	-	-	-	-
28.	28	419	13	12	-	-	-	1
29.	29	457	7	7	-	-	-	-
30.	30	485	10	9	-	1	-	-
31.	31	657	8	7	1	-	-	-
32.	32	397	14	11	1	-	1	1
TOTAL		19,384	374	338	14	8	4	10

Note: “Others” include migrants to Australia, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Russia, Singapore, Brunei, Italy, etc.

PRE-TEST

A pre-test was conducted with the help of the interview schedule. Members of 14 migrant households from 4 wards in Kottayam Municipality, where majority of migrants’ households are located were interviewed. In the light of this study the questionnaire was modified on the basis of suggestions given by KRPLLD subject experts.

We conducted case studies on 6 migrant families. Suggestions were given from KRPLLD expert committee to re-examine these studies, with the help of a control group. So we conducted 10 case studies from 7 migrant households along with 6 case studies from 5 non-migrant households. These studies included joined families, extended families and nuclear families as well as upper, middle and lower class families of different age groups and

different religions. Each of the experimental group and the control group are well contrasted. This has produced very detailed and sharp results.

The questionnaire was further reconstructed on the basis of the results obtained from the pretest and case studies. Data were collected from 100 migrant households and 50 non-migrant households. The household members included in the study are migrant's father/mother, wife, children and in-laws. [A copy of the questionnaire is attached]

CHAPTER 3

CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDIES OF MIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS

Household No.1.

Lower Class; Joined Family

Case Study 1. Ms. Mariam Mathew, Orthodox Christian.

THE HOUSEHOLD

1. Mathew Varghese – Migrant, 28 years
2. Benny Varghese – Migrant, 22 years

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship to the migrant	Occupation
1. M.V. Varghese	65	M	Father	Nil
2. Annamma Varghese	58	F	Mother	House wife
3. Mariamma Mathew	24	F	Wife	Salesgirl

Respondent: Ms. Mariam Mathew

It was only a few days after their marriage, even before the honeymoon was over, Mathew, Mariam's husband left for Dubai to join duty. Now four years had gone and she is waiting for the arrival of her husband this year. Mr. Mathew is working as the driver of an Arabian family. The Arab employer is not giving him permission to come over the native place. Mariam was married to Mathew when she was 20 years old. She came from a poor village family. Her father is an agriculturist with 15 cents of land as his own. She has two elder brothers and one elder sister. The brothers are working as laborers on daily wages in a near by company. The sister is married and her husband is a painter.

When we visited the household both Mariam's parents-in-law were not around. They had gone to visit their daughter who is staying near by; so we could interview the girl alone.

She has passed pre-degree and took a diploma in computer application. She says her mother-in-law is the head of the household, even though her husband is alive. Mariam's

husband is sending money in his mother's name. If Mariam needs money she has to ask the mother-in-law. But the mother-in-law prefers not to give her money. She had suffered a lot for two years after the departure of her husband. Even during the time when she was sick, she had to ask her brothers for help. Many times she thought of going back to her own house leaving everything. But she couldn't do it because she knew her family is so poor, and she doesn't want to be a burden to her parents and brothers. They were in serious debt and her brothers are now repaying the debts little by little; they have taken the loans for the marriage of their sisters including herself. Therefore, she had no other way, but to pull on with the husband's family. She said, those days after her marriage, she even thought of committing suicide.

She doesn't want to share her problems with anybody, even to her husband. She knew well if she tells anything to him, it will only worsen her situation. So she presented all her grievances only to God. Mariam believes that God Lord heard her prayers. Two years after the marriage she got a small job as a salesgirl in a foot-ware shop in the town with a salary of Rs. 800 per month. This job she acquired with the help of her sister's husband. Now she is trying for a better job. She is a diploma holder in computer application (DCA). She says her mother-in-law is asking the money that she earns even for some or other expenditure. She uses her salary for her personal expenses such as purchasing dress, chapels, medicines, etc, bus-fare for visiting her family and relatives. About Rs. 200 she gives to the mother-in-law. The mother-in-law is running a chitty.

Mariam does not have any children yet. She said she has little leisure time to sit and think. But she always feels loneliness, disappointment, and some sort of fear that she can't explain. But she is not sure, whether the reason for her loneliness is the absence of her husband, because she stayed with him only for 10 days. Every Sunday she goes to the church with her parents in law. Mariam says this is her only relief. She believes the long-term absence of husband can bring negative effect in husband - wife relationship. Her husband is used to talk by telephone with her once in a month. Even at that time she gets very little time to express herself well, since other family members also hear their conversation. The rest of the communication is through letters.

The family has telephone, T.V., refrigerator, tape recorder, and mixer grinder. All these materials were the outcome of the migrant's money.

The family comes under lower middle class category. Since there are two migrants in the household, the family is living without poverty, and their entire primary needs are fulfilled.

As the household is a joined one, Mariam's husband had no savings of his own. Both of the brothers send money to their mother. The mother used to give a share to her daughter, who is living nearby. So this young wife is afraid that one day when her husband returns, they will be in trouble; they would not have any saving of their own and will not be able to set up their own family and assets. The house where they live now, is given in the name of her husband's younger brother, who is also working abroad.

Mariam reads newspaper every day and she is interested in the state politics. The family is subscribing Malayala Manorama daily and Mangalam weekly. Occasionally they buy Vanitha fortnightly. They use line buses and auto-rikshaw for mobility. While going out for shopping or to the hospital, Mariam's sister-in-law accompanies her.

Mariam opined that the society is too critical to migrants' wives, so she is living very carefully. She says she knew, many other girls like her are leading a life of half widows, and their conditions are worse than widows. Even the family members fear of gossip from neighbors and talk ill of them; this is another great mental problem faced by the migrant-wives.

Mariam is of the opinion that, even though she is not getting any personal benefits as a result of her husband's migration, it has brought economic benefits, material benefits and improved standard of living to the household. It was her husband who took his brother abroad.

Since the mother in law is very capable Mariam has no responsibility for the household.

The mother-in-law takes all the important decisions. Nobody, in the family bothers to ask her opinion in family matters. She opined that equal status should be given to women as men in the family. But she had a lower place in the family her only outings other they say job, is visiting her own house ones in a month, and going to the hospital when sick.

When asked whether she would like to send her children abroad, she said she never thought of such a thing till that moment. Having children is still a dream to be fulfilled. It seemed she is disappointed over this. She wanted her husband to come back soon, but thinking of the future, she said there is no other way than his continuing abroad.

Mariam's husband, Mathew has some stomach disorders, and the family is sending ayurvedic medicine for him through people who are returning to Gulf after leave. Mathew's brother Benny visited the native place twice after Mariam's marriage. He is having a better job in a Government Firm, as a supervisor, in Dubai. Mariam is ignorant of her husband's salary. She assumes it may be around 15,000 per month. In spite of all her difficulties, this girl is optimistic of the future and is ready to work for the well being of her family.

Case Study 2. Ms. Annamma Varghese – Mariam's mother-in-law

The next day we had an interview with Mariam's mother-in-law, Mrs. Annamma Varghese. She had a different story to tell. She said she brought up her children with much difficulty. They were in utter poverty when the children were young; her husband had no permanent job those days. She brought up the children by doing domestic jobs for some wealthy households near by. For some years she worked as an Anganvadi Aya; she stopped that work when her elder son went abroad. Mathew her elder son left home at the age of 17. He got appointment as the driver of an Arab family through recruiting agents. He spent Rs. 45,000 for visa and air ticket. Mathew visited home twice after his migration. He got married during the second visit. The boy used to send money in his mother's name. This practice is continuing till today even though he got married. When Mathew returned after his first visit he took his brother who is a graduate.

Annamma with in these 10 years, repaid all the debts including the migration expenses of her children, and got her daughter married, repaired and extended the house they were living in, and bought some gold. Now she is running a chitty fund successfully with the incoming money. When asked about giving money to the daughter-in-law, she responded that the girl is immature and do not know the value of money, and if she gives her money she will only spoil it. The mother said she is looking after her daughter-in-law very well, and also she is spending for all her needs. She is saving the money only for the future prosperity of the family, and the children, especially; they will realize the fact later. Annamma Varghese, is the head of the household, and she manages everything. It seemed she is a very capable housewife as well as mother. She is very religious and goes to church every Sunday and also attends prayer meeting regularly. The members of the prayer group visit her also and these visits are also helping her, to run her chitty business smoothly.

She is of the opinion that it is the duty of children to look after the parents in old age. She doesn't want to go to an old age home. She likes to stay with anyone of her sons. At the same time she is not against old age homes. She believes old age homes are a necessity for this new generation, because she knew many single parents, even sick people also, living alone without any help even though they have children.

Annamma is 58 years old and she is healthy, with out any disease. But her husband is having diabetes and high blood pressure. He is a habitual drinker and when the boys come they bring his favourite brands. Annamma is indebted to her sons for all her life; because of them only she is getting good food, dress, luxury goods, medical facilities, improved status in the society, all and all. In brief Annamma Varghese's household is practically a female-headed one in its full meaning.

Household No.2

Lower Class; Joined Family

Case Study 3. Ms. Rajamma, Hindu, Nair

THE HOUSEHOLD

1. Ajayan, Migrant, 36 years
2. Aravind, Migrant, 32 years.

Sl.No.	Name	Age	Sex	Relationship to the migrant	Occupation.
1	Rajamma	76	Female	Mother	House Wife
2	Madhu	42	Male	Brother	UD Clerk
3	Bindu	38	Female	Siste-in-law	LD Clerk
4	Anoop	12	Male	Nephew	Student

Respondent: Ms. Rajamma.

Rajamma aged 76, lives alone in her own house. She has seven children, three sons and four daughters. Two of her sons are abroad. Both of them are in Saudi Arabia. Her son-in-laws are Gulf returnees. Her second son Ajayan, helped the migration of her sons-in-law and her third son Aravind. Her husband, Mr. Ramachandran Nair, was a freelance journalist, who died two years ago. Now she is getting a pension of Rs. 500 per month. In her own house there were 16 children, out of which only seven are now alive. All of them used to visit her very often. Rajamma's elder son Madhu is employed in Kundara Alind Aluminium factory. He is staying in his wife's house at Palaghat. Madhu's wife Sreedevi is a government employee in the Palaghat Collectorate. Madhu visits his mother in every weekend.

Rajamma says she never interferes with the family matters of her children. If they ask for any opinion, she would give her suggestion. And her sons give all her needs. The sons give her money and the daughters used to bring food items. Her daughters are living in nearby places.

The family is having only 15 cents of land. Rajamma's husband was a drunkard, and he used to abuse her, and often quarreled with her. He earned nothing. He spent each Paise for buying alcohol. Whenever she had objected, she was beaten up. All the four daughters were married. No dowry was given to them at the time of marriage. There is little murmuring for that from the side of the daughters. Rajamma says, after her death, her children can sell the land and divide the money among them.

Formerly, her house was a thatched hut. Now her sons modified the house using Gulf money. They tiled the roof, and the floor was changed from mud to cement. The walls are rebuilt with stones. There is one tape recorder and a television brought from Gulf. She watches the television for one hour daily. She is subscribing for Malayala Manorama Daily, and reads all the important topics. She has no social involvements. She gives her vote without considering any political party. She goes out only for hospital check up, along with her elder son while he is around. Her monthly expenditure comes around Rs. 800 including telephone and electricity bills. She knows very well to adjust within her means. Rajamma says, when the children were young she had suffered so much. Most of the days, she and her children slept with an empty stomach. Now by God's grace everything has changed. The family status also has improved due to the migration of two of her sons. There is no poverty. She is getting good food, good dresses, good medical care etc.

Rajamma said she has nobody to help her. The wives of her migrated sons are not staying with her. They are living in their own homes. These daughter-in-laws visit her very rarely.

Rajamma's second son Ajayan got married in 1992 and he has two children, one boy and one girl, whose ages are five and three respectively. The second son Aravind got

married in 1998, and they have no children yet. Aravind's wife Sobha is a Government School teacher. The elder son Madhu has only one son, twelve years old. This boy is staying with his mother in Palaghat. Madhu's marriage took place in 1987.

When asked about the income of her sons, Rajamma said she does not know the amount. She never asked such matters. Whenever she needs money, they will give. She even doesn't know the ages of her daughters-in-law.

In spite of all these, Rajamma is unhealthy. She is suffering from osteoporosis. Some of her bones have cracks, and the reason is unknown. She opined that this can be due to the poverty; she never got nutritious food in her young days. She says her sons had spent too much money for her treatment. She is facing all types of old age problems, both physically, and psychologically. She feels lonely, depressed, and confused. She doesn't like to go to an old age home. She wants to remain in her own house, even though she is alone.

Household No.3.

Lower Class; Extended Family

Case Study 4 Ms. Sameera Anvar; Muslim.

THE HOUSE HOLD

1. Mr. Salim Aslam: Migrant, 34years.
2. Mr. Anvar Ali: Migrant, 30years.

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship to the migrant.	Occupation.
1. Sofy Salim	28	Female	Wife of 1 st migrant.	Housewife.
2. Sameera Anvar	24	Female	Wife of 2 nd migrant.	Housewife.
3. Fathima Beevi	52	Female	Mother of 2 nd migrant.	Housewife.
4. Syju Salim	6	Male	Son of 1 st migrant.	Student.
5. Shijy Salim	3	Male	Son of 1 st migrant.	Nil.

Respondent: Ms. Sameera Anvar

Sofy's husband Salim and Sofy's brother Anvar are working in Dubai. Sofy Mansil is a female headed household and Sofy is the head of the household. When we visited this household, Sofy was not around. She had gone to the hospital with her son, since he was sick. Therefore, first we had the conversation with Sameera, Sofy's sister-in-law. Sameera is Sofy's brother's wife, as well as her husband's sister. Sameera's educational level is SSLC.

Sameera's husband (Sofy's brother), Mr. Anvar is a driver in Dubai Transport Company. He left his native place due to unemployment. One of his relatives helped him to migrate

He spent Rs.25,000 to cover the migration costs. His first migration took place in 1995.

Anvar learned driving after completing his pre-degree course. In Dubai he is getting the wages on the basis of the distance covered. Every month he is getting an income of around Rs.20,000. He used to send Rs.6000 every month in his mother's name. They bought 10 cents of land and constructed a small house nearby, with this incoming money. For the construction of the house they have taken some loan also from the bank. Now monthly, Sameera has to pay Rs.4000 against the bank loan. Her mother-in-law is a heart patient, and therefore they have to spend money for her treatment. Sameera's mother-in-law is also staying with them. Anvar is always suffering from cough, sinusitis, stomach ulcer, etc. He usually buys his medicines from India, as the medicines are too costly in Dubai. So the entire money sent from Dubai has to be used for expenditures. Therefore the family has no savings at all. But Sameera knows about almost all savings schemes and Insurance policies. Her mother-in-law had joined National Savings Scheme, and is remitting Rs.200 per month.

Sameera's marriage took place three years back. Till now they have no child. Her husband visits the native place once in a year for one month's leave. She has never visited her husband's place. Whenever she needs money she asks her mother-in-law, and she would give. The over all control is there from husband's people. She has no complaint for that. She never spends money lavishly. Only when the husband is with her she goes for cinema or to hotel along with the family members.

Apart from the daily expenditures, for all other purchasing she needs the permission of her Mother-in-law. She doesn't feel that she has additional responsibilities, or her role has changed because of her husband's migration. Every thing is done by her sister-in-law and mother in-law. Sameera says, she doesn't feel that either her decision making capacity increased nor her status improved. She opined that in majority of families, the position of women is still lower than that of men. This must be changed. Women should get an equal position along with the men.

Smeera fears the criticism of others, and she never goes out alone in the absence of her husband. She has good relationships with her in-laws and relatives. For taking important decisions, she consults either her mother-in-law or her husband. She said, even though all are around at times she feels lonely and frustrated. If God gives them children, she doesn't like to send them abroad either for employment or through marriage. She uses her leisure time either to sleep or to watch television programme. She is not interested in doing any creative activities during her free time. For treatment, they consult a homeo doctor. She used to pray at home, and never visits the Mosque.

There exists good husband and wife relationship. Since money is an essential factor for life, she likes her husband to continue his work abroad. Sameera is indebted to her husband's migration. She says, only because of her husband's migration, they are leading a satisfactory life. And also because of the migration, they could be able to buy a piece of land and to construct a house.

Case Study 5. Ms. Sofy, Head of the Household, Ms. Sameera's sister-in-law.

Sofy studied up to SSLC. She got married to Mr.Salim when she was 17 years old. Salim was then working in Abudabi. He is a store keeper, and is earning Rs.16,000 per month. He has also studied up to SSLC. He used to send Rs.5000 per month in her name. He also sends money to his mother, who stays with his brother in a near by village. He gets two months' leave once in two years.

The first child was born to them after five years of their marriage, and the second child after 3 years of first delivery. Both are boys. The elder one Shyju is now six, and the younger one, Shijin is only three. Shyju is studying in 2nd standard in a nearby aided school. She says she has to face a lot of difficulties in rearing children, especially when they are sick. Also she finds it difficult to control the children. When her husband comes for leave he used to say that her rearing of the children is not up to his expectation, and he notices so many complaints about her. But the husband and wife relation is in good terms.

Sofy goes for religious meetings to hear religious talks. Since the family is a joined one, she never feel isolated or frustrated. But she likes her husband to return. The children are not at all obedient in the father's absence. They won't hear to Sofy's mother too. She thinks only the father could control the children.

The over all management of the household is in Sofy's hand. She controls the day to day expenses of the household. There is no paid servant for the household. The elder females do all the household works themselves. Sofy is the one who goes out for shopping, for paying current, water, telephone bills, school fees, etc. Her mother is there to help her. Sofy says she is very confident in facing the problems of life. She feels that she is becoming more and more responsible as days pass by. The migration of her husband improved her decision-making capacity, and made her bolder. We talked to the elder son Shyju, and the boy said he doesn't like his father's return. He gets more freedom in the absence of his father. Sofy says her husband is very strict to the children.

Sofy is living in her own house. This is bought by her husband just after their marriage in Sofy's name, with the Gulf money. This is a single storied house in 10 cents of land. The house has mosaic flooring, two bedrooms with attached bathrooms, a small sitting room, dining room, a kitchen and a storeroom. Fan is there in all rooms except the kitchen and the bathrooms. They have the household items such as television, videocassette recorder, refrigerator, cooking range, tape recorder etc. Out of this except the refrigerator, all other items are brought from Gulf. They have municipal water supply as well as well water.

Their monthly expense is as follows: Provision - Rs.2,500; cloths, foot wear, etc. – Rs.1000; Newspapers and magazines – Rs. 650; children’s education and traveling expenses – Rs.300; donations – Rs.50; water, telephone, and electricity – Rs.800; Total – Rs. 7700. Out of this, her mother used to contribute a share, from the amount her son is sending from abroad. They have no bank deposits now. Also, every month they are repaying some loans they had taken before, for house construction. Sofy says they are satisfied with the money they get from abroad. She is against old age homes. In her opinion it is the duty of the children to look after the parents when they become old.

Household No.4.

Middle Class; Joined Family

Case Study 6. Mr. George Thomas; Orthodox Christian

THE HOUSEHOLD

1. Binu Thomas: 32 years, Migrant,
2. Biju Thomas: 30 years, Migrant,
3. Baiju Thomas: 28 years, Migrant.

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship to the Migrant	Occupation
1. George Thomas	59	Male	Father of the migrants	Ex- military employee
2. Sosamma Mathew	53	Female	Mother of the migrants	Superintendent, KSRTC.
3. Mini	29	Female	Wife of 1 st migrant	Housewife
4. Nibin	6	Male	Son of 1 st migrant	Student.
5. Nikhil	1	Male.	Son of 1 st migrant	Nil
6. Leena	27	Female	Wife of 2 nd migrant	Computer programmer
7. Beena	23	Female	Wife of 3 rd migrant	Housewife

Mr.George Thomas is a returned migrant from Libya. He was working in an international airport in Libya. He worked there for seven years. Then he joined Indian Military Service. His three sons are in Dubai. But Mr. Thomas says that he has no savings at all. When his sons come for leave, there is too much expenditure. When they go back he is in debt. All the three sons send him money regularly, but he used to put it in the bank in their account. He don’t like to use his children’ money. Since Thomas is an employee in the Military, he is getting around Rs. 3000 per month. Also he will get free medical treatment. His wife is a Superintendent in KSRTC, and she is getting a salary of

Rs. 8000 per month. So they have no need to depend upon the children. Thomas says during old age, it is not compulsory for him that the children should look after them. And he is ready to go to an old age home if such a situation arrives. He opined that a day care center for the elder people is a must now- a-days. In his case, it is very boring for him to sit at home throughout the day with out any engagement. But his wife Sosamma reacted negatively. She likes to remain in her own house and to be looked after by her children.

Their house is of ordinary size with marble flooring, double storied with concrete roofing. A sitting cum dining room, three bedrooms with attached bathrooms, kitchen and a storeroom are there. The sitting, dining and the bedrooms have fan inside. The land and the house is in his wife's name. All modern household amenities are there. Mr. Thomas buys all these things from his own savings. When the sons come they bring foreign dresses and clothes. The household expenditure comes around Rs. 9000. Mr. Thomas said the Church committee is exploiting him too much by asking money as donations. He rarely goes to Church. But his wife goes to Church regularly.

Thomas used to drink alcohol daily. Every month he is getting the military quota of drinks and also his sons will bring from abroad when they visit their father.

Mr. Thomas is of opinion that if the husband and wife are living together for long, there is the possibility of conflicts between them. So it is better to have the two depart occasionally. Both the husband and wife are healthy; when sick normally they visit a private hospital for the treatments.

All his three sons are married. The first daughter-in law is staying with them. The second and the third are living with their own parents. They visit their husbands' family occasionally. The second daughter-in law, Leena, after her degree, completed a computer course and is working as a Computer Programmer in Cochin, which is her native place. She is drawing Rs. 2000 per month. The second son, Biju Thomas, is a Post Graduate in Commerce and is working as an accountant in Dubai. He is earning Rs. 40,000 per month. Every month he sends money to his wife. Mr. Thomas never enquires about the amount being received by her. The third son Baiju Thomas M.Sc., is drawing salary of Rs. 40,000 per month. His wife, Beena, is an M.Com. Graduate, and she has a diploma in Computer Programming. She is not working anywhere now, but she expects to join her husband soon. Baiju got married one year before, and they have no issues, yet. Though got married three years before, the second son Biju also has no children. The eldest son Binu, who is a B.Com graduate, works in a shipping company in Dubai drawing a salary of Rs. 50,000 per month. He is the one who arranged jobs for his brothers also, in Dubai. Mr. Thomas' children come to India every year on leave for one month, usually.

Case Study 7. Mrs. Mini Binu, Daughter-in-law of Mr. Thomas

Mini was born in a small village near Ernakulam. When she was only one and a half years old, her father died. Then the mother and the daughter were transferred to her mother's family house in Koothattukulam.

Her mother's brother took their guardianship. Mini's uncle is an agriculturist. He had 10 acres of farmland there. Little Mini and her mother lived in the farmhouse helping the uncle and the aunt. After completing her pre-degree course, Mini passed the nursing course. It was her own decision to become a nurse. Within four months she got a job in one of the famous Hospitals in New Delhi. She stayed with one of her aunts in Delhi, who helped her to acquire the job. During this time she met Binu, was an employee in the secretariat. Soon they got married. The marriage took place in 1993. Binu migrated to Dubai after 6 months of their marriage. Mini returned to Kerala, resigning her job and joined her husband's family. After one year of marriage, the first boy child was born. The second child was born after four and a half years. Her husband visits the native place once in a year for one-month leave. Once she visited her husband's working place and spent there for 8 months. She contacts her husband through telephone and letters.

Even for buying personal things like sari or footwear she needs her husband's permission. She is of the opinion that women should occupy a lower position than men. She feels more freedom when the husband is around. Since her marriage was a love marriage, she has to face many criticisms from her husband's parents. She feels sorry for that. She says if she brings these matters to the notice of her husband, there is the possibility of inviting problems. Now, as such there is no difference of opinion between the husband and wife. Since she is living with her parents-in-law she never felt she had more responsibilities. She doesn't like to send her children to foreign countries either for job or through marriage. In her opinion they should remain in their Motherland. There is job security in our place. Apart from financial benefits, migration spoils the whole life of an individual.

Mini spends her time for bringing up her children and watching television. Her son is studying in a residential school. He is going to school by auto rickshaw. Private tuition is also arranged for him. Binu sends Rs.5000, every month in his wife's name. This money satisfies her own needs and the children's needs. Binu sends money to his father also. Therefore her father-in-law meets all the other household expenses. Clothes and dresses are brought from abroad. So there is no need to buy cloths from India. She has no debt. Mini and her husband have no land or house in their name.

When sick she, along with her mother-in-law visits private hospital. She goes to Church regularly on every Sunday. During times of sadness and frustration, she is used to praying to God to get peace of mind. She is longing to join her husband. Her husband is trying hard to avail a job for her in Dubai. She says the success is in Gods' hands. She added that even though migration has brought them good bank deposits, good education for the children, and other materialistic benefits, some kind of frustration and loneliness still exists in the mind, which she is unable to express in words.

Household No.5.

Middle Class; Joined Family

Case Study 8 Ms. Shyla V. Kumar, Hindu, Ezhava.

THE HOUSE HOLD.

Migrant: Sandeep Kumar, 42 years.

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship to the migrant	Occupation.
1.Ambujakshiamma.	70	Female	Mother	Housewife
2.Shyla V. Kumar.	38	Female	Wife	Housewife
3.Deepu Kumar S.	16	Male	Son	Student.
4.Lakshmi S.	10	Female	Daughter	Student.

Respondant: Shyla V. Kumar

Shyla was only 20 when she got married to Sandeep Kumar, a medical representative, 17years back. She is a graduate in arts. Her father was a police sub inspector. Shyla is the fourth of the eight children in her family. All her brothers and sisters are well off now.

Sandeep Kumar's father was a migrant doctor, who died 13 years ago. He was in Malaysia. Sandeep migrated to Dubai in 1995. He was the Area Manager of a famous pharmaceutical company, and was earning Rs. 8000 per month during the time of his migration. The purpose of migration was to earn more money and to have better life facilities. For migration he spent Rs.40,000 including air ticket. Even though a graduate in computer science, Sandeep Kumar is now working as sales manager in a sanitary ware company in Dubai. Shyla and Sandeep had their first child one year after their marriage. The second child was born after six years.

Shyla communicate with her husband once in a week through telephone. Sandeep used to write letters twice in a month. With in the migration period of six years Sandeep

visited his native place twice. Shyla has never visited her husband's place at Dubai. Sandeep sends Rs.10,000 per month for household expenditure. If there is need for more money, he is ready to send the same. Even though there is not much savings, they have taken L.I.C Policies in favor of their two children.

The house in which they live is in Sandeep Kumar's mothers' name. No modification of the house was done so far. The house has tiled roof with wooden ceiling, and mosaic flooring. There are three bed rooms with attached bathrooms, a sit out, a dining hall, and a kitchen, with modern amenities such as cooking range, electric oven, micro wave oven, mixie, grinder, geyser etc. All these utensils, they bought from Kerala. The television, and C.D were purchased from Dubai.

There is a paid servant in the house. The monthly expenses come to around Rs.10,000

Shyla has complete freedom to spend the incoming money. Shyla says, before the migration of her husband, she never took any responsibilities at all. But, now, since her husband is away, she has learned to manage everything by her self. She feels confident in all her activities. The standard of living has also improved. Now she is managing everything, including the admissions and education of her children, also looking after her mother-in-law. She feels, she has equal status with her husband. She has the same freedom both in the presence and in the absence of her husband.

Shyla is leading a quite satisfactory life. She says she is engaged through out the day, and has no time to sit and worry. But at times she feels lonely and isolated. She has good friends and relatives to help her during the times of necessity. She has difficulties in disciplining her children. She said her young girl child is very stubborn.

Shyla's elder son Deepu is a very good dancer. He has achieved recognitions in district level and state level school festivals. As the mother, she always encouraged her son. Shyla used to accompany the boy for all his performances. She said such journeys are so frustrating for her since she is alone. She also says that sometimes the children might come late from the school, due to some or other unexpected reasons. Such

situations make her tense and frustrated. Shyla is not engaged in any social activities. She used to read newspapers every day. They are subscribing Malyala Manorama daily and Vanitha Magazine.

There are some religious and social exploitation due to Gulf money. In her heart of hearts she likes her husband to return. But when she thinks of money she wants him to stay back.

She admitted that because of his migration, the children are getting good education and training, good food and dress, and high life facilities. She has no objection in sending her children abroad. If migration provides a sound future for them she is happy to accept it. But she does not like to give her daughter to a migrant boy, who cannot take her along with him. This is because she knows the pain of separation.

Shyla is capable of taking decisions. She acquired this capability after her husband's migration. She takes decisions for the family, and then tells her husband. He accepts everything. She is of the opinion that migration has no negative effect in the husband-wife relationship. In the absence of the father, Shyla says her son learnt to be more responsible and supportive to the family. For paying telephone, water and electricity bills, Deepu is helping his mother. She spends her recreation time in reading dailies, magazines, and watching television. They do not visit hotels or go for cinema. The family needs the presence of the migrant to go out for such entertainments. The house in which they live is still in the mother-in-laws' name. Sandeep's father and mother were migrants in Malaysia for years and they had built the house. Shyla is having very good relationship with her relatives and in-laws.

We also interviewed the other members of the household, Shyla's two children and the Mother-in-law.

The children, Deepu Kumar and Lakshmi, are studying in a very reputable unaided school. They go to the school by auto rickshaw. Both of them are happy to live with the mother. The children have very good opinion about their mother's capability. Deepu said his mother is very bold and supportive in all situations. She is also very strict to them.

The boy has much concern to his mother and he says that he is very careful, not to make his mother feel sad since the father is away. They are longing for the return of their father, because only if he is around they can go for cinema, to hotels and have such other entertainments. The father is ready to give what ever they ask and give more freedom when he is around. Shyla reminded, this is because of the short-term presence of the father. If he is staying permanently with the children, he will be very strict to them. Deepu is having a good collection of coins. The father is also helping in the contribution. Lakshmi says, she is getting all types of toys, good dresses, chocolates etc. This she considers as her great privilege, when compared with her friends. She likes her father more than her mother and to be always with him.

Case Study 9 Mrs.Ambujakshiamma. 70 years, Shyla's mother-in-law

Shyla's mother-in-law Mrs.Ambujakshiamma is 70 years old. Her native place is Vadakkan Paravoor. Her husband was a doctor and died eleven years back, as a result of an unknown fever. They were in Malaysia for 25 years. Land, house, household amenities, everything they bought with the foreign money. Now she is having a very good deposit in the bank. Therefore, she needs no financial support from her children. Suresh is her only son, and she has two daughters. The daughters got married and are well off. Ambujakshiamma is happy and satisfied with her life, and says her daughter-in-law is very good, and looking after her nicely. She wanted to stay with her son, daughter-in-law, and grand children till the end of her life. In her opinion, she will not get this much freedom and happiness anywhere else. She does not like to go to an old age home at any time. She strongly believes that it is the duty of the children to look after the parents, in their old age. Whenever she feels lonely, to overcome the depression, she reads Ramayana, and Bhagavath Geetha.

Ambujakshiamma is now healthy enough to look after herself. Her daughters visit her every month. Every day she goes to the nearby Temple. As such she has no disappointments in life. Occasionally she watches television. She has no involvement in any social or cultural activities. She only wants to remain at home with prayers, till the end of her life.

Household No.6.

Middle Class; Nuclear Family

Case Study 10 Ms. Solly Thomas, Jacobite Syrian Christian.

THE HOUSEHOLD

Migrant: Thomas Babu, 50 years.

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship to the migrant	Occupation
Solly Thomas	42	Female	Wife	Entrepreneur
Neena	18	Female	Daughter	Student
Reena	16	Female	Daughter	Student
Geena	13	Female	Daughter	Student
Githin	8	Male	Son	Student

Respondent: Mrs. Solly Thomas

Mr. Thomas is the manager of a shipping company in Muscat. He is a commerce graduate. His first migration to the gulf country took place in 1969. He is the eldest one in the family of seven children. He migrated to the Gulf in order to look after the family. It was his uncle who took him abroad, and his uncle met the traveling expense. He traveled seven days by ship and reached Bahrain. He worked there in a hardware shop for two years. Then he went to Muscat and joined the shipping company.

Solly was born in a village called Ranni in Pathanamthitta district. Her father was a tea maker in Peerumedu tea estate, and the mother was Head Mistress in a Government High School. Solly did her B.Sc. Degree in B.C.M. College, Kottayam. After the degree course, she went for Laboratory Technician course. This was her self-decision. Many of her friends and her parents' relatives were abroad. Therefore, she also had a great desire to go abroad and earn money.

In 1978 October, Solly got married to Mr. Thomas Babu. He was in Muscat during the time of marriage. Three months after the marriage he went back to Muscat. Till 1981 Solly worked in a private bank in Kerala. In 1981 she joined her husband in Muscat. After one and a half years the first child was born. Now she has four children, three daughters and one son.

In 1994, when the Kuwait - Iraq war broke out they sent their children back to India. These children were put in a boarding school and during the vacations the children used to stay with some of their friends. Both hers' and her husbands' brothers and sisters are all in Gulf countries, so there was no relative in the native place to look after the children. Sollys' mother-in-law was also too old to take care of the children.

Solly returned to India in 1996, leaving her husband back in Muscat, to look after the children. The female children experienced some sort of abuse from one of the family friends. Actually, Solly returned due to this reason. Now the elder daughter is studying for engineering in Coimbatore. The younger children are studying in a Residential School, at Kottayam in 11th, 9th and 3rd standards, respectively.

Solly communicates with her husband through telephone. Her husband telephones her every Friday. He rarely writes letters. Mr. Thomas is now getting a salary of Rs.65,000 per month. He is sending money regularly once in a month. He knows about all the savings plans. The family has no debts. They own a good house and 14 cents of land in a good residential area in Kottayam town. The house has mosaic flooring, concrete roof, fan in all the rooms, attached bathrooms for all the three bedrooms and a kitchen with every modern facility. The house is well furnished; TV with cable connection, VCR, CD player, computer with internet connection, etc. are all available. Mr. Thomas visits his native place once in 18 months, on two months leave.

Solly says, her husband has too little savings. As the eldest son in the family, he had to take care of his mother, brothers, and sisters during the early years of his earning times.

The father of Mr. Thomas, died some years before their marriage. It is Solly's husband who gave money for the marriage of three of his sisters. Now also he sends money to his mother. Solly has no objection for this. She said her husband helped so many people financially, and also helped many others to reach the Gulf countries for jobs. This is a matter of self-satisfaction and fulfillment, even though they couldn't save much money. During the early years after their marriage, her in-laws used to ill-treat her. She stayed with them for two years before joining her husband. But now she has good relationship with her husband's family.

Solly has full freedom of spending the remittances, as she likes. Formerly, she used to spend money lavishly as she did not know the value of money. If she goes to a bakery, she would buy as many items she could carry. The fishmonger and the auto drivers also used to cheat her by demanding more money. Once, the coconut plucker cheated her by taking Rs.75, instead of Rs.5. But very soon she learned how to adjust to such situations. Now she is very careful about spending money. She is aware of the fact that there should be financial security, as the children are growing up. Her husband may also return at any time, since the service conditions in the Gulf countries are unpredictable. More over Mr. Thomas is having blood pressure.

When asked about recreation, she said that usually she goes out for seeing cinema along with her children. She spends money for daily expenditures without consulting anybody. Only for purposes for which large sums of money are needed, she consults her husband. In all other situations, including the education of her children, she is taking decisions of her own.

She has very active social involvements. She is the President of the Residents Association, of their locality. She has political interests, but no political membership. Solly says, because her husband is a migrant and she is interacting socially with other

people, she has to face too much criticism from her neighbors. Some of them are even jealous. But she is not at all bothered about such situations. She has two close friends to help her during times of difficulty.

She strongly suggests that women need equal status with men. She is the sole person, doing everything, determining everything, and managing everything in her family. A sort of self-confidence developed in her. She also trained her children to live boldly, and how to respond to situations, since her friends cheated them.

Solly is running a clinical laboratory attached to her house. The clinic is offering mobile service also, to households. One male technician and two female workers are employed in the clinic. This is another source of income for the family. She uses this money for their day today expenditure, and a major share of the incoming money from abroad, is saved.

Solly has a family doctor as well as a family advocate, to consult various matters, which is a relief for her. She travels by line bus. Her children also go to school by line bus. All of them have tuitions. All the things are being bought from the native place itself. When enquired whether she would like to send her children abroad, she responded that if migration helps them to built up a bright future, she is ready to send them abroad. When asked about giving her daughters to migrant boys, who cannot take these girls along with them, she hesitated. She does not want her daughters to repeat her own experience.

Even though she is always engaged in one way or the other, she says she feels some kind of loneliness. She said she does not know to express why. She is religious, used to read Bible regularly and participate in all the meetings of the Church.

Solly is experiencing communication gap between herself and her husband because he is staying away. To her, it is better to live together. But to be practical, and looking through the financial viewpoint and the security of the children, she is ready to bear all such inconveniences.

For the children, they said they are missing their father too much. And also they say, their Pappa will give them more freedom than their mother. When the children converse with their own friends, they get the real pain about the absence of their father. But they know very well that, for every thing they have, they are indebted to their fathers' migration.

Solly says that the migration of her husband helped to develop her decision making capacity, self esteem, self confidence, boldness and improved her status in the family as well as in the society.

Actually Solly Thomas' family was a middle class one before migration, and now the family has risen to an upper middle class status.

Household No.7.

Upper Class; Nuclear Family

Case Study 11. Mrs. Geetha Vijayakumar, 38 years, Hindu, Nair.

HOUSEHOLD

Migrant: Mr. Vijayakumar, 41 years.

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship to the Migrant	Occupation
Ms. Geetha Vijayakumar	38	Female	Wife	Housewife
Master Vishnu	13	Male	Son	Student
Ms. Lakshmi	10	Female	Daughter	Student
Mr. Raghu	30	Male	Brother-in-law	Business
Mr. Govindan Nair	76	Male	Father-in-law	Nil

Respondent: Ms. Geetha Vijayakumar

Mr. Vijayakumar, an engineering graduate with MBA, had a good job with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Assam. He resigned his job and migrated to Dubai in 1983. He had been well off before his migration. He joined Dubai Petroleum Company. The traveling expenses were borne by the company. Today he is earning Rs.1.5 lakhs per month.

Mr. Vijayakumar belongs to a village called Kumbanad in Pathanamthitta district. His father had been an estate manager in Malaysia for several years, and he expired fifteen years before. His seventy-seven year old mother is staying alone in the family house in Kumbanad. Mr. Vijayakumar has five sisters and two brothers, who are all married and well off in various parts of the world, and the mother is financially sound and requires no financial support from her children.

Ms. Geetha, hailing from Kumarakom about 15 kilometers from Kottayam town, got married to Mr. Vijayakumar in 1985. The marriage was an arranged one, but Geetha had intended to marry only a migrant. Mr. Vijayakumar works in an offshore rig. The couple lived together in Dubai for ten years after the marriage. The first child was born 18 months after the wedding, and the second child after another three years. In 1995 Ms. Geetha returned to Kottayam to provide better education for their children.

Now Mr. Vijayakumar has to stay in the workplace for a period of four weeks and then he returns to India for a leave of four weeks. In 1994 they bought 34 cents of land in a very good residential area of Kottayam town and built a luxurious concrete house having a/c rooms, wood paneling & ceiling, and marble, porcelain and granite flooring. The house has four bed-rooms, all with attached bathrooms having geysers, bath tub, etc. There is a beautiful garden and a tennis court in the courtyard. The house has paid-servants to look after the various jobs in the house.

Ms. Geetha, who is a graduate in arts, is leading a very luxurious and comfortable life. She says that she is not experiencing any loneliness at all. In her husband's absence, her father or brother is used to stay with her family. They are always extending a helping hand in times of need. She is having an air-conditioned car, which she drives herself, also. The husband sends money in the wife's name. Whether the husband is around or not, she has the full freedom of spending money. She, with her brother and children, visits hotels, goes for cinema and for shopping. They buy gold ornaments and expensive clothes by themselves. But she hesitates to go out alone in her husband's absence; only in emergency situations she ventures out alone.

She is of the opinion that the absence of her husband made her more courageous, improving her decision-making capacity and self-esteem. She feels that she has an improved status in the society. She does not have any social activities or involvement in politics of any kind. She opined that the females of the migrant families normally get criticized in various ways by a section of the society, but she is least bothered about any such remarks or gossips. Since the husband is visiting her every alternate month, she said there is no feeling of separation. She can also visit him whenever she wishes, since the family has a very good financial background.

The children, Vishnu and Lakshmi, are studying in a highly expensive and reputed school in the town named Pallikkoodom, only meant for upper class families. As the school is against tuitions, the father is teaching the children while he is around. Special classes are arranged for children in classical music, western music, and dance at home.

Geetha says, disciplining the children is very difficult for her while the husband is away. Even if she is experiencing full freedom all the times, she is of the opinion that women's status should remain below that of men. For consulting a doctor for health problems they used to visit the doctor at his residence. If there is any serious health problem, they visit the private hospital. Vijayakumar is having slightly high blood pressure, and Geetha is suffering from arthritis. The family spends Rs.25,000 to 30,000 per month for day today expenditures. They used to buy all cloths from India itself. Geetha agrees that they are leading a luxurious life; this is because there is money. They are regularly subscribing the following dailies, weeklies and magazines: Hindu, Malayala Manorama, Mathrubhoomi, India today, Manorama weekly, Vanitha, and Readers Digest.

Geetha contacts her husband through telephone and e-mail. Luckily, Vijaya Kumar was around while we were interviewing the household members. He participated in the discussions willingly and contributed some of his outlooks. He said they are leading a very happy and successful married life. In his opinion the separation helped them to be closer. If the husband and wife live together all the 365 days of the year, it is not possible for them to realize the value of togetherness. Therefore, short-term absence is appreciable. He is also hesitant to comment about long-term absence.

He says that most of the single men abroad are suffering from heart ailments as well as high blood pressure, diabetes and stomach disorders. These may be due to increased anxiety, worry, tension and pain of separation.

Vijayakumar helped many of his friends and relatives in securing good jobs abroad and he believes it is by God's grace he has done all these things. This is a fact of his mental satisfaction. Geetha is having good relationships with her in-laws and relatives. The children like father's presence because he takes them for outings while he is around. They are also aware that the fathers' migration has brought them good life facilities, good education, and a high status in the society. Briefly, Geetha and her children lead a very comfortable life on behalf of the migrant Mr. Vijayakumar.

CASE STUDIES OF NON-MIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS

Household No.1.

Lower Class; Joined Family

Case Study 1. Ms. Sainaba Syed, 70 years, Muslim.

THE HOUSEHOLD

Non-Migrant: Shaji Syed, 50 years.

Name	Age.	Sex.	Relationship to the non-migrant	Occupation.
1. Shaji Syed.	50	Male	Son.	Laborer
2. Fathima Beevi.	45	Female.	Daughter-in-law.	Housewife.
3. Basheer Syed .	48	Male.	Son.	Laborer.
4. Shahidha Basheer.	46	Female.	Daughter-in-law.	Housewife.
5. Shani Syed.	44	Male	Son	Laborer
6. Manju Shani	40	Female	Daughter-in-law	Housewife
7. Pareeth Syed.	39	Male	Son	Laborer.
8. Nazema Beevi	34	Female	Daughter-in-law	Housewife
9. Razzak Syed	33	Male	Son	Laborer
10. Sameera Beevi	25	Female	Daughter-in-law	Housewife
11. Sulai Syed	30	Male	Son	Laborer
12. Abu Syed	28	Male	Son	Laborer
13. Anvar Syed	26	Male	Son	Laborer
14. Meera Basheer	17	Female	Granddaughter	Nil
15. Sidhik Basheer	15	Male	Grandson	Student
16. Suman Shani	15	Male	Grandson	Student
17. Geena Shani	12	Female	Granddaughter	Student
18. Nazrene Pareeth	7	Female	Granddaughter	Student

Respondant: Mrs. Sainaba Syed

Kuttikkal is a female-headed non-migrant household. 70-year-old Sainaba is the head of the household. Her husband Syed Muhammad died seven years ago leaving ten sons and one daughter. The daughter aged 46 was married to a tapping worker, by paying dowry while the father was alive.

The fifth son, once had gone to gulf by paying Rs.27,000 for visa through an agent. He was cheated there. He worked in the Gulf for six and a half years without any salary. He got only

meals and medicine. By the mean time the interest on his debt came up. Because of this debt he hesitated to come back to India. He couldn't find another job there. So after six years he returned to Kerala in deep debt. Now he is living in his wife's house. He has three cents of land and a small house in Thenganal, a village near Changanasherry in Kottayam district. This is his wife's share. All his household expenditures are borne by his in-laws. He is leading an idle life. Any time he needs money he asks to his wife's sister's husband.

All the other nine sons of Sainaba are casual laborers. The seventh son along with his wife and children are living in a house near the family house. All the others are living together in a hut consisting of one room and a kitchen. During nights the male members sleep outside the house, thus adjusting themselves.

Sainaba's husband was in military service. So she enquired to the officials whether she can avail a pension. They answered that since she had ten male children, she is not eligible for a pension. Any way, now she is getting Rs.140 per month as pension. Her sons used to give her Rs.1000 per month for household expense. With that money they are leading a quite satisfactory life. Sometimes they may not even have enough food, but they are managing. Sainaba's younger daughter-in-law knew stitching very well. But the family does not have enough money to buy a sewing machine. They are not interested in taking any loan for this purpose. Sainabha doesn't like to send her daughter-in-law outside the house for a job.

Though Sainaba has ten grown up boys, and even some of them got married, she still remains as the head of the family. All her children including the daughters-in-law, obey their mother's words. For every major decision, she gives the final word. These sons, all belong to different political parties. Sainaba also has some involvements in politics. Two of her sons passed SSLC, but they discontinued their studies due to financial problems. Her other children had studied up to sixth or seventh class and then discontinued. Sainabha is illiterate.

Sainaba is suffering from asthma and arthritis. For consulting a doctor, she goes to the Government District Hospital. She likes to live with her children till the end of her life. She does not like to live in an old-age home. She had heard of old-age homes, but never visited one. The family is not subscribing to any newspapers or magazines. The house is electrified, and there is a black and white television in the house. During evenings the family members gather in front of the television. They are used to watching the television till 11 pm. in the night. They are depending on municipal pipeline for water. There is one public water tap in front of their house from which they are collecting water.

Sainaba is of the opinion that women's position should be below that of men. She says, she became capable only after the death of her husband. Now she is bold enough to face any adverse situation.

The family has only two cents of land and a small hut in it. There is no debt and also no savings. They are leading a very restricted life. They buy clothes once in a year during the

Ramsan festival. There are no luxuries such as cinema, hotel food, etc. For buying vegetables and stationery Sainaba herself is going out. Sainaba said, through out the day she is busy with her work, and also surrounded by her children and grand children, she has no time to worry. And also she has no feeling of loneliness.

Case study 2. Interview of the Daughters-in-law of Ms. Sainaba

We had a friendly talk with Sainaba's five daughters-in-law. All of them have only good opinion about their mother-in-law. They said it is only the efficiency of the mother that the household is run very smoothly. Her mind and eyes reach everywhere and on everything. She considers all the daughters-in-law alike and without any partiality. Their husbands give money to Ms. Sainaba and she satisfies all their needs including their dress. Sometimes their relatives or friends bring food and clothes on festival occasions. Whatever they get, they share these among themselves uniformly. Everything in the household belongs to all; that is their feeling. These girls are satisfied with the present state of affairs in the family.

All the female members of the family have the opinion that the status/ position of women should be lower than that of the men-folk.

The youngest daughter-in-law, Sameera Beevi knows stitching and she is willing to work somewhere. But, she says, the mother-in-law does not want her to go out and earn money for the family, and she is not unhappy over this attitude. According to her, the mother knows better and it is her duty to obey her. The mother is doing everything for the progress of the family. During the daytime they get engaged in household activities such as cooking, washing and bringing water from the public tap for drinking and cooking. In the evening they gather together for the prayer. After this religious ritual they watch TV and take the little food they have. They have no time to sit idle, think or worry; they have no feeling of loneliness at all.

None of the daughters-in-law have taken precautions related to family planning and birth control. The children they have, are obedient, but much backward in their studies. No private tuitions are arranged for them. They are studying in a Government School nearby. They trek to school; at noon they take food from the school, through the free noon meal programme. As it is a joined family the children are getting good supervision and these children have fear, and respect for the grand mother rather than to their fathers. The daughters-in-law said that they have no mental tensions or psychological problems. The husband – wife relationships are also somewhat good for all the couples. Even though they have financial difficulties, they are coping up with the situation. The young housewives sometimes quarrel with their husbands, but mostly only for silly things, which is usual or common in all families. Only on very rare occasions they go outside the house, such as for marriages, to see newborn babies of their relatives, for funerals, visiting their parents, or going to the hospital when sick.

They have solidarity for different political parties and cast their votes according to the opinion of their husbands. The mother-in-law has her own view regarding voting in elections. The children would not interfere in this regard.

None of them have land or house property in their names. The only possession the ladies have as their own is the gold 'thaali' with the thin chains around their necks and the earrings. All of them had brought some gold ornaments like necklace, bangles, earrings, etc, as part of their dowry at the time of their marriage. But, during times of financial crises, they were forced to sell off these valuables. The sixth daughter-in-law Manju Shani said she sold her bangles to meet the expenses of her second delivery.

Their only sister-in-law, Nazeera, is used to visit the household at least once in a month to see her mother, brothers, and their families. She herself has two grown up children. At times Nazeera brings sweets and dresses for the children in the family.

Four of the brothers are yet to get married. The main problem they face is the scarcity of space, since now itself the house is fully occupied. The small children usually go to the house of one of their brothers-in-law, who is staying nearby, to sleep at night; this also they do in turn, so that the host would not get annoyed.

Mrs. Sainaba's family can be considered as a "model" with eighteen members living together, happily, in the midst of poverty and emptiness, but at the same time, bound together with the strings of love, compassion and cooperation – a type of relationship that is getting vanished from our society these days.

Saiaba's is a female - headed household, and one can see in her a very capable, efficient, bold, determined woman, and, at the same time, a loving, caring and kind mother. Mrs. Sainaba, thus, attains a superior status, which no man can achieve.

Household No.2.

Lower Class; Nuclear Family

Case Study 3. Ms. Betty Varghese, C.S.I. Christian.

THE HOUSE HOLD.

Non-Migrant: Babu Varghese, 47 years.

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship to the Non-migrant.	Occupation
1. Betty Varghese	41	Female	Wife	House- wife
2. Anoop Varghese	19	Male	Son	Student
3. Elsy Varghese	14	Female	Daughter	Student

Respondant: Mrs. Betty Varghese

Betty is a housewife and the mother of two children. Betty had her education in an Aided School in Kottayam. After passing S.S.L.C, she joined for pre-degree course as a private student in a tutorial college in the same town. Her parents are agriculturists and also running a medical store in Wayanadu. She is the youngest in her family. She has two elder brothers and one sister. The sister is now in USA. The brothers are businessmen. Her parents are leading a quite satisfactory life.

Betty was married at the age of 21. During the time of marriage proposal, the broker told that the boy was an engineer in a ship. Only after the marriage Betty's family came to know that they were cheated. Actually he had studied only up to 8th standard. He had some petty job in the ship. After marriage he never went for the job. Betty's parents gave him one lakh rupees as dowry. This money he used for the repayment of his and his family's debts. With the remaining money he tried some business and that also ended in a debt crisis. This was 20 years back.

All were drunkards in her husband's family including her husband Babu. There were some problems of adjustment, so that immediately after marriage Betty lived with her parents. At that time the first child was born to her. The birth of the first boy child took place within one year after marriage.

After four years they shifted to a house of their own in Kottayam town. They are living there till now. In 8 cents of land, there is a house with concrete roof, and mosaic flooring. There are three bedrooms, one small sitting room, store, kitchen and a dinning rooms. One bedroom has an attached bathroom. Fan is there in all rooms including kitchen.

Now the house and land are in debt and the family is expecting a confiscation of these properties; a case exists in the courts in this regard.

Since her husband is a drunkard, she has to face a lot of difficulties. Now he is working in

a private chit fund as the money collector. Formerly he started a hotel, but ended in failure. He will not remain in one job for long. He does not like to work. All he wants to do is to go around in the town, and to give company to his friends for drinking and playing cards.

Betty's elder son was studying in +2 class and the younger daughter is in the 9th standard. Both are studying in aided schools. They have tuitions only for Mathematics. Betty says it is little bit difficult for her to manage her son Anoop. But in the evenings when the father comes home the boy will become quiet. The father used to beat him mercilessly without any reason. We enquired to the children about their relationship with their father. Anoop said he is more attached to his mother. He usually never interacts with his father, when his father comes drunk. Betty's daughter Elsy said she likes her father at

certain times. Betty says her husband gives some special consideration to the daughter, and behaves as if he hates his son. The daughter asks at first everything to her father even though only occasionally he will give her what is needed for her. Elsy says that when she was young, she felt sorry for the behavior of her father. But now she feels nothing. Usually the father does not enquire about the studies of the children. Anoop said that even their father is not aware of in which classes his children are studying. It is the mother who is satisfying all their educational needs.

The husband-wife relationship is not a smooth one. When comes home drunk, Babu calls her all bad names and abuses her. He also beats her regularly. He used to give her Rs.3,000 every month for household expenditure. This amount is not enough to cover all expenses. So during leisure time Betty will engage in some income generating activities such as stitching, pickle making, rabbit rearing etc. She wastes no time. Betty says they need Rs.2500 to buy household items such as milk, meat, fish, rice, vegetables etc, excluding other day today expenditures such as children's education, bill payments, donations, traveling expenses, etc.

On all Sundays Betty along with her children goes to the Church. She is also an active member of women fellowship in the Church. Also she will participate in almost all the meetings in the Church. But her husband does not go to Church or read the Bible. On the other hand, he spent so much money for consulting astrologers.

Betty reads newspaper daily. She is interested in political news. For all the elections she cast her votes for those candidates whom she likes, without looking into the political party. They are subscribing Malayala Manorama daily and the fortnightly Vanitha.

When asked about recreational activities, she said, very rarely they may go for cinema. But for exhibitions and sales-melas she goes with her children. School admissions, purchasing dress materials, paying bills, bank dealings, etc are managed by Betty. For medical checkup they visit the doctor in the government hospital, and also some times they try homeopathy. They have tape recorder, television with cable connection, refrigerator, vacuum cleaner, etc. They have an auto- rickshaw that runs as taxi. When asked whether she likes to send her children to foreign countries, she said she is hundred percent ready for that. Even she does not hesitate to give her daughter to a boy who is

abroad, even though he can't take her with him. She opined that financial stability plays an important role in family peace. She has a plan in her mind to send her son to USA along with her sister who is in America.

Now the family is in deep debt and she does not know how to clear her debts. Betty has a broken relationship with her husband's family. Her husband made conflicts with his father and mother, as he is a drunkard. Therefore they won't to the husband's house.

She had good relationships with her parents. But her parents do not come over to her house. This is because her husband asked share and as a result some conflict took place.

In Betty's opinion women's position should be equal to that of men. She says she has decision-making capacity, and boldness to face any adverse situations. She has her husband only for the namesake, every thing he has to do, is done by herself.

She has full freedom for mobility. She appreciates old age homes, and strongly believes that this will become a necessary element to the modern society. If situations arise she would also like to go to an old age home.

Household No.3.

Upper Class; Nuclear Family

Case Study 4. Ms. Renu Rama Murthy, Hindu, Tamil Brahmin

THE HOUSE HOLD.

Non-Migrant: Mr. Rama Murthy, 38 years.

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship to the Non-migrant	Occupation
Ms. Renu Rama Murthy	38	Female	Wife	Politician, Municipal Councilor
Arun Rama Murthy	12	Male	Son	Student
Amal Rama Murthy	12	Male	Son	Student
Athira Rama Murthy	3	Female	Daughter	Student

Respondant: Ms. Renu Rama Murthy

Renu Rama Murthy is a Municipal Councilor in Kottayam Municipality as well as an active politician. Her husband, Mr. Rama Murthy is running a restaurant in Kottayam town. Renu is from Palakad. Her parents were in Kolkota. She is a post-graduate in English Language and Literature. Her husband was in Muscat during the time of her marriage. He was working with an import-export company in Muscat. Mr. Rama Murthy migrated to Gulf when he was only 19 years. He has studied only up to Pre-Degree Course. He returned from Gulf two years after their marriage, only because he disliked the place. After his return, he tried different types of jobs and at last settled himself in the restaurant business. He started the hotel by taking some loan from the bank. Now they are repaying it little by little. Renu says that the business is not a profitable one and they are

trying their level best to make both ends meet. The couple has three children and all are boys. Of this the elder two are twins. The younger one is 3 years old. The elder children are studying in an unaided school. The younger boy is going to a play school. Renu is also working very hard on her own, to earn a living. She is helping her husband in the hotel. Along with that she is taking tuition classes for high school students, and at the same time she is doing her duties as the member of the Municipal Council.

For the children's education they have to spend Rs.500 monthly. There is no servant in the Kitchen. Renu is doing every household work by her self. They are living in a rented house. The rent paid is Rs.1000 per month. The over all expenditure comes around Rs.5000 per month, including the rent. At the same time they do not have any fixed income.

Mr. Rama Murthy has two sisters. They are married and are living in Tamil Nadu. The mother-in-law is now living with one of the sisters. Before, the mother-in-law was living with Renu's family. The in-law relationship was not a smooth one and so the mother left her son's house one fine morning to her native place, a year ago. Renu complained that the mother-in-law used to quarrel with them. The main reasons were related to financial matters. If her husband buys something even for their children, the mother would start murmuring. The mother in law used to watch television, while the grand children were studying, to which the daughter-in-law used to object. When the children left for school, Renu starts to watch the television and then the mother would begin to quarrel. Disagreement existed with every action, between the in-laws. Renu says, "old people needs counseling; they should learn how to adjust in life, and should dedicate themselves for the well being of their children. Instead, now a days these people are becoming more materialistic and self-centered". She opined, old age homes should be encouraged.

Renu has full freedom for doing whatever she likes. The husband never interferes. Actually, she is the one who is managing the household. Since she is engaged with her work through out the day, she has no loneliness. The husband and wife are living in mutual confidence. They have no difficulty in disciplining their children. Renu used to help the children in their studies. They are studious and are scoring good marks in the school. When they become sick Renu's husband takes them to hospital. They usually go to private hospitals for treatments.

Renu goes for shopping alone. She takes decisions herself. She is of opinion that women's status should be equal to that of men. She likes to send her children abroad, if it can provide them a good future. Mrs. Renu, Mr. Rama Murthy, and their children, all have good health.

The family is very calculative in spending money. There is no extravaganza.

They go for cinema occasionally. They visit their relatives once in a year. They are subscribing only one daily, Mathrubhumi. She is used to reading each and every corner of the newspaper. Now the family is looking for a plot to build a house. Renu said that they have to take loan from some agency for this purpose. Already they are in debt. But she is optimistic about the future, that one day they can fulfill their dreams

Household No.4.

Lower Class; Joined Family

Case Study 5. Mrs.Sheeba Mathew, 48 years, Roman Catholic Christian

THE HOUSEHOLD

Non-Migrant: Mathew George, 54 years.

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship to the Non-migrant	Occupation
1. Leela George.	68	Female	Mother	Housewife
2. Sheeba Mathew.	48	Female	Wife	Businesses
3. Subin Mathew.	24	Male	Son	Sales and Marketing Executive
4. Soniya Mathew	24	Female	Daughter	Student (B.Com).

Respondant: Mrs. Sheeba Mathew

Sheeba is a postgraduate in English language. She is running an Office Stationary Shop in collaboration with one of her friends in Kottayam town. Her husband Mathew is also doing business in hard wares and sanitary wares.

Sheeba was born and brought up in Delhi, the metropolitan city. Sheeba's father was working in the Railway Board in New Delhi. After completing her post graduation degree, she became a teacher in one of the colleges in New Delhi. During this time marriage proposal came from Kerala to which her family responded positively. Mr. Mathew is a resident of Kottayam and is a businessman. After the marriage, she resigned her job and joined her husband who had settled in Kottayam. It was in 1978. The first son Subin was born with in one year after their marriage. After two years the daughter was born.

In 1991 she started her business. When compared with her previous teaching job, she likes business more because she feels more freedom in work.

Sheeba has good relationships with her in-laws. Her father-in-law died a few years ago. She says her mother-in-law is very nice and cooperative and she likes her very much. They lived together for one and a half years just after their marriage. Her relationship with her sister-in-law is also cordial and friendly. All her brothers-in-law are engaged in business activity.

The family has no debts. But her husband is having some business loans. For their day-to-day expenditure, they are very calculative and spend money very carefully. They do not go for seeing cinema in the theatre, and very rarely go to hotels.

Sheeba never faced any problem in rearing her children. She said her children are loving, obedient and God fearing. The children studied in private schools. Only for Mathematics they were given tuitions. Children are open and express their views freely.

Sheeba is leading a quite satisfactory life. She has no feeling of frustration, loneliness or isolation. She is active in religious matters. All the family members attend church service on Sundays regularly. She is also a Sunday school teacher, Committee member of women's fellowships, and an active member of Young Couple's Association. This is an association meant for giving counseling to youngsters. Her daughter is also a Sunday school teacher. On all Mondays Sheeba used to attend one Swamiji's speech about Geetha. She also attends Chinmaya Mission's programmes regularly. She is not interested in political activities. She used to avoid political news while reading newspapers. But will cast votes in elections without considering political parties, but on the merit of the candidates.

She is of the opinion that equal status should be given for both the sexes. She prefers matrilineal society. She is getting equal status and consideration in her house; both the husband and wife together take all the decisions in the family.

Sheeba's recreational activities include reading religious books, short stories and novels. She is not interested in watching television. If she watches, she is interested only in the discovery channel. Her house is a two-storied building with four bedrooms. All bedrooms have attached bathrooms. There is fan in every room, and the floor contains both marble and mosaic. The household is having washing machine, refrigerator, vacuum cleaner, geyser, television, cooking gas, computer, car, telephone, etc.

Sheeba likes her daughter to get married to a person who is employed abroad. She has complete freedom for spending the money. She is having her own savings in the post office. She goes for shopping alone. Duties such as paying electricity bill, telephone bill, water bill etc are done by her husband. She says her husband is very supportive. When asked, how she will respond to harsh criticisms, she said she has very little courage to face such situations. She becomes disappointed and upset very easily. She remembers, immediately after marriage, she had to face many criticisms as she used to eat chapatti instead of rice.

There is one paid servant for doing washing, cleaning, and cooking in the house. There are some potted ornamental plants in front of the house and Sheeba herself is taking care of them when she gets time. The family subscribes two dailies, Malayala Manorama and The Hindu.

Sheeba welcomes old age homes. She says this will become a necessary part of our society in the very near future. But she herself doesn't like to go to an old age home. If such a situation comes in her life, she said, she would surely go to an old age home.

We had a friendly discussion with Sheeba's children Subin and Soniya. Subin is working as a sales marketing executive after finishing his MBA degree. Soniya is an undergraduate student in commerce. These children opined that their parents are very nice, cooperative and friendly. Both of them are God fearing and always took keen interest in their studies. The mother used to teach them when they were in the school and college as she was a teacher by profession before marriage. The mother is very hard working; while she is out with her business work, the grandmother manages everything in the household.

They said there is division of labor in the family so that even their father used to help the mother in the kitchen. The children are also involved in household duties such as cleaning, spreading the bed, watering the plants etc. For Subin his father is his roll model, and had a great influence on him in his character building.

Case Study 6: Ms. Leela George, Sheeba's Mother-in-law

Mrs. Leela George is a widow of 68 years, she said she is satisfied with her present situation. The daughter in law is very nice to her. She likes her better than her own daughters. She says her son and daughter in law are working very hard from morning to night without any rest; as a result the family is leading a very comfortable life. The grand children are also very good and obedient, devoid of all the vices of the present generation.

Mrs. Leela George is not very healthy. She has diabetes and blood pressure; these she recognizes as natural aging problems. For health problems she consults the doctor at his residence. The daughter in law usually accompanies her when visiting the doctor. She used to go to the church every Sunday along with her son, daughter in law and grand children. She has three daughters also. They visit her once in a while. She likes to live with her son till her death. She doesn't want to go to an old age home; she believes it is the duty of the children to look after the parents when they are old and helpless, since the parents are sacrificing the major part of their life for these children.

Household No.5.

Upper Class; Nuclear Family

Case Study 7. Ms. Savitha John, C.S.I. Christian.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

Non-Migrant: P. John Jacob, 51 years.

Name	Age	Sex.	Relation to the Non-migrant	Occupation.
Savitha John	41	Female	Wife	Housewife
Vinu John.	20	Male.	Son	Student
Vineeta John.	13	Female	Daughter	Student

Respondant: Mrs. Savitha John

Mrs.Savitha John belongs to an upper class, non-migrant family. She is 41 years old. Her husband Mr.P.Jacob John 51, who is a science graduate, is running a very big whole sale medical store in the heart of Kottayam town. The elder son Vinu, aged 20, is a B.Pharm. student in Bangalore. The younger daughter Vineeta, aged 13, is studying in a near by residential school. The family is very rich and leading a luxurious life. They own a two- storied house. There are 11 rooms for the house. All rooms, including bathrooms, are well furnished. Costly mirrors, curtains, wooden furniture, oil paintings on canvas, antiques etc. constitute a class look to the rooms. All rooms have fans and two bedrooms are air-conditioned. Health aids such as exercise machines, tread mill, glucometer, sphygmomanometer, weighing machine are also in use. They own one bicycle, one motorcycle, a Maruthy van, and a latest Opal car. All modern household amenities are available, including computer with internet facilities.

For the son who is studying in Bangalore, they are spending Rs.6000 per month. For the daughter the educational expense comes around Rs.500. They spend Rs.20,000 per day for the day to day expenses. There is no debt and the income comes around Rs.50,000 to 75,000 per month. There is a decorative garden in front of the house. They have also appointed servants, gardener, drivers, and watchman for the household chores.

Savitha was born in a village near Kottayam, as the second child in her family. She has one elder sister and three younger brothers. Her father was a migrant. He was in Muscat for several years and the mother stayed in Kerala with the children. She was a teacher in State Government Schools and it was a transferable job. She had to move from place to place for her job and so the children grew up with their Grandmother. Their

mother used to visit her children once in a week, usually. Mrs.Savitha said that she had been given very little attention by her mother, and this created a strong dislike towards her mother.

She had been handed over to the Grandmother when she was only two months old. By the age of five, she was put in a famous boarding school. The hostel life continued till her marriage, which took place at the age of eighteen, when she completed her pre-degree course. Even today, she says, she is less attached to her parents. Since she missed the chance to live with her parents, she developed some behavioral problems. She is short-tempered and is used to quarrel with her husband and the children, very frequently. She is much aware that it is her own fault. She confessed that her family life is very depressing, because she never experienced 'togetherness' in her childhood. At the same time, she did not feel scarcity of money, during her childhood days, to spend on luxuries even, since her father was a migrant.

Ms.Savitha's marriage to John took place in 1978. The first child, a son, was born within one year. She has pleasant memories about the early years of the married life. Every month she is getting a pocket money of Rs.10,000 from her husband. She uses this money to buy saris and ornaments, and also for some household expenses like buying fish. She said that the money would finish off within ten days. And after that she would take the needed money from her husband's pocket without his knowledge. She has full freedom for spending the money. There is no need for obtaining the husband's consent, and there is no interference from the husband in her personal matters. She had a business firm of her own. She has also a very good bank deposit. The family owns properties including land, company shares, and buildings. Now Savitha helps her husband in the business. The rest of the time she is engaged in other household activities such as cooking, gardening, etc.

Regarding her personal life, she said that she is always busy with the daily routines and therefore, she does not have any leisure time to watch TV programmes or to listen to music. She spends some time for reading newspapers and rarely, weeklies or some storybook or novels. They are subscribing for Malayala Manorama daily (Malayalam), Vanitha fortnightly (Malayalam), and The Hindu daily (English).

Ms.Savitha is used to go out for shopping alone, accompanied by the driver. She does not have any fear of the public about any criticism or comments. She is of the opinion that the position of women should be equal to that of men. Both the husband and wife together take all major decisions in family matters. But her husband does manage each and every matter of the family and household, which are to be done outside.

They are keeping good relationship with their relations; at the same time they do not allow any relation to have too much indulgence in their family matters. Mr. John's mother was living with his brother's wife who is a widow, and she expired three years before. They do not believe in giving too much alms and so they give donations to a

limited extent only. The husband – wife relationship is not a satisfactory one, in spite of all these high standards of living conditions and freedom of work and mobility; there is no feeling of ‘togetherness’ and mutual understanding. It is her observation that if they start a dialogue it normally ends in heated arguments and quarrel, and she consciously tries to avoid such embarrassing situations by keeping herself away, probably remaining in the kitchen, talking to the servants, at times when John is inside the house, and is not very busy.

One of the problems she faces in the house is that of disciplining the children, especially the younger female one. But when the father is around they behave well; whenever possible, the father would take care of them. Ms.Savitha has a feeling that father’s presence is of a great factor for better control and disciplining of the children.

When anybody in the family falls sick, they consult allopathic doctors at their residences. Mr. John is a heart patient and Ms.Savitha has acute diabetes. Once in three months she goes for check up and treatment at The Diabetic Research Centre, Chennai. Very often the family goes outside the state for short- term trips .In such times they stay in star hotels.

Ms.Savitha is always busy with her work, so that she says there is no loneliness at all. When she feels frustrated and sad, she submits her frustrations to God. Ms.Savitha strongly believes that it is the duty of the children to look after the parents, when they are old and sick. She says she cannot even imagine about going to an old age home when she becomes old.

REPORT ON THE CASE STUDIES

We have conducted eleven case studies from seven migrant households, and seven case studies from five non-migrant households. For this, we classified the families into three categories: the upper class, the middle class, and the lower class. The respondents of each category include all age groups and different religious groups. Also, we included joined families as well as nuclear families. Each of the experimental group and the control group are well contrasted.

The findings of the case study are given below:

LOWER CLASS

None of its members migrated to gulf countries in the control group, whereas in the experimental group six members are in the Gulf. We have studied five cases from lower class migrant households and three cases from lower class non-migrant households. In two of the households, the size of the family is big, and the mother is the head of the family. There were 11 children in the control group and seven in the experimental group. Both are joined families. In the control group, the mother, the unmarried and the married sons with their wives are living in a small hut, whereas in the experimental group, the mother is alone, since her two sons migrated to Gulf and the daughters were married off. Even though her elder son, his wife, and the child are here around, he visits the mother once in a week. His wife is employed in Palakkad and he is employed in Kundara. In these two households, we had lengthy conversations with the mothers and the other family members who were present at that time.

In the case of the control group, all were living happily and leading a quite satisfactory life, even though some times they may not have enough food and enough space to sleep. All the sons contribute to the expenditure of the household. The mother is the head of the family, and she decides every thing. She knows every minute detail of her sons and daughters-in-law. The mother has no complaints about her sons, for her children are all obedient and disciplined. The daughters-in-law in the household live cordially and have very good opinion for their mother-in-law. This mother-in-law said she became bold and capable only after the death of her husband.

In the experimental household, even though there are seven children, the mother is alone. There is communication gap between the mother and her children. She is ignorant about the income of her sons. Even, she doesn't know the ages of her daughters-in-law. She reconstructed her house with the foreign money. Formerly the house was a hut. Also, the mother is sick and she is getting enough money from her sons for treatment. But there is nobody to help or to give company for her. She feels lonely, frustrated and depressed. She doesn't like to join an old age home. Another mother in the experimental group has her two sons abroad; she extended her house and rented out a portion of the house, married off her daughter, started a chit fund on her own, installed a telephone, bought TV and thus spending each and every paise in very useful manner. Though her husband is alive and around, she manages every thing. The migrant boys are sending money in their mother's name. Her daughter -in-law who is another respondent in our case study expressed her dissatisfaction over this. The girl said she is suffering like anything. She is working as a sales girl near her house to meet her day-to-day expenses. The mother daughter-in-law relationship is not smooth; both have complaints about each other. The migrant went abroad two weeks of the marriage and now it is four years since he left. He has never visited his native place after the departure. The communication is through letters and rarely through telephone. So the girl is psychologically upset with feelings of loneliness and is on the brink of a break down. She has no children yet.

THE MIDDLE CLASS

The lower middle, and the middle class categories are observed to have almost the same characteristics. We have studied three families in the experimental group and two families in the control group. The housewives of the control group are engaged in one or the other type of income generating activities. They are hard workingwomen. But in the experimental group, the housewives live with the money they get from the earnings of their husbands from abroad. They spend their leisure time either to watch television or to sleep.

The experimental households have got the privilege to give their children good education, good dresses, toys and better life facilities than the control group. Both the control group households are in debt, and they cannot even imagine how they could repay these debts. These families,

whom we have interviewed, are struggling for existence. One family is still living in a rented house, and they dream to buy one of their own. All the three experimental group households have built good houses, and have properties of their own. All types of modern household amenities are available, either brought from abroad or bought from India with the foreign money.

The presence of the father is a great blessing for the control group households. In one of the households the father is a drunkard, and even though he is useless, just the presence of him makes the children silent.

The females of experimental group find it very difficult to discipline their children. All the two house wives of the control group responded positively to old age homes, and one of the three in the experimental group, who is a returned male migrant, showed his readiness to join an old age home if such a situation arises.

We have also selected two females who are doing their own business, each in the control group and in the experimental group. The respondent of the experimental group is more bold, self contained, able, and responsive to situations than the respondent of the control group. The experimental group respondent was with her husband for a long time, and once she returned to India, she has to face so many difficulties; many people cheated her. Actually, she returned from gulf since some of their family friends abused her female children. Her children were studying in India at that time. From all these adverse situations she gathered energy and attained today's position. She taught her children also to stand on their own heels. She used to spend money lavishly before, because she didn't know the value of money then. But now she knows how to manage the money.

In the case of the control group respondent, she has her husband with her in all her difficulties, and she agrees that her husband is very supportive. In the case of household amenities, both the experimental and the control groups have the same capability. They have become, say, upper middle class now.

THE UPPER CLASS

Here both the experimental and the control groups are leading luxurious lives. The experimental household has wasteful expenditures.

When we interviewed the household, we got a chance to talk with the migrant himself.

In the course of the conversation, he agreed that they have wasteful expenditure, because there is money. The control group is more cautious in spending money. The experimental group is liberal in giving donations than the control group. Our control group couples quarrel with each other every day. But the experimental group couple is leading a very happy and successful married life. And the migrant commented that the separation helped them to be closer. He is of the opinion that when the husband and wife live together all the 365 days of the year, it is not possible for them to realize the value of togetherness. Therefore, short-term absence is appreciable. He is hesitant to comment about long-term absence. The same type of opinion came from a middle class non-migrant also. Our experimental group female respondent is free from all types of psychological problems such as loneliness, frustrations, etc. Since there is money to spare, whenever she feels like seeing her husband, she can travel to his place.

SOME COMMON FINDINGS

In the migrant households, the housewives are bold enough to face adverse situations. They have become more self-reliant. Their decision-making capacity has improved much. One of the housewives in the non-migrant household expressed these qualities. Her husband is a drunkard. Except in the higher income group, all the migrant families have only economical security.

Psychologically most of them are in desperate condition; especially those young girls who are staying with their in-laws. They may go out only for necessities. In the non-migrant families, the females go out freely for shopping, to hotels, etc, even if they are alone.

It is very difficult to discipline the children in the migrant families in the absence of the father. The housewives expressed the view that the children are not obedient to mothers. Most of the children in the migrant families liked the presence of the father, because only when he is around they are free to go out.

Almost all migrant families have built good houses, and have bought properties and ornaments, given their children good education, and have modern life facilities. Those who were in the lower class gained middle class status, and those who were in the middle class status gained upper class status.

Delayed childbirth is another serious problem faced by the lower class, lower-middle class, middle class and upper middle class migrant families.

Family relationships are stronger in the lower and lower-middle class families in both migrant and non-migrant households.

In most of the migrant families there is the presence of parents or in-laws; the household tries to stay with them, mainly for the security.

The upper class and the upper-middle class migrants have helped relatives or friends to migrate and this help, they consider being a deed of great satisfaction.

Migration of the head or a member of the family provides great financial advantages, but from a sociological as well as psychological viewpoint, it has some adverse impacts.

CHAPTER 4

DATA INTERPRETATION

Migrant Households

Out of the total 100 migrant households from which we have collected data, 33% of the households belong to upper class family, 41% belong to middle class and 26% belong to lower class; on the basis of religion the break up is: 20% Hindus, 38% Muslims and 42% Christians.

The migrants of the survey included the age group of 21 to 60 years; ie., 18% belongs to the age group between 21 and 30, 41% between 31 and 45, and 41% between 46 and 60 age group.

50 non-migrant households were taken as a control group for precision results. Out of these 50 non-migrant households, 44% were lower class, 34% middle class and 22% upper class. This control group selected were from the neighbor households; any one non-migrant household for two migrant households. 40% of the non-migrant households were of Christians, 36% Muslims, and 24% Hindus. These people came under the age group from 26 to 70 years.

Majority of the migrant households, i.e., 68% are joined or extended families (extended family - 36% and joined families - 32%) while, only 32% forms nuclear families, whereas 46% of non-migrant households form nuclear families and 54% joined or extended families.

27% of the migrants have pre-degree or +2 level education, 18% Graduates, 11% Diploma holders, 8% with professional degree, 3% post graduates, 21% SSLC passed, 7% with high school education and 5% primary school education. The control group contains 16% graduates, 18% SSLC passed, 2% +2 / pre-degree, 14% professional graduates, 10% diploma holders, 6% post graduates, 20% high school education, 10% primary school education, and 4% of them are illiterate.

2% of the migrants work in the primary sector, i.e., agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries, 36% in the secondary sector, i.e., manufacturing, construction, electricity & water, and the majority 62% in the tertiary sector, i.e., trade, transport, public services and personal services.

28% of the non-migrants work in the primary sector, 12% in the secondary sector and 56% in tertiary sector.

94% of the migrants are married and 6% unmarried. 96% of the non-migrant household-heads are married and 4% unmarried. Also, 96% of the non-migrant heads have a job and 4% are either retired or have no job.

Information relating to the economic status prior to migration suggests that 59% were unemployed. The remaining were employed, both in private as well as public (Government) sectors. These persons left their jobs because they got a chance to go abroad. Most of them complained of low salary in the native place. A few of them left India for a much better future.

Reasons for Migration

59% of migrants in the sample migrated due to unemployment; 14%, for clearing debt, 14% for leading luxurious lives, 10% for a better living and 3% to escape from family problems.

61% of migrants in the sample group migrated in 1990; 28% in the 1980's and 11% in the 1970's.

A majority of them, i.e., 40%, migrated with the help of recruiting agents; 21% migrated through direct recruitment from the Gulf countries, 16% through relatives, 8% by responding to advertisements by companies, 5% through friends; and in the case of the rest 10%, their wives do not know how they got the jobs for migration.

In the case of 28% of the migrants, migration had cost them Rupees 50,000, as for travel and visa, Rs.25,000 was the expenditure for 21%, Rs.75,000 for 18%, Rs.15,000 for 9%, for 10% of the migrant-families the migration expenditure is unknown. 13% migrated without any cost as the recruiting companies had met the expenses.

26% of the migrants have a monthly income between Rs.6,000 to Rs.12000; 29% between Rs.15,000 and Rs.20,000, 12% around Rs.25,000, 8% around Rs.30,000, 8% around Rs.50,000, 7% around Rs.70,000, 4% around Rs.1 lakh, and 6% are getting a monthly income of above Rupees one lakh.

15% of the migrants are company workers, 14% laborers, 7% employed as engineers, 7% salesmen, 6% drivers, 6% mechanics, 6% running their own business, 6% electricians, 5% bank officials, 5%

accountants, 5% cooks, 2% computer professionals, 4% supervisors, 2% radiographers, 2% doctors, 2% clerical work, 2% painters, 1% nurse, 1% videographer, 1% pharmacist and 1% medical representative. Among the control group, 18% of the non-migrants are laborers, 12% company workers, 8% business men, 6% employed engineers, 6% clerical job, 6% drivers, 6% teachers, 6% salesmen, 6% medical representatives, 4% mechanics, 4% electricians, 4% computer professionals, 2% doctors, 2% cooks, 2% advocates, 2% agriculturists, 2% abkari business men and 2% chartered accountants.

The following categories of persons were interviewed by using separate questionnaires:

1. Migrant's wife,
2. Migrant's children, or
3. Migrants father / mother or mother-in law / father-in-law,

whoever is the head of the household.

Majority of the migrants, i.e., 48%, send money to their homes only when requested by the family for money; 26% send money once in 6 months. It is observed that, the remaining migrants are sending money, monthly or quarterly.

To whom money is sent: 76% of the migrants send their remittance to their wives; 5% to their mothers, 10% to the fathers, 7% to both the wife and father, and 2% to the wife and mother.

In the case of remittances sent by the emigrants, the distribution is observed as: 9% remit around Rs.10,000; 18% between Rs.15,000 to Rs.20,000; 21% between Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000; 25% of the migrants send Rs.50,000; 8% around Rs.75,000; 6% around Rs.1 lakh and 11% around Rs.5 lakhs, as per remittances of 2001 – 2002. 2% of the migrants' wives said they don't know the exact amount the migrant sends.

The majority, i.e., 54%, of the respondents of the migrant households said that they are spending money for meeting their day-to-day expenditure. 6% used it to repay their debts. 66% of the migrant households have savings in the bank, of which 22% saves 25% of their income; another 22% saves 50% of their income; 17% saves 10% of their income and 5% saves their total income from the emigrant. 21% have joined chit funds and 12% of the migrant respondents are running their own chitty business. 12% lend money for interest. Almost all of the migrant household members knew the different media for savings, such as Post Office Savings Scheme, LIC, General insurance, KSFE, etc. Majority of them have deposited their money in LIC and KSFE.

69% of the migrants have invested money for buying house, land and/gold; only 1% has invested in either small-scale industry or shares.

In the case of non-migrant households, the majority, 44% of the heads of the households are receiving an income between Rs.1,000 and Rs.4,000 per month. Out of this, 18% are receiving a sum less than Rs.1,000. 34% get an amount between Rs.15,000 and Rs.25,000; 22% between Rs.40,000 and Rs.50,000 per month.

92% of the respondents interviewed from the control group are the wives of the non-migrants. The rest 8% included the head of the household, the non-migrant himself. 70% of the wives complained that they are not getting money from their husbands for their day-to-day expenses or personal use. Only 4% of the non-migrant wives had savings in the bank, in own name, using the pocket money given by the husbands. 18% spend the money they obtain for household expenditure. 8% spend the money for luxuries. 38% of the non-migrant wives have joined chitty funds, for amounts ranging between Rs.10,000 to Rs.50,000. 58% of the non-migrant wives are aware of the various media for saving, of which 46% knew about all existing schemes. The rest knew about post office, insurance, and KSFE savings schemes. 14% have joined post office savings / insurance and 8% with KSFE. 20% of the control group members are running their own chitty fund business; 16% lend money for interest; 10% invested in land; 32% for both house & land, 2% for business and 16% for house, land & gold. The rest 40% do not have any investment at all.

Ownership of house before and after migration

44% of the migrants' household interviewed had a house of their own, before migration; but 82% of them own houses after the migration. For 39%, had a single storied house before migration, and 58% own a single storied house after migration. 5% had double-storied houses before migration; the proportion became 24% after the migration.

3% of the migrants had a thatched roof for their house before migration; 19% had tiled roof, 6% had asbestos-cement sheet roofing, 9%

had concrete roof, and 7% had a tiled roof with wooden ceiling. After migration, 23% have tiled roof, 14% sheet roofing, 36% concrete roof, and 8% tiled roof with wooden ceiling.

3% houses had mud walls, 34% had red brick walls, 5% had raw brick walls and 2% had house walls were made of asbestos or hard-board before migration.

After migration, 75% have red brick walls, 6% have raw brick walls and 1% had walls made up of asbestos.

Before migration, 5% had cow-dung spread floors for their house; 23% had cement flooring, 2% had red brick tiles on the floor, 9% had mosaic flooring, and 5% had marble flooring.

After the migration, 2% had cow-dung spread floors, 1% mud floor, 30% cement, 4% brick tiles, 25% have mosaic, 6% marble flooring, 5% sparteck and 9% granite.

Before migration, 15% had attached bathrooms in their houses; after the migration 52% have attached bathrooms.

Before migration, 29% of the migrant households had a single bathroom, attached or non-attached; 8% had two bathrooms and 7% had 3 bathrooms. After migration, 34% of the migrant households have single bathrooms, 30% with two bathrooms, 8% with three bathrooms, 7% having four bathrooms and 3%, have 7 and above bathrooms.

23% households had septic tanks before migration. 64% households have septic tanks after migration.

14% had a flush-out tank for the bathroom before migration while 36% have a flesh out tank after migration.

Before migration, 11% of the migrant households had a single room house; 11% had 2 rooms, 6% had 3, 3% had 4, 11% had 5 and 2% had more than 6 rooms.

After the migration, 16% households have single room house, 15% have 2 rooms, 8% have 3, 14% have 4, 12% have 5, 4% have 6, 2% have 7, 8% have 8 and 3% have 9 rooms.

Before migration, 8% of the households had fan in all rooms, 10% had fan only in bedrooms, 3% had fan in bedrooms, dining rooms and sitting room, 4% had fan in all rooms except kitchen and bathrooms, 8% had fans only on one room and 11% had no fans at all.

After migration 32% have fans in all rooms. 12% have fans in bedrooms only, 13% have fans in bedroom, dining and sitting room. 5% have fans in all rooms except kitchen and bedrooms, 18% have fans in one room and for 2% have no fan.

13% of the households had gardens in front of their houses before migration and 25% have it after migration.

Before migration, 62% of the migrant households used wood as fuel for cooking, 32% used kerosene and 6% L.P. gas. After migration, 5% are using wood, 8% kerosene and 87% LP gas.

24% had a washbasin/sink in the kitchen before migration, and 82% have it after migration.

Before migration, 13% had ceramic washbasin/sink, 19% had cement washbasin and 12% had steel washbasin. After migration, 8% have ceramic washbasin, 20% have cement and 54% have steel washbasin.

66% had water supply system before migration and 95% have it after migration

Before migration, 49% had water from the town water supply system, 2% from well and 17% from both well and town water supply system, and 32% were taking water from public tap.

After migration, 70% have water from town water supply system; 4% from well and 23% from both well and town water supply system; 3% are taking water from public tap.

3% had dishwasher before migration and 10% have it after migration.

46% had a mixer-grinder before migration and 90% have after migration.

17% had grinder before migration and 50% have after migration.

42% had refrigerator before migration, 84% have after migration.

32% had geyser before migration and 41% have after migration.

1% had an electric oven before migration and 33% have after migration

26% had a cooking range before migration. 42% have it after migration.

79% had radio before migration and 79% have it after migration.

55% had TV before migration, 97% have TV after migration

34% had telephone before migration, while 88% have after migration.

1% had mobile phone before migration, and 33% have after migration.

Nobody had a pager before migration, but 9% have it after migration

Only 1% had an air-conditioned room before migration, while 17% have AC after migration.

24% had tape recorder before migration, 86% have it after migration

3% had CD Player before migration, 54% have it after migration

7% had VCP/VCR before migration, 53% have after migration

22% had cable TV connection before migration 59% have after migration

1% had computer before migration, 22% have after migration

Nobody had (0%) Internet connection before migration 19% have after migration

0% had health protecting equipments before migration 25% have after migration

3% had beauty and cosmetic gadgetries before migration 13% have after migration

16% had cycle before migration 23% have after migration

7% had motorcycle before migration 20% have after migration

12% had scooter before migration 14% have after migration

14% had car before migration 37% have after migration; of this, 11% had an ordinary car and 3% had luxury car before migration. But 18% have ordinary and 19% have luxury cars after migration.

Before migration 29% had paid servants, 21% are part time and 8% full time; the rest 71% were doing their household works by themselves.

After migration, 65% have paid servants, 23% part time and 42% full time.

Ownership of house by Non-migrants

64% have their own houses; the rest 36% are living in rented houses. Some of them (4%) are living in houses built in government's acquired property.

38% has single storied houses and 26% has two storied houses. 30% has concrete roof, 14% has asbestos sheet or tin sheet roofing, 16% has a house with tiled roof with wooden ceiling and 4% has tiled roof.

6% has mud wall 38% has redbrick wall and 20% has walls made up of raw bricks. 6% has cow-dung spread floors.

Condition of the houses: 8% has houses with mud floor, 6% has cement flooring, 22% has mosaic, 14% has marble and 8% has granite flooring.

50% has attached bathrooms; 38% has only one bathroom for the household, while 14% has two bathrooms and 12% four bathrooms.

48% houses have septic tanks, while 42% have flush out tanks.

There are three rooms for 28% houses, except kitchen and sitting room; two rooms for 10% houses, one room for 10%, 7 rooms for 4%, eight rooms 10%, and more than 9 rooms for 2% houses.

30% houses have fans in bedrooms and sitting rooms; 18% have fans in all rooms, while 2% has fan in bedrooms only.

30% houses have gardens in their yards.

40% households are using LP Gas as fuel; 40% use kerosene, 10% firewood and 10% using both gas and electricity.

56% has a washbasins / sinks in the kitchen; 18% has ceramic washbasin, 26% steel, and 12% cement washbasin.

48% have overhead water tanks and pipes in their houses; of these, 30% has connection from the Kerala Water Authority and 18% from the well. 28% are drawing water from the well. 24% are depending on public taps for water.

46% have own wells for the household.

6% have a dishwasher in the kitchen,

54% have a mixer-grinder or kitchen machine,

46% have a wet grinder,

54% has refrigerator,

30% have geyser for heating water,

20% have microwave oven,

14% have cooking range in the kitchen,

6% have bore wells for their houses,
72% households use radios,
52% households have telephones,
18% have mobile phones,
6% have pagers,
24% have air conditioners,
54% have tape recorder,
30% have CD player,
32% have VCR/VCP,
54% have cable TV connection,
30% have personal computers,
22% have Internet facility,
10% have health protecting equipments,
4% have cosmetic gadgets,
26% have bicycles,
12% have scooter,
36% own cars - 26% ordinary type cars, 10% luxurious cars.
32% have paid servants - 22% part time and 10% full time servants.

Monthly Expenditure of Non-migrant Families

28% of the non-migrant families spend Rs.600 for their day-to-day expenses per month,

18% around Rs.1,000,
 8% around Rs.5,000,
 2% around Rs.7,000,
 14% around Rs.10,000,
 8% around Rs.15,000,
 4% around Rs.18,000,
 6% around Rs.20,000,
 12% around 25,000.

A shift in the amount spent monthly for day-to-day expenses have been observed on migration; the data are presented in Table 2:

TABLE 2: Monthly expenditure of families – before and after the migration

Migrants	
Before	After
Rs. 600 - 13%	Rs. 600 - 0%
Rs. 1,000 - 24%	Rs. 1,000 - 7%
Rs. 2,000 - 20%	Rs. 2,000 - 17%
Rs. 3,000 - 12%	Rs. 3,000 - 25%
Rs. 5,000 - 8%	Rs. 5,000 - 9%
Rs. 10,000 - 12%	Rs. 10,000 - 7%
Rs. 15,000 - 8%	Rs. 15,000 - 10%
Rs. 25,000 - 3%	Rs. 25,000 - 11%
Rs. 30,000 - 0%	Rs. 30,000 - 12%
Rs. 50,000 - 0%	Rs. 50,000 - 2%

Dailies and magazines bought by migrants

Before	After
3% all available	15%
39% one newspaper only	35%
25% one newspaper, one magazine	38%
2% 2 newspapers, 2 magazines, 2 weeklies	12%
32% none	0%

Dailies and magazines bought by the non-migrants

12% all available newspapers and magazines
20% only one essential newspaper
34% one newspaper and one magazine
10% 2 newspapers, 2 magazines, 2 or 3 weeklies
24% none

Economic conditions: migrants' household

78% have enough money remitted from abroad to meet their needs. Out of the rest 22%, 2% take loan from the bank, 4% take personal loans, 11% has other sources of income and 5% wives take money from their parents to meet their day to day needs.

Non-migrants' household

54% have enough money.

From the rest 46%, 8% take loans from the bank, 16% take personal loans of which some ask for money from parents; 22% adjust to the situation.

Debt of Migrants

36% of migrant households are in debt; 21% took loan for migration expenses, the rest 15% are indebted for buying property and vehicles.

Debt of Non-migrants

60% have debts; 36% for household expenses; 10% for buying land, or/and house; 14% for children's education (8%) and children's marriage (6%)

To the wife

Migrant's wife's educational qualification:

- 5% high school,
- 22% SSLC passed,
- 20% pre-degree or +2,
- 22% graduates,
- 8% postgraduates,
- 15% professional graduates,
- 8% diploma holders.

Non-migrants

- 6% No formal education,
- 24% Primary school,

- 20% High school,
- 12% SSLC Passed,
- 16% PDC or +2,
- 16% graduates,
- 6% professional graduates,
- 4% postgraduates.

Age at the time of marriage

- 44% migrant wives got married between the ages of 17 – 22 years,
- 36% between 23 - 25 years,
- 20% between 26 - 30 years.

Only 38% of the non-migrants got married between 17 - 22 years of age,

- 48% between 23 - 25 years,
- 18% between 26 - 30 years.

19% of the migrant males got married between the ages of 20 - 25 years,

- 67% between 26 - 30 years,
- 8% between 31 - 35 years,
- 2% between 36 - 40 years.

4% are unmarried.

14% men of the control group got married between 20 - 25 years.

18% between 26 - 30 years.

58% between 31 - 35 years.

8% between 36 - 40 years.

56% of the migrant-husbands migrated before marriage; 44% migrated after their marriage. Of this 56% who migrated before marriage, 51% wives commended they married the particular person because he is abroad; 49% said migration was not a reason for their marriage.

36% of migrant wives were having job before migration; while 24% are doing jobs presently, 12% gave up their jobs after marriage; of this 12%, 3% said they gave up their job because they have enough money and there is no need to earn, 9% said they gave up their jobs because of their husband's opinion, to look after the family and children.

72% of the non-migrant wives have jobs presently, either in the public or private sector.

60% had the job before marriage; 2% resigned the job because of difficulty in mobility.

Birth of the first child after marriage

Migrant wives:

36% had the first child 1 year after marriage,

26% had the first child 2 years after marriage,

8% had the first child 3 years after marriage,

10% had the first child 4 years after marriage,

20% have no children.

Non-migrant wives:

78% had the first child 1 year after marriage,

8% had the first child 2 years after marriage, 3% in three years, and
3% after 5 years,

8% have no children.

Birth of the second child - Migrants

1% 2nd year,

4% 3rd year,

8% 4th year,

7% 5th year,

14% 6th year,

18% 7th & above.

Non-migrants

56% after 2 years

8% 3 years

8% 5 years

6% 6 years & above

Return of the husband to the Gulf after marriage

1% of the husbands returned four days after marriage; 20% after two weeks after marriage, 32% after one month, 9% after two months, 2% after 6 months, 7 % after 10 years, 4% after 12 years, 2% fourteen years and 1% after 15 years.

Visits after marriage

21% visited the household once after marriage; 23% 2 times; 9% 3 times; 4% 4 times; 8% 5 times; 3% 6 times; 4% 8 times; 5% 10 times; 6% more than 10 times, 3% 20 times; and 6% 26 times. 4% have never visited their wives after marriage.

Last stay

4% of the migrant husbands stayed for 2 weeks during their last visit; 25% stayed for one month, 42% for 2 months, 26% three months and 3% four months.

Visiting husband in the Gulf

Only 14% of migrant wives visited their husbands' place abroad. 6% stayed more than 15 years with their husbands, 2% between 11 and 14 years, 2% for 1 year, 2% for 6 months and 2% for 2 months only.

1% of the migrant wives returned because the income is not enough for proper living. 1% returned to look after the old parents. 8% returned for child's education and 4% went for vacation only.

Communication with the husband

64% of the wives communicate with their husbands through letters

and telephones; 12% by letters only, 24% through e-mail and telephone.

20% communicate with their husbands all days, 13% once in a week, 4% twice in a week, 15% once in two weeks, 15% once in a month and 29% occasionally.

Remittances

88% send money to their wives, 5% send to their mothers, 7% to the fathers (4% to any of them at times)

Out of the 12% wives who are not getting money directly from their husbands, 9% said they do not get enough money for their day-to-day expenditure and they are adjusting to the situation.

Income of the non-migrant households

32% of the non-migrant wives are getting money regularly from their husbands.

Accommodation

34% of the non-migrants are living in rented houses. 12% are living with husband's parents. 44% have their own houses; of this, 18% have ancestral houses that were inherited. 10% live in acquired land. 49% of the migrant wives are living with their parents. 29% are living with husbands' parents. 3% are living in rented houses; 19% in their own houses. 24% wives said they selected particular house for staying on the basis of the opinion of their husbands; 24% said they like to stay with their own parents; 4% for children's education, 5% because the parents-in-law are alone, 16% said it is more secure, and 15% because the house is their own.

61% of the migrants' wives said that, if they stay with the in-laws, there would be quarrel with them.

Only 28% of the non-migrant wives said there would be quarrels if they stay with the husbands' parents and other in-laws.

Money matters: Migrant Households

64% wives said their husbands used to help their friends and relatives and also give donations to the poor. Only one wife said she is unhappy over this. 83% wives have full freedom to spend the money they received. Out of the rest 17%, for 8%, the father-in-law is controlling the money matters, and 9% controlled by mothers-in-law; 15% wives said they are unhappy over such type of controls.

75% of the migrant wives are banking themselves; 4% father, 2% mother, 14% father-in-law, and 4% mother-in-law. 69% spend money for fancy and luxurious items, like dress, ornaments, and home decorations; visiting beauty parlors, taking food from hotels, and 6% spend money to see cinema.

Money matters: Non-migrant Households

In the case of the non-migrant wives, 25% have full freedom to spend the money they have. Out of the rest, for 73% husbands are controlling the matters; the controlling factor for 2% is the father-in-law, who ban them from spending money. 40% wives said they are unhappy over this control by the husband or in-laws.

In 88% of non-migrant households, the husbands are doing banking; 8% wives do banking themselves; 4% has no bank account at all.

18% said they spend money for luxurious dress, hotel food, picnics, tour and cinema. 38% said occasionally they spend money to see cinema and for visiting holy places.

The rest 44% are struggling for a living. During vacations or leave period of their husband 72% of the non-migrant families simply remain at home; 8% visit their friends and relatives and 20% visit holy places and tourist centers.

While only 18% of the migrant families remain at home during their husbands' leave period, the rest visits their friends and relatives, go for cinema, tours and pilgrimage.

69% migrant husbands use alcoholic drinks; 39% smoke, and 0% are drug addicts.

48% have some kind of diseases: 6% have high BP, 15% diabetes, 3% asthma, allergy, 1% arthritis, 3% stomach disorders, 2% liver problems, 18% both B.P. and diabetes.

58% are using medicines such as insulin, antacids, pain relieving tablets, BP medicines and vitamins, frequently.

76% of non-migrant husbands drink alcohol; 62% smoke; 8% are drug addicts. 62% of them have some or the other type of diseases: 2% high B.P., 6% diabetes, 8% both B.P. and diabetes, 20% liver problems, 26% asthma and allergy.

70% are taking daily doses of medicines including vitamins.

Autonomy

16% of the non-migrant wives have house and land in their own name; 2% have land in their name. 23% of migrant wives have land and house in their own name; 7% have land in their own name.

72% of the non-migrant wives have their own income. 52% are

keeping their income by themselves. In the case of 20%, the income is handed over to their husbands.

26% use the money they have according to the husband's opinion. 36% use for household expenditure. 14% buy ornaments; 24% for household expenses and to repay debts.

60% wives have secret savings.

Only 24% of migrant wives have their own income, and all of them are keeping it themselves. 19% of the migrant wives use the incoming money according to their husbands' opinion. 51% spend it for household expenditure, children's education and to buy ornaments and clothes. 21% save it for future to be used for emergency. 9% use it to buy ornaments and clothes. 53% migrant wives have secret savings.

88% of them are capable of selecting sarees and footwear themselves without anybody's permission.

Only 56% of non-migrant wives are able to select sarees and footwear themselves, without anybody's permission; 88% migrant wives have freedom to buy cloths for their children. They do not need permission from any body. 81% take their children to the hospital when they are sick without anybody's permission.

Only 20% are able to change from one job to another without anybody's permission. 68% need their husband's permission to change the job, 5% need mother-in-law's permission and 5% needs father-in-law's permission. 2% need the permission of both husband and father-in-law.

82% non-migrant wives are capable of selecting clothes, ornaments and footwear for their own use without anybody's help.

52% non-migrant wives have freedom to buy cloths for their children without anybody's permission.

54% non-migrant wives can take their children to hospitals without asking for permission from anybody.

76% need their husband's permission to change from one job to the other.

60% are capable of selecting cloths ornaments and footwear for their own use without others help.

Changing Role & Status

78% migrant wives have full freedom to run the responsibilities of the household. 76% said there is change in their position due to the migration of their husbands; their position has changed both in the family and in the society.

74% said they have increased responsibility such as banking, children's education, payment of bills, shopping, looking after parents-in-law, as a result of their husbands migration. 5% have banking and shopping only as their responsibilities, 3% look after old parents and do shopping, 18% have no responsibilities at all.

91% said migration helped to improve their decision making capacity, in all aspects of life such as money matters, personal matters, household and family matters, children's education, health problems, etc.

But only 9% are able to take self-decisions to buy and sell land and house.

Only 20% of the migrant wives have family planning precautions.

Only 30% said they expressed their opinion about family planning and

all of them said their husbands used to consider their opinion in this matter; 70% never expressed it.

89% said their husbands and the family used to ask their opinion regarding family matters. 23% said their husband and his family consider their opinion as a whole. 54% said their opinions are not completely accepted; 12% said their opinions are considered most of the times.

72% said the migration of their husbands brought them improved status in the family.

45% complained that still their position is below that of men.

40% said migration brought them freedom for interactions with the public improved a lot. The rest 60% are afraid to go outside alone for the fear of gossiping from neighbors and society.

60% said the absence of the men helped them only to fear the society and destroy their freedom they had before. 79% have full freedom for mobility other than going for job. 43% travel alone.

Means of travel

32% - Auto-rickshaw

24% - Bus

44% - Both car and auto-rickshaw

22% visit their parents, in-laws and siblings once in every month. 12% visit them frequently. 42% visit very rarely, only when there is need. Almost all of them visit their friends and relatives when their husbands are around.

23% said they visit their parents-in-law because their husbands ask to do so.

30% visit them because they are living alone. 43% visit their own parents because of the love for them and these visits help them to relax. Some of them are getting financial help also from the parents.

22% said their visits are more during the absence of their husbands, because parents or parents-in-law, who are living alone needs their help in husbands absence. 72% said their visits are less in the absence of their husbands because they don't like to travel alone. 6% said there is no difference in these visits whether the husbands are around or not.

Family Matters

72% are doing banking alone,

23% are doing shopping alone,

36% are doing bill payments themselves,

70% are carrying out children's education alone. For the rest, friends, parents, parents-in-law, siblings, children and servants are helping them to do these duties.

38% said their husbands did these duties when they were around. Only 17% responded that these duties and responsibilities are difficult for them because they were not exposed to such situations before. 10% said husband was doing everything before and the children don't obey them. 3% complained that they have no body to help.

83% said they have no difficulty in carrying out these new responsibilities; 22% said parents-in-law are there and they help and look

after everything. So they are free of tensions; the rest 61% said they are capable of doing everything themselves.

88% have some or the other persons like parents, in-laws, siblings, friends and children, who are helping them to reduce their strains.

55% said they have problems with their husbands' families; of this, 40% said these are due to financial matters.

42% complained that their relatives are interfering unnecessarily in their family matters. 25% said the husbands' families speak ill of them to the husbands.

2% said relatives are sending anonymous, abusing letters abroad to their husbands. 15% said in-laws are asking money so often and speak ill of them to the public.

29% said that there is some type of exploitations from the part of friends and relatives. 2% said, somebody abused their female children.

12% said that there are misbehaviors to them from the side of friends and relatives, and also from strangers because of the absence of the husbands.

Decision making

95% migrant wives said they seek opinion from their husbands during their children's marriage. 1% said they seek opinion from the parents-in-law.

95% seek opinion from the husband during quarrels in joint families; 1% from parents-in-law.

92% seek husbands' opinion for land exchange; 5% take decision herself while 3% seeks parents-in-law's opinion.

80% migrant households have children.

43% take decision themselves in the case of children's education;

36% seeks husband's opinion; 2% parents-in-law's opinion.

93% seek husbands' opinion for solving problems related properties, 3% take parents-in-law's opinion.

90% takes husband's opinion for changing a job; 1% parent-in-law's and 9% can take decision themselves.

64% said they like to send their children abroad for job if they like to go, because it offers them a prosperous future.

32% do not want to send their children abroad, 2% said they not want to part them, while 9% said they have enough money to live here, and no need to go abroad to earn living.

20% said there is no job security abroad.

18% liked to marry their daughters to boys abroad. They said this helped them to get good financial background and prosperous future for the next generation.

But the rest 78% said the don't want to give their daughters to boys who are abroad because they do not want to repeat their own experience also there is no job security abroad.

44% migrant mothers wanted to get their daughters get married between the ages 18-20; 52% wanted it between 21-22; 4% wanted the marriage between 22 and 25 years.

74% are spending their leisure time by watching TV, reading newspapers, magazines and novels and sleeping. 18% teach their children, watch TV, read and sleep. 4% doing some creative works like stitching, gardening, craft works and also teach their children.

12% said they liked to do some income generating activities during their leisure time if they get a chance. Of the rest, 24% are employed and 50% has no interest in involving any such income generating activities because they have no need to make money.

90% migrant wives read newspapers every day.

Only 5% have some type of diseases.

12% take sleeping pills regularly; 5% antihistamines, and 42% take vitamins.

Type of school where children study

1% - Government School

31% - Aided

42% - Unaided

26% - Residential

Means of mobility to school

20% - Car

32% - Auto

24% - School Bus

8% - Public bus

12% - Bike or Scooter

4% - Walking

53% children have private tuition.

58% of mothers are facing problems like stubbornness, disobedience, and extravagance from their children.

27% complained that their children are disobedient. 17% complained of stubbornness, extravagance and late coming; 6% alcoholism, and 8%

behavioral problems and stubbornness. 16% said the child started these problems after the migration of the father.

20% said children were small when the father migrated, the rest 22% said they couldn't give reasons exactly.

Almost all (93%) mothers said single parenting is very difficult; 7% wives have no problems with their children.

13% agreed they used to give their children whatever they ask for.

26% said there is some positive change in the behavior of these children when the father is around.

92% said they are more conscious about their own health and children's health after the migration of their husbands.

6% go to Government hospital.

58% private hospital.

22% go to doctor's house.

14% calling family doctor to home.

9% noticed that there were attempts to abuse their female children by strangers.

Psychological Problems

82% of the females in the migrant households have mental problems.

76% are feeling loneliness because their husbands are not with them; 6% are disappointed with the lonely life; 18% have no problems at all.

38% said they need somebody to share their problems. 93% have somebody to share their problems; 4% father, 42% mother, 16% siblings, 4% children, 3% in laws and 24% grand parents.

76% wives said they feel loneliness because of the absence of their husbands.

6% said they have no interaction with their neighbors and this may be a reason for their loneliness apart from the husband's absence.

65% visit church, temple, prayer groups, etc, to relieve their mental tension. 61% are relieved by this. 61% said either friends or strangers try to exploit them; for 41% it is financial exploitation. For the rest 20% it is misbehavior; 78 % said both social and religious institutions used to exploit them since theirs is a migrant household.

46% said long term absence of their husbands lead to some negative effects in their relationships.

54% said migration only helped to strengthen their relationship with the husbands & made them more affectionate. 28% said the absence helped them to realize the value of love. 45% said there is no quarrel because the husband is away.

55% opined women staying alone are prone to gossip (experiencing) from the society. But they said it is a sign of jealousy; 41% have experienced such gossips. 16% said they start worrying then they hear others speak ill of them.

82% said there is positive change in their individual relationship to others after their husband's migration

For 36%, husband's migration helped them to strengthen their relationship with in laws, friends and relatives.

78% complained of mental tensions; 8% said this is because they never went out alone before marriage.

16% never took decisions alone before marriage.

For 23% husband was always with them to help before his migration
1% said she was the only daughter in the family and the new situation makes her tense; she never sat alone at her home.

30% have worries, thinking of their husbands.

Child rearing is another problem that bring mental tensions for them.

Prospects

85% said husbands' migration brought them so many benefits such as improved standard of living, social status, economic benefits, good education for children, better prospects, respect, and lastly God has given them a chance to help others. 14% said they couldn't identify whether they got some benefits or not; 1% said she got nothing special, but only loss.

To the children above 14 years

29% children in migrant households are above 14 years of age.

27% (majority female children) said they have some difficulties and inconveniences because their fathers are not around.

73% said they are getting more freedom because their father is not around. 95% said they are receiving so many benefits because of their fathers' migration.

70% said they help their mothers and they are anxious to make their mothers happy.

To the elderly

59% migrant households have elderly people. Migrant's father (59%), mother (17%) father in law (8%), mother in law (16%) were the respondents; 2 of them are returned migrants.

84% opined it is the duty of the children to look after the parents during old age. 8% wanted to live alone in their own house in old age. 72%

wanted to live with their sons; 20% wanted to live with the children in turn.

In 59% of the households elder males are the heads of the household and they are taking final decisions for the family. In 19% households elder females (mother) are taking decisions for the family; in 17% the daughter-in-law is managing every thing taking decisions; and in 5% households resident sons are taking decisions.

30% of the migrant household elders are self-sustained. In 47% migrant households, the daughter-in-law is full filling all the needs old ones. In 22% households daughters are looking after the old parents. 86% of the elderly people are satisfied with the present situation, but 6% wanted to go and stay somewhere else.

8% elders expressed the idea they would rather like to go for a pilgrimage. Only 15% visited an old age home. 14% elders experience financial difficulty, 5% have feelings of loneliness.

71% has some or other types of diseases.

30% has their own income, either pension or income from previous deposits. 21% said this is enough for their life expenses.

36% are getting money from their other children who are not staying with them. 36% has either a house or property in their own name. In 47% migrant households either the daughter or daughter-in-law who ever is living in the household is looking after the old ones completely.

In 72% households other children who are not living with the older parents are visiting them regularly.

47%, including females (5%) uses alcoholic drinks.

59% of the migrants are used to bring drinks and cigarette etc. to the family during their visit.

84% elders used to visit either religious or social or cultural organizations.

4% are disappointed because they think that they are old and nobody needs them.

49% are willing to visit a day care centre where they can share their problem, friendship and love with other people of their same age. 90% welcomed the idea of a day care centre and said it is a necessity of the modern age. But nobody wanted to stay in an old age home.

85% said they are enjoying the benefits, as a result of their children's migration; 15% said they have no benefit at all.

10% said they have debt and financial difficulties; for 5% since all their children are abroad, there are no close ones to help them.

Number of children in the migrant households

20% migrant households have no children

19% have one child

51% have 2 children

8% have 3 children

2% have 4 children

Self esteem of females in the migrant household

46% excellent

27% High

20% Medium

7% low

Marital Status of females in the migrant household

50% excellent

38% High

10% Medium

2% low

22% Migrant households have more than one migrant.

Role and Status of Non-migrants

50% said they have full freedom to run the responsibilities of the household alone.

76% are engaged in cooking and other household duties and shopping; 8% have to look after aged parents in addition. Only 30% do banking and 12% go for bills.

34% have freedom for taking decisions regarding their children's education

2% freedom for health problems

0% has freedom to take decision to sell or buy land or property.

64% have taken family planning precautions; 88% openly discuss their opinion about family planning to their husbands, but only 42% husbands are ready to consider their opinions.

32% said husband and his family asked for their opinion before taking important decisions. 2% accept as a whole, 18% some times, and 12% most of the times.

76% have freedom for public interaction; for the rest 18%, the husband won't allow and for 6% parents-in-law object to public interactions. 30% said their status is below that of men; 70% said they have equal status

All (100%) of them opined that the presence of their husband in the family help them to live fearlessly in the society.

Mobility

- 74% have freedom for mobility;
- 60% are used to travel alone;
- 16% husband is used to accompany;
- 16% children usually accompany;
- 8% in-laws would be accompanying
- 56% travel by bus
- 20% by car
- 24% by bus, car & auto
- 40% visit either their parents or parents-in-law once in a month
- 32% visit occasionally
- 28% very rarely visits the parents/parents-in-law
- Majority (72%) visits their parents and parents-in-law most frequently
- 16% visit their siblings very often.
- 14% visit their friends occasionally
- 44% visit their parents because they are living alone.
- 24% visit them often because they are living near
- 18% visit because they get help from their parents & also they said they love them
- 14% visit because of their husband's opinion.

Family matters

- 30% do banking alone;
- 66% do shopping alone;
- 12% go for bill payment;

40% visit schools for children's educational needs

For the remaining ones, the husband is doing these duties for the family, and at times children also help.

40% said their household responsibilities are found to be very difficult.

12% said this is because their children are disobedient; 8% said the husband is irresponsible, and 20% said they are employed and they find it very difficult to run the household duties along with their work.

68% have somebody to share their mental strains

30% have their husband to share their problems, and 20% have their parents for the same;

34% have some confrontation with their husband's family,

32% said it is financial;

24% have relatives interfering in their family affairs

14% said their husband's family speaks ill of them;

10% said the relatives and in-laws used to ask money so often;

12% said either friends or relatives try to exploit them through misbehavior

All the respondents (100%) responded that they seek their husband's opinion regarding their children's marriage and land exchange

92% seek husband's opinion for quarrels in joined families

8% solve it themselves;

There are 90% households having children.

88% seek husband's opinion regarding children's education. 12% decide themselves;

68% seek husband's opinion for changing a job; 32% take self-decision

88% like to send their children abroad, because it helps them to earn a living and a prosperous life.

12% don't want to part them

64% like to give their daughters to a migrant boy in marriage even though she cannot be taken abroad; they believe that it will give them a prosperous life and also good for the next generation.

34% feel that their daughter should live with their husbands.

40% said their daughters should get married between the age of 21 and 22; 60% said between 23 and 25.

40% of the non-migrant wives are engaged in some income-generating activities during their leisure time.

36% are engaged in some creative activities such as stitching, crafts, gardening, etc.

12% are used to sleep and watch TV during leisure time.

12% engage in teaching their children

62% said they wanted to do some useful work that will bring them income; they are ready to accept it, if they get a chance.

52% read news papers everyday.

40% non-migrant wives have some of other types of diseases, BP, arthritis, asthma, allergy, blood sugar.

32% take medicines for that;

8% use vitamins;

2% use sleeping pills.

42% children are studying in Government schools - 36% in aided schools, 22% in residential schools.

48% trek to the school,

10% go by car

8% by auto

34% by line bus

26% have private tuition

68% mothers complained they have problems with their children

For 52%, it is disobedience;

61% said there is change for their character when the father is around.

14% said almost all problems like late-coming, bad friend-ship, extravagance and alcoholism are prominent among the children.

16% children have no problems;

8% give their children everything they ask for

46% non-migrant families visit government hospital,

46% go to private hospital,

8% visit doctor at his house.

4% said that neighbor/relative tried to abuse their female children.

Psychological Problems

56% have some mental problems; 0% complained about loneliness.

36% have some type of disappointment to which the reason is unknown

18% have depressions at times,

60% have their husbands to share their problems; 12% have their mothers.

60% visit religious institutions: Church – 28%, Temple – 20%, and Prayer groups – 12%

20% said they get relief from such institutions; another 20% said they get relief to a certain extent.

8% visits social institutions such as neighborhood groups, mahilasamajams, etc.

8% said they experience some kind of exploitation such as misbehavior from their colleagues at the workplace.

Nobody complained about exploitation from any religious or social organization.

74% agreed that there is frequent quarrel with their husbands. All of them opined women staying alone are subjected to public criticism and abuse, and gossips.

94% experiencing mental tensions,

26% said they have problems at workplace,

42% said they have household problems,

18% have irresponsible husbands,

8% have drunkard husbands, and all these make them tense.

Children above 14 years

38% said they get enough freedom from their parents,

16% said they help their parents in household works,

86% said they are more obedient to their fathers than to their mothers.

To the elderly

54% households of non-migrant households have elderly people.

70% of the respondents are fathers of the non-migrant household head - 20% are mothers, 4% brothers, 6% sisters.

78% opined it is the duty of the children to look after the old parents,
72% wanted to live with their sons,
16% wanted to live with their children in turn, and
6% wanted to stay alone in their own home;
6% wanted to go for pilgrimage.
32% have visited old age homes; but 0% wanted to stay in an old age
home.

70% have ill health, and financial difficulty;
32% have loneliness,
10% have no problems at all.
18% have diabetes, 32% have both B.P. and diabetes
26% have arthritis; 12% have asthma and arthritis.
14% have no disease at all.
30% have income from previous deposits or pension
92% of these people said it is enough for their needs.
56% get money from their relatives and other children who are not
staying with them;
46% has either house of property in their own name;
Only 18% said they are completely under the care of their son and daughter
in law;

For 68% have their children who are not staying with them, but
visiting them regularly.

46% including few women, uses alcoholic drinks.
For 20%, their children used to bring them these drinks
60% visit either cultural, religious or social centers

60% said as they become old, they have a strong feeling that nobody needs them and are useless

74% like to go to a place where they can relax and share their problems with others of their same age.

90% appreciated day care centres and said it is very essential.

36% said they receive some benefits from their children and most important benefit is lucky to see that their children's well being and good health.

Measure of non-migrant females' self esteems

42%, excellent

38%, High

10%, Medium

10%, low

Marital status

16%, Excellent

50%, High

26%, Medium

8%, low

Number of children in the non-migrant household

8%, have no children

10%, have one child

52%, 2 children

24%, 3 children

2%, four children

2%, 5 children

2%, 6 and above children.

CHAPTER 5

IMPORTANT FINDINGS OF THE INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Most of the final survey results support the findings of the pretest and the case studies. 280 questions were given for data collection to each of the 100 respondents of the experimental group and, 233 questions were given to each of 50 respondents of the control group. The same questionnaire was given to both migrants' and non-migrants' households, avoiding some irrelevant questions and including a few, which are relevant in the questionnaire for the non-migrants. Three categories of persons were interviewed using these questionnaires:

Migrant's Wife,
Migrant's Children,
Migrant's Father/Mother or Mother/Father-in-law, or whoever is the head of the household.

Demography of the Survey Group

Based on the survey results the following are the possible observations: migrants belong to the age group of 21 to 69 years and non-migrants belong to the age group of 26 to 70 years.

Majority of the migrants hailed from Christian families, i.e. 42%, in our sample group. Muslims came second with 38% and Hindus only 20%.

There are altogether eight scheduled caste households, which are categorized under Hindus and Christians on the basis of whether they are going to Temple or Church. The same proportion is found among the non-

migrants also. In fact Kottayam town is a Christian dominated area. Information were collected from the experimental as well as control group households, on the basis of three economic strata, namely, lower class, middle class and upper class; of this, majority of 41% of the migrant households belong to the middle class; 33% belong to the upper class and 26% belong to the lower class.

But out of 50 non-migrant households of the control group, lower class households are largest in number, (44%), middle class, 34% and the upper class, the least (22%). The control group of non-migrant households was selected from the neighbor households of any one of the migrant households.

Majority of migrant households have either joined or extended families. But nuclear families are found to be in greater number among non-migrant households of our sample group.

We have also collected the educational levels of the migrants and their wives. 5% have only primary school education and 7% with high school education, 27% have pre-degree or +2 level education, 21% passed SSLC, 18% graduates, 3% post graduates and the rest 11% are technically qualified; among them, 8% are professional degree holders after the pre-degree / +2 level. **It is noted that the wives of the migrants stand either equal or superior to their husband's education level.** There are 22% graduates, 8% postgraduates, 18% professional graduates, and 22% have passed SSLC; 20% have passed pre-degree or +2, and all the remaining (10%) have high school level education.

This shows that when there is a proposal for a migrant boy, the bride's family is not very particular about the equality in qualification of the boy, because of the economic benefits.

Majority of the non-migrant wives have an educational level lower than that of their husbands. Also, in the control group, 6% wives and 4% men are illiterate. **Therefore the migrant households show a higher rate of literacy.**

Majority (42%) of the wives in the migrant households got married between 17 and 22 years. **Survey showed majority (48%) of wives of non-migrant households got married at a higher age, which is between 23 and 25, than that of non-migrant households.** The same pattern is observed in the case of men also. Majority (67%) of the migrants got married between 26 and 30 years.

Majority of men (58%) in our control group got married between the ages of 31 years to 35 years. Also when asked at what age you like to get your daughter married, to the sample groups the migrant household mothers expressed a lower age than that of the control group mothers.

Economic Aspects

Majority of the migrants (62%) work in the tertiary sector, i.e. trade, transport, public services and personal services.

6% of the migrants in the sample group are unmarried.

The largest migration flow from Kottayam Municipal area was in 1990s; 61% of the migrants moved out during this period. The information relating to the economic status prior to migration suggests that 59% were unemployed. Unemployment was the main reason for their migration. The remaining was employed both in private as well as public sectors, but with low salaries. In the Gulf countries migrants are earning between Rs.10,000 and Rs.1,50,000 per month. In the case of non-migrant households, 18% are receiving an amount less than Rs.1,000 and the rest between Rs.1,000 and Rs.50,000 per month. **It is evident that migration provides, better job, a higher income and improved economic status to the emigrants as well as to their households.**

The migrants spent considerable amount of money for migration. Migration did cost them between Rs.15,000 to Rs.75,000. Only 13% of the sample population migrated without spending any money. It is reported that all migrants are sending money monthly, quarterly, or biannual to their wives or to their fathers or mothers.

Majority of the migrant respondents interviewed said that they are spending the incoming money for meeting their day-to-day expenditure, and

for repaying debts. 66% of migrant households have savings in the banks. Almost all migrant households have knowledge about the different mediums of savings, such as, Post office savings, LIC, General Insurance, KSFE, etc. On the other hand, only 58% of the non-migrant wives are aware of different mediums of savings.

Majority (69%) of the migrants have invested their money, for buying land, building houses, buying gold, for business, or for small-scale industries. 60% of the non-migrant households also have some small investments like running their own chitty fund, business, bought land and building houses, lending money for interest, investments on gold, etc. But majority of them are in debt.

We have made an attempt to analyze the standard of living of migrant families before and after migration. Only 44% of the experimental group had a house before migration. But 82% of them owned a house after migration. These who had single storied houses before migration, made it double storied after migration. Some of them renewed their houses and others extended the houses. Before migration, 47% had attached or non-attached bathrooms before migration, but after migration 89% could build bathrooms attached or non-attached.

Migration brought them improvements to their homes, such as newly built septic tanks, flush out tanks, wash basins, ceramic/ cement wash basins replaced by steel wash basins, fans in all rooms, air conditioners, water connections, water heaters, etc., which they did not have before migration. Only 6% was using LP gas as fuel before migration. The rest were using wood or kerosene, for cooking. But 87% used cooking gas after migration. Many of them have actually used it for the first time.

Almost all of them possess foreign goods TV, VCR, VCP, musical instruments, kitchen machines, refrigerators, electric oven, cooking range, microwave ovens, dish washers, telephones, cell phones, vehicles, computers, health & beauty gadgetries, cable and Internet connection, etc., as a result of migration. None of the household has an Internet connection before migration.

29% of the households had a paid servant before migration and after migration 65% households have it.

64% of the control group are having own house. The rest are living in rented houses. 4% lives in houses built in government's acquired land. Middle and upper class households have good houses and also have all modern household amenities including dishwashers, computer and internet connections, even though most of them are in debt.

In the case of computers and Internet connection non-migrant households, excels emigrant's households. 30% of our control group have computer in their homes, and 22% has Internet connections, while only 22% of the migrant households have computer and only 19% have Internet connection. This may be due to the absence of male folks in the emigrant households.

Only 68% bought dailies and magazines before migration, and this has increased to 100% after migration. In the case of control group 76% are buying newspapers, magazines, or weeklies.

With regard to domestic expenses, such as food, medicine, children's education, payment of bills, donations, etc., there is a considerable increase in the amount of money spent after the migration, than spent before migration by these households.

In the case of non-migrant households, they are very calculative in spending money.

Majority (78%) of the heads in migrant households said they are getting enough money from abroad to meet their needs. 11% have other sources of income other than the incoming money. The others adjust by taking loans from the bank or by personal loans. 5% migrants' wives said they ask money from their parents. 36% of migrant households have debt. This is due to migration expenses for some; for others, they bought property, land and vehicles.

Majority (60%) of non-migrant households are in debt. Day-to-day household expenditure, house and land loans, children's education,

children's marriage, medical expenses, etc, immersed them in debt. The pity is that many of them don't know how to repay these debts.

Anyhow, migration has brought prosperity and economic security to emigrants' households.

To the wives

98% of the migrants in the sample are married. But we could interview only 94 wives. 4 of them were not around when we visited the households.

56% of the migrants migrated before their marriage. Of this, 51% wives said they married the particular person because he is abroad and for the rest, job in the Gulf was not a reason for their marriage.

36% of the migrant wives had job before migration. But only 24% are doing job presently.

12% have given up their jobs. Majority of them gave up the job to look after the family and children according to the opinion of their husbands, after his migration. The rest said they gave up their jobs because the migration brought them enough money.

72% of our control group sample has job presently either in the public or private sector.

Delayed child bearing is a serious problem found among the migrant wives of our sample group.

36% of our experimental group had their 1st child at the end of the 1st year after their marriage, while 84% of our control group wives had it at the end of the 1st year of their marriage. Of this, half of them had their husbands with them as they migrated years after their marriage. 56% of the control group had their 2nd child after two years of marriage, while in the case of the migrant wives only 1% had the 2nd child within the same period;

33% had their 2nd child between 3 and 6 years and 18% of the migrant wives had their 2nd child after 7 and above years of marriage.

There is an evident high rate of age difference among the children in the migrants' households.

20% of the migrant wives have no children at all.

8% of the non-migrants' wives have no children at all. Of these a very few are newly wedded ones. **The number of children in the migrants' household is much lesser than that of non-migrant household. The survey shows migration has a negative impact on fertility.** Majority (64%) of our control group wives took family planning precautions. But only 20% wives of the experimental group took family planning precautions; the rest 80% never used contraceptive method. But fertility rate is higher among non-migrant wives.

Therefore migration itself is an effective contraceptive

Only upper class and upper middle class migrants' wives were able to visit their husband's place. 8% of them stayed with their husbands for 11 to 15 years; 2% stayed for one year; 4% visited their husbands for the vacation period of 2 to 6 months.

A notable aspect is the departure of the migrants within a short period after their marriage. In one case, the migrant left after four days of their wedding. All of them are visiting their native place either once in an year or once in two years for one or two months' leave. 4% never visited their native place after marriage. **There is an increase in the number of days of the migrants' stay in his last visit than the previous ones.**

Communication with the husbands is mainly through letters and occasionally through telephone, by the lower class migrants' wives. For the middle class, it is through telephone once or twice in a week. The upper class wives are used to communicate every day with their husbands either by land or mobile phones or by e-mails.

Majority of the migrant wives are getting enough money regularly

from their husbands to meet their household expenses as well as personal needs. Most of them have good savings also.

Majority (94%) of non-migrant wives complained, they are not receiving enough money from their husbands for their day-to-day needs. Only 10% have a bank account in their own name.

Migrant wives are enjoying freedom for spending money. **Most of the middle class and upper class wives are spending it very lavishly.** They use the incoming money for buying fancy items, luxurious dress, ornaments, etc, visiting beauty parlors, taking hotel foods, etc. For a minority 17% of the migrant wives either the father-in-law or mother-in-law is controlling them in spending money. Most of them are young wives, and they are unhappy over this. In the case of non-migrants only the upper-class is enjoying lavishness (18%), such as luxurious dress, ornaments, hotel food, picnics and tours, cinema, etc. The rest are struggling for a living without any enjoyment at all. The middle class wives of the control group only occasionally spend money for seeing a cinema and rarely go to hotels. In the case of non-migrant wives, except a few, need the permission of their husbands to spend each paise, even through they are earning themselves. Most of these women are unhappy over this.

Majority 49% of migrant wives are living with their own parents; 29% with parents-in-law and a few in rented houses and some of them in their own houses.

61% of the women in the migrants' household opined that if they stay with the in-laws there will be quarrel, where as 28% of the women in the non-migrant household said there will be quarrel if they stay with their husbands' parents and other in-laws. Majority of (82%) wives of migrant households literally celebrate the leave period of their husbands, as they visit their friends and relatives, go for cinema, visit tourist centres, pilgrim centres, stays at hotels, go for cinema, etc.

In the case non-migrant household, majority of them (72%) remains at home, when their husbands get leave; rest of them visit holy places and tourist centres periodically.

In the usage of alcohol, smoking and drug addiction the non-migrants stand ahead of migrant husbands.

There is (8%) drug addicts in our control group sample, of which most hail from lower class families. In the experimental group the percentage is 0.

In the case of diseases and intake of medicines also non-migrants stand in the first place.

Migrant males seem to be healthier.

Autonomy

30% wives of our experimental group sample has either land or house or both in their own name, where as in the control group only 18% has properties in their own name.

Majority 72% of the non-migrant wives have their own income. 20% hand it over to their husbands and 52% keep it themselves and use it for household expenditures and repaying debts; few use it for buying ornaments. 60% of the control group women have secret savings.

Only 24% of the migrant wives have their own income and all of them are keeping it themselves, and spend as they like. In the case of incoming money from abroad 19% wives use it as their husbands' opinion. The others use it for household expenditure, buy ornaments and cloths, repay debts, children's education and also some of them save it in the bank. 53% of them have secret savings. For taking the children to hospital, buying cloths for children, buying saree and chappels for personal use, etc., majority of migrants' wives needs no permission from any body. But for changing their job from one to another, majority of them (91%) need permission either from their husbands or parents in-law. In non-migrant household 68% needs their husbands' permission to change from one job to another. Both the experimental and control group samples are some what alike in the capability of selecting cloths, chappels and ornaments for their own use with out anybody's help. **Therefore, we conclude that in the case of autonomy both the groups have almost the same status.**

Changing Role and Status

Majority (78%) of migrants' wives have full freedom to run the responsibilities of the household alone. **There is positive change in their position both in the family and the society as a result of their husband's migration.** In the family, they are getting more consideration and respect from the family members and children, and also others consider their opinions before taking any important decisions in the family. **Migration helped these housewives to have greater interaction with the society, which improved their responding capacity.**

They have better status in the society and in the family.

Migration improved their decision-making capacity and self-confidence.

There are a few exceptions. Our survey points out that migrants' wives are getting sufficient freedom only in the absence of their mother-in-law. This found in joined families where the daughter-in-law is young or newly married. If the mother-in-law is present, she determines every thing. This makes the young daughters-in-law unhappy. Also, these girls said they have no responsibilities at all. In those households, where the mother-in-law is absent, they feel hat they have more responsibilities, such as banking, children education, family health, payment of bills, shopping, looking after aged parents or parents-in-law, etc, as a result of their husbands' migration.

There is short-term impact and long-term impact in migrants' households as a result of male migration. Short-term impacts are felt by women in the household just after the migrant left his home. Many wives, whose husbands migrated recently reported that their responsibilities seems very difficult, and they are over-loaded and mentally tensed as a result of their husbands' migration, because their husbands were helping them in carrying out most of these duties when he was around. Also there is financial crisis as result of the migration costs. But as years passed they adjusted well to the situation and became capable of taking increased responsibilities of the household and gained self-confidence. **Time seems to be an effective resolver of difficulties.** The migration costs are also covered by this time and the family acquires financial stability.

Though most of the existing conditions are positive in the migrants' family, **somewhat half of the women (45%) said, still their position in the family is below that of men.** But they like to remain in the same position. **In contrary to this, majority (70%) of women in our control group said their position in the family is equal to that of their husbands.** In the non-migrant households the husbands are there to share most of the household responsibilities such as paying bills, shopping, banking, health care, children's education, etc., except in a few households where the husband is either a drunkard or is irresponsible. In some nuclear families husbands even help their wives in the kitchen too. Majority of households, husbands take important decisions in the family. In the absence of their husbands the migrants' wives are carrying out all these responsibilities successfully. **Therefore in capability, decision-making capacity and boldness, migrants' household women stand in a position higher than non-migrants' household women.**

All the respondents of the control group responded that they seek their husbands' opinion regarding their children's marriage and land exchange. But in the experimental group a few (5%) are capable of taking their own decision for land exchange and 5% can take decisions themselves regarding the marriage of their children.

In the case changing from one job to another, while 32% of non-migrant wives are able to take self-decisions, only 9% of the migrants' wives can take decisions in the matter.

Another notable finding in our survey is, majority (70%) of families in the migrant households are reluctant to express their view of sex and family planning to their husbands. **This is a clear indication of lack of understanding, closeness, intimacy and love, and can be attributed to a low level of interaction between the couple as a result of their long-term separation.** In the case of non-migrant households, majority (88%) of families are open to discuss their views in sex and family planning to their husbands.

All those migrants' wives who expressed their views regarding family planning said, their husband used to consider their opinion in the matter, where as in the non-migrant households only 42% husbands were ready to consider their wives' demands.

Fear of Society

Majority (60%) of the females in our experimental group sample fear to go outside alone as they fear gossips from neighbors and society. They also fear some negative approach from the family members itself. The rest 40% said migration of their husbands brought them freedom of interaction with the public as there is no need to fear anybody and ask permission.

Mobility

Majority of them (79%) has full freedom for mobility other than going for job. But only less than half of them travel alone. For the others, friends, parents, siblings, children or in-laws are accompanying. Most of them (60%) said the absence of their men helped them only to fear the society and destroyed their freedom they had before. They may go out only for necessities; 72% of them are doing banking alone.

In the case of Kottayam population, the migration of their men destroyed their freedom of mobility and social interactions, which they had when their husbands were around. It is true that **majority of them gained economic independence, but they lost social freedom.** In the case of non-migrant households majority of them (76%) have freedom for public interactions. The females go out freely for shopping, to hotels, etc., even if they are alone.

For majority of non-migrant households their main means of mobility is bus services. In the migrant households, their means of mobility is mainly cars and also rickshaws.

All of the migrants' wives are concerned about their parents and used to visit them more frequently than anybody else. 43% of them said these visits help them to relax. Some of them are even getting financial help from their parents. Also they used to visit parents-in-law and other in-laws of their siblings periodically. Some of them (23%) said they visit their parents in law because their husbands asked to do so.

Majority of them (72%) said these visits are less in the absence of their husbands, because they do not like to travel alone. They are used to

visit their friends and relatives when their husbands come for leave. Majority of non-migrant wives also visit their parents, parents-in-law and siblings most frequently and some of them visit their friends and relatives occasionally.

Family Matters

Majority of women (83%) in the migrants' households expressed that they have no difficulty in carrying out the new responsibilities they got as a result of their husband's migration. For some of them the parents-in-law are there to help and look after everything. For the rest, they said they are capable of doing everything themselves. Also they have parents, in-laws, siblings, friends and children servants to help them to reduce their strains. A minority (17%) said the new responsibilities are difficult for them because they are not exposed to such situations and their husbands were doing everything before his migration. For some of them, nobody is there to help them and their children do not obey them.

For 38% females, their husbands migrated only after a few years of their marriage. Many of the responsibilities such as payment of bills, shopping, children's education, banking, etc, were done by these men before. In non-migrant households even though the husbands are present, 40% said their responsibilities are very difficult. Half of them are employed. They are overburdened with the double role. Majority of the households have no servants and also are nuclear families; so no body to help them. For the others, their husbands are irresponsible or drunkards, and children are disobedient. The rest 60% has their husband and others like parents, in-laws, part-time/fulltime servants and some times children are there to help them and share their problems.

More than half of the migrants' household females have problems with their husbands' family. It is related to financial matters for less than half of them. In the case of the remaining, the relatives interfering unnecessarily in their family matters, husbands' family speaking ill of them to the husband as well as to the public, or sending anonymous letters abroad creates the trouble.

29% experienced some type of exploitations from the part of friends, relatives and also from strangers, including misbehaviors. Two of the mothers reported that, in one case a family friend, and in the second case a relative tried to abuse their female children.

Non-migrant households are also not free from these problems. But compared with migrant households, only a very few non-migrant household respondents responded that they also are facing the above-mentioned problems, in a reduced manner.

Majority (88%) of our control group respondents like to send their children abroad. But only 64% of our experimental group respondents like to send their children abroad.

Also, 64% of the control group respondents are ready to give their daughters in marriage to a migrant body, even if he couldn't take her along with him, as they believe migration can bring a prosperous life for the next generation.

The majority (78%) of the experimental group mothers are not willing to give their daughters to migrant boys who cannot take them along, as they do not want to transfer their bitter experiences to their daughters. Another reason they point to is the lack of job security abroad.

The migrant households prefer a lower age, i.e. between 18-22, to get their daughters married. But majority of mothers in the non-migrant households suggested a higher age, between 23 and 25, for their daughter's marriage.

This may be an indication of the sound financial background of the emigrant households. Non-migrant families are found to be giving more importance to the education of their female children, and also in securing a job for them before marriage to make them self-sustainable.

Spending leisure time

Majority (79%) of the females in the migrant holds win our survey are spending their leisure time by watching TV, reading Newspapers, magazines and novels, and sleeping. In non-migrant households only a few (12%) are using their leisure time for the above mentions purposes. Majority of them are engaged either, in some income generating activities or in some creative activities such as stitching, craft works, gardening, animal rearing, etc. **When asked whether they would like to engage themselves in come income generating activities during their leisure time, if they are given a chance, half of the emigrant females responded, they have no interest to get involved any of such activities, since they have no need to make money.** Only 12% said they are ready to involve in income generating projects, if they are given a chance.

Majority (62%) of non-migrant females are interested to do some useful works that will bring them income. They are willing to accept it if they get a chance.

Majority (90%) emigrants' housewives read news papers everyday, while only 52% of non-migrant housewives read newspapers regularly. Most of latter group said they are not getting enough time to read newspapers as they are engaged in household works and other activities outside house from early morning till midnight.

Migrant household females are found to be healthier than non-migrant household females. Only 5% of the migrants' females have some type of diseases such as arthritis, asthma, and diabetes. But less than half (40%) of the non-migrants' wives are suffering from various types of illnesses including blood pressure and heart ailments. 42% of our experimental group females have regular intake of vitamins, whereas in the control group it is only 8%.

12% of migrants' females take sleeping pills in the night to get sleep. Among non-migrant females only 2% use sleeping pills.

Migrant households depend on private hospitals to a greater extend

than non-migrant households when they are sick. **While majority of the lower class migrants' families visit private hospitals, majority of the lower class non-migrant and to some extent the middle class also, visit government hospitals when they are sick.** A few others visit doctors' residence. The upper class migrants' families even call the family doctor to their homes when they are sick.

Migrants' households child rearing and children's education

Majority of emigrant's children are studying in either unaided or residential English medium schools. Majority of non-migrants' children are studying either in government schools or aided schools. Only 1% migrant households send their child to a government school. Emigrants' children use car, auto, school bus and byke or scooter for going to school. Very few (8%) go to school by line-bus or by walking (4%).

About half (48%) of our non-migrant sample group children trek to the school and 34% travel by school bus / ordinary line bus. Of the rest, 10% travel by car and 8% by auto.

While about half of the experimental group sample children have private tuition, only one-fourth population of our control group sample have private tuition.

Majority (58%) of emigrants' household mothers are facing problems like stubbornness, disobedience, extravagance, late coming, etc, from their children. Alcoholism and behavioral problems are also reported in a few cases.

16% said their child started these problems after the migration of the father. For some of them, their children were small when the father migrated. So they don't know whether there is any relationship for these problems with the migration of the fathers.

Non-migrants' households also reported children's problems faced by mothers. Majority of the control group mothers revealed that their children are disobedient. A few complained of bad friendship, late coming,

extravagance and alcoholism. But most of them admitted that there is change in the character of the children on the very sight of the father. They respect, obey and fear fathers. So **the presence of the father is a great relief to these housewives.**

Almost all (93%) emigrant mothers said single parenting is very difficult. They find it hard to discipline their children. If the children become sick, or they come late in the night, the mothers feel unexplainable tensions and worry. One fourth of them reported there is some positive change in the behavior of these children when the father is around. Gulf emigrants' wives consider children's education as the biggest burden for them. As the father has migrated, the mother is responsible for the admission in schools or colleges, to arrange tuitions to them, to arrange conveyance, visiting teachers to periodically, teaching them at home, advising them and leading them good morals, etc. A few mothers, both in the experimental group as well as in the control group, are used to give their children what ever they ask for.

Migrants' household females are more concerned and conscious about their own health and their children's health than non-migrant females.

A few of them, 9% mothers of migrant households and 4% non-migrant mothers noticed somebody (neighbors, friends or relatives) trying to abuse their female children. One of our migrants' household case studies revealed it clearly.

Social and Psychological problems

Majority (82%) of the migrants' wives have some type of psychological problems. **Loneliness is the major problem they are facing.** Most of them (76%) reported their loneliness is due to the absence of their husbands. Most of them have over anxiety for their husbands and children. Some are disappointed, depressed and frustrated. Depressions and disappointment were found mostly in young wives who were married within a short term.

It is notable that most of our upper class migrants' wives are free from all psychological problems. Since there is money to spare, they have easy ways of communications with their husbands and also if they feel like seeing their husbands, they can travel to his place at any time they like. The migrants can also visit their homes frequently. These females are enjoying a very comfortable and royal life, on behalf of their migrant husbands.

In non-migrant households more than half of the wives have psychological problems. They said they have some type of disappointments and depressions at times to which the reason is unknown. But none of them complained loneliness.

Almost all (93%) migrant wives have some body to share their problems such as father, mother, in-laws, siblings, children or friends. **Therefore, it is clear that the husband's absence is creating loneliness for them.**

60% of our control groupies have their husbands to share their problems and 12% have their mothers. Majority of the experimental group as well as control group females visit religious institutions to relieve their mental tensions. This relieves almost all of the emigrant females. But only less than one fourth of the non-migrant females get relief from these institutions. A few of the control group females visit social organizations such as neighborhood groups and *mahilasamajams*. None of the experimental group females visit these places.

61% of the migrants' wives reported both friends and strangers are trying to exploit them. In most of the cases it is financial. In some cases it is in the form of misbehavior.

Majority (78%) of them complained of exploitation from social and religious institutions since theirs is a migrant household.

8% of the non-migrant females experienced some kind of exploitation such as misbehavior from their colleagues at the work place.

None of them complained exploitation from religious or social organizations.

Relationship with the Husband

Less than half (46%) of the Gulf migrants' wives opined that long-term absence of their husbands brought some negative effects in their relationship. Lack of proper communication results in lack of love and there is possibility of misunderstanding between the husband and wife.

They explained that there are so many external forces acting against a migrant' wife.

These factors fly as letters either anonymous or owned by somebody and telephone calls to their migrant males. Majority of the victims are lower class and middle class migrants' wives. Also, those women who are staying alone are prone to criticism and gossip from the society. But these females are considering it only as a sign of jealousy from the side of neighbors or from the public. 41% percent of females from our experimental group experienced such type of gossips. Some of them said they start worrying when they hear others speak ill of them. Others said they do not give attention to such talk, as they knew it was out of envy. **Anyhow they expressed the view that they are leading he life of a half-widow.** All of the non-migrant respondents said women staying alone are subjected to public criticism, abuse and gossips.

Above half (54%) of the migrants' females of our survey responded that migration has only helped them to strengthen their relationship with their husbands, and helped them to be more affectionate. The absence helped them to realize the value of love, and also there is no quarrel in the

household since the husband is away. **It is interesting to note that most of these respondents belonged to the upper class and upper middle class families.**

In non-migrant households majority (74%) of women agreed that there is frequent quarrel with their husbands.

Majority (82%) of migrants' wives reported that there is positive change in their individual relationship to others after migration of their husbands. More mingling with family members, better communication with the people outside the family, more interaction with the mother-in-law and an increased attachment to the children are some of these positive changes. For some of them the male migration helped them to strengthen their relationships with relatives, in-laws and friends.

Non-migrants are experiencing a greater degree of mental tensions than migrants' wives, both in quality and quantity. 94% of the non-migrant females are subjected to mental tensions, while it is only 78% among migrants' females.

Household responsibilities, financial strains, problems at workplace, irresponsible husbands, physical and mental torture from drunkard husbands, etc., make the non-migrant housewife tense.

For migrants' wives, child rearing is their main cause of mental tensions. Thinking and worrying about their husbands abroad is another issue. Difficulty in decision-making, loneliness, sudden departure of husbands to Gulf countries, as these males were helping these women before their migration, displacement from own family to husbands' family, etc, are the other reasons that causes worry in Gulf migrants' wives.

Prospects of Migration

Majority (85%) of the migrants' wives agreed that migration brought them so many benefits such as improved standard of living, family status, social status, good education for the children, better economic prospects, respect and self-esteem. Many of them have acquired land and constructed

good houses with all modern facilities, and luxurious household equipments. Others repaired and extended their houses and bought vehicles. All these were done within a short period. In the case of a non-migrant these would be life-long achievements. Above all, they are happy that god has given them a chance to help others. These migrants helped many of their friends and relatives to go abroad. They have helped others financially also.

Most of the migrants had debts as a part of the migration expense, but they could cover these within a short period after migration. Majority of non-migrant households are also in debt, except a few upper-class families. Even though some families appear to be very rich and posh, in reality all those shows are laid on loans. Many of the upper-class businessmen are running their business with the backing of huge loans. Children's education, children's marriage, hospital bills, etc, are big question marks for lower and middle class non-migrant families. For 36% of them, buying a piece of land or construction of a house still remains a dream. Only one respondent out of a hundred, who is a young wife of migrant, reported that she got nothing special out of her husband's migration, but only loss. A few (14%) said they could not judge whether they got any benefits or not out of their husbands' migration.

Conversation with Children Above 14 years of Age

29% of the children in migrants' household are above 14 years old. More than one-fourth (27%) of them said they have some inconveniences and difficulties because of their fathers' migration. They revealed that their mothers are very strict so that they are unable to go for cinema, travel long distances, and go outside to have company with other children. They said they really miss their father. But majority (73%) of them agreed that they are obtaining a number of benefits, like good education, good mobilization facilities, luxurious dress, toys, rich and nutritional food, electric and electronic home appliances, etc, as a result of their fathers' migration, which other non-migrant household children lack. They also became more mature than the other children of their age, more responsible, courageous, capable, efficient and improved their decision-making capacity. Majority (70%) of them are used to help their mothers in the household works, and are anxious to make their mothers happy, since father is not around.

In non-migrant households 38% children are getting enough freedom from their parents. A few (16%) of them help their parents in the household works. Majority (86%) reported that they are more obedient to their fathers than to their mothers.

To the Elderly

Migrant households contain more elderly population than in non-migrant households, in our survey sample.

Majority of the elders are of the opinion that it is the duty of the children to look after the parents during old age, and they liked to stay with their sons in old age. Some of them wanted to live with all their children in turn and a few like to live alone in their own house. 8% of the elders in the migrants' household and 6% in the control group wanted to go for pilgrimage, leaving everything behind.

In migrant households where elders are present, more than half of them take decisions for the family; 30% of them are self-sustained.

In majority of the migrant-households either the daughter-in-law or the daughter is fulfilling the needs of the older ones. Few (15%) of them have visited old-age homes, but none of them liked to stay in an old-age home. Majority (84%) are satisfied with their present condition.

In non-migrant households more than one-fourth (32%) of the elders visited old-age homes, but none of them wanted to stay there. 30% of these elder people are self-sustained having previous deposits in banks and pension; 46% have land or house in their own names. Only 18% are completely under the care of their children. **Majority (70%) of the control group respondents have financial difficulty whereas in the experimental group only a few (14%) are experiencing financial difficulties.**

Health problems are found to be in equal ratio both in the experimental and control groups. Arthritis, high blood pressure and diabetes are the major common diseases prevalent among the elders.

In the matter of feeling loneliness, the control group surpasses the experimental group. Migrant households are found to be having a close and strongly binding relationship among its members. Majority of the elders are compelled to take household responsibilities and have better communication with their children and grandchildren within the family, since the supposed household-head is out of station. Therefore only a very few (5%) complained of loneliness while 32% of the elders in the non-migrant households complained of loneliness. Majority (60%) of the non-migrant respondents of our survey reported that they have a strong feeling that nobody needs them and they are useless, or a burden, to the family and the society. Among the migrant-household elders, only 4% said they are disappointed, thinking nobody needs them because they are old. Majority (84%) of the experimental households' elders visit cultural, religious, or social institutions, while 60% of the non-migrant elders do so.

About half of the elders, including a few of the females, in both migrant and non-migrant households use alcoholic drinks. Majority of the migrants bring drinks, cigarettes, etc, for the parents during their visits. In non-migrant households 20% of the elderly are obtaining alcoholic drinks from their children.

A great majority (90%) of our experimental and control group elder population appreciated and welcomed day-care centers for old people, and most of them are willing to go to such a place where they can relax and open up their minds to others of their age. **But no body wants to stay in old-age homes.**

Majority (85%) of the elders in the migrant-households are enjoying the benefits of their children's migration. They are getting good food, good medical care, economic security, social status and better standard of living. Almost all of them are happy and satisfied. They are thankful to God, according to them, to be lucky to see the prosperous life of their children and the grandchildren.

At the same time, the remaining minority (15%) is facing some real problems, both physical and psychological, due to loneliness, ill health, financial difficulties, pain of separation, etc. For some others, since all their

children are abroad, or far away, there is no body to help and support them in their needs. In more than half (60%) of the non-migrant households, the elderly are leading a desperate life; lonely, financially strained, disappointed and psychologically weak.

In short, **male migration has brought mostly positive impacts in the emigrants' households of Kottayam Municipality.** Of course, there are some negative impacts also, but not countable when compared to the merits.

Our survey reveals the fact that migrants' females have a higher degree of self-esteem than the non-migrant females. In marital status also, migrants' females are keeping a better grade in husband-wife relationship. 22% of the migrant households have more than one migrant.

CONCLUSION

Male migration has brought tremendous positive changes to the females of emigrants' households in Kottayam Municipal area. First of all they have attained a better status in their families and in the society. But about half of them feel that they have a lower status in the family than their husbands and it appeared as though they liked to remain so.

They became more responsible and capable, and also courageous. The migrants' wives are bold enough to face adverse situations and have become more self-reliant and autonomous. They have developed confidence in taking decisions on their own and improved their responding capacity.

Migrants' wives are getting sufficient freedom in the households, where there is no mother-in-law. If the mother-in-law is present she would be deciding everything. In those households where mother-in-law is not present, the housewives feel greater responsibilities than before. In most of the migrant households the mothers-in-law are observed to be more powerful than the father-in-law. Majority of the migrant-wives expressed the view that they have no difficulty in carrying out the new responsibilities they got as a result of their husband's migration.

There are short-term impacts and long-term impacts as a result of male migration. Many wives, whose husbands migrated recently, felt that their responsibilities are very difficult.

Due to single parenting, the disciplining of children is found to be difficult in the emigrant households. Just the presence of the father in the family, is found to be a great relief to the non-migrant families. Majority of the non-migrant children responded that they are they are more obedient to their father than to the mother.

Migration has made the children of the emigrant households more mature, responsible, courageous, with increased decision making capacity and efficient. Majority of them help their mothers in household rituals and are anxious to make their mothers happy. But in their mothers' opinion, more than half of them are facing problems like stubbornness, disobedience, extravaganza, late coming, and other behavioral problems from their children. Children in the migrant families like the presence of the father, especially, the female children, because only when the father is around they get the freedom to move out.

Majority of the females in the migrant families in our survey spend their leisure time watching television, reading newspapers, magazines, novels, etc, and sleeping. Meanwhile the women in the non-migrant households are engaged in some income generating or creative activities. But the women of the migrant households are not at all interested in any such activities, because they are receiving remittances from abroad. Many of these females are leading very comfortable, luxurious life.

Family relationships are stronger in migrant households than in non-migrant households, especially in the case of lower middle class families.

In our observation, it is realized that, many of the migrant households have efficient, capable, respectable and highly matured elderly women, very keen on the welfare of their families, prominent than their male partners. Migration of their sons made these mothers proud, responsible and psychologically strong. An acceptance of elevated "motherhood" is seen in most of the migrant families.

It is evident that migration brought women empowerment also to the households, apart from its materialistic benefits. Migration empowered the female children of the emigrants' households to a larger extent. In non-migrant households, only widows or those women having irresponsible or drunkard husbands showed the above stated qualities.

Migration has brought prosperity and economic security to the emigrant households. Regarding the domestic expenses, there is a considerable increase in the amount of money being spent after the migration than before, in the households. Gulf-migrant wives are enjoying freedom for spending money. There is also extravaganza. It is observed that most of the middle class and upper class females are spending money very lavishly. Meanwhile, majority of the non-migrant wives are very calculative in spending money.

On the basis of the survey and studies, the following problems faced by the wives of the migrants, were identified: (1) Feeling of loneliness, (2) Feeling psychological insecurity, (3) Delayed child-bearing, (4) Difficulty in managing and controlling children, (5) Exploitation and criticism from the family and society, and (6) Negative effects and lack of affection in husband – wife relationship due to long-term absence of the migrant husband.

However, upper class migrants' wives in the survey sample are found to be free from most of these psychological problems. Regarding mental tensions, migrants' females are experiencing a lesser degree of tension than the non-migrant females.

In most of the migrant families, there is the presence of parents or in-laws, and the household tries to stay with them, mainly for security.

Psychologically, majority of the migrants' wives are in desperate conditions, especially those young girls who are staying with their in-laws. Feelings of loneliness, pain of separation from the husbands, anxiety about the husband and children, and children's indiscipline are their major problems. Though the migration gained them economic freedom, most of them lost social freedom. They fear to go out alone and interact with the public. They may go out only for necessities. In non-migrant households, female go out freely for shopping, and to hotels even if they are alone.

Migrant females reported that actually they are leading a life of a half-widow. Majority of the Gulf migrants' wives are staying with their own parents. Many of them opined that if they stay with the in-laws, there would be quarrel.

Because the husband is not around, migrant households are free from husband-wife quarrel. Our non-migrant wives reported that they quarrel with their husbands, almost every day. The survey also reveals that the migrants' females have a higher degree of self-esteem, and also a better marital status than non-migrant females.

Almost all migrant families have built good houses, or renewed and extended old ones, bought properties and gold, given good education for their children and have modern life facilities. Those who are in the lower class gained middle class status, and the middle class gained upper class status.

The upper class and the middle class migrants have helped their relatives and friends to migrate, and this they consider to be a deed of great satisfaction. 22% of the households in our sample have more than 2 migrants in each.

The old people in our survey group reported that the members of the households gave them some attention and they are not interested to go to old age homes. They have strong preference either to live alone or to live with their sons. Their opinion is that during old age it is the responsibility of the children to look after them.

Migrant households contain more elderly population than non-migrant households, in our survey samples. Compared to the elders of non-migrant households, migrants' old people are leading a very satisfied life. Majority of them are financially secure. Only a few complained of loneliness, while majority of the elders in non-migrant households grieved that they are alone and have a strong feeling that no body needs them because they are old and weak.

Migration of the head or a member of the family provides great financial advantages, but from a sociological as well as psychological point of view, it has some adverse effects too.

CHAPTER 6

SUGGESTIONS AND POLICIES

ECONOMIC ASPECTS

Almost all of the migrant households receive a good amount of money from abroad from the migrant and it can be seen that the money is mainly invested in house construction, purchasing gold or land, cars, and for a comparatively lavish life. In such investments the household or the migrant on return for good would not get much returns. So, if the income ceases, the family will become poor again. Hence, there is need for investment of the income from the very beginning of migration, in capitals that can provide good returns, in future. In this regard the migrants' households should become aware of modern investment facilities other than the earlier ones, especially when the banks are paying very low interest. Some kind of arrangement is required to bring the wives of the migrants together to provide proper guidance in this respect.

FAMILY MATTERS

Even though the wives of the emigrants' households get empowered in various aspects, many of them feel depressed due to the heavy work-load and responsibilities, which would destroy the peace of mind. That is the reason why some take sleeping pills. In this respect also, many a thing can be done. By bringing the wives of the emigrants in, say, 40s or 50s batches for mutual interactions and consultations with psychologists or specialists in various areas of physical and mental health they can get much better mental

peace and thus can get relieved of the related problems. The leisure time itself would be enough for such activities; boredom of leisure can also be eliminated.

Through such groups the following are the type of programmes that can be held to help the women, children and older people of the emigrants' households:

- Awareness classes/sessions to adapt themselves to the existing situations,
- Counseling for psychological problems like depression,
- Guidance for protecting themselves from strangers and intruders,
- Effective guidance for the upbringing of children in the absence of the father, taking care of their education, future career, etc.
- Counseling for the teenage children regarding their responsibilities in the absence of their father,
- Counseling the visiting husbands, while they are around to strengthen the family ties,
- Conducting medical camps / consultations to deal with female health problems and sexual disorders,
- Conduct classes and guidance facilities for effective finance management for a prosperous life, and
- Conducting yoga / meditation and other health programs, to get relief from physical problems and mental tensions.

The problems of the older people are also to be addressed. Though almost all of them reject the old-age home stay, they would like to get together during the daytime, at least for some time; Geriatrics Day Care facilities would be much encouraging for the elderly.

There are various other studies also conducted with respect to the migration of family members and the related issues in the emigrants' households. Considering the importance of the problems, we would like to suggest that the above suggestions and policies are to be taken up by the State Government and the Local Bodies so that these households can solve the problems they face now. The intervention should not be to take advantage of the economic benefits generated only, but be in totality. The support should be to promote their own get together, assembling and problem solving programmes. The Government or the Local Body can bring in efficient agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations to help the households, especially the wives of the migrants.

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