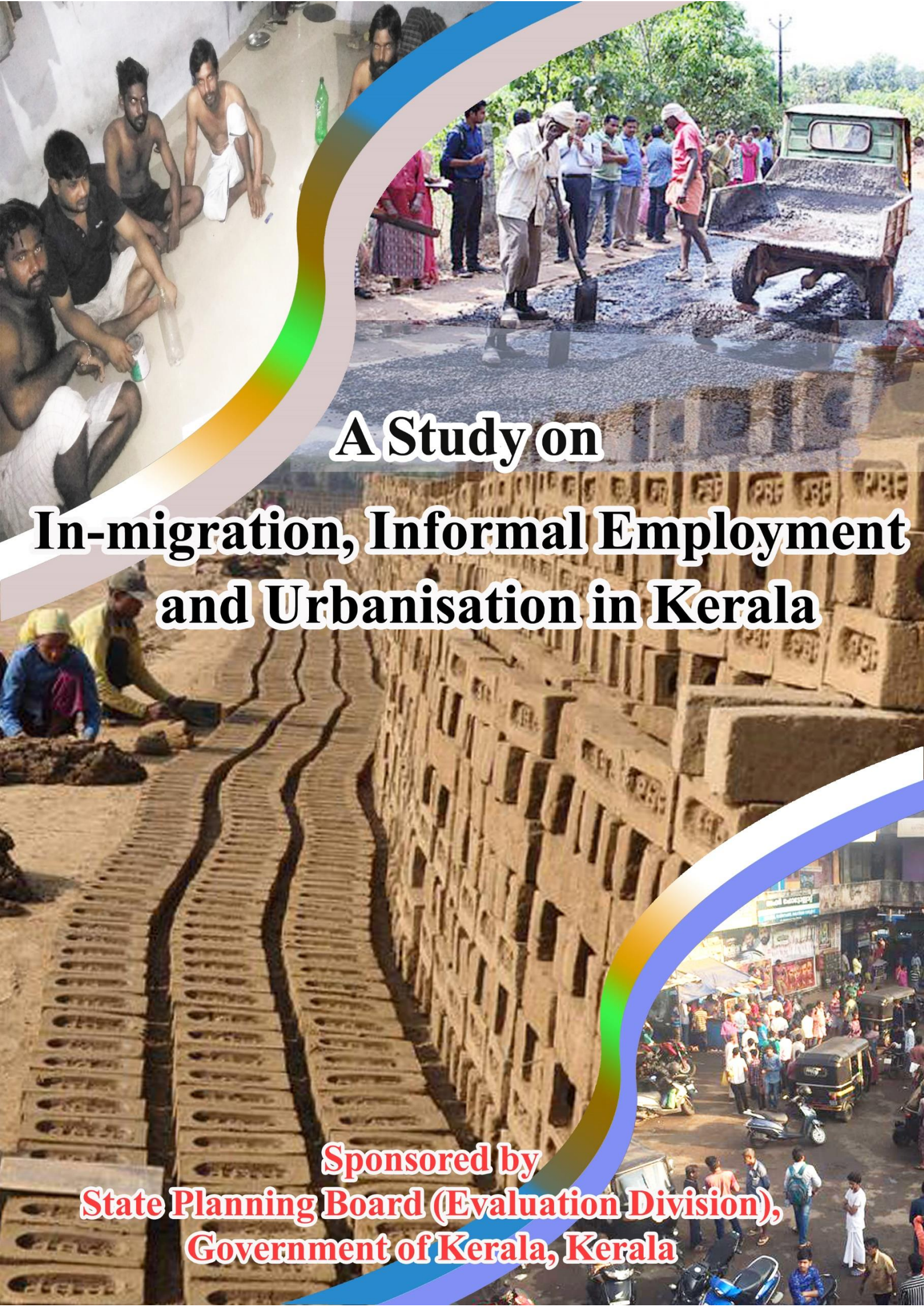

# A Study on In-migration, Informal Employment and Urbanisation in Kerala

Sponsored by
State Planning Board (Evaluation Division),
Government of Kerala, Kerala

# A study on
# In-migration, Informal Employment and Urbanization in Kerala

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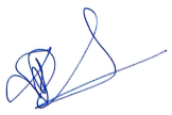
**Dr. K. Ravi Raman**
(Co-Principal Investigator)



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(Principal Investigator)

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# Executive Summary

The main objective of this study was to estimate the number of other state migrants, and their working and living conditions in Kerala. This study is based on both secondary and primary data. While as per secondary data, the number of other state domestic migrants in Kerala increased from 4.5 lakh to about 6.5 (about 2 lakh increase) during the period 2001 and 2011 only; the estimation based on primary data (a baseline survey conducted in the districts of Kerala) suggests that total number of other state domestic migrants in Kerala is about 31 lakhs during the year 2017-18. Moreover, it is noted that about 80 per cent of the sample migrants undertake seasonal or temporary moves (less than 3 months at a stretch), and hence they are mostly underestimated by the national level survey (NSS) and Census migration data. It is estimated that about 21 lakhs migrants in Kerala migrate on temporary basis whereas about 10 lakhs migrants stay for a longer period. Out of 10 lakh total long term inter-state migrants in Kerala only about 5 per cent (about 52 thousand) are living in Kerala along with their family. The district Ernakulum tops the rank by accommodating about 14.5 thousand (28 per cent) migrant families, which is followed by the district Thrissur (about 7 thousand or 13.6 per cent) and Alappuzha (about 5 thousand) respectively. Migrant families living in Kerala, on the average, have two (average value is 1.97) children living with them. Hence, it could be argued that about 98 thousand migrant children are also living in Kerala as dependent family members. Since about 81 percentage of total migrant children are attending education, it is estimated that about 61 thousand migrant children are attending education in Kerala.

Among the sectors which provide jobs to these migrants, construction sector ranks the top with an estimated 17.5 lakhs migrants were engaged in this sector. Manufacturing sector is the second most dominant sector which is attracting large number of migrants from other states. It holds 6.3 lakhs migrants. About 3 lakh migrants are estimated to be engaged in agriculture and allied sector activities, whereas rest are found to be engaged in the service sectors like hotel and restaurants services (about 1.7 lakh), wholesale and retail trade (about 1 lakhs) and other elementary services (1.6 lakh). The sector “mining and quarrying”, “education”, “health and social services” etc., also provide employment to a few. It is found that interstate migrants in Kerala, on the average, earn about 16 thousand rupees per month,

out of which they are able to generate about 4 thousand rupees (on the average) per month as surplus income or savings. Based on the average remittance information, it is estimated that about 7.5 billion rupees is going out of Kerala annually as remittance to other states of India.

Moreover, it explored that working and living conditions of the other state migrants is very poor in Kerala. About 96 percent of the migrant workers are living on sharing basis while about 39 percent live in temporary and *kachha* houses. While about 93 percent of the total other state domestic migrant workers are using toilets on sharing basis (although conditions of most of the toilets are poor and unhygienic), about 3 percent of the migrant workers are still practicing open defecation (not desirable). However, migrant workers reveals that they are not much vulnerable to the Kerala flood situations despite a few who were directly affected and lost their jobs during this crisis. Most of them do not exercise their political rights (they did not visit their home solely for voting purpose, rather those who were at their home during the election they voted in the Lok Sabha election).

Although employers in Kerala prefer to hire migrants to local native workers, they tend to pay less to these workers and do not provide any kind of social security measures to them etc. In this context, *Awaz* Health Insurance Scheme (AHIS) is very important. Even though the AHIS is more popular among the migrant workers in Kerala than *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* of the Government of India, only about 13 percent of the migrant workers were found possessing it. Though AHIS is indeed an unprecedented and path breaking initiative by any state government of India to increase its coverage, awareness among migrants needs to created, particularly among temporary migrants (those who frequently visit home).

The inflow of large scale interstate migrants to Kerala has also positive implications on the growth of urban population and urbanization process. The process of urbanization in Kerala got momentum during the period of large scale emigration (1971 and 1991) with a growth rate of 6.2 percent per annum urban towns. Total number of towns grew from about 88 to 197 during this period. The growth rate of urban town/settlement further increased to 8.2 percent per annum during post 1991 periods to reach 520 towns during 2011 Census. While the number of class-I towns was just doubled (increased from 4 to 9), the number of class-

II towns increased more than four times (from 7 to 29), and number of class-III town and other small towns increased more than six times during 1971 and 2011 Census periods. The number of urban population also increased massively along with decline in the average size of family, increase in urban population density etc. As a by-product of this urbanization process, the number of slums and low quality urban settlements also increased with a trivial growth of slum population.

Since, the economy of Kerala is increasingly depending on other state domestic migrants (particularly low skilled) due to the large scale emigration of its natives, for sustaining the growth of GSDP along with the structural transformation process retaining these migrants in Kerala is important. However, the question of attracting these migrants is much more important than retaining them. Because, it is noted that a large share of other state domestic low skilled migrants move on a temporary basis for better wage/earning, and after a certain age limit they stop migrating to Kerala. Furthermore, relatively younger counterparts normally start join the migration stream to fill the labour demand gap in Kerala. This seems to be a continuous process.

Hence, to sustain this migration flow to satisfy the domestic needs of low skilled labour in Kerala, wage rates should be fixed above the minimum wage level of other origin states and provision of social insurance should be given to these migrant workers along with proper and hygienic living arrangements. In this context, modification of the AHIS is necessary. Particularly, to increase its coverage, awareness among temporary migrants (those who frequently visit home) needs to be created.

## Chapter I

# Introduction

### 1.1 Context:

International migration from Kerala to Gulf (during early 1970s, 1980s and 1990s), and Europe, Oceania and North America regions (during post 2000) increased massively during last five decades (See Osella and Osella, 2000; Zachariah et al., 2002; Rajan and Kumar, 2010; Raman, 2010; 2012; Zachariah and Rajan 2012 and 2016). Among the states of India, Kerala also ranks the top in terms of international remittance receipts (See Parida and Raman, 2019; Raman, 2012). This massive inflow of remittances, had not only resulted a substantial reduction in the incidence of poverty in Kerala during 1990s, but it also helped to improve both education and health outcomes in Kerala (See Choudhary, 1992; Kannan 2005; Chakraborty, 2005). It can be stated that the rising standard of living is the immediate or short term outcome of remittance receipts, while the improvement in education and health outcomes are its long term impacts. Furthermore, it is noted that an increased human capital investment at the household level, has brought a change in the pattern of emigration from Kerala, i.e., from low skilled emigration to relatively skilled, and from Gulf region to to the countries of Global North and Oceania regions in the recent years (Noushad et al., 2020).

Large scale emigration and its consequent improved standard of living has negative effect on domestic low skilled labour supply in Kerala. Shortage of young labour due to emigration and rising share of elderly population (ageing problem) together have squeezed the supply of low skilled workers in Kerala considerably. On the other hand, increased private investment (due to inflow of remittances) on housing and construction, and growth of labour intensive industries together have increased the demand for low skilled and semi-skilled labour in Kerala. To fill this demand-supply gap, a large number of other state migrant workers moved to Kerala either seasonally or permanently (Parida et al., 2020).

Earlier studies on Kerala migration, by and large, have covered the issues relating to emigration (particularly to Gulf and recently to Europe), its determinants

(see Osella and Osella, 2000; Zachariah et al, 2002; Zachariah and Rajan, 2012; Raman, 2012; Rajan and Narayana, 2013; Percot and Rajan, 2017), patterns of remittance inflows and its implication on poverty and overall socio-economic development (see Prakash, 1998; Zachariah et. al, 1999; Kannan and Hari, 2002; Pushpangadan, 2003; Zachariah and Rajan, 2004; Catrineseu et al 2006; George and Remya 2010; Zacharia and Rajan 2010). Moreover, the issue relating to social security, job contracts, and work place discriminations in the destination countries (see Zachariah et al., 2001; Zachariah et al., 2002); and psychological conditions of the family members left behind etc., (see Kumar and Pramod, 2016) are also covered in the emigration literature in Kerala.

Although, a few past studies like Kumar (2011), Rajan and Moses (2012), Saikia (2014; 2015), Manoj and Viswanath (2015), Mohan (2016), Lizy (2016) and Peter and Vishnu Narendran (2017) have covered the migrants problems relating to their employment status, earning inequality , and housing and living conditions etc.; most of these studies are micro level studies conducted in specific geographical locations. According the findings of these studies, migration inflow to Kerala during 1980s and 1990s were mainly from the neighboring states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. However, this trend has been changing, in the recent years. , A large number of in-migrants are found coming from the far off and relatively poor and backward states like Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha etc. for either construction works, industrial jobs or other low paid informal sector jobs (See Sunny et al., 2020). A relatively higher wage rates along with improved living conditions in Kerala might have attracted (pulled) many low skilled job seekers from these states to Kerala (Parida et al., 2020).

However, the study of Narayana and Venkiteswaran (2013) from the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, for the first time, came up with an estimates of the number of domestic migrant labours in Kerala. Until now, this study is considered as the most important study on internal migration in Kerala. Although this study provides a rough estimates of other state migrant workers in Kerala, the survey method adopted in this study (train based survey of workers) is bit questionable.. Similarly, all other existing internal migration studies are based on micro level surveys (conducted in various districts at different points of time), and hence they

tend to ignore a few important aspects relating to these in-migrants in Kerala. Hence, it is difficult to draw any general conclusion based on the review of these micro studies.

Hence, this study intends to provide an in-depth analysis of the issues and problems of domestic migrant workers in Kerala. It also intends to examine, how the process in-migration is leading to the growth of in-formalization, and growth of urbanization in Kerala.

### 1.2 Objectives of the study:

The main objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To estimate the stock of other state domestic migrants currently (2017-18) residing in Kerala, its annual flows and changing patterns in Kerala.
2. To explore the living and working conditions of other state migrants in Kerala, and to examine its link with the rising urban poverty, housing problems, growth of slums and education and health issues.
3. To estimate the volume of annual remittance out flow to other states from Kerala
4. To come out with appropriate policy suggestions that would help the Government of Kerala for monitoring these migration trends and making use of these in-migrant workers optimally to achieve sustained development in the long run.

### 1.3 Major Contributions:

This study has several unique features. First, it estimates the total number of domestic migrants by conducting a base line survey (through clustered sampling) in all the districts of Kerala. Secondly, it collects information from both employers (enterprise) and employees (workers) and provides an in-depth analysis. Third, unlike existing studies, for the first time, it is explored that the share of temporary or seasonal migrants in total migration stock, and then calculated both stock and flow of permanent and semi-permanent migrants in Kerala. Fourth, this study also estimates the number migrants residing with their family, and the number of migrant's children demanding schooling and other social services in Kerala. Fifth, we have

compared and estimated the earning difference between the migrant and native workers in Kerala. Finally, we have explored working and living arrangements of the low skilled other state domestic migrant workers in Kerala, and existing provision of social insurance and their utilization patterns.

**1.4 Chaptalization:**

This study is organized in seven chapters. Chapter two provides the data and methodology. It explains the data collection methodology (base line survey), and outlines the method of estimating and projecting stock and flow of other state domestic migrants in Kerala. In chapter three, we have explained the inter linkages between migration and employment scenario in Kerala based on secondary data, compiled from both Census of India and National Sample Survey of India. Chapter four provides the estimated stock and flow of migrant workers in Kerala, number of migrants residing with family, no. of migrant children residing and attending education in Kerala etc. In chapter five, we have examined the working, living conditions of the other state migrants in Kerala. It also provides information on remittances outflow from Kerala to other states of India and various other socio-political aspects of the migrant workers. A discussion on the process of urbanization due to large scale inflow of migrants is given in chapter six. Finally, chapter seven provides the concluding remarks.

## Chapter II

# Data and Methodology

### 2.1 Sources of Data

This study is based on both secondary and primary data. The major sources of secondary data include the Census of India and National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). Both Census and NSSO provide information on in-migration. While Census of India defines migrant based on both place of birth and place of last residence criteria, the NSSO uses only the place of last residence criterion. Furthermore, Census of India provides only the aggregate or macro level information on migration. It provides the number of migrants by sector (rural and urban), by broad age groups, by gender (male and female), social groups (ST, SC, OBC and Others) along with the reasons for migration. Whereas, the NSSO migration surveys provide detailed micro level (i.e., household and individual level characteristics) information on migration, which can be used to explore important household and individual level factors behind increasing internal migration in Kerala and its consequences.

Apart from the Census and NSS migration specific surveys, we have also used the Employment and Unemployment surveys of NSS, Population Census (for total population data) and Economic Census (to collect information on number of enterprises in Kerala). These data are used in the process of projection of migrant population (and number of workers) in Kerala. We have also estimated the district wise number of in-migrants (from other states of India) in Kerala using both Census and NSSO unit level data. But the major limitation of the NSSO and Census migration data is that these are somewhat old. The latest round of NSSO migration survey was conducted during 2007-08, while latest Census data was collected during 2011, and thereafter no migration survey was conducted in India till date.

Given these limitations we have conducted a primary survey in Kerala to collect interstate in-migration data. This survey could be regarded as a base line survey in Kerala. Because, it covers all the districts of Kerala and collected information from both employers and migrant employees.

## 2.2 Methodology of Primary Survey

This baseline survey consists of three important surveys viz., (i) the employer survey, (ii) the migrant employee survey, and (iii) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). For locating enterprises in each district of Kerala, we have identified a few clusters of enterprises and then selected the sample enterprises randomly from each of these clusters. The employer and employees of the selected enterprises are interviewed with two separate interview schedules[1]. Furthermore, one FGD in each of these districts was conducted to collect other important qualitative information on migrant's living and working conditions. These qualitative information were very helpful for analyzing and discussing our findings. In the next subsection, we have explained the sampling method in detail.

### 2.2.1 Cluster Sampling method

Instead of stratified random sampling, a cluster sampling method is used. The cluster sampling is more appropriate in this case as the target group is migrant population only. These migrants are expected to be present (in large numbers) in various industrial clusters or in the local informal labour markets. Even though both stratified random sampling and cluster sampling are probability sampling methods, the latter is most effective technique to explore the dynamics of the domestic migrants, who normally live in groups. Although, our employee survey, do not cover the characteristics of the non-migrant (native) population; in the enterprise survey, we have collected some additional information about the native (non-migrant) workers as well.

According to Acharya et al., (2013), cluster sampling may be defined as "a sampling method where multiple clusters of people are created from a population where they are indicative of homogeneous characteristics and have an equal chance of being a part of the sample". In this sampling method, a simple random sample is created from the different clusters in the population. The main features of the cluster sampling are: (i) it is most practical sampling method used in large national surveys,

[1] Two pre-tested structured schedules were used (Attached in the Annexure I). In case of our randomly selected enterprises did not cooperate or had declined to give information on migrants workers, we replaced them by other enterprises.

(ii) The sample units/ respondents are to be chosen randomly, (iii) it is usually very helpful when the population is widely scattered, and it is impractical to select a representative sample of all the elements.

Hence, the advantages of using cluster sampling in this study are as follows: (i) It is very convenient; (ii) it takes less time and hence cost effective; (iii) it is very easy to implement; and (iv) finally and most importantly, it ensures higher margin of data accuracy. Although, stratified sampling is equally effective in providing high degree of accuracy, it is time consuming and less cost effective as compared to the cluster sampling method. Since, we had both time and money constraints, in this study, the cluster sampling method is preferred to the stratified random sampling.

We have explained the selection of the industrial clusters and sample units in the next subsection.

### 2.2.2 Selection of Industrial Clusters

First, we have listed out all the districts of Kerala and located the industrial clusters in each of the districts in Kerala using the 6$^{th}$ Economic Census (2013) information on the number of enterprises (See Table 2.1). Then for each district, we have located a few industrial clusters (See Table 2.2). In each of these clusters, we have approached several employers. Those who permitted us and agreed to provide information were actually selected into our sample. Others are excluded.

Simultaneously, we have conducted two different and complementary surveys (the employer and migrant employee surveys). Although our employer survey collected information about both inter-state migrants and native workers; in the employee's survey, we focused mainly on collecting detailed information of migrant employees only.

As per the 6$^{th}$ Economic Census, a total of 33.5 lakh enterprises are there in Kerala (See Table 1). The top three districts, which are having the largest number of enterprises includes: Thiruvananthapuram (13 percent), Ernakulum (11.5 percent), and Malappuram (10 percent). Whereas the bottom three districts which is having the lowest number of enterprises includes: Wayanad (2.8 percent), Pathanamthitta (3.7 percent), and Kasaragod (4.3 percent). The districts having more number of enterprises

are expected to accommodate relatively larger number of migrants from other states of India.

**Table 2.1: Total number of Enterprises in Kerala, 2012-13**

| District Name | Total No. of Enterprises ($6^{th}$ Economic Census) | % share in Kerala |
|---|---|---|
| Kasaragod | 142,836 | 4.3 |
| Kannur | 252,078 | 7.5 |
| Wayanad | 93,348 | 2.8 |
| Kozhikode | 242,280 | 7.2 |
| Malappuram | 334,250 | 10.0 |
| Palakkad | 246,234 | 7.3 |
| Thrissur | 286,832 | 8.6 |
| Ernakulum | 386,584 | 11.5 |
| Idukki | 149,656 | 4.5 |
| Kottayam | 226,108 | 6.7 |
| Alappuzha | 202,837 | 6.1 |
| Pathanamthitta | 124,056 | 3.7 |
| Kollam | 231,485 | 6.9 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 436,420 | 13.0 |
| **Kerala Total** | **3,355,004** | **100** |

Source: Economic Census (2013) unit data, Government of India

The clusters *Ambalappuzha, Cherthala, Karthikappally, Kuttanad, Mavelikkara,* and *Chengannur* are found located in the district *Alappuzha*. While the clusters *Aluva, Kanayannur, Kochi, Kothamangalam, Kunnathnad, Muvathupuzha,* and *Paravur* are belong to the district *Ernakulam*. In the district Idduki only three clusteres were located viz., *Kunnathnad, Muvathupuzha,* and *Paravur*. In district Kasaragod, there were only two clusters viz., *Hosdrug and Kasaragod*. For more details on the clusters, see Table 2.2 (column one and three).

The types of industry covered includes: Coir industry, Construction, Food Processing, Paper, Rose wood Crafts, Screw Pine mats, Stone Carving, Fibre Craft, Footwear, Home Furnishing, Palm Leaf products, Plastics Company, Plywood Industry, Textiles and Readymade Garments, Rice mill, Spices Factory, Tea processing and packing industry, Coconut Oil Industry, Metal Craft, Power loom, Furniture Factory etc., (see Table 2.2: column two for detail). Moreover, the detailed sample size is given in the next section.

**Table 2.2: District-wise details of the *Taluks* (clusters) visited for primary data collection**

| District Name | Types of Industries located in the cluster | Location of the Clusters (*Taluks*) |
|---|---|---|
| Alappuzha | Coir industry, Construction, Food Processing, Paper Tree Models, Rose wood Crafts, Screw Pine mats, Stone Carving | *Ambalappuzha, Cherthala, Karthikappally, Kuttanad, Mavelikkara, Chengannur* |
| Ernakulam | Construction, Fibre Craft, Footwear Industry, Home Furnishing, Palm Leaf products, Plastics Company, Plywood Industry, Readymade Garments, Rice mill, Road Construction sites, Stone carving works | *Aluva, Kanayannur, Kochi, Kothamangalam, Kunnathnad, Muvathupuzha, Paravur* |
| Idduki | Shell Industry, Idduki Textiles, Jaggery Made, Paper Mache | *Devikulam, Peerumade, Thodupuzha* |
| Kannur | Coconut Oil Industry, Coir Industry, Metal Craft, Power loom Textiles, Wood Furniture Factory | *Kannur, Talassery, Taliparamba* |
| Kasaragod | Cashew Factory, Paper Factory, Rubber Factory | *Hosdrug, Kasaragod* |
| Kollam | Brick Industry, Building Design, Food Processing, Hotel, Road Industry | *Karunagappally, Kollam, Kunnathur, Pathanapuram* |
| Kottayam | Brick Industry, Lace Embroidery factory, Screw Pipe Products | *Changanassery, Kanjirappally, Kottayam, Meenachil, Voikom* |
| Kozhikode | Coconut Oil Industry, Coconut Shell Design Industry, Footwear Industry, Garment factories, Paper Industry, Plastic Industry, Quilandy Conch Shell | *Kozhikode, Vadakara* |
| Malapuram | Cloth Factory, Construction, Hotels, Plastic Factory, Sofa Factory, | *Ernad, Nilambur Ponnani, Tirur, Tirurangadi* |
| Palakkad | Brick Industry, Grass Mat Weaving, Pottery & Clay, Power loom Textiles, Rice Mill, Wood Turning & Lacquerware | *Alathur, Chittur, Ottappalam, Palakkad* |
| Pathanamthitta | Bricklins, Hand Embroidery, Hotel, Metal Mirror | *Adoor, Pathanamthitta, Ranni* |
| Thiruvananthapuram | Building Construction, Cane & Bamboo Clusters, Conch Shell, Horn & Bone crafts, Hotel, Stone Carving, Street vendors, Wood Crafts | *Chirayinkeezhu, Nedumangad, Neyyattinkara, Thiruvananthapuram* |
| Thrissur | Bamboo craft painting industry, Coconut oil Industry, Rose wood craft, Terracotta industry, Tiles company, Wood Furniture industry | *Kodungallur, Talappilly, Thrissur* |
| Wayanad | Cardamom factory, Spices Factory, Tea planting | *Manathavady, Vythiri* |

Source: Compiled from the 6th Economic Census (2013).

### 2.3 On Sample size

#### 2.3.1 The enterprise survey

In Kerala, 23.6 lakh enterprises were recorded in 2012-13 (Economic Census, 2012-13). The districts, which are having largest number of enterprises include:

Kozhikode (3 lakh), Wayanad (2.7 lakh), Kasaragod (2.4 lakh), Kottayam (2.3 lakh), Ernakulum (1.8 lakh), Kollam (1.8 lakh), Kannur (1.8 lakh), Palakkad (1.6 lakh), and Thrissur (1.5 lakh) etc. As per the normal distribution criteria (with 5% statistical significance level) the estimated sample size of the enterprise survey is 365. However, our actual sample differs marginally (See Column three of Table 2.3) i.e., 400. We have divided this sample size across the districts of Kerala proportionately and planned to collect information accordingly (Column two of Table 2.3), but due to non-responding and co-operative enterprises (employers) our actual district-wise sample differs to some extent (Column three of Table 2.3).

**Table 2.3: Sampling details of the Enterprises survey**

| District Name | Total number (lakhs) of Enterprises | Suggested sample size[2] | Actual Sample size (No. of Enterprises) | Sample enterprises across the districts (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alappuzha | 1.2 | 19 | 23 | 5.8 |
| Ernakulam | 1.8 | 28 | 47 | 11.8 |
| Idduki | 0.5 | 8 | 17 | 4.3 |
| Kannur | 1.8 | 28 | 29 | 7.3 |
| Kasaragod | 2.4 | 37 | 19 | 4.8 |
| Kollam | 1.8 | 28 | 29 | 7.3 |
| Kottayam | 2.3 | 36 | 30 | 7.5 |
| Kozhikode | 3.0 | 46 | 28 | 7.0 |
| Malappuram | 0.8 | 12 | 30 | 7.5 |
| Palakkad | 1.6 | 25 | 28 | 7.0 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1.4 | 22 | 18 | 4.5 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 0.8 | 12 | 47 | 11.8 |
| Thrissur | 1.5 | 23 | 39 | 9.8 |
| Wayanad | 2.7 | 42 | 16 | 4.0 |
| **Kerala Total** | **23.6** | **365** | **400** | **100** |

Source: Authors estimation based on 6th Economic Census (2012-13) data.

### 2.3.2 Migrant employee survey

For deciding sample size of migrant workers, we have used the information on the number of migrants registered under *AWAZ*[3] insurance scheme**.** The district-wise distribution of total 3.7 lakh *AWAZ* registered migrants is given in Table 2.4 (column two from the left). As per the normal distribution criteria (with 5% statistical

[2] As per Normal distribution criteria with 5% statistical significance level.

[3] AWAZ Health Insurance is a state government initiative developed by the government of Kerala to provide health insurance and accidental death coverage for migrant workers living in the state. First phase of the registration process started in December 2017.

significance level) again the estimated sample size of the migrant survey is 384. However, we have chosen a very large sample i.e., 5000 (Column five from the left; Table 2.3). The district wise sample size is decided based on the proportionate criteria i.e., the percentage of registered (under *AWAZ*) migrants residing in each district. As per this criteria, the district *Ernakulum* got the largest sample size (1006 migrants), while district Wayanad was having the smallest sample size (127 migrants) in our survey.

**Table 2.4: Sampling details of the migrant survey**

| **District Name** | **No. of Migrants enrolled in *AWAZ Scheme (in, 000)*** | **Distribution of *AWAZ* scheme Enrolled migrants (%)** | **Suggested sample size** *(Normality with 5% level of significance)* | **Actual Sample size** (No. of migrants surveyed) | **Sample migrants across the districts (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thiruvananthapuram | 40.2 | 10.7 | 41 | 535 | 10.7 |
| Kollam | 18.8 | 5.0 | 19 | 250 | 5.0 |
| Pathanamthitta | 19.4 | 5.2 | 20 | 259 | 5.2 |
| Alappuzha | 28.5 | 7.6 | 29 | 378 | 7.6 |
| Idukki | 13.7 | 3.7 | 14 | 183 | 3.7 |
| Kottayam | 24.3 | 6.5 | 25 | 323 | 6.5 |
| Ernakulum | 75.7 | 20.1 | 77 | 1006 | 20.1 |
| Trissur | 33.2 | 8.8 | 34 | 441 | 8.8 |
| Palakkad | 19.1 | 5.1 | 19 | 254 | 5.1 |
| Malappuram | 23.2 | 6.2 | 24 | 309 | 6.2 |
| Kozhikode | 33.3 | 8.9 | 34 | 443 | 8.9 |
| Wayanad | 9.6 | 2.5 | 10 | 127 | 2.5 |
| Kannur | 24.1 | 6.4 | 25 | 321 | 6.4 |
| Kasaragod | 12.8 | 3.4 | 13 | 171 | 3.4 |
| Total Kerala | **375.9** | **100** | **384** | **5000** | **100** |

Source: Authors estimation based on the AWAZ migration data, 2017-18.

It is important to note that these sample migrant workers were selected from our selected enterprises only. Unlike our enterprise survey, in the migrant workers survey we have not face much difficulty as most of the migrant workers were co-operative during the survey. Although, the normal distribution criteria suggest a sample size of 384 for the stratified random sampling; we have used cluster sampling (very similar but appropriate in this case) and collected information from 5000 migrants. Hence the estimates based on our sample is likely to be statistically robust.

## 2.4 On estimating number of in-migrants in Kerala

Total number of interstate migrant is estimated using both total employment and the share of migrant workers information. We have estimated number of migrants for each of the districts of Kerala, by sectors of employment, by nature of migration (temporary or permanent), number of migrants living with family, total number of migrant children, number of migrant children attending education (school/colleges) etc. For estimating total employment, we have used the following formula (equation 1):

$$E = \sum_{i=1;j=1}^{n;\,k} \left(E_{ij}\right) * (\mathrm{w}) \ldots\ldots (1)$$

Where E is total number of workers in Kerala. $E_{ij}$ implies total number of workers in the $i^{th}$ sector of the district j. *w* is the population adjustment multiplier. It is simply the ratio of Census projected population and NSS estimated population. After estimating total number of workers in each of the sectors, we have estimated total number of migrants using equation 2.

$$M = \sum_{i=1;j=1}^{n;\,k} M_{ij} = \sum_{i=1;j=1}^{n;\,k} \left(E_{ij}\right) * \left(S_{ij}\right) \ldots\ldots (2)$$

Where M is total number of internal other state migrant population. $M_{ij}$ stands for number of migrants in the $i^{th}$ sector of the district j. $E_{ij}$ implies total number of workers in the $i^{th}$ sector of the district j. $S_{ij}$ implies share of migrant workers to total number of workers in $i^{th}$ sector of the district j. Moreover, we have computed total number of seasonal/temporary/short duration migrants using the following formula (equation 3):

$$M^s = \sum_{j=1}^{k} M_j^s = \sum_{i=1;j=1}^{n;k} \left(M_{ij}\right) * \left(S_{ij}^m\right) \ldots\ldots (3)$$

Where $M^s$ is total number of seasonal migrant population. $M^s_j$ stands for number of seasonal migrants in the district j. $M_{ij}$ implies total number of migrant

workers in the $i^{th}$ sector of the district j. $S^{m}_{ij}$ implies share of seasonal migrant workers to total number of migrant workers in $i^{th}$ sector of the district j. For estimating total long duration/permanent migrants, we have simply subtracted the number of seasonal migrants from total migrant population. Moreover, for estimating number of migrants living with family we have used equation 4:

$$M^F = \sum_{j=1}^{k} (M_j - M_j^s) * (s^f) \dots\dots (4)$$

Where $M^F$ is total number of migrants living with their family. $M_j$ is total migrant population in the district j. $M^s_j$ stands for number of seasonal migrants in the district j. And $S^f$ implies share of permanent migrants reported living with their family in Kerala at least during last 365 days preceding the date of survey. Next, we have estimated the number of migrant children using equation 5:

$$M^C = \sum_{j=1}^{k} (M_j^F) * \left(\overline{C_j}\right) \dots\dots (5)$$

Where $M^C$ is total number of migrant children residing in Kerala. $M^F_j$ is total migrant reporting living with family in the district j. $\left(\overline{C_j}\right)$ stands for average number of children per migrant family living in the district j.

Finally, we have estimated the number of migrant children attending education in Kerala using the following formula (equation 6):

$$M_{Edu}^C = \sum_{j=1}^{k} (M_j^C) * \left\{GER\ (C_j^M)\right\} \dots\dots (6)$$

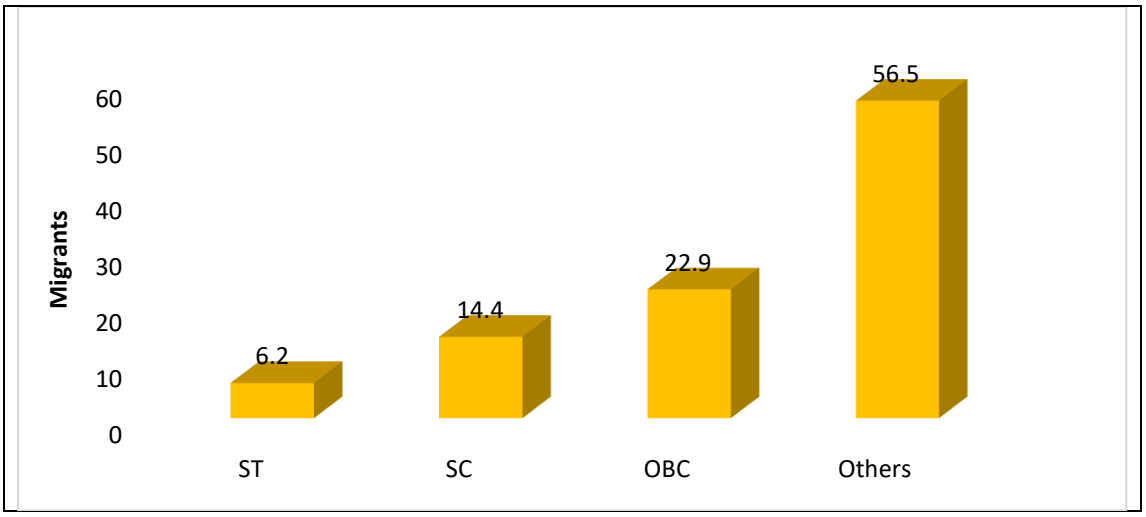
Where $M_{Edu}^C$ implies total number of migrant children attending education in Kerala. $M^C_j$ is total migrant children residing in the district j. $\left\{GER\ (C_j^M)\right\}$stands for gross enrollment ratio of migrant children in the district j.

The estimates derived from the above stated equations and their analysis is given in the chapter four of this report.

## 2.5 A Brief Profile of the Sample Migrants

The social group wise distribution of the sample migrants (See Figure 2.1) reveals that about 20 per cent (About 6.2 per cent STs and 14.4 percent SCs) of them belong to socially backward communities like Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Scheduled Castes (SCs). About 23 percent of the sample migrant belong to Other Backward Castes (OBCs). But majority of them are other castes (normally higher castes).

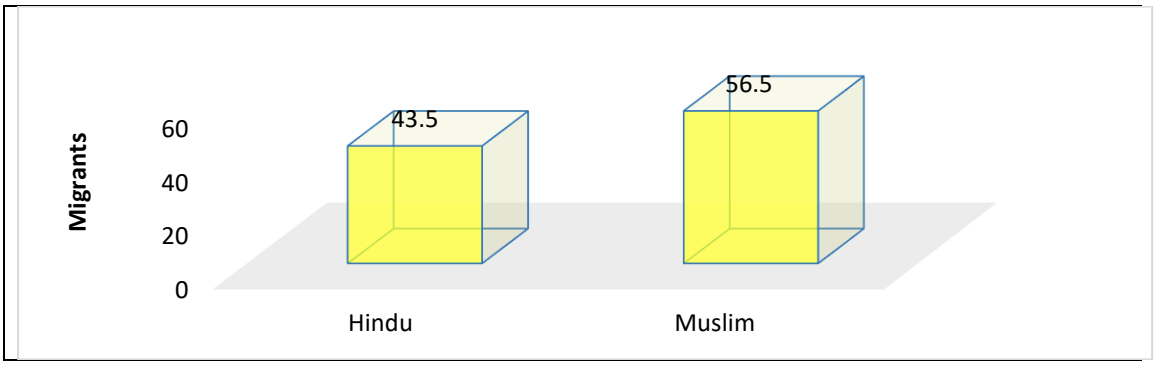
**Figure 2.1: Social group wise distribution of in-migrants in Kerala, 2017-18**




Source: Authors' plot based on primary data, migrant employee survey

From the religion wise distribution of the sample migrants (See Figure 2.2), it is clear that a higher share of the sample migrants are Muslims. This is the reason for a greater share of other caste migrants in our sample. Our sample consists of 43.5 percent Hindus and 56.5 per cent Muslims.

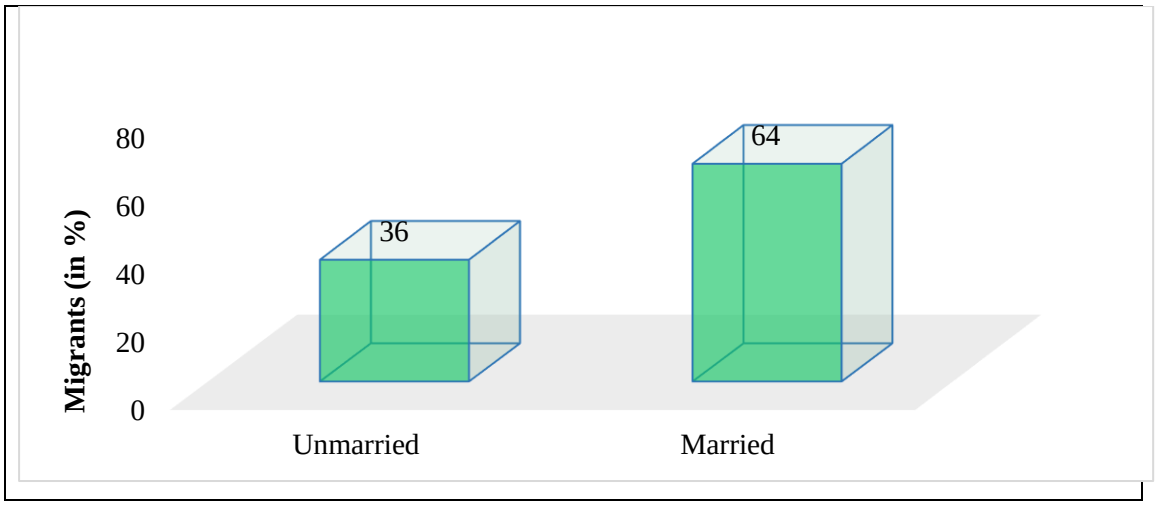
**Figure 2.2: Religion group wise distribution of in-migrants in Kerala, 2017-18**




Source: Authors' plot based on primary data, migrant employee survey

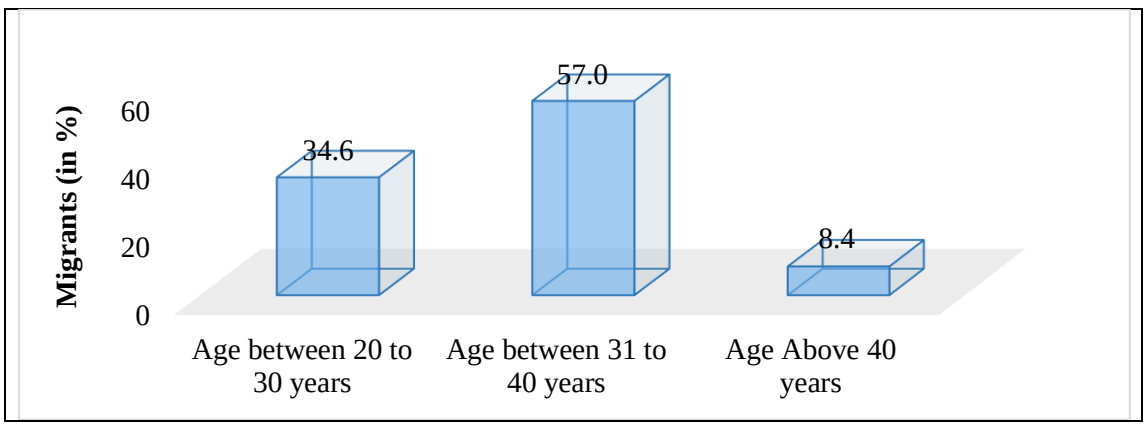
The marital status of our sample migrants reveals that about 36 percent of the sample migrants are unmarried persons, while 64 per cent of them are married (See Figure 2.3). Moreover the age group-wise distribution of migrants reveals that most of the migrants are married youth. About 35 percent of the migrants are in the age group 20 to 30 years, while about 57 percent of the migrants belong to the age group 31 to 40 years (See Figure 2.4). Migrants with more than 40 years are quite few in our sample. Their share is only about 8 per cent. The low share of relatively elderly population in the migration sample indicates that most of the other state migrants come to Kerala for a temporary period of time. Particularly, during their youth they normally come to Kerala to earn their livelihood and they tend to return back to their naïve places with the advancement of their age after 40 years.

**Figure 2.3: Distribution of in-migrants by their marital status in Kerala, 2017-18**




Source: Authors' plot based on primary data, migrant employee survey

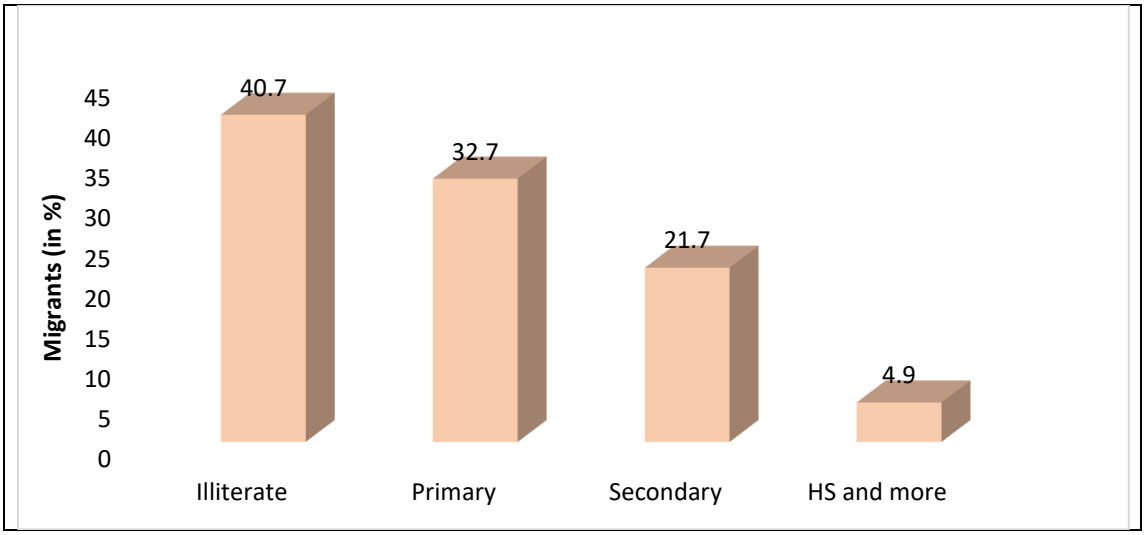
**Figure 2.4: Age group wise distribution of in-migrants in Kerala, 2017-18**




Source: Authors' plot based on primary data, migrant employee survey

The distribution of migrants by their level of education reveals that most of them are low skilled workers. About 41 percent of them are illiterates, and about 33 per cent are having up to primary level of education (See Figure 2.5). About 22 percent of the sample migrants are having secondary and above level of education. While only about 5 percent of them are having higher secondary and above level of education.

**Figure 2.5: Distribution of in-migrants by their level of education in Kerala, 2017-18**




Source: Authors' plot based on primary data, migrant employee survey

The sector-wise distribution of the sample migrants reveals that most of them are engaged in low paid low skilled jobs in Kerala. About 16 percent of the sample migrant (out of 5000 total migrants) were working in construction sector and bricklins; while about 13 percent were found engaged in furniture & wood works; and about 10 percent were engaged in plastic industries. The sectors in which we got a relatively lower sample size, it is mainly because of the non-cooperative respondents. During the survey, a substantial portion (about 40per cent of the factory owners did not cooperate with us. They either provide incomplete information or find reluctant in providing information. During the survey, we have noted their response accordingly and in our final analysis, we have not included those samples.

**Table 2.5: Distribution of Migrant workers by their industry of employment in Kerala, 2017-18**

| Industry of Employment | Sample migrants | Percentage of Migrants |
|---|---|---|
| Bamboo works | 152 | 3.04 |
| Bricklins | 199 | 3.98 |
| Cardamom factory | 29 | 0.58 |
| Cashew Factory | 59 | 1.18 |
| Coir works | 430 | 8.6 |
| Conch works | 113 | 2.26 |
| Food Processing | 128 | 2.56 |
| Footwear Industry | 82 | 1.64 |
| Furniture & Wood works | 661 | 13.22 |
| Horn & Bone crafts | 168 | 3.36 |
| Hotel trade | 242 | 4.84 |
| Metal Craft | 119 | 2.38 |
| Mining & Quarrying | 243 | 4.86 |
| Oil Factory | 186 | 3.72 |
| Plastic Products | 502 | 10.04 |
| Rice Mill | 76 | 1.52 |
| Rubber Factory | 49 | 0.98 |
| Spices Factory | 58 | 1.16 |
| Street Seller | 61 | 1.22 |
| Tea Planting | 40 | 0.8 |
| Textile and Garments | 650 | 13 |
| Construction | 576 | 11.52 |
| Paper Factory | 177 | 3.54 |
| **Total** | **5,000** | **100** |

Source: Authors' calculation based on primary data, migrant employee survey

With these basic and important information, we are concluding this chapter. In the next chapter, we have estimated the number of migrants and employed (workers) population using secondary data (Both Census and NSS). These estimates would be used further in the subsequent chapter for estimating district wise number of other state migrants in Kerala.

## Chapter III

# Migration and Employment Scenario in Kerala

### 3.1 Domestic Migrants in Kerala:

As per Census data, total number of internal migrants in Kerala increased from 9.2 million to about 18 million (doubled) during the year 2001 and 2011. While number of male migrants increased form 3.4 million to 7.3 million, the number of female migrants increased from 5.8 million to 10.5 million during the same period (See Table 3.1). Although, number of female migration is much higher than that of male migration in Kerala, in terms of absolute numbers, but the growth of male migration is higher than that of their female counterparts. During this period while male migration grew at 11.6 percent per annum, the annual growth rate of female migration was only about 8.e percent during 2001 and 2011 (See Figure 3.1).

It is important to note that out of these internal migrants, a large share of them were found migrated within the state Kerala. During 2001, about 94.5 percent of the total internal migrants in Kerala were belong the state Kerala only. Similarly, about 94.1 percent of the total internal migrants in Kerala were belong the state Kerala during 2011 (See Table 3.1). Moreover, among these migrants, it is noted that a large number of migrants moved with their district of domicile, and few other migrated to other districts (inter-district migration).

The share of other state migrants in Kerala is only about 5 percent of the total internal migration in Kerala. It increased from 4.5 lakh to about 6.5 (about 2 lakh increase) during the period 2001 and 2011 (See Table 3.1). The annual growth rate of other state domestic migrants in Kerala was only 4.4 percent (See Figure 3.1). This figures show that the claim made by the earlier study like Narayana and Venkiteswaran (2013) is not correct. We will come back to this question and will answer it in the next chapter of our study. Moreover, we will explore the growth patterns of domestic migrant worker in Kerala, which is more important for policy making in Kerala.

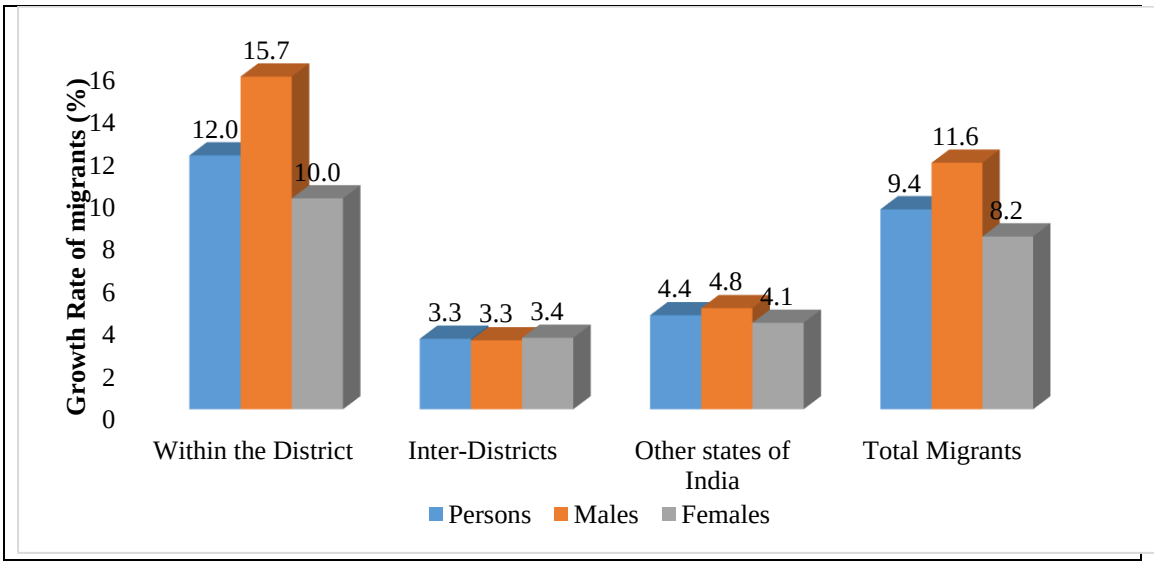
However, in this chapter we are only focusing on explaining the trends and patterns of migration, and sectoral employment trends based on secondary information.

**Table 3.1: Number of migrants in Kerala by the distance they travelled, 2001-2011**

| By Migration Distance | Number of migrants (lakhs) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2001* | | | *2011* | | |
| | *Persons* | *Males* | *Females* | *Persons* | *Males* | *Females* |
| Within the District | 63.4 | 22.0 | 41.5 | 139.3 | 56.5 | 82.8 |
| Inter-Districts | 23.4 | 9.2 | 14.2 | 31.2 | 12.2 | 19.0 |
| **Within Kerala (sub-total)** | **86.8** | **31.2** | **55.7** | **170.5** | **68.8** | **101.8** |
| **Other states of India** | **4.5** | **2.3** | **2.2** | **6.5** | **3.4** | **3.1** |
| Other Countries | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 1.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| **Total Migrants** | **91.9** | **33.8** | **58.1** | **178.6** | **73.1** | **105.5** |
| **Percentage Shares** | | | | | | |
| Within the District | 69.0 | 65.1 | 71.4 | 78.0 | 77.3 | 78.5 |
| Inter-Districts | 25.5 | 27.2 | 24.4 | 17.5 | 16.7 | 18.0 |
| **Within Kerala (sub-total)** | **94.5** | **92.3** | **95.9** | **95.5** | **94.1** | **96.5** |
| **Other states of India** | **4.9** | **6.8** | **3.8** | **3.6** | **4.7** | **2.9** |
| Other Countries | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 0.6 |
| **Total Migrants** | **100** | **100** | **100** | **100** | **100** | **100** |

Source: Compiled from Census of India, Migration Tables (D-series 2001 and 2011).

**Figure 3.1: Annual Growth patterns of in-migrants in Kerala, 2001-2011**




Source: Authors, calculation and plot based on Census Migration Tables (D-series 2001 and 2011).

### 3.1.1 The state-wise migration patterns:

It is noted that the neighboring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra were the major migrant sending states to Kerala during 2001 (See Table 3.2). But during 2011, this trend changed. The states which have major contribution to the rising migration trends in Kerala in recent years include: West Bengal, Assam, Odisha and Bihar. The growth rate of migrants coming from these states are above 20 percent in Kerala (See Table 3.2).

Moreover, it is noted that the share of female migrants is almost half of the total other state migrants in Kerala. During 2001, out of total 4.5 lakh other state migrants about 2.2 lakh were female migrants. Similarly, during 2011, it is observed that 3.1 lakh were female were migrated from other states of India to Kerala, out of total 6.5 lakh migrants (See table 3.2).

The growth rate of female migration from other states of India was 4.3 percent, while the growth rate of male migration was 4.6 percent during 2001 and 2011. But it is important to note that by and large the female migration trends are only from the neighboring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. While the number of female migrants from other far off states were quite low in Kerala.

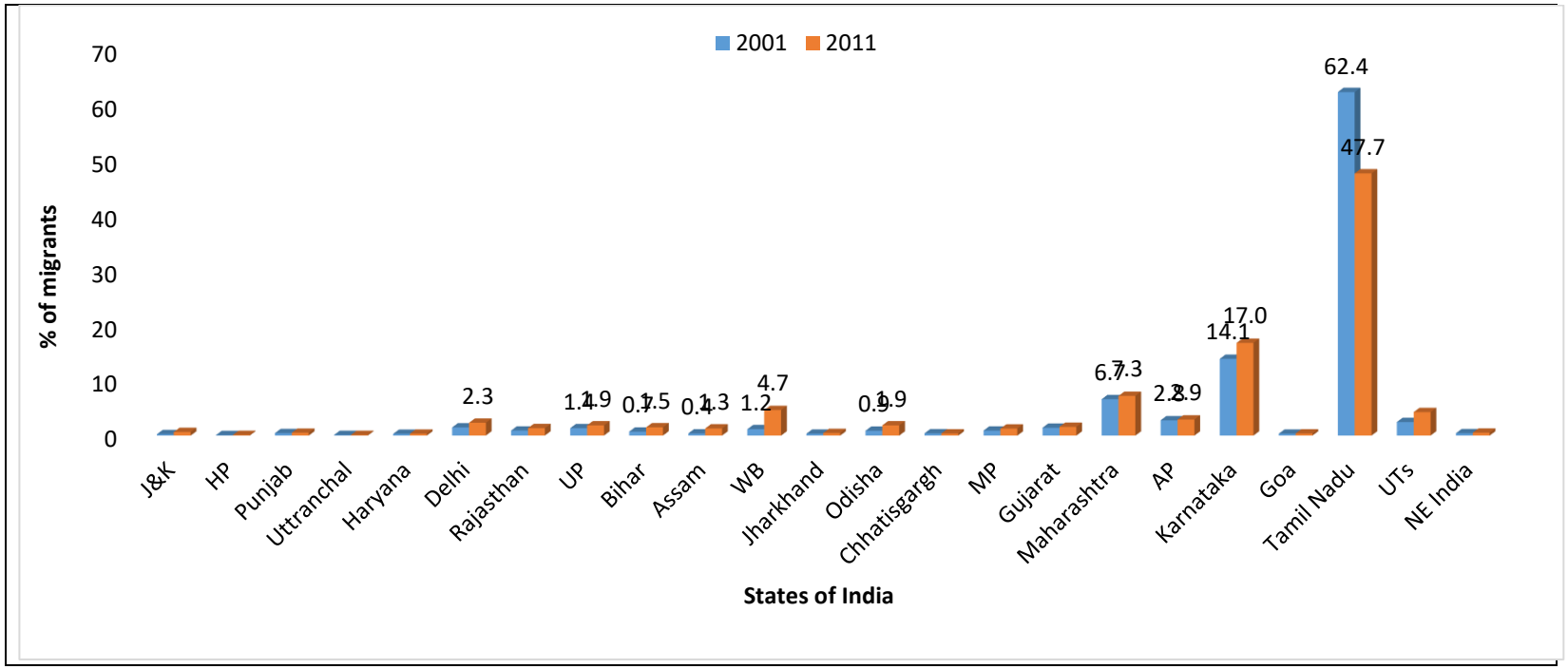
Although absolute number of female migration were higher from the neighboring states, the states like West Bengal, Assam, Odisha and Bihar, had registered highest growth of female migration during 2001 ad 2011. This high growth of female migration were parallel to that of male migration. Hence, it could be infer that female migration flows from these far of states could be due to family or associational migration.

**Table 3.2: Stock of other state migrants in Kerala, 2001-2011**

| Name of the Origin States | Number of Migrants from other states of India (in, 000) | | | | | | Annual Growth rate (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2001* | | | *2011* | | | | | |
| | *Person* | *Male* | *Female* | *Person* | *Male* | *Female* | *Person* | *Male* | *Female* |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 4.3 | 2.7 | 1.6 | 28.0 | 28.1 | 27.9 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 7.7 |
| Punjab | 2.0 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 3.4 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 6.9 | 8.3 | 5.3 |
| Uttranchal | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.8 |
| Haryana | 1.4 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 2.2 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 5.7 | 6.6 | 4.8 |
| Delhi | 6.8 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 15.3 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 12.7 | 12.7 | 12.6 |
| Rajasthan | 4.2 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 8.9 | 5.2 | 3.7 | 11.4 | 11.3 | 11.5 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 6.1 | 3.6 | 2.6 | 12.2 | 7.9 | 4.3 | 9.9 | 12.1 | 6.7 |
| Bihar | 3.3 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 9.9 | 7.5 | 2.4 | 20.3 | 26.8 | 9.5 |
| Sikkim | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 5.6 | 4.7 | 6.8 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 10.3 | 8.5 | 12.7 |
| Nagaland | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 9.7 | 9.9 | 9.5 |
| Manipur | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 11.8 | 14.4 | 8.6 |
| Mizoram | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.8 | -0.2 | 2.3 |
| Tripura | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 9.8 | 10.3 | 9.1 |
| Meghalaya | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.4 |
| Assam | 1.8 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 8.5 | 7.0 | 1.4 | 37.8 | 57.4 | 9.8 |
| West Bengal | 5.3 | 3.3 | 2.0 | 30.5 | 26.2 | 4.3 | 47.4 | 69.7 | 11.3 |
| Jharkhand | 1.5 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 3.1 | 2.1 | 1.0 | 10.2 | 14.8 | 4.5 |
| Odisha | 4.0 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 12.2 | 9.3 | 2.9 | 20.5 | 25.3 | 11.2 |
| Chhattisgarh | 1.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 3.6 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 4.1 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 8.3 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 10.2 | 9.9 | 10.5 |
| Gujarat | 6.5 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 10.4 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 6.3 |
| Maharashtra | 30.2 | 15.7 | 14.5 | 47.5 | 24.1 | 23.4 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 6.1 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 12.7 | 6.6 | 6.1 | 19.2 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 5.2 | 4.7 | 5.7 |
| Karnataka | 63.6 | 26.9 | 36.7 | 110.8 | 48.7 | 62.1 | 7.4 | 8.1 | 6.9 |
| Goa | 1.6 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 2.6 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 6.0 | 7.3 | 5.1 |
| Tamil Nadu | 282.2 | 149.7 | 132.5 | 311.3 | 153.2 | 158.1 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 1.9 |
| UTs | 11.2 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 28.1 | 13.1 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 16.5 | 13.8 |
| **Total Migrant (lakh)** | **4.5** | **2.3** | **2.2** | **6.5** | **3.4** | **3.1** | **4.4** | **4.6** | **4.3** |

Source: Compiled from Census of India, Migration Tables (D-series 2001 and 2011).

**Figure 3.2: Percentage distribution of other state migrants in Kerala, 2001 and 2011**




Source: Authors plot based on Census data, migration Tables (D-series; and primary data

### 3.1.2 Reasons for Migration:

The reason for migration reveals that about 24 percent of the total other state migrants have moved for employment purposes during 2011 (See Table 3.3). While comparing male and female migrants, it is noted that 38 percent of the male migrants and about 8 percent of the female migrants have reported employment as their reason for migration to Kerala. But comparison to 2001, the share of migrants moving to take up employment and work declines with corresponding rise in the share of marriage and associational migration during 2011. During 2001, about 27.5 percent of the other state migrants in Kerala reported employment migration. Among male migrants 42.4 percent reported employment migration, while among females the share of employment migration was 11.4 percent.

Although share of migrants reported employment migration, their absolute number had continued to rise during 2001 and 2011. The number of other state migrants in Kerala, who moved for taking up employment or jobs increased from 1.24 lakh to 1.54 lakh (total 30 thousand increase) during 2001 and 2011. The number of other state male migrants in Kerala, who moved for employment increased from 0.99 lakh to 1.29 lakh (total 35 thousand increase) during 2001 and 2011 (See Table 3.3). However, the number of other state female migrants in Kerala for employment declined marginally from 25 thousand to about 24 (about one thousand decrease) during 2001 and 2011.

The share of migrants who reported marriage migration also declined about one percentage point (from 19.5 percent to 19.6 percent) during 2001 and 2011. While in terms of absolute number, it increased from 88.4 thousand to 1.22 lakh (about 34 thousand rise during 10 years). It is important to note that unlike the all India level trends (See Parida and Madheswaran, 2011; Parida et al., 2015; Parida and Madheswaran, 2019; Parida and Raman, 2019), the share of male marriage migration increased from 5.1 percent to 5.8 percent, while the share of female migrants for marriage decreased from 34.7 percent to 32.7 percent during 2001 and 2011 (See Table 3.3).

However, the share of migrants moving along with the earning member of the family increased in case of both male and female migrants. The share of migrants who

reported movement with family in Kerala increased from 27.8 percent to 29.5 percent during 2001 and 2011 (See Table 3.3). While in terms of absolute number, it increased massively 1.26 lakh to 1.92 lakh (about 63 thousand rise during 10 years). While male associational migration increased by 30 thousand during 2001 and 2011, the female associational migration increased about 33 thousand during the same period.

**Table 3.3: Reasons for migration to Kerala, 2001-2011**

| **Reasons for Migration** | **Number of Migrants from other states of India (in, 000)** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ***2001*** | | | ***2011*** | | |
| | *Persons* | *Males* | *Females* | *Persons* | *Males* | *Females* |
| Work/employment | 124.3 | 99.2 | 25.1 | 154.7 | 129.9 | 24.9 |
| Business | 8.6 | 7.4 | 1.2 | 8.2 | 7.0 | 1.2 |
| Education | 5.8 | 3.9 | 1.9 | 10.0 | 6.8 | 3.2 |
| Marriage | 88.4 | 11.9 | 76.5 | 122.0 | 19.7 | 102.3 |
| Moved after birth | 23.4 | 12.6 | 10.8 | 59.0 | 32.7 | 26.3 |
| Moved with household | 126.2 | 53.5 | 72.7 | 192.8 | 83.6 | 109.2 |
| Others | 77.6 | 45.6 | 32.0 | 107.8 | 61.7 | 46.0 |
| Total Migrants | **454.3** | **234.2** | **220.1** | **654.4** | **341.3** | **313.1** |
| **Percentage Shares** | | | | | | |
| Work/employment | 27.4 | 42.4 | 11.4 | 23.6 | 38.0 | 7.9 |
| Business | 1.9 | 3.2 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 0.4 |
| Education | 1.3 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 1.0 |
| Marriage | 19.5 | 5.1 | 34.7 | 18.6 | 5.8 | 32.7 |
| Moved after birth | 5.1 | 5.4 | 4.9 | 9.0 | 9.6 | 8.4 |
| Moved with household | 27.8 | 22.9 | 33.0 | 29.5 | 24.5 | 34.9 |
| Others | 17.1 | 19.5 | 14.5 | 16.5 | 18.1 | 14.7 |
| **Total** | **100** | **100** | **100** | **100** | **100** | **100** |

Source: Compiled from Census of India, Migration Tables (D-series 2001 and 2011).

### 3.1.3 Employment driven migrants by their duration of migration:

Duration of migration is important from the perspective of policy making, as it helps to predict the number of migration who actually stay in Kerala. It is noted that the share of migrants reporting long duration migration has been declining with corresponding rise in the share of short duration migration in Kerala.

The share of migrants who reported 10 years and above declined from 36.9 percent to 32.4 percent. This trend is mainly driven by the fall in share of male migrants

which declined from 37 percent to 31.4 percent during 2001 and 2011 (See Table 3.4). Although the share of female long term migrants increased marginally from 36.4 percent to 38 percent, it their absolute number was negligible enough (increased from 9.6 to 9.9 thousand) to influence the overall trends of long term total migration in Kerala.

The share of short duration migration (with less than 1 year duration) increased from 14.1 percent to 22.3 percent during 2001 and 2011. It registered increase in case of both male and female migration. (See Table 3.4). It increased from 18.7 thousand during 2001 to 36.4 thousand during 2011 (doubled). This trend is mainly dominated by massive increase of male short duration migration, which increased from 14.3 thousand to 31.7 thousand. But the female short duration migration increased from 4.4 thousand to only 4.7 thousand during 2001 and 2011 (See Table 3.4).

**Table 3.4: Stock of other state migrant workers (Employment + Business), 2001-2011**

| **Duration of Migration** | **Number of Migrants from other states of India (in, 000)** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ***2001*** | | | ***2011*** | | |
| | *Persons* | *Males* | *Females* | *Persons* | *Males* | *Females* |
| less than 1 year | 18.7 | 14.3 | 4.4 | 36.4 | 31.7 | 4.7 |
| 1-4 years | 42.1 | 34.2 | 7.9 | 48.3 | 41.6 | 6.8 |
| 5-9 years | 23.1 | 18.8 | 4.3 | 21.0 | 17.0 | 4.0 |
| 10 years and above | 49.0 | 39.4 | 9.6 | 52.8 | 42.9 | 9.9 |
| **Total** | **132.9** | **106.7** | **26.3** | **162.9** | **136.8** | **26.1** |
| **Percentage Shares** | | | | | | |
| less than 1 year | 14.1 | 13.4 | 16.9 | 22.3 | 23.2 | 18.0 |
| 1-4 years | 31.6 | 32.0 | 30.1 | 29.7 | 30.4 | 25.9 |
| 5-9 years | 17.4 | 17.6 | 16.5 | 12.9 | 12.4 | 15.4 |
| 10 years and above | 36.9 | 37.0 | 36.4 | 32.4 | 31.4 | 38.0 |
| **Total** | **100** | **100** | **100** | **100** | **100** | **100** |

Source: Compiled from Census of India, Migration Tables (D-series 2001 and 2011).

The share of medium term migrants were also declined in Kerala during 2001 and 2011 Census decade. The share of migrants with 1 to 4 years duration of migration decreased from 31.6 percent to 29.7 percent; whereas, the share of migrants with 5 to 9 years duration of migration also decreased from 17.4 percent to 12.9 percent. The above

figures shows how the pattern of internal migration in Kerala is changing in the recent years.

The district-wise pattern of internal migration to Kerala is also changing in the recent years. The districts, which rank the top in terms of the stock of other state migrants were Ernakulum, Idukki, Thrissur, Thiruvananthapuram, and Palakkad. In the district Ernakulum about 30 thousand other state migrants were residing during 2011. The next highest number of migrants were residing in the district Idukki (about 15 thousand). In Thrissur about 14.5 thousand migrants were found during 2011. In each of the districts Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad about 13 thousand other state migrants were found during the 2011 Census (See Table 3.5).

The districts in which highest number other state temporary/short term migrants are residing include: Ernakulum, Kannur, Thrissur, Kottayam, Malappuram and Kozhikode. About 7.7 thousand short term migrants were recorded in the district Ernakulum during 2011 (See Table 3.5). Whereas about 3.7 thousand in Kannur, 3.6 thousand in Thrissur, 3.5 thousand in Kottayam, 3.2 thousand in Malappuram, and 3 thousand in Kozhikode were found during 2011 Census (See Table 3.5). It is observed that the number of short duration and medium term (1 to 4 years duration) migration holds a major share in the total migration across the districts in Kerala.

**Table 3.5: Number of migrant workers by their duration of migration in Kerala, 2011**

| Name of the Districts | Number of migrant workers by their duration of migration (in, 000) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Less than 1 year | | | 1-4 years | | | 5-9 years | | | 10 years and above | | | All durations | | |
| | *Person* | *Male* | *Female* | *Person* | *Male* | *Female* | *Person* | *Male* | *Female* | *Person* | *Male* | *Female* | *Person* | *Male* | *Female* |
| Kasaragod | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 6.4 | 5.5 | 1.0 |
| Kannur | 3.7 | 3.4 | 0.3 | 4.2 | 3.7 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 0.4 | 12.1 | 10.5 | 1.6 |
| Wayanad | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 4.0 | 3.2 | 0.7 |
| Kozhikode | 3.0 | 2.8 | 0.3 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 0.4 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 11.6 | 10.3 | 1.3 |
| Malappuram | 3.2 | 2.9 | 0.2 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 0.5 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 0.4 | 12.6 | 11.2 | 1.4 |
| Palakkad | 2.4 | 1.9 | 0.5 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 0.4 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 5.5 | 4.5 | 1.0 | 12.8 | 10.6 | 2.2 |
| Thrissur | 3.6 | 3.2 | 0.4 | 4.8 | 4.2 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 0.5 | 14.4 | 12.4 | 1.9 |
| Ernakulum | 7.7 | 6.6 | 1.1 | 10.5 | 9.2 | 1.3 | 4.0 | 3.2 | 0.8 | 7.0 | 5.8 | 1.2 | 29.9 | 25.4 | 4.5 |
| Idukki | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 2.4 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 0.6 | 9.4 | 6.5 | 2.9 | 14.9 | 10.3 | 4.7 |
| Kottayam | 3.5 | 3.0 | 0.5 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 0.4 | 10.8 | 9.2 | 1.6 |
| Alappuzha | 1.5 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 6.2 | 5.3 | 0.9 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 0.4 | 6.4 | 5.3 | 1.1 |
| Kollam | 1.4 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 0.4 | 7.7 | 6.8 | 1.0 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 1.7 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 0.6 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 0.8 | 13.1 | 10.9 | 2.1 |
| **Kerala Total** | **36.4** | **31.7** | **4.7** | **48.3** | **41.6** | **6.8** | **21.0** | **17.0** | **4.0** | **52.8** | **42.9** | **9.9** | **162.9** | **136.8** | **26.1** |

Source: Compiled from Census of India, Migration Tables (D series, 2011).

Note: Total migrant worker consists of those who reported either “employment” or “business” as their reasons for migration.

### 3.2 Migration and growth of population and workforce in Kerala:

#### 3.2.1 Share of migrants in total population

Based on the National Sample Survey (NSS) data, it is found that the share of other state migrants in total population of Kerala is only 2.4 percent during 1999-2000 (See Table 3.6). But this share increased to 2.6 percent during 2007-08. The districts in which the share of other state domestic migrants was greater than the total Kerala average during 1999-2000 were: Ernakulum (3.9 percent), Pathanamthitta (3.7 percent), Thiruvananthapuram (3.5 percent), Idukki (3.2 percent), Thrissur (3.1 percent), Kasaragod (2.6 percent), and Palakkad (2.5 percent). Whereas during 2007-08 the districts in which the percentage of migrants were higher than the total Kerala average include: Thiruvananthapuram (5.8 percent), Idukki (5.1 percent), Thrissur (4 percent), Alappuzha (3.9 percent), Kottayam (3.2 percent), and Pathanamthitta (3.1 percent).

**Table 3.6: Share of migrant workers in total workforce in Kerala, 1999-2008**

| Name of the Districts | Share of migrants in total population (%) | | Share of migrants in total workforce (%) | | District wise share of migrant workers (%) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1999-00* | *2007-08* | *1999-00* | *2007-08* | *1999-00* | *2007-08* |
| Kasaragod | 2.6 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 4.1 | 5.1 |
| Kannur | 1.5 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 5.7 | 6.4 |
| Wayanad | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 2.8 |
| Kozhikode | 1.3 | 0.8 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 9.0 | 7.0 |
| Malappuram | 1.9 | 0.4 | 1.6 | 0.9 | 10.6 | 9.1 |
| Palakkad | 2.5 | 2.4 | 5.2 | 2.4 | 10.4 | 10.4 |
| Thrissur | 3.1 | 4.0 | 13.4 | 5.5 | 8.3 | 9.4 |
| Ernakulum | 3.9 | 2.4 | 5.1 | 2.2 | 8.6 | 10.2 |
| Idukki | 3.2 | 5.1 | 13.2 | 6.1 | 4.4 | 4.5 |
| Kottayam | 1.2 | 3.2 | 9.0 | 4.1 | 5.8 | 5.3 |
| Alappuzha | 0.9 | 3.9 | 11.5 | 4.6 | 7.1 | 7.9 |
| Pathanamthitta | 3.7 | 3.1 | 4.8 | 2.7 | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| Kollam | 2.0 | 1.8 | 2.9 | 1.9 | 8.6 | 7.1 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 3.5 | 5.8 | 12.6 | 6.3 | 11.4 | 10.7 |
| **Kerala Total** | **2.4** | **2.6** | **6.5** | **3.2** | **100** | **100** |

Source: Estimated using NSS unit level data, Migration Specific Rounds (55$^{th}$ and 64$^{th}$ Round)

Note: Total worker is calculated using both usual principal and subsidiary status of employment.

### 3.2.2 Share of migrants in total workforce

Although the overall share of migrants in the total workforce declined during 1999-00 and 2007-08, the share of migrants in the total workforce is rising in those districts in which the share of migrants in the total population is bit higher. The share of migrant workers in total workforce declined from 6.5 percent to 3.2 percent during 1999-00 and 2007-08 (See Table 3.6).

As per the NSS data, the highest share of migrant workers are found in the district Thiruvananthapuram. About 11 percent of the total migrant workers in Kerala are staying the district Thiruvananthapuram only. The next highest share of migrant workers were found in the districts like Palakkad, Malappuram, Ernakulum and Thrissur (See Table 3.6).

On the other hand, as per the Census (2011) data, total number of workers were 116.2 lakh in Kerala, of which about 12.5 lakh were found in the district Ernakulum (highest), and about 12.3 lakh were from to the district Thiruvananthapuram The next highest number of workers were found in the districts Thrissur (11 lakh), Malappuram (10.6 lakh) and Palakkad (10.4 lakh) respectively (See Table 3.7).

But the segregation of the total number of workers by their gender groups, reveals that majority of the work force are male. Out of total 116.2 lakh workers in Kerala during 2011, about 84.5 lakh (about 73 percent) were males and only about 32 lakh (27 percent) were females (See Table 3.7).

Moreover, as per the Census (2011) data, total number of migrant workers were only 1.6 lakh of which about 1.3 lakh were males. The share of migrant workers to total workers in Kerala is only 1.4 percent (See Table 3.7). The gender-wise distribution reveals that only about 16 percent of the total migrant workers in Kerala were females, whereas about 84 percent were males. Hence, it could be stated that the employment driven migration to Kerala is dominated by male migrants only.

**Table 3.7: Share of migrant workers in total workforce in Kerala, 2011**

| Name of the Districts | Total worker (in lakhs) | | | Migrant worker (in, 000) | | | Migrant's share in workforce (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Person | Male | Female | Person | Male | Female | Person | Male | Female |
| Kasaragod | 4.6 | 3.3 | 1.4 | 6.4 | 5.5 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 0.7 |
| Kannur | 8.2 | 6.1 | 2.1 | 12.1 | 10.5 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 0.7 |
| Wayanad | 3.4 | 2.3 | 1.1 | 4.0 | 3.2 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 0.7 |
| Kozhikode | 9.5 | 7.5 | 2.0 | 11.6 | 10.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 0.7 |
| Malappuram | 10.6 | 9.0 | 1.6 | 12.6 | 11.2 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.9 |
| Palakkad | 10.4 | 7.5 | 3.0 | 12.8 | 10.6 | 2.2 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 0.8 |
| Thrissur | 11.0 | 7.9 | 3.1 | 14.4 | 12.4 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 0.6 |
| Ernakulum | 12.5 | 9.1 | 3.4 | 29.9 | 25.4 | 4.5 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 1.3 |
| Idukki | 5.2 | 3.3 | 1.8 | 14.9 | 10.3 | 4.7 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 2.5 |
| Kottayam | 7.4 | 5.3 | 2.1 | 10.8 | 9.2 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 0.8 |
| Alappuzha | 8.0 | 5.4 | 2.7 | 6.2 | 5.3 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.3 |
| Pathanamthitta | 3.9 | 2.8 | 1.1 | 6.4 | 5.3 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.0 |
| Kollam | 9.1 | 6.4 | 2.7 | 7.7 | 6.8 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.4 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 12.3 | 8.6 | 3.7 | 13.1 | 10.9 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 0.6 |
| **Kerala Total** | **116.2** | **84.5** | **31.7** | **162.9** | **136.8** | **26.1** | **1.4** | **1.6** | **0.8** |

Source: Compiled from Census of India, PCA and Migration Tables (A & D series, 2011).

Note: Total worker consists of both "Main" and "Marginal" workers.

### 3.3 Sectoral Employment patterns in Kerala:

Total employment in Kerala had been declining since 2004-05. During 2004-05 and 2011-12, it declined from 134.8 lakh to 132.6 lakh (about 2 lakh declined) and further declined to 119.3 lakh during 2011-12 and 2017-18 (See Table 3.8). During the post 2011-12, total employment in Kerala declined massively (about 13 lakh in total or 2 lakh per annum). This huge decline of employment is mainly driven by the fall in employment in agriculture and allied sectors.

Total employment in agriculture and allied sectors declined from about 49 lakh to about 34 lakh (15 lakh decline) during 2004-05 and 2011-12. Furthermore, it declined by 10 lakh during 2011-12 and 2017-18. The recent growth of automation and mechanization in agriculture could be one of the major factor behind this (See Mehrotra et al., 2014; Mehrotra and Parida, 2019). Moreover, rising standard of living due to huge

inflow of remittance income in Kerala might have partly responsible for this decline, as rising household level income has a negative effect on the labour force participation of women (See Mehrotra and Parida, 2017) and children under the age group of 15 years.

Though the declining agriculture and allied sector employment in Kerala could discourage a portion of migrants who normally used to move for taking up agricultural jobs in Kerala (due to relatively higher wage rates), the rising trend of non-farm sector jobs might have attracted many other state migrants to Kerala. The non-farm sector employment increased from 86 lakhs to 99 lakh during 2004-05 and 2011-12, though it had declined marginally by 2 lakh during post 2011-12. According to Mehrotra and Parida, 2017, the decline of non-farm sector jobs is mainly due to fall in jobs in manufacturing sectors, at the all India level. It seems Kerala is also not an exception in this case.

**Table 3.8: District-wise employment trends in Kerala, 2005-2018**

| District Name | Total number of Employment (lakhs) | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total Employment | | | Agriculture and Allied Sectors | | | Non-farm Sectors | | |
| | *2004-05* | *2011-12* | 2017-18 | *2004-05* | *2011-12* | 2017-18 | *2004-05* | *2011-12* | 2017-18 |
| Kasaragod | 4.3 | 4.8 | 3.2 | 1.5 | 2.2 | 0.9 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.3 |
| Kannur | 7.2 | 8.7 | 5.2 | 3.2 | 2.5 | 0.9 | 4.0 | 6.2 | 4.3 |
| Wayanad | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 2.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 2.2 |
| Kozhikode | 9.7 | 10.9 | 13.7 | 3.4 | 2 | 2.2 | 6.3 | 8.9 | 11.5 |
| Malappuram | 11.1 | 11.4 | 11.3 | 3.1 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 8.0 | 9.2 | 9.2 |
| Palakkad | 10.4 | 10.5 | 9.5 | 5.2 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 5.2 | 7.6 | 7.0 |
| Thrissur | 12.3 | 12.5 | 9.5 | 4 | 2.8 | 1.6 | 8.3 | 9.7 | 7.9 |
| Ernakulum | 15.2 | 14.4 | 11.0 | 3.9 | 2.2 | 0.7 | 11.3 | 12.2 | 10.3 |
| Idukki | 6.7 | 6.0 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 3.5 | 3.1 |
| Kottayam | 9.9 | 9.2 | 10.3 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 2.3 | 6.6 | 5.7 | 8.0 |
| Alappuzha | 10.1 | 9.7 | 8.4 | 2.9 | 2 | 1.9 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 6.5 |
| Pathanamthitta | 5.5 | 5.1 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 1.9 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 2.1 |
| Kollam | 12.3 | 11.5 | 12.2 | 4 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 8.3 | 9.2 | 9.7 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 16.6 | 14.4 | 13.8 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 2.2 | 12.3 | 11.1 | 11.6 |
| **Kerala Total** | **134.8** | **132.6** | **119.3** | **48.7** | **33.8** | **23.7** | **86.1** | **98.8** | **95.6** |

Source: Calculated using NSS (2004-05 & 2011-12) and PLFS (2017-18) unit level data.

The districts which hold a relatively larger share in the total non-farm employment in Kerala include: Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Ernakulum, Kollam, Malappuram, and Kottayam etc.

The sectors in which other state migrants are normally employed shows increasing trends include: construction, labour intensive manufacturing sectors, and low paid service sectors like hotel and retail trade sectors etc. These sectors has been contributing largely to the total non-farm employment across the districts in Kerala. During 2017-18, about 23 lakh persons were engaged in construction sector alone (See Table 3.9). Most of them are expected to be other state migrant workers. Although service sector was the top most employment generating sectors in Kerala, because of its skill requirement quite a low share of migrants were found engaged in service sectors. The sub-sectors of service sector in which migrant workers were found engaged include low paid service sectors like hotel and retail trade sectors etc. On the other hand, a significant percentage of migrants were expected to be engaged in the manufacturing sector. This sector contributes about 14 lakh to total employment in Kerala during 2017-18 (See Table 3.9).

**Table 3.9: Sectoral employment patterns in Kerala, 2017-18**

| District Name | Total Employment (lakhs) | Share (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Agriculture | 22.7 | 19.0 |
| Fishing & Aquaculture | 1.8 | 1.5 |
| Mining & Quarrying | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Manufacturing | 13.5 | 11.3 |
| Electricity, Gas and Water Supply | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Construction | 22.8 | 19.1 |
| Wholesale & Retail Trade Service | 16.7 | 14.0 |
| Hotel & Restaurants Service | 3.3 | 2.7 |
| Education | 5.9 | 5.0 |
| Health & Social Services | 3.4 | 2.8 |
| Other Services | 28.2 | 23.7 |
| **Total** | **119.3** | **100** |

Source: Calculated using PLFS (2017-18) unit level data.

The districts which generates more than 2 lakh employment in the construction sector alone include: Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulum, and Kollam (See Table 3.10). In these districts large number of other state migrants are expected to be present in Kerala.

**Table 3.10: District-wise sectoral employment trends in Kerala, 2017-18**

| District Name | Sector-wise Number of workers (lakhs) | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Agriculture* | *Fishing & Aquaculture* | *Mining & Quarrying* | *Manufacturing* | *Electricity, Gas and Water Supply* | *Construction* | *Wholesale & Retail Trade Service* | *Hotel & Restaurants Service* | *Education* | *Health & Social Services* | *Other Services* |
| Kasaragod | 0.86 | 0 | 0 | 0.25 | 0 | 0.77 | 0.40 | 0.04 | 0.18 | 0.03 | 0.64 |
| Kannur | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 0.46 | 0 | 1.05 | 0.81 | 0.17 | 0.46 | 0.14 | 1.15 |
| Wayanad | 1.28 | 0 | 0 | 0.14 | 0 | 0.83 | 0.41 | 0.14 | 0.19 | 0.00 | 0.51 |
| Kozhikode | 2.11 | 0.26 | 0.01 | 1.27 | 0.17 | 3.13 | 1.99 | 0.56 | 0.51 | 0.26 | 3.45 |
| Malappuram | 2.12 | 0.27 | 0.11 | 1.09 | 0.03 | 2.55 | 1.69 | 0.19 | 0.71 | 0.22 | 2.34 |
| Palakkad | 2.53 | 0 | 0.06 | 1.35 | 0.05 | 1.85 | 1.21 | 0.14 | 0.39 | 0.28 | 1.63 |
| Thrissur | 1.51 | 0.06 | 0.02 | 1.70 | 0.22 | 1.36 | 1.50 | 0.23 | 0.50 | 0.30 | 2.08 |
| Ernakulam | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.01 | 1.05 | 0.02 | 2.33 | 1.84 | 0.27 | 0.48 | 0.18 | 3.98 |
| Idukki | 1.93 | 0 | 0 | 0.41 | 0.00 | 0.73 | 0.58 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 0.16 | 0.98 |
| Kottayam | 2.28 | 0.01 | 0 | 1.16 | 0.13 | 1.46 | 1.67 | 0.16 | 0.48 | 0.43 | 2.50 |
| Alappuzha | 1.48 | 0.47 | 0 | 1.13 | 0 | 1.85 | 1.28 | 0.30 | 0.38 | 0.18 | 1.37 |
| Pathanamthitta | 0.59 | 0 | 0 | 0.10 | 0 | 0.51 | 0.25 | 0.04 | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.85 |
| Kollam | 2.43 | 0.10 | 0.06 | 2.00 | 0.14 | 2.03 | 1.58 | 0.59 | 0.57 | 0.20 | 2.53 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 2.08 | 0.15 | 0.03 | 1.36 | 0.01 | 2.35 | 1.50 | 0.43 | 0.83 | 0.82 | 4.21 |
| **Kerala Total** | **22.65** | **1.76** | **0.31** | **13.49** | **0.77** | **22.79** | **16.72** | **3.27** | **5.91** | **3.38** | **28.21** |

Source: Calculated using PLFS (2017-18) unit level data

### 3.4 Summary:

As per the secondary data the share of other state domestic migrants in Kerala is only about 5 percent of the total internal migration in Kerala. It increased from 4.5 lakh to about 6.5 (about 2 lakh increase) during the period 2001 and 2011 with an annual growth rate of 4.4 percent. It is noted that the neighboring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra were the major migrant sending states to Kerala during 2001. But during 2011, this trend has changed, as migrants from far off states like West Bengal, Assam, Odisha and Bihar increased massively with a growth rate of about 20 per cent. It is noted that the share of migrants reporting long duration migration has been declining with corresponding rise in the share of short duration migration in Kerala.

Although, the overall share of migrants in the total workforce declined during 1999-00 and 2007-08, the share of migrants in the total workforce is rising in those districts in which the share of migrants in the total population is bit higher. The share of migrant workers in total workforce declined from 6.5 percent to 3.2 percent during 1999-00 and 2007-08. The sectors in which other state migrants are normally employed shows increasing trends include: construction, labour intensive manufacturing sectors, and low paid service sectors like hotel and retail trade sectors etc. These sectors has been contributing largely to the total non-farm employment across the districts in Kerala. During 2017-18, about 23 lakh persons were engaged in construction sector alone. Most of them are expected to be other state migrant workers. Although service sector was the top most employment generating sectors in Kerala, because of its skill requirement quite a low share of migrants were found engaged in service sectors. The sub-sectors of service sector in which migrant workers were found engaged include low paid service sectors like hotel and retail trade sectors etc. 0On the other hand, a significant percentage of migrants were expected to be engaged in the manufacturing sector. This sector contributes about 14 lakh to total employment in Kerala during 2017-18.

## Chapter IV

# Projection of Interstate Migrants

### 4.1 Estimating Stock of Migrant Workers in Kerala

Total number of other state migrants in Kerala is estimated using the total employment data. First, we have estimated total number of workers in each of the broad sectors viz., agriculture and allied, mining and quarrying, electricity, water and gas supply etc., manufacturing, construction, and service sectors (See Table 4.1). Then using the percentage of other state migrant workers in each of these broad sectors, we have linearly estimated the number of migrants. We have presented three important scenarios as follows: (1) In Scenario-I, the number of migrants is estimated using the current share (proportion) of other state migrants in each of their subsector of employment; (2) In Scenario-II, the number of migrants is estimated assuming that share (proportion) of other state migrants is 10 percentage point higher than their current share (proportion) in each of the subsector of employment. It provides the maximum limit; (3) In Scenario-III, the number of migrants is estimated assuming that share (proportion) of other state migrants is 10 percentage point lower than their current share (proportion) in each of the subsector. It provides the minimum limit.

It is important to note that construction sector is the single largest recipient of other state migrant workers in Kerala. The construction sector is followed by the manufacturing, agriculture and allied (fishing and aquaculture) sector, hotel and restaurant services, whole sale and retail trade and other elementary service sectors. Most of these sectors are expected to attract low skilled migrants workers. Moreover, it is also found that most of these migrant workers are engaged informally without any written job contract or any kind of social security benefits provisions. We will explore the quality of migrants' employment and their living and working conditions in detail in the next chapter. However in this chapter, we focus only on estimating number of migrant workers.

***Scenario I: Estimated Migrants***

As per the scenario-I, total number of other state migrants in Kerala is 31.4 lakhs. The construction sector tops the rank. It is observed that about 17.5 lakhs of the total other state migrants are engaged in the construction sector itself. Manufacturing is the second most dominant sector which is attracting large number of migrants from other states of India. It holds 6.3 lakhs migrants. About 3 lakh migrants are expected to be engaged in agriculture and allied sector activities in Kerala. The next important sectors, which hold a significant chunk of migrant workers include: the hotel and restaurants services (about 1.7 lakh), wholesale and retail trade (about 1 lakhs) and other elementary services (1.6 lakh) etc. Moreover, the sectors like "mining and quarrying", "education", "health and social services" each holds about 0.1 lakh of migrant workers during 2017-18.

***Scenario II: Estimated Migrants (the Upper Limit)***

As per the scenario-II, total number of other state migrants in Kerala is 34.5 lakhs. The construction sector tops the rank. It is observed that about 19.2 lakhs of the total other state migrants are engaged in the construction sector itself. Manufacturing is the second most dominant sector which is attracting large number of migrants from other states of India. It holds about 7 lakhs migrants. About 3.5 lakh migrants are expected to be engaged in agriculture and allied sector activities in Kerala. The next important sectors, which hold a significant chunk of migrant workers include: the hotel and restaurants services (about 2 lakh), wholesale and retail trade (about 1 lakhs) and other elementary services (about 2 lakh) etc. The sectors like "mining and quarrying", "education", "health and social services" each holds about 0.1 lakh of migrant workers during 2017-18.

***Scenario III: Estimated Migrants (the Lower Limit)***

As per the scenario-III, total number of other state migrants in Kerala is 28.2 lakhs. The construction sector tops the rank. It is observed that about 16 lakhs of the total other state migrants are engaged in the construction sector itself. Manufacturing is the

second most dominant sector which is attracting large number of migrants from other states of India. It holds 5.7 lakhs migrants. About 2.8 lakh migrants are expected to be engaged in agriculture and allied sector activities in Kerala. The next important sectors, which hold a significant chunk of migrant workers include: the hotel and restaurants services (about 1.6 lakh), wholesale and retail trade (0.8 lakhs) and other elementary services (1.4 lakh) etc. Moreover, the sectors like "mining and quarrying", "education", "health and social services" each holds about 0.1 lakh of migrant workers during 2017-18.

**Table 4.1: Estimated Number of Migrant workers in Kerala, 2017-18**

| District Name | Total Employment (lakhs) | % of migrant worker | Estimated Number of Migrants (Lakhs) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Scenario I | Scenario II | Scenario III |
| Agriculture | 22.7 | 12.8 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 2.6 |
| Fishing & Aquaculture | 1.8 | 12.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Mining & Quarrying | 0.3 | 26.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Manufacturing | 13.5 | 46.8 | 6.3 | 6.9 | 5.7 |
| Electricity, Gas and Water Supply | 0.8 | 5.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Construction | 22.8 | 76.7 | 17.5 | 19.2 | 15.7 |
| Wholesale & Retail Trade Service | 16.7 | 5.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Hotel & Restaurants Service | 3.3 | 52.4 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.6 |
| Education | 5.9 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Health & Social Services | 3.4 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Other Services | 28.2 | 5.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.4 |
| **Total** | **119.3** | **26.3** | **31.4** | **34.5** | **28.2** |

Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (enterprise survey) and secondary (NSS and Census) data

### 4.2 District-wise concentration of other state migrants in Kerala

Out of the total 31.4 lakh migrants in Kerala, about 6.3 lakh are found in *Ernakulam* (See Table 4.2). The district *Ernakulam* ranks the top in receiving migrant workers. The second major destination of inter-state migrant workers in Kerala is *Thiruvananthapuram.* In this district, 3.4 lakh migrants are expected to be residing during 2017-18. The third major destinations of migrants are the districts *Kozhikode* (about 2.8 lakh) and *Thrissur* (about 2.8 lakh) respectively. The districts *Kannur* and *Kottayam* rank

the fourth with about 2 lakh migrants residing in each of these districts. The district *Malapuram*, on the other hand, ranks fifth with an estimated 1.9 lakhs migrants during 2017-18. However, the district *Wayanad* ranks the last or the least preferred destination of the other state migrants (only 0.8 lakh) in Kerala.

The percentage distribution of migrant workers residing in various districts of Kerala is follows. About 20 percent of migrants are residing in *Ernakulam* only. While in *Thiruvananthapuram*, 10.7 percent of the total migrants are residing. About 8.9 percent are found in *Kozhikode* and 8.8 percent *Thrissur* respectively. The districts *Kottayam, Kannur* and *Malapuram* each retains about 6.5 percent, 6.4 percent and 6.2 percent of the migrant workers during 2017-18. However, the district *Wayanad* retains only about 2.5 percent of the total other state migrant workers during 2017-18.

It is important to note that about 26.3 percent of the total workforce in Kerala is consists of other state migrants. Moreover, the district which attracted most of the migrant workers (and ranks top) have also registered a relatively higher share[4] of migrant workers in their work force. In *Ernakulam*, about 57 percent of the workforce are migrants. The districts *Thiruvananthapuram* (about 24.5 percent), *Kozhikode* (about 20.5 percent), *Thrissur* (29.2 percent), *Kottayam* (19.8 percent), *Kannur* (38.3 percent) and *Malapuram* (17.2 percent) have also registered a relatively higher share of migrant workers in their workforce.

[4] Exceptions are *Pathanamthitta* and *Kasargod* districts with about 61.3 percent and 33.5 percent of migrant workers respectively.

**Table 4.2: District-wise Estimated Number of Migrant workers in Kerala, 2017-18**

| **Name of the Districts** | Distribution of Sample Migrants (%) | Estimated No. of Migrants (lakhs) | Total Number of Workers (lakhs) | Share of Migrant in Total workforce (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alappuzha | 7.6 | 2.4 | 8.4 | 28.3 |
| Ernakulam | 20.1 | 6.3 | 11.0 | 57.1 |
| Idduki | 3.7 | 1.2 | 4.9 | 23.9 |
| Kannur | 6.4 | 2.0 | 5.2 | 38.3 |
| Kasaragod | 3.4 | 1.1 | 3.2 | 33.5 |
| Kollam | 5 | 1.6 | 12.2 | 12.8 |
| Kottayam | 6.5 | 2.0 | 10.3 | 19.8 |
| Kozhikode | 8.9 | 2.8 | 13.7 | 20.4 |
| Malapuram | 6.2 | 1.9 | 11.3 | 17.2 |
| Palakkad | 5.1 | 1.6 | 9.5 | 16.8 |
| Pathanamthitta | 5.2 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 61.3 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 10.7 | 3.4 | 13.8 | 24.4 |
| Thrissur | 8.8 | 2.8 | 9.5 | 29.2 |
| Wayanad | 2.5 | 0.8 | 3.5 | 22.3 |
| **Kerala Total** | **100** | **31.4** | **119.3** | **26.3** |

Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (enterprise survey) and secondary (NSS and Census) data.

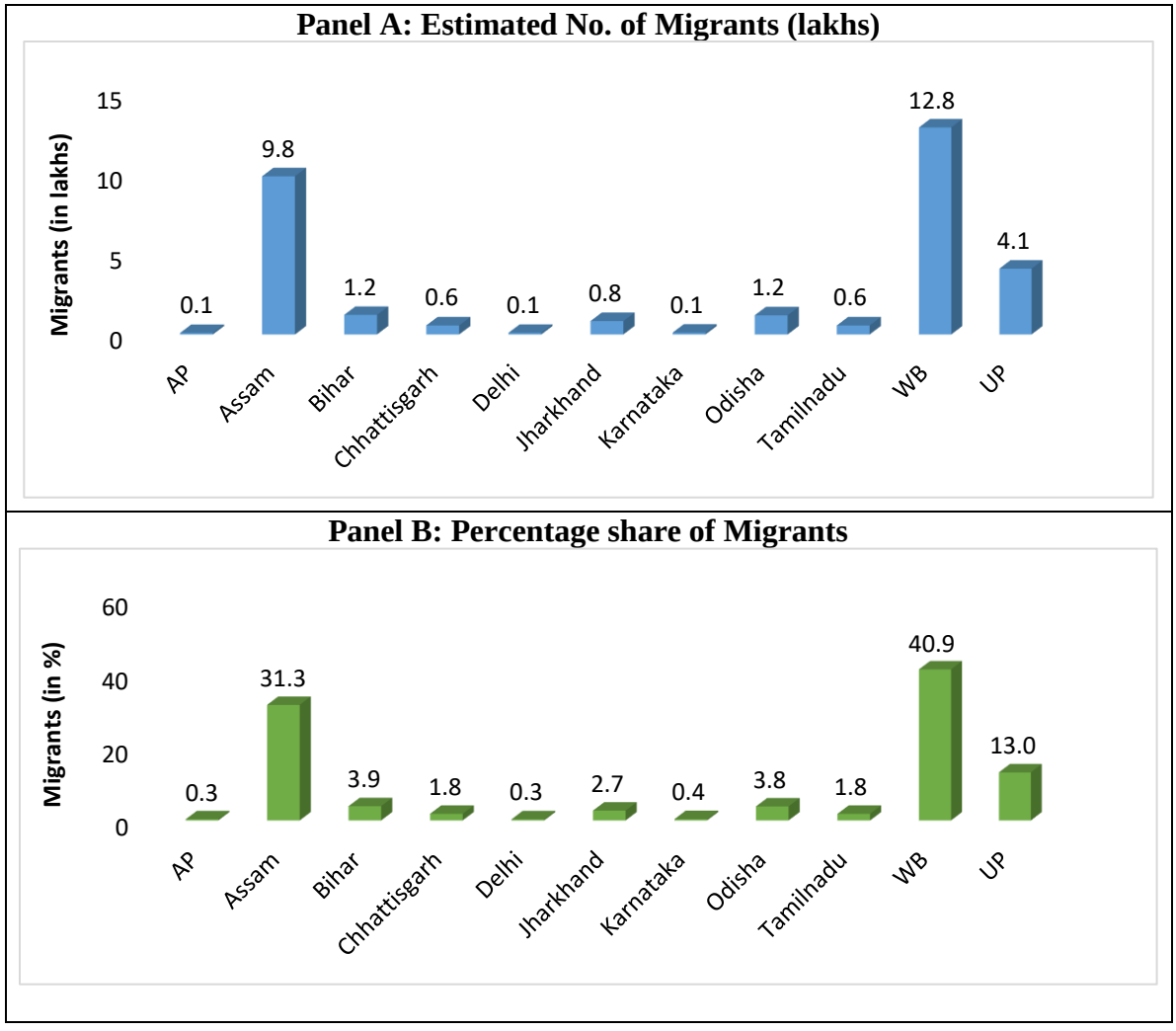
### 4.3 Major migrant sending states of India

West Bengal, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand are among the major origin states from which migrants are coming to Kerala for low skilled works. About 13 lakhs of the total migrants (about 41 per cent) are come from West Bengal only. The state Assam contributes about 9.8 lakhs (31.2 per cent) migrants to Kerala. The third highest number of migrants have come from Uttar Pradesh (4.1 lakhs and about 13.1 per cent). The states Bihar and Odisha each contributes about 4 per cent (1.2 lakhs) migrants to Kerala. About 0.8 lakh migrants (2.5 per cent) are belonging to the Jharkhand. It is noted that in most of these origin states, the incidence of poverty is a relatively higher than Kerala. Hence, poverty is one of the major pushing factor behind this low skilled migration to Kerala. Moreover, it is also explored (during the survey) that the recent growing unemployment rates, particularly, due to the growth of mechanization

in agriculture, in most of these states has compelled many to take up the migration decision.

Furthermore, job availability and a relatively higher wage rates (compared to their origin states) together pulled many sample migrants to Kerala. The migrants belong to these backwards states normally come to Kerala seasonally (most frequently) for employment, earn some surplus and go back to their home states. This is a new trend, which is hardly explored previously by any study. We are going to provide a detailed discussion on this aspect of migration in the next section.

**Figure 4.1: Distribution of In-migrants in Kerala by their states of origin, 2017-18**




Source: Authors' Estimation and plot using both primary (enterprise survey) and secondary (NSS and Census) data.

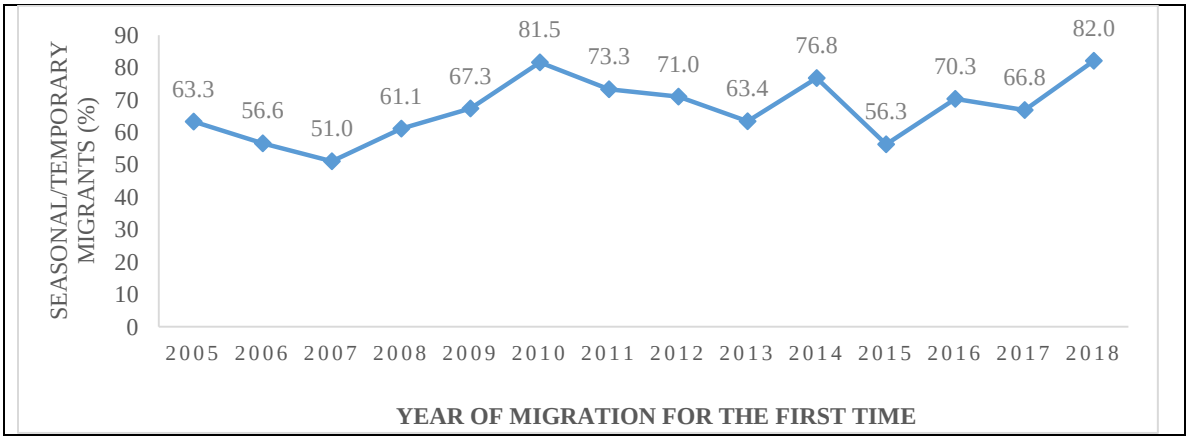
### 4.4 Estimating Annual flow of Migrant Workers in Kerala

***Short-term Seasonal/Cyclical Migrants in Kerala***

First, we have estimated the percentage of seasonal migration, based on sample migrants' self-reporting as seasonal migrant (See Figure 4.2). Moreover to cross-check and verify this, once again we have collected the information on the number of visits to their home state in a year. The percentage of migrants who have visited more than twice a year, are normally categorized as seasonal/temporary migrants (See Figure 4.3). Both these figures reveal the same result. About 80 per cent of the sample migrants, undertake seasonal move to Kerala for employment.

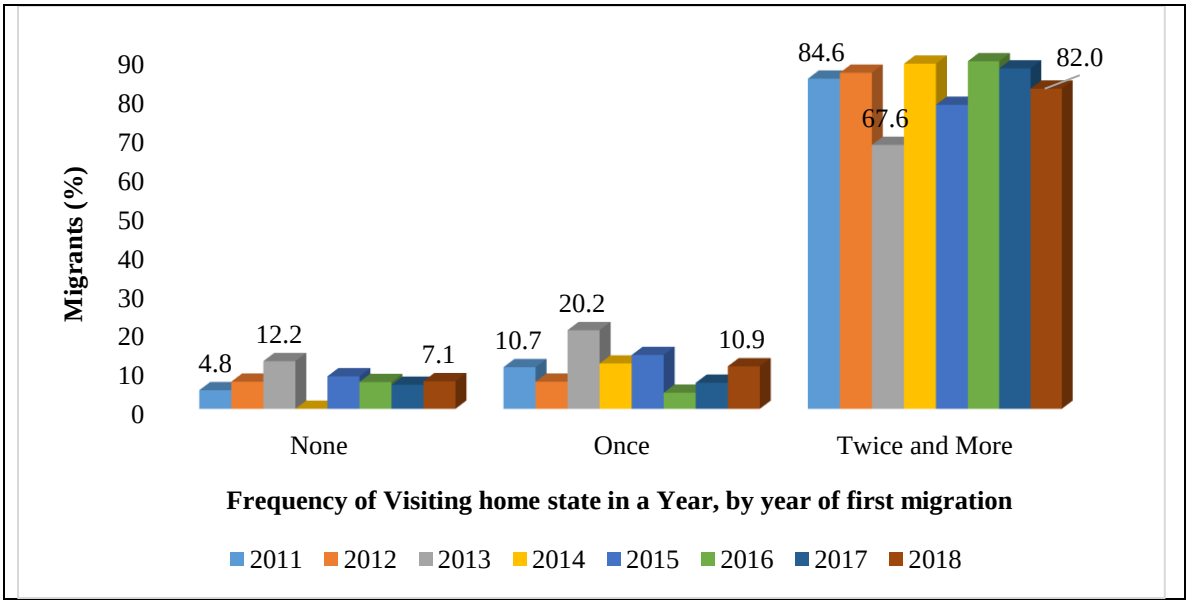
About 5 percent of the migrants did not visit their home in every years, of those who had come to Kerala in the year 2011 for the first time. This percentage share for migrants who have migrated to Kerala in the year 2018 for the first time, is 7.1 per cent (See Figure 4.3). About 10 percent of the migrants migrate once in a year, out of those migrants who have migrated to Kerala in the year 2018 for the first time. But, about 82 percent of these migrants have visited home twice and more. Comparing migrants by their first (initial) year of migration, it is revealed that about 80 per cent of them migrate very frequently. Hence, these migrants can be considered as temporary/seasonal/cyclical migrants.

**Figure 4.2: Percentage of Seasonal/Temporary migrant workers (self-reported) in Kerala, 2014-2018**




Source: Authors' estimation and plot using primary (migrant individual survey) data.

**Figure 4.3: Migrant workers by their Annual Frequency of visiting Native States over the years in Kerala, 2011-2018**




Source: Authors' estimation and plot using primary (migrant individual survey) data.

However, when we have computed the percentage of seasonal migration across the district of Kerala by pulling the entire sample ignoring the initial year of migration, we have got that about 67 percentage of the total migrants are seasonal. There is slightly variation (variance is 1.6) across the districts of Kerala. The number of temporary/seasonal/cyclical migrants is about 21 lakhs (See Table 4.3).

However, it is noted that both Census and NSS migration data, tend to ignore the migrants who stay for a period shorter (less) than 6 months in Kerala. It is due to their definitional constraints. This number of very high (about 21 lakhs) in Kerala. The study of Gulati institute also provides an estimates of about 25 lakhs migrants. But this study, for the first time, has explored that a higher share of total migrants are seasonal/temporary/cyclical in nature.

***Long-term migrants in Kerala***

About 10 lakhs migrants are long-term migrants (See Table 4.3). According both Census (2011) and NSS (2007-08), about 6 to 7 lakh other state migrants are residing in

Kerala. Hence, our estimate is consistent with both Census and NSS migration figures. During the last seven years, inter-state migration increased by only 3 lakhs.

Out of total 10 lakhs long-term migrants, about 2 lakhs resides in *Ernakulam*. The second highest number of long-term migrants (about 1.2 lakhs) are residing in *Thiruvananthapuram.* About 0.9 lakh migrants are staying in each of the districts like *Thrissur* and *Kozhikode.* About 0.8 lakh migrants are staying in *Alappuzha.* About 0.6 lakh migrants are staying in each of the districts like *Kannur*, *Kottayam Malapuram.*

The districts like Wayanad (0.25 lakh) and Kasaragod (0.37 lakh) are the district which are attracted relatively less number of migrants in Kerala.

**Table 4.3: District-wise Estimated Number of Seasonal and Long Duration Migrant workers in Kerala, 2017-18**

| **Name of the Districts** | Total Migrant workers (lakhs) | Share of Seasonal migrants in total migrant workforce (%) | No. of Seasonal (short duration) Migrant workers (lakhs) | No. Permanent (Long duration) Migrant workers (lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alappuzha | 2.4 | 66.9 | 1.6 | 0.79 |
| Ernakulum | 6.3 | 67.3 | 4.2 | 2.06 |
| Idukki | 1.2 | 67.2 | 0.8 | 0.39 |
| Kannur | 2 | 68.2 | 1.4 | 0.64 |
| Kasaragod | 1.1 | 66.7 | 0.7 | 0.37 |
| Kollam | 1.6 | 64.4 | 1.0 | 0.57 |
| Kottayam | 2 | 67.8 | 1.4 | 0.64 |
| Kozhikode | 2.8 | 68.6 | 1.9 | 0.88 |
| Malappuram | 1.9 | 68.0 | 1.3 | 0.61 |
| Palakkad | 1.6 | 68.5 | 1.1 | 0.50 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1.6 | 66.4 | 1.1 | 0.54 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 3.4 | 65.2 | 2.2 | 1.18 |
| Thrissur | 2.8 | 68.0 | 1.9 | 0.90 |
| Wayanad | 0.8 | 68.5 | 0.5 | 0.25 |
| **Kerala Total** | **31.4** | **67.2** | **21.1** | **10.3** |

Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (enterprise survey) and secondary (NSS and Census) data.

***Long-term migrants living with Family in Kerala***

Out of 10 lakh total long term inter-state migrants in Kerala only about 5 per cent are living with the family in Kerala. Otherwise, saying about 52 thousand migrants are living in Kerala along with their family. The district *Ernakulum* tops the rank by accommodating about 14.5 thousand (28 per cent) migrant families. It is followed by the district *Thrissur* in which about 7 thousand (13.6 per cent) migrant families (See table 4.4). *The* Alappuzha ranks third, with accommodating about 5 thousand migrant families.

During the survey, it is noticed that except in the districts *Ernakulum* and *Thrissur*, migrant families residing in all other districts have mostly come from nearby states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

**Table 4.4: District-wise Number of long duration migrants (Permanent) living with their family in Kerala, 2017-18**

| **Name of the Districts** | No. Permanent (Long duration) Migrant workers (lakhs) | Migrant workers reported living with family (%) | Estimated No. of Migrant workers living with family (,000) | Migrant workers District Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alappuzha | 0.79 | 6.4 | 5.1 | 9.9 |
| Ernakulum | 2.06 | 7.0 | 14.4 | 28.0 |
| Idukki | 0.39 | 1.7 | 0.7 | 1.4 |
| Kannur | 0.64 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 2.3 |
| Kasaragod | 0.37 | 7.0 | 2.6 | 5.0 |
| Kollam | 0.57 | 3.4 | 1.9 | 3.7 |
| Kottayam | 0.64 | 6.7 | 4.3 | 8.3 |
| Kozhikode | 0.88 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 3.7 |
| Malappuram | 0.61 | 7.1 | 4.3 | 8.3 |
| Palakkad | 0.50 | 2.5 | 1.3 | 2.5 |
| Pathanamthitta | 0.54 | 5.7 | 3.1 | 6.0 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 1.18 | 3.2 | 3.8 | 7.4 |
| Thrissur | 0.90 | 7.8 | 7.0 | 13.6 |
| Wayanad | 0.25 | 2.5 | 0.6 | 1.2 |
| **Kerala Total** | **10.3** | **5.0** | **51.5** | **100** |

Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (enterprise survey) and secondary (NSS and Census) data.

***Estimating number of migrant children living and attending education in Kerala***

Migrant families living in Kerala, on the average, have two (average value is 1.97) children living with them as dependent family members (See Table 4.5: third column from the left). It is observed across the districts of Kerala. Hence, it could be argued that about 98 thousand migrant children are also living in Kerala as dependent family members. The district having highest number of migrant families, is also expected to hold large number of migrant children.

In *Ernakulum* about *28* thousand migrant children are residing. The district *Thrissur*, on the other hand, holds about 14 thousand migrant dependent children. *The* Alappuzha is expected to have about 10 thousand migrant dependent children. Whereas, the districts like *Kottayam*, *Malappuram*, and *Thiruvananthapuram* etc., are expected to hold above 7 thousand migrant children each.

**Table 4.5: District-wise Number of Migrant children living with their family in Kerala, 2017-18**

| **Name of the Districts** | Estimated No. of Migrant workers living with family (,000) | Average No. of children per Migrant Family | Estimated No. of Migrants' children (,000) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alappuzha | 5.1 | 1.89 | 9.6 |
| Ernakulam | 14.4 | 1.95 | 28.1 |
| Idduki | 0.7 | 1.94 | 1.3 |
| Kannur | 1.2 | 1.93 | 2.4 |
| Kasaragod | 2.6 | 1.94 | 5.0 |
| Kollam | 1.9 | 1.92 | 3.7 |
| Kottayam | 4.3 | 1.97 | 8.6 |
| Kozhikode | 1.9 | 1.90 | 3.6 |
| Malapuram | 4.3 | 1.97 | 8.5 |
| Palakkad | 1.3 | 1.89 | 2.4 |
| Pathanamthitta | 3.1 | 1.89 | 5.9 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 3.8 | 1.91 | 7.3 |
| Thrissur | 7.0 | 1.96 | 13.7 |
| Wayanad | 0.6 | 1.96 | 1.2 |
| **Kerala Total** | **51.5** | **1.97** | **97.6** |

Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (enterprise survey) and secondary (NSS and Census) data.

It is found that about 81 percentage of total migrant children are attending education. Across the states we have not observed much variation in the education participation rate. Based on this education participation rate, we have estimated number of migrant children attending education in Kerala.

It is estimated that about 61 thousand migrant children are attending education in Kerala. Out of these 61 thousands migrants children about 17 thousand are attending school/college in the districts *Ernakulum* alone. The second highest number of migrant children (about 8 thousand) attending education in *Thrissur.* About 6 thousand in *Alappuzha;* and about 5 thousand each are expected to be attending education in the districts *Kottayam* and *Malappuram*. About 4.5 thousand migrant children are expected to be attending education in *Thiruvananthapuram.*

It is believed that the above information would be useful for the government of Kerala, particularly, for formulating migration worker related policy.

**Table 4.6: District-wise Number of Migrant children attending education in Kerala, 2017-18**

| **Name of the Districts** | Estimated No. of Migrants' children (,000) | % of Migrant Children Attending Education | Estimated No. of Migrants' children attending Education in Kerala (,000) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alappuzha | 9.6 | 84.4 | 5.8 |
| Ernakulam | 28.1 | 82.0 | 16.9 |
| Idduki | 1.3 | 82.3 | 0.8 |
| Kannur | 2.4 | 83.1 | 1.4 |
| Kasaragod | 5.0 | 82.4 | 3.0 |
| Kollam | 3.7 | 83.5 | 2.2 |
| Kottayam | 8.6 | 81.0 | 5.1 |
| Kozhikode | 3.6 | 84.3 | 2.2 |
| Malapuram | 8.5 | 81.3 | 5.1 |
| Palakkad | 2.4 | 84.6 | 1.4 |
| Pathanamthitta | 5.9 | 84.5 | 3.5 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 7.3 | 83.9 | 4.4 |
| Thrissur | 13.7 | 81.8 | 8.2 |
| Wayanad | 1.2 | 81.7 | 0.7 |
| **Kerala Total** | **97.6** | **81.0** | **60.7** |

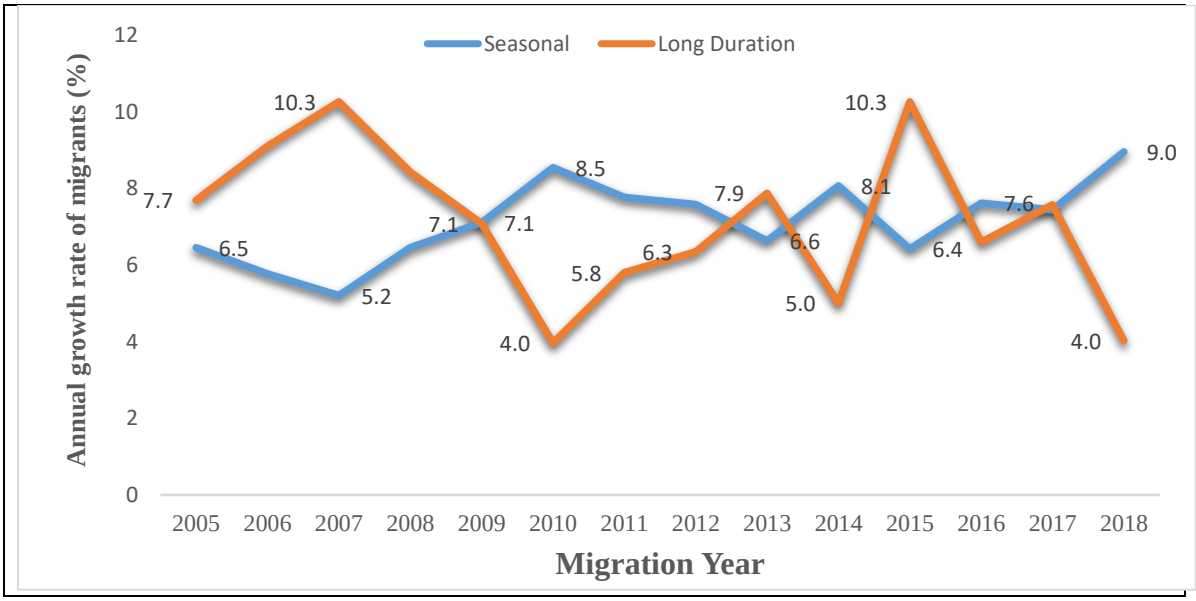
Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (enterprise survey) and secondary (NSS and Census) data.

### 4.5 Projected Number of Migrants in Kerala, 2025 and 2030

Furthermore, we have projected the number of interstate migrants in Kerala for the year 2025 and 2030 based on the growth rates interstate migration. First, we have calculated the annual growth rate of both long-duration and short duration (seasonal or temporary) migration in Kerala (See Figure 4.4). Although, we do not have time series data for computed growth rate, we have used initial year of migration information of the migrants for doing this.

It is noted that the growth rate of temporary migration has been rising, whereas the growth rate of permanent migration is declining in Kerala. The growth rate of temporary migration was about 6.5 per cent per annum during the year 2005-06. This growth rate increased to about 9 per cent during 2017-18 (See Figure 4.4). On the other hand, growth rate of permanent migration declined from 7.7 per cent to about 4 percent per annum during the year 2005-06 and 2017-18. The rising temporary migration from other state is mainly because of rising demand for these workers in Kerala; particularly, for the low skilled jobs.

**Figure 4.4: Annual growth rate of in-migrants in Kerala**




Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (enterprise survey) and secondary (NSS and Census) data.

The number of inter-state migrant in Kerala during 2025 and 2030 is estimated in three different scenarios. In scenario-I, it is assumed that the growth rate of migration would remain constant as in 2017-18. This is quite restrictive. Hence, in the next two scenarios, we have relaxed this assumption. In the scenario-II, number of migrants is estimated under the assumption that 2017-18 growth rate would decline by 10 percent from the growth rate of 2017-18; whereas in the scenario-III, number of migrants is estimated assuming that 2017-18 growth rate would increase by 10 percent from the growth rate of 2017-18 growth rate. The estimated number of migration are given in Table 4.7 through Table 4.9.

First, we have estimated total number of migrants in Kerala. As per scenario-I, total interstate migrants in Kerala would be 45.7 lakhs during 2025 and 55.9 lakhs during 2030. The lower and upper limits are given by Scenario-II and III respectively. The lower and upper limits for the 2025 are 43.5 lakhs and 47.9 lakhs respectively. The lower and upper limits for the 2030 are 52.1 lakhs and 59.7 lakhs respectively (See Table 4.7).

**Table 4.7: Projected Number of Migrant workers in Kerala during 2025 and 2030**

| **Name of the Districts** | Estimated No. of Migrants Workers (lakhs) during 2017-18 | Projected No. of Migrants during 2025 | | | Projected No. of Migrants during 2030 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Scenario I* | *Scenario II* | *Scenario III* | *Scenario I* | *Scenario II* | *Scenario III* |
| Alappuzha | 2.4 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 4.6 |
| Ernakulam | 6.3 | 9.2 | 8.7 | 9.6 | 11.2 | 10.5 | 12.0 |
| Idduki | 1.2 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.3 |
| Kannur | 2 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 3.8 |
| Kasaragod | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 2.1 |
| Kollam | 1.6 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.0 |
| Kottayam | 2 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 3.8 |
| Kozhikode | 2.8 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 5.3 |
| Malapuram | 1.9 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.6 |
| Palakkad | 1.6 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.0 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1.6 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.0 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 3.4 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 5.2 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 6.5 |
| Thrissur | 2.8 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 5.3 |
| Wayanad | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.5 |
| **Kerala Total** | **31.4** | **45.7** | **43.5** | **47.9** | **55.9** | **52.1** | **59.7** |

Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (enterprise survey) and secondary (NSS and Census) data.

Secondly, we have estimated total number of long term migrants in Kerala. As per scenario-I, total long-term interstate migrants in Kerala would increase from 10.3 lakhs to 13.2 lakhs during 2017-18 and 2025. Further, the number of long-term interstate migrants during 2030 would increase to 15.2 lakhs (See Table 4.8).

The lower and upper limits of the estimated long-term other state migrants in Kerala for the year 2025 are 12.5 lakhs and 13.9 lakhs respectively. Whereas, the lower and upper limits for the year 2030 are 14 lakhs and 16.5 lakhs respectively. This implies at the maximum number of permanent/long-term migrants would likely to increase 14 lakhs during 2025 and additional about 2.5 lakhs until 2030. If the migration rate declines further, it might increase only about 2 lakhs until 2025 and additional 2 lakhs during 2025 and 2030.

**Table 4.8: Projected Number of long duration Migrants in Kerala during 2025 and 2030**

| **Name of the Districts** | Estimated No. of Long Duration Migrants Workers (lakhs) during 2017-18 | **Projected No. of Long Duration Migrants during 2025** | | | **Projected No. of Long Duration Migrants during 2030** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Scenario I* | *Scenario II* | *Scenario III* | *Scenario I* | *Scenario II* | *Scenario III* |
| Alappuzha | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| Ernakulum | 2.1 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.4 |
| Idukki | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Kannur | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Kasaragod | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Kollam | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Kottayam | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Kozhikode | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Malappuram | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Palakkad | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 |
| Pathanamthitta | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.9 |
| Thrissur | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Wayanad | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| **Kerala Total** | **10.3** | **13.2** | **12.5** | **13.9** | **15.2** | **14.0** | **16.5** |

Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (enterprise survey) and secondary (NSS and Census) data.

Finally, we have estimated total number of short-term migrants in Kerala. As per scenario-I, total short-term interstate migrants in Kerala would increase from 21.1 lakhs to 34.4 lakhs during 2017-18 and 2025. Further, the number of short-term interstate migrants during 2030 would increase to about 44 lakhs (See Table 4.9).

The lower and upper limits of the estimated short-term other state migrants in Kerala for the year 2025 are about 33 lakhs and 36 lakhs respectively. Whereas, the lower and upper limits for the year 2030 are about 41.5 lakhs and 46.5 lakhs respectively. This implies at the maximum number of seasonal/short-term migrants would likely to increase about 36 lakhs during 2025 and additional about 10.5 lakhs until 2030. If the migration rate declines further, it might increase only about 12 lakhs until 2025 and additional 9 lakhs during 2025 and 2030.

**Table 4.9: Projected Number of Seasonal/Temporary Migrants in Kerala during 2025 and 2030**

| **Name of the Districts** | Estimated No. of Long Duration Migrants Workers (lakhs) during 2017-18 | **Projected No. of Long Duration Migrants during 2025** | | | **Projected No. of Long Duration Migrants during 2030** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Scenario I* | *Scenario II* | *Scenario III* | *Scenario I* | *Scenario II* | *Scenario III* |
| Alappuzha | 1.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.5 |
| Ernakulum | 4.2 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 8.7 | 8.2 | 9.2 |
| Idukki | 0.8 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.8 |
| Kannur | 1.4 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 3.1 |
| Kasaragod | 0.7 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Kollam | 1 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.2 |
| Kottayam | 1.4 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 3.1 |
| Kozhikode | 1.9 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 4.2 |
| Malappuram | 1.3 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.9 |
| Palakkad | 1.1 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1.1 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 2.2 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 4.6 | 4.3 | 4.8 |
| Thrissur | 1.9 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 4.2 |
| Wayanad | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| **Kerala Total** | **21.1** | **34.4** | **32.9** | **35.9** | **43.9** | **41.4** | **46.4** |

Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (enterprise survey) and secondary (NSS and Census) data.

**4.6 Summary:**

It is estimated that total number of other state domestic migrants in Kerala is 31.4 lakhs during 2017-18. Among the sectors which provide jobs to these migrants, construction sector ranks the top with an estimated 17.5 lakhs migrants were engaged in this sector. Manufacturing sector is the second most dominant sector which is attracting large number of migrants from other states of India. It holds 6.3 lakhs migrants. About 3 lakh migrants are estimated to be engaged in agriculture and allied sector activities, whereas a few others are estimated to be engaged in the service sectors like hotel and restaurants services (about 1.7 lakh), wholesale and retail trade (about 1 lakhs) and other elementary services (1.6 lakh). The sector "mining and quarrying", "education", "health and social services" etc., also provide employment to a few. Each of these sectors are estimated to provide about 0.1 lakh jobs to the migrant workers during 2017-18.

Moreover, it is noted that about 80 per cent of the sample migrants, undertake seasonal move to Kerala for employment. However, both Census and NSS migration data, fail to capture these migrants (due to their definitional constraints) who stay for a period shorter (less than 3 to 4 months at a stretch) in Kerala. This number of very high (about 21 lakhs) in Kerala. The study of Gulati institute also provides an estimates of about 25 lakhs migrants. But this study, for the first time, has explored that about 10 lakhs migrants are long-term migrants, which is consistent with both Census and NSS migration figures. During the last seven years, inter-state long duration migration increased by only 3 lakhs. Out of 10 lakh total long term inter-state migrants in Kerala only about 5 per cent (about 52 thousand) are living in Kerala along with their family. The district *Ernakulum* tops the rank by accommodating about 14.5 thousand (28 per cent) migrant families, which is followed by the district *Thrissur* (about 7 thousand or 13.6 per cent) and *Alappuzha* (about 5 thousand) respectively.

It is also estimated that migrant families living in Kerala, on the average, have two (average value is 1.97) children living with them as dependent family members. Hence, it could be argued that about 98 thousand migrant children are also living in Kerala as dependent family members. Since about 81 percentage of total migrant children are attending education, it is estimated that about 61 thousand migrant children are attending education in Kerala.

**Chapter V**

# Earnings, Remittances, Working and Living Conditions

An analysis of the earnings, living conditions and remittance status of other state migrants is given in this chapter. First, we have calculated their average monthly earnings, monthly savings and amount of average annual remittance sent to their family. Secondly, migrant workers' working and living conditions are examined. Finally, we have estimated and compared their earning differences or inequality between migrant and native workers in Kerala.

## 5.1 Earning, Savings and Remittances Status

From the earning distribution of migrants, it is clear that most of them are engaged in low skilled jobs with a very low level of earning. On the average, about 78 percent of the total migrants earn upto 20 thousand rupees per month and only about 22 percent of the migrants can manage to earn more than 20 thousand rupees per month. A large share (45 per cent) of the migrants have reported that they earning 10 to 15 thousand rupees per month (See Table 5.1). About 11 percent of the migrants earn 10 thousand rupees and less in Kerala. During the survey it is explored that migrants, who have come for the first time, are on the average tend to earn less as compared to their experienced counterparts. Hence, new migrants are likely fall in the lower end of the earning distribution, while relatively experienced migrants are likely to belong to the better earning groups.

**Table 5.1: Distribution of other states migrants by their monthly earnings (in Rs)**

| **Monthly Earnings (in Rs)** | **Distribution of other states migrants** | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Sample Migrants* | *Percentage of Migrants* |
| Upto 10 thousand | 548 | 11.0 |
| 10 to 15 thousand | 2250 | 45.0 |
| 15 to 20 thousand | 1096 | 21.9 |
| 20 thousand and more | 1106 | 22.1 |
| **Total** | **5,000** | **100** |

Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (employee's survey) data.

Moreover, we have computed the average monthly earning, savings (or surplus) and amount remitted to their family (See Table 5.2). It is found that interstate migrants in Kerala, on the average, earn about 16 thousand rupees per month, out of which they are able to generate about 4 thousand rupees per month as surplus income or savings.

**Table 5.2: Distribution of other states migrants by their monthly earnings, savings and annual remittances outflows from Kerala, 2017-18**

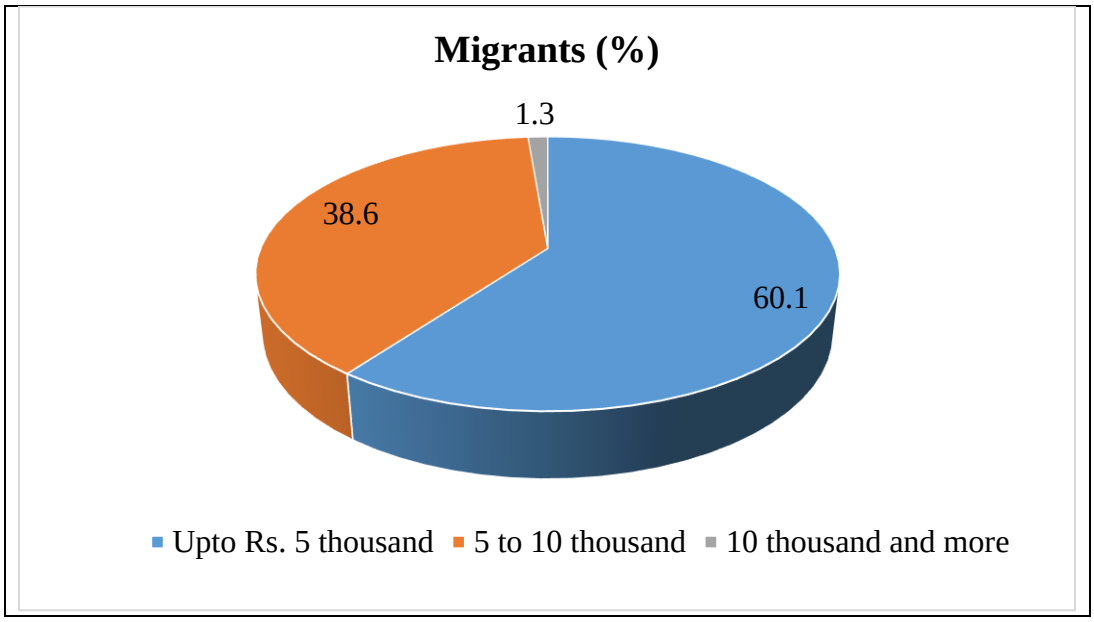
| The state of Original Domicile | Total Earning during last 30 days (in Rs) | | Total Savings/Surplus generated during last 30 days (in Rs) | | Remittance sent home during last 365 days (in Rs) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Average* | *SD* | *Average* | *SD* | *Average* | *SD* |
| Andhra Pradesh | 16000.0 | 2853.6 | 3580.0 | 3612.3 | 30792.0 | 10295.2 |
| Assam | 15851.6 | 2738.7 | 4310.7 | 3667.0 | 30819.5 | 9652.6 |
| Bihar | 15865.3 | 2727.7 | 3877.2 | 3631.5 | 30120.6 | 9316.8 |
| Chhattisgarh | 15977.5 | 2734.4 | 3977.5 | 3656.0 | 30765.8 | 9954.5 |
| Delhi | 15812.5 | 2926.2 | 3887.5 | 3700.2 | 32130.0 | 10745.9 |
| Jharkhand | 16000.0 | 2774.3 | 4069.2 | 3695.9 | 29663.5 | 9396.6 |
| Karnataka | 15888.9 | 2805.2 | 3611.1 | 3629.1 | 30920.0 | 9837.2 |
| Odisha | 15841.3 | 2759.2 | 4120.1 | 3660.5 | 30752.4 | 9630.0 |
| Tamil Nadu | 15853.9 | 2822.6 | 4167.4 | 3737.7 | 30349.2 | 9461.2 |
| West Bengal | 15900.2 | 2686.1 | 4043.1 | 3666.1 | 30053.4 | 9184.7 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 15880.0 | 2733.3 | 3944.5 | 3579.2 | 30574.0 | 9597.0 |
| **Overall Migrants** | **15882.0** | **2717.9** | **4108.8** | **3654.8** | **30409.1** | **9442.1** |

Source: Authors' Estimation using both primary (employee's survey) data.

It is clear form Figure 5.1 that about 60 per cent of the total migrants in Kerala generate about 5 thousand rupees surplus per month. While about 39 per cent of the total migrants is able to generate monthly surplus about 10 thousand rupees. But only about 1 per cent of total migrants could generate monthly surplus about 20 thousand rupees and more. Migrants, those who were reported a relatively higher monthly surplus, most of them are long term migrants living and working in Kerala at least 5 years. Since, a significant proportion of the higher surplus generator migrants are living with their family, they normally do not remit or remit occasionally on the demand of their family members left behind at their origin states. They remit either to meet family needs during marriage and other functions, or during agricultural slack seasons.

However, it is observed that most of the low surplus earners send remittance regularly. Either they take surplus home personally while they visit home (seasonally) or send it through bank, internet banking or Unified Payments Interface (UPI[5]) transfers.

**Figure 5.1: Migrants Generating Surplus Income (monthly) by level of Surplus Income in Kerala, 2017-18**




Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

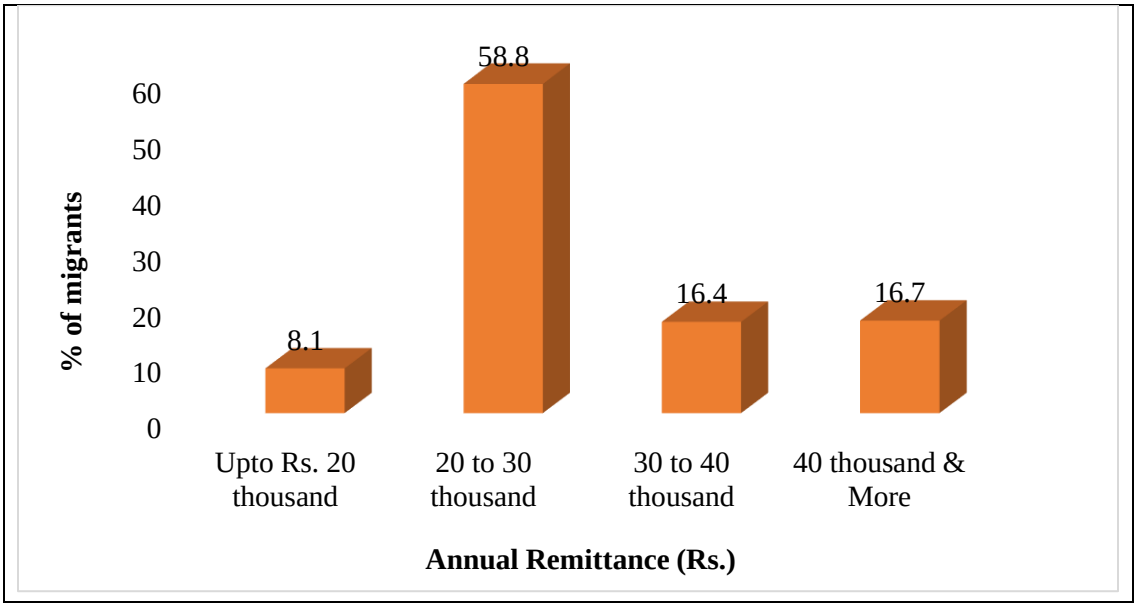
Only about 8 percent of the remitter reported less than 20 thousand rupees per annum remittance. While majority of the migrants (about 59 percent of the total remitter) reported that they send about 20 to 30 thousand rupees per annum to their family. About 16 percent of the remitter has reported 30 to 40 thousand rupees per annum remittance, and about 17 percent of the remitter has reported 40 thousand rupees per annum and more remittance.

Based on the average remittance (See Table 5.2), total remittance from Kerala to other states of India is estimated. As on the average, each migrant sends about 30 thousand rupees per annum to their family left behind. And since, about 25 lakh migrants are either frequently visiting home states or not living with their family in Kerala. Most

[5] Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India facilitating inter-bank transactions. It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India and works by instantly transferring funds between two bank accounts on a mobile platform.

of these migrants send remittance to their family. By simply multiplying these two information, it is estimated that about 7.5 billion rupees is going out of Kerala annually as remittance.

**Figure 5.2: Other State Migrants Remittance Scenario (Annual) in Kerala, 2017-18**

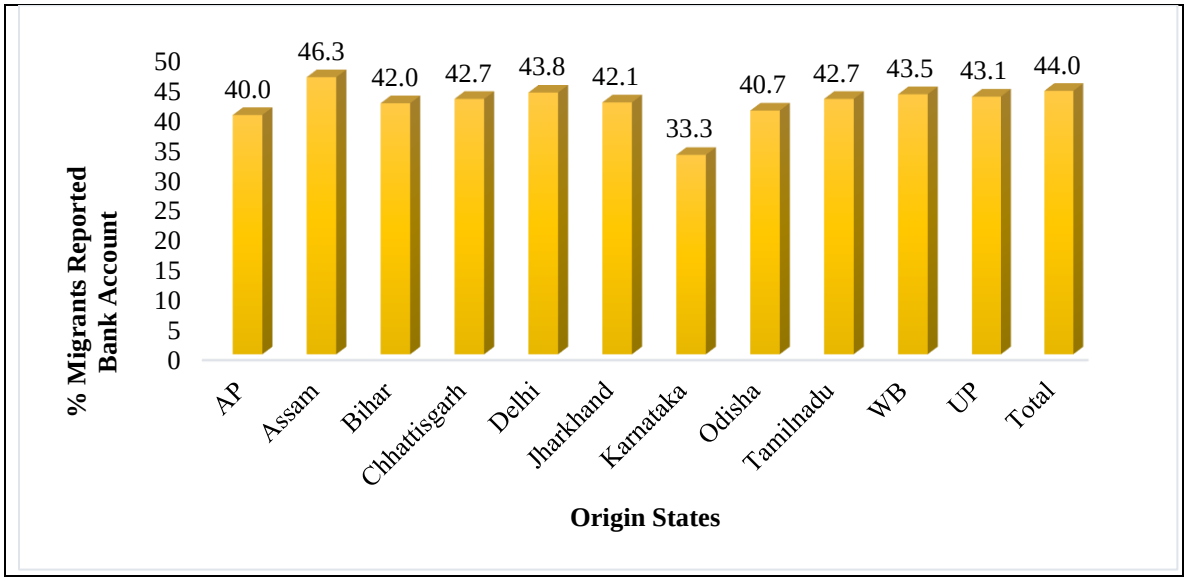



Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

## 5.2 Migrants' Living Conditions in Kerala

We have examined the bank account details of the migrant workers first. It is found that about 44 per cent of migrants are using formal banking services for saving and transferring remittances to their family. The percentage of migrants using banking services does very much by their place of origin states (See Figure 5.3). It is noted that migrants those who have been staying in Kerala for a longer duration, are normally using banking transfers methods. While the migrants who usually come for a short duration of time do not use formal banking transfer methods, even though, they are having bank accounts (saving accounts). But a larger percentage of migrants still do not have bank accounts. This shows their poor level of financial inclusiveness in Kerala.

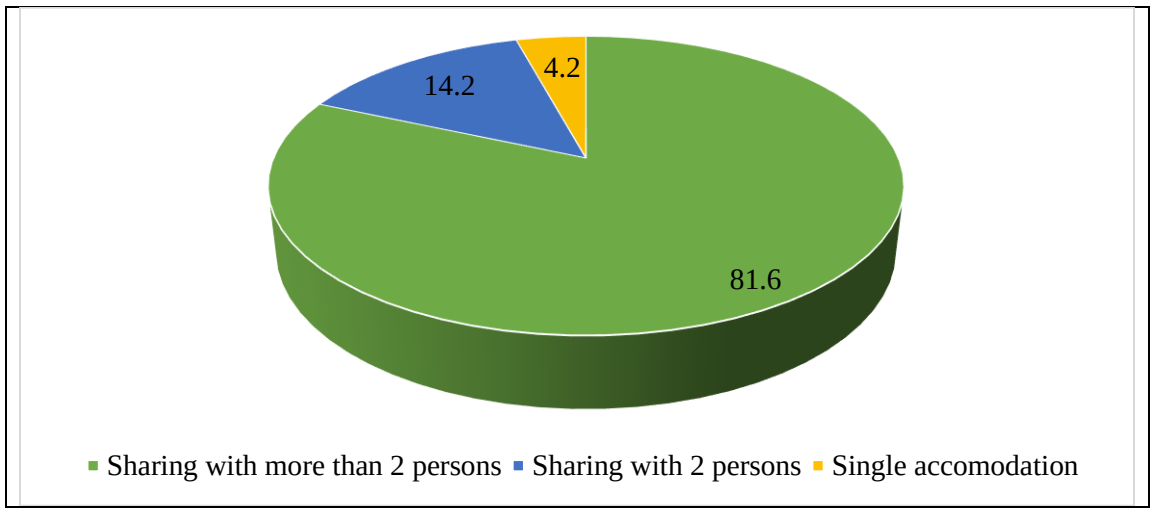
**Figure 5.3: Migrants' Bank Account scenario by their original state of domicile, 2017-18**




Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

During the primary survey, it is noted that about 96 percent of the migrant workers are living on sharing basis. Among these migrants, about 82 per cent migrants are living on sharing accommodation with more than two persons, while about 14 percent are living on sharing with 2 persons (See Figure 5.4). Only about 4 percent of the total migrants are living on single private accommodations (See Figure 5.4). Those who are living on single accommodations, most of them are found living with their family. During the survey, it is explored that migrants normally prefer to stay on sharing accommodations. It is only because of their strong social networks. Their social network not only help them to gather information regarding availability of jobs, it also create a favorable living environment because of their common language and family ties.

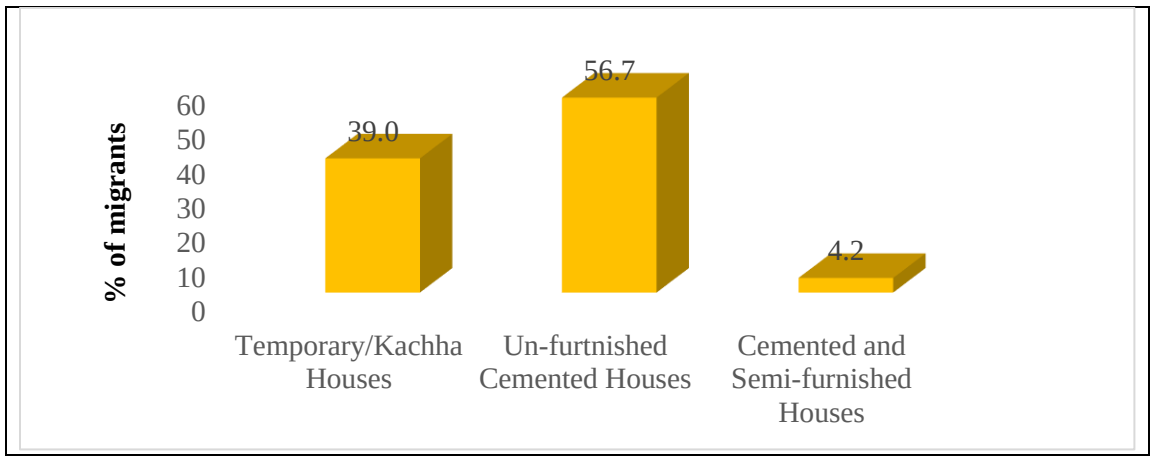
**Figure 5.4: Types of accommodation of migrant workers in Kerala, 2017-18**




Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

The information on types of dwelling reveals that migrant workers are living in very poor quality houses in Kerala. About 39 percent of the total other state migrants are living in temporary and *kachha* houses; while about 57 percent are living in unfurnished *semi-pucca* or cemented houses (See Figure 5.5). Only about 4 percent of the total migrants are living in better quality houses (partially furnished or *pucca* houses). This is really a worrying fact. It is noted that most of these workers, those who are found working in the construction sector are normally found living in temporary and *kachha* houses. Although, a substantial proportion of the migrant workers are residing in *semi-pucca* houses, it is explored that their sanitary environment is quite poor.

**Figure 5.5: Types of dwelling used by migrant workers in Kerala, 2017-18**



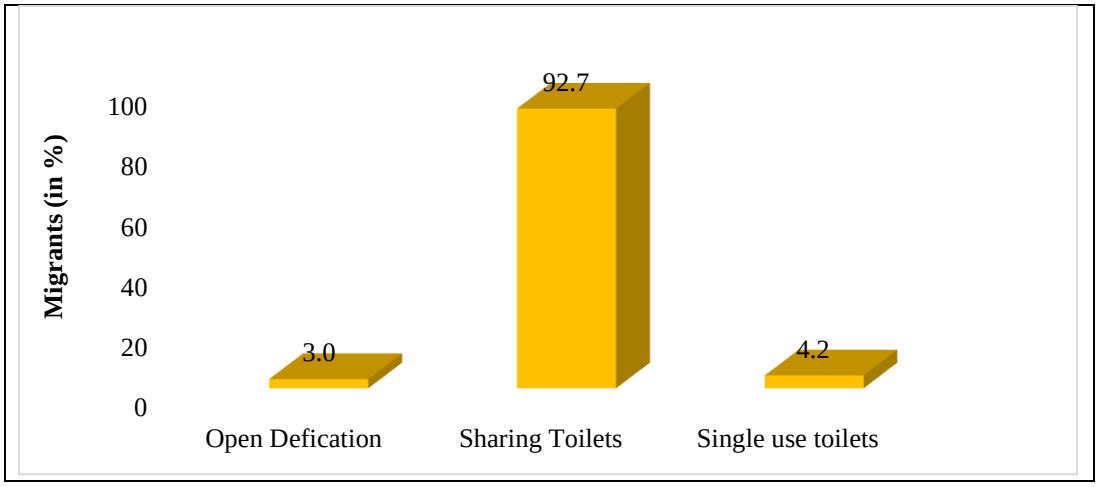

Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

About 93 percent of the total other state domestic migrant workers are using toilets on sharing basis (See Figure 5.6). While only about 3 percent of the migrant workers have reported that they are still practicing open defecation. The percentage of open defecation may be higher than what is actually reported. Because, during the survey it is observed that most of the migrants were residing in either slums or open areas (localities) where the chance of doing open defecation is higher.

Moreover, it is explored that about 96 percent of the total migrant workers in Kerala are using sharing bathrooms, whereas only 4 percentage of the total migrants are using their personal bathrooms (See Figure 5.7).

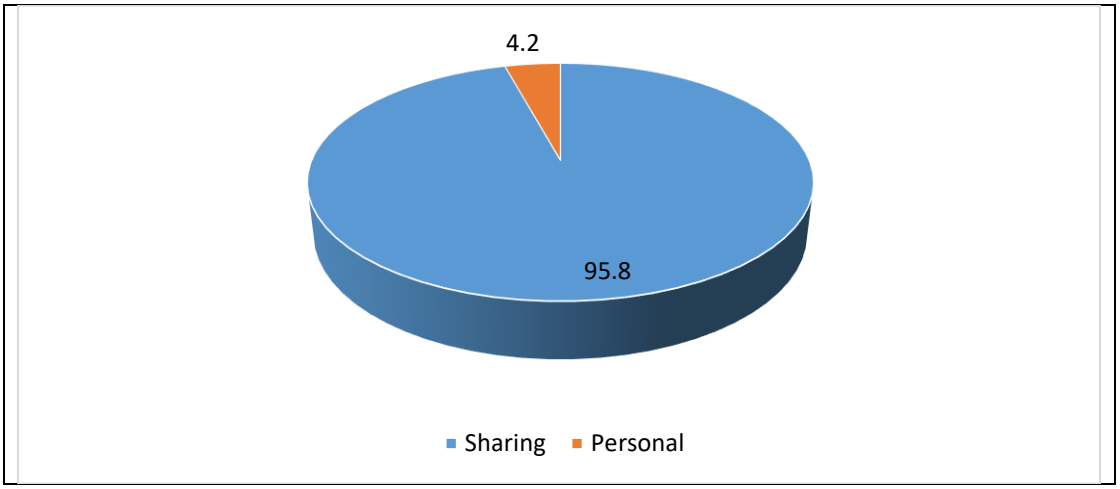
During the survey it is also observed that the quality of toilets and bathrooms used by the migrants (on sharing basis) are very poor and unhygienic. This might be the reason for high incidences of diseases among other state migrant workers in Kerala.

**Figure 5.6: Types of toilets used by migrant workers in Kerala, 2017-18**




Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

**Figure 5.7: Types of bathrooms used by migrant workers in Kerala, 2017-18**




Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

On the basis of the above information on housing conditions and the sanitary infrastructure availed by the migrant workers, it could be concluded that they are living in a poor living arrangement in Kerala. This poor quality of sanitation might have resulted with an increased incidence of diseases among them. Hence, to improve their living conditions, necessary arrangements needs to be done through an appropriate policy intervention.

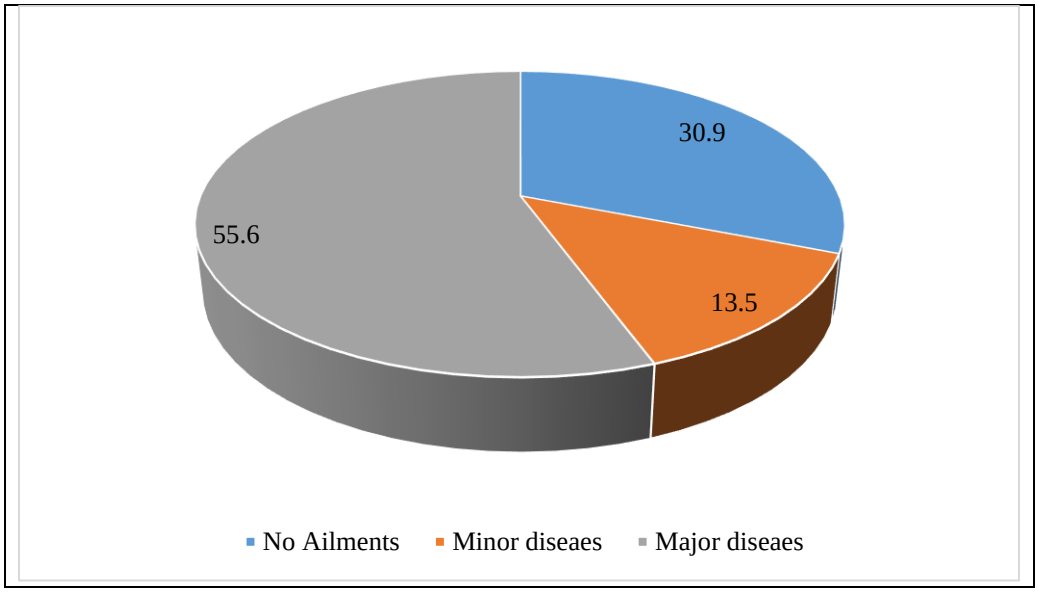
### 5.3 Migrants Health Conditions

Due to poor living and sanitary arrangements, other state domestic migrant workers in Kerala often vulnerable to various kinds of disease (both communicable and non-communicable diseases). We have reclassified all these disease into two broad categories viz., major and minor diseases. The Minor diseases include: Common seasonal cold, fever, headache, Viral Fever, Malaria, Dengue fever, Chikungunya, leptospirosis Stomach Pain, Abdominal Cramps, Dysentery, and Diarrhea etc. But the major diseases include: Diabetes, Blood Pressure, Cardio-vascular problems, HIV-AIDS, Cancer, Limbs injuries due to accidents, Psychological Depressions etc.

It is noted that about 55.6 percent of the total sample migrants in Kerala are suffering from major diseases. Another 13.5 percent of the migrants reported that they

have suffered from minor diseases, and about 31 percent of the migrant do not report any illness during the period preceding 365 days of the date of primary survey.

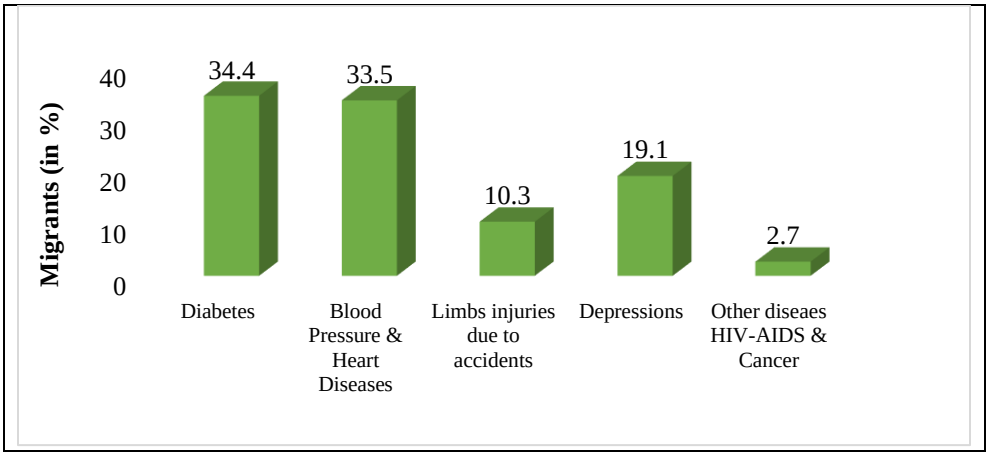
**Figure 5.8: Distribution of migrants by their Health Status**




Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

While the poor living environment causes minor diseases to migrants, which last for a short duration. These ailments could be cured with proper medical treatments and care. But the long duration diseases like Diabetes, Blood Pressure, Cardio-vascular problems, and Depressions are very common among migrants (See Figure 5.9). During the survey, we have explored that job uncertainty, high unemployment rates, low level of surplus earning/saving due to high cost of living in Kerala etc., are among the major reasons for growing incidence of major diseases among migrants, apart from their medical/biological factors.

**Figure 5.9: Distribution of migrants by their Health Status**




Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

## 5.4 Migrants' Quality of jobs in Kerala

The quality of jobs in which migrants workers are engaged is examined by the status of their availability of social insurance. It is noted that about 86 percent of these other state migrant workers do not avail any kind of social security benefits. This is a reflection of their poor quality of employment in a welfare state like Kerala. It is important to note that this share of informal workers is equally comparable with the all India level scenario (See Mehrotra and Parida, 2019).

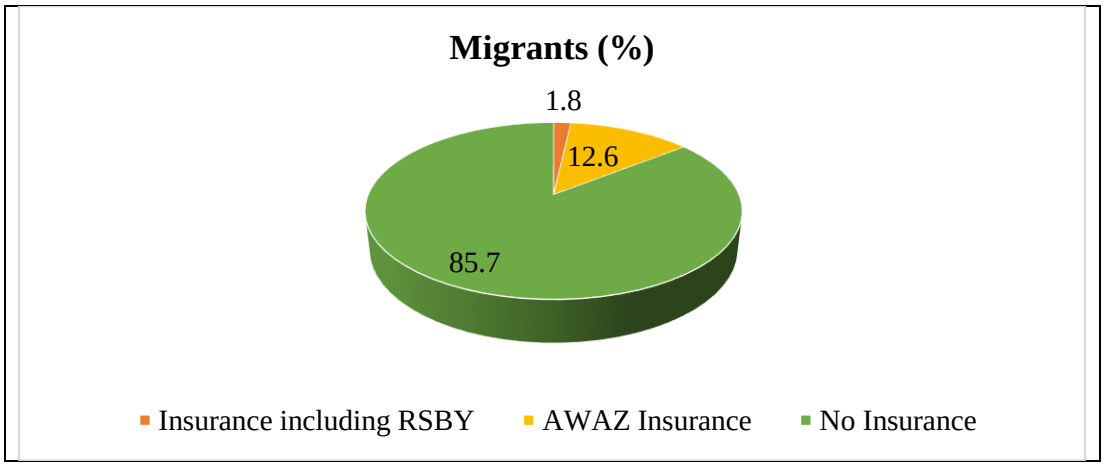
However, it is important to note that only about 2 percent (See Figure 5.10) of the total migrant workers (other state migrant) avail social security benefits under the centrally sponsored scheme called *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* (RSBY[6]). On the other hand, about 13 percent of the migrant workers were found possessing *Awaz Health*

[6] RSBY is a Government sponsored scheme for the BPL population which is designed to provide upto 75 percent of the premium by the Government of India (GOI), while the remainder is to be paid by the respective state governments. The beneficiaries of the scheme need to pay only Rs. 30 as the registration fee.

*Insurance Scheme*[7], the social insurance scheme designed and implemented by the state government of Kerala. It seems *Awaz Health Insurance Scheme* is more popular among the migrant workers in Kerala than that of the *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* of the Government of India.

Since the objective of the *Awaz Health Insurance Scheme* is to cover up to 5 lakh migrant workers residing in Kerala by the end of 2019, it is indeed an unprecedented and path breaking initiative by any state government of India. It is likely to provide social insurance to a huge segment of the migrant workers and hence will have long term implication on their employment, and psychological health conditions in Kerala.

**Figure 5.10: Distribution of Migrants by possession of social insurances, 2017-18**




Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

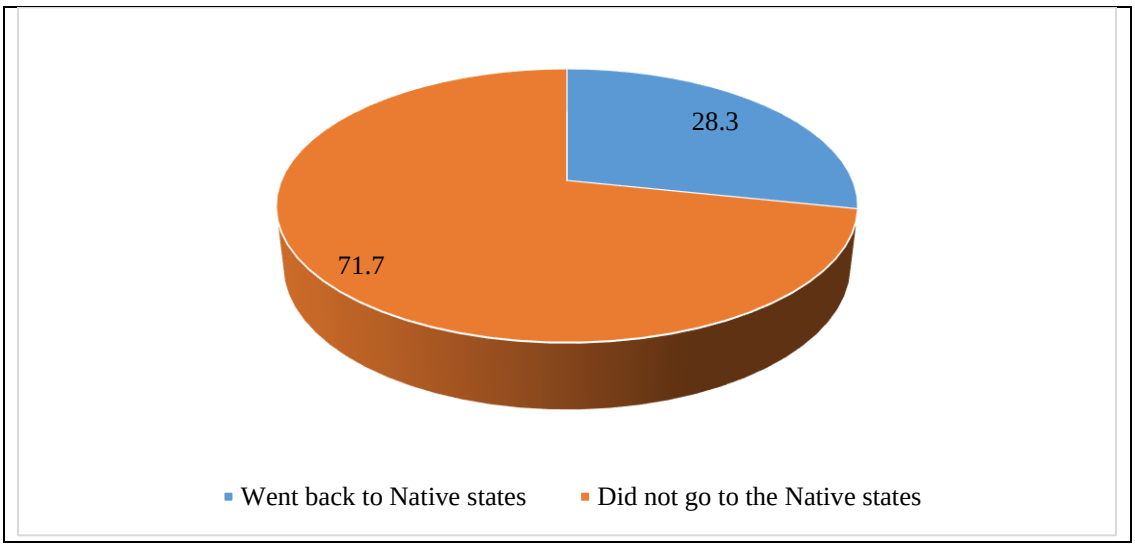
However, it is argued that there should be a limit to this social insurance benefit. Otherwise, the successful implementation of this *Awaz Health Insurance Scheme* might cause large influx of other state domestic migrants to Kerala. This increased migration inflow to Kerala might have other negative social-cultural, political and economic implication on the economy of Kerala.

[7] Awaz Health Insurance is the initiative of the government of Kerala to provide health insurance and accidental death coverage to the other state domestic migrant workers living in Kerala. This scheme was announced by the Kerala government in November 2017.

### 5.5 Migrants' Disaster Vulnerability

It is found that most of the other state migrants (about 72 percent) in Kerala did not go back to their home states during the Kerala flood situations. But those migrants, who reported that they had gone back to their home states (about 28 percent) during the flood, most of them clarified that they did not visit their home state because of the flood situation. Rather, they reported that they normally visit their home state twice or more during a year, and the flood situation coincided with their visit.

**Figure 5.11: Percentage of migrants went back to their home states during Kerala Flood (August-September, 2018)**



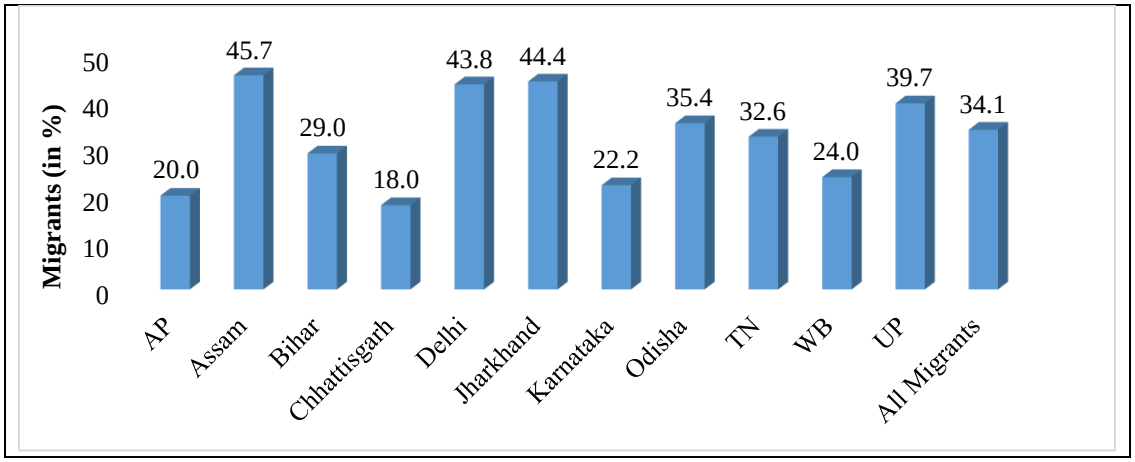

Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

Those who were present in Kerala, have reported that their employment was being affected severely, because of the massive devastation during flood. They have lost several days of work and hence income and savings. But they could survive easily because of their strong social networks. Although a few of them have reported minor loss of duration goods and belongings during the flood, most of them were not affected by the flood situation.

### 5.6 Migrants' Political Rights

About 34 percent of the migrants reported that they have gone back to their home states for casting their vote during the National Parliament or *Lok Sabha* election, 2019. But about 66 percent of the migrants did not go back to their home state to cast their votes (See Figure 5.12). We have explored why a huge percentage of the migrant population could go back to exercise their political right. A substantial number of migrants had told that the cost of going home state was higher, but they were not going to get any economic benefit from that. This is the main reason for which they preferred to stay back in Kerala.

**Figure 5.12: Percentage of migrants went back to their native states for casting vote during general election, 2019**



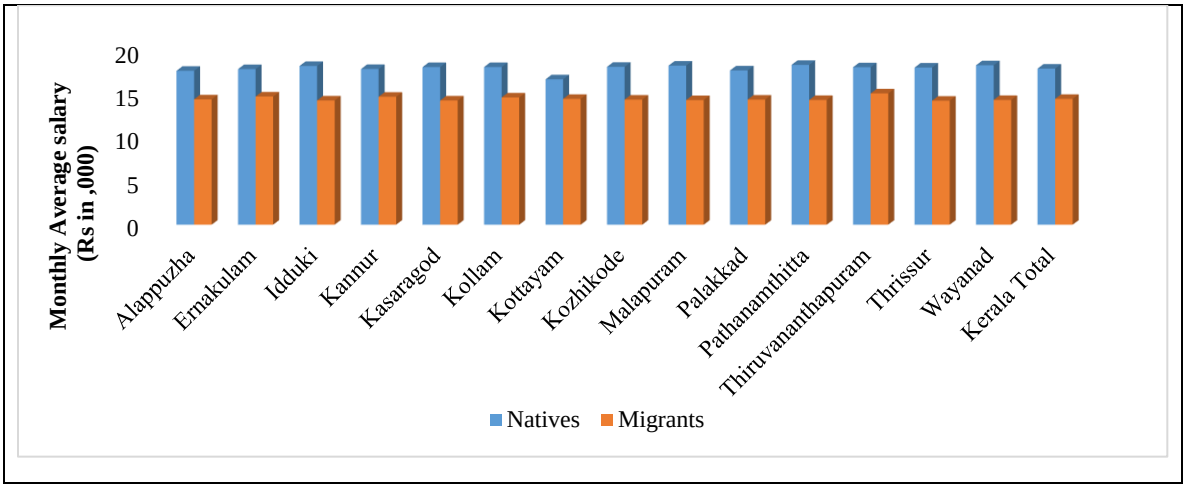

Source: Primary data, Migrant employee's survey

But ironically, it is noted that most of these migrants do not know that casting vote is their "political right". This is because most of them are either illiterate or very low educated (completed up to primary level of education only). Hence, the question of exercising political right does not make any difference to them.

## 5.7 Earnings Comparison between Migrants and Native workers

Finally, based on the information collected through our enterprise survey, we have compared the average monthly earning of both migrants and native (Keralite) workers. It is found that on the average, other state migrant workers earn less that their native counterparts. This earning/wage difference is observed across the districts of Kerala. This implies that for the same occupation or work, other state migrant workers are normally discriminated (See Figure 5.13).

**Figure 5.13: Average monthly salary/wages of migrants and native workers in Kerala, 2017-18**




Source: Primary data, enterprises survey

From Table 5.3, it is clear that on the average migrant workers earn about Rs 3.5 thousand less that their native counterparts. In the case of male worker the difference is bit more Rs. 3.7 thousand, as compared to their female counterparts (Rs 3.2 thousand). In most of the districts in which migrants are residing in large numbers, the wage/earning difference between migrants and natives are very high in those districts. For example, in the district *Malappuram* the monthly earning difference was about Rs. 3.9 thousand. In Ernakulum it about Rs. 3 thousand and so on.

However, it is noted that despite knowing this fact migrants workers are happy to work with a relative low wages/salary. This is because, most of the migrants have reported that their daily or monthly earning is much higher in Kerala as compared to their native states. Moreover, the job opportunities is also limited in their native states. These

are the two main reason for which migrants do not complain for this wage discrimination in Kerala.

On the other hand, employers in Kerala prefer to hire migrant labour to that of native workers because of two reasons: First, migrant workers normally do not have absenteeism problem like that of their native counterparts. Secondly, migrant workers do not demand for the pay hikes or higher wage premiums unlike their native counterparts. A few employers have also reported that it is very easy to control the other state migrant workers because they normally do not go for strikes and lockouts and other such things.

**Table 5.3: Average monthly salary/wages of migrants and native workers by gender groups in Kerala, 2017-18**

| Name of the District | All workers (Male + Female) | | | Male Workers | | | Female Workers | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Natives* | *Migrants* | *Diff.* | *Natives* | *Migrants* | *Diff.* | *Natives* | *Migrants* | *Diff.* |
| Alappuzha | 17681.6 | 14394.7 | 3286.8 | 19157.89 | 15684.21 | 3473.7 | 16205.26 | 13105.26 | 3100.0 |
| Ernakulum | 17872.4 | 14715.5 | 3156.9 | 18475.86 | 14948.28 | 3527.6 | 17268.97 | 14482.76 | 2786.2 |
| Idukki | 18231.3 | 14265.6 | 3965.6 | 19218.75 | 15000 | 4218.8 | 17243.75 | 13531.25 | 3712.5 |
| Kannur | 17882.1 | 14687.5 | 3194.6 | 18492.86 | 15125 | 3367.9 | 17271.43 | 14250 | 3021.4 |
| Kasaragod | 18105.0 | 14258.3 | 3846.7 | 18950 | 14983.33 | 3966.7 | 17260 | 13533.33 | 3726.7 |
| Kollam | 18108.9 | 14616.1 | 3492.9 | 18921.43 | 14982.14 | 3939.3 | 17296.43 | 14250 | 3046.4 |
| Kottayam | 16701.3 | 14442.3 | 2259.0 | 18846.15 | 16371.79 | 2474.4 | 14556.41 | 12512.82 | 2043.6 |
| Kozhikode | 18139.4 | 14361.7 | 3777.7 | 18985.11 | 15095.74 | 3889.4 | 17293.62 | 13627.66 | 3666.0 |
| Malappuram | 18270.6 | 14308.8 | 3961.8 | 19323.53 | 15029.41 | 4294.1 | 17217.65 | 13588.24 | 3629.4 |
| Palakkad | 17726.7 | 14366.7 | 3360.0 | 19026.67 | 15566.67 | 3460.0 | 16426.67 | 13166.67 | 3260.0 |
| Pathanamthitta | 18352.8 | 14319.4 | 4033.3 | 19444.44 | 15055.56 | 4388.9 | 17261.11 | 13583.33 | 3677.8 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 18087.0 | 15076.1 | 3010.9 | 19273.91 | 16108.7 | 3165.2 | 16900 | 14043.48 | 2856.5 |
| Thrissur | 18046.6 | 14241.4 | 3805.2 | 19258.62 | 15206.9 | 4051.7 | 16834.48 | 13275.86 | 3558.6 |
| Wayanad | 18312.8 | 14319.2 | 3993.6 | 19370.21 | 15053.19 | 4317.0 | 17255.32 | 13585.11 | 3670.2 |
| **Kerala Total** | **17933.9** | **14449.4** | **3484.5** | **19030.5** | **15311.25** | **3719.3** | **16837.25** | **13587.5** | **3249.8** |

Source: Primary data, enterprises survey

## 5.8 Summary:

It is found that interstate migrants in Kerala, on the average, earn about 16 thousand rupees per month, out of which they are able to generate about 4 thousand rupees (on the average) per month as surplus income or savings. It is noted that most of the seasonal or temporary migrants send remittance regularly (either they take surplus home personally while they visit home (seasonally) or send it through bank, internet banking or UPI transfers). While about 8 percent of the remitter reported less than 20 thousand rupees per annum, about 59 percent of the migrants reported that they send about 20 to 30 thousand rupees per annum to their family. Moreover, about 32 per cent of the remitters has reported above 30 thousand and more per annum remittances. Based on the average remittance information, it is estimated that about 7.5 billion rupees is going out of Kerala annually as remittance to other states of India.

Moreover, it explored that working and living conditions of the other state migrants is very poor in Kerala. About 96 percent of the migrant workers are living on sharing basis while about 39 percent live in temporary and *kachha* houses. While about 93 percent of the total other state domestic migrant workers are using toilets on sharing basis (although conditions of most of the toilets are poor and unhygienic), about 3 percent of the migrant workers are still practicing open defecation (not desirable).

However, migrant workers reveals that they are not much vulnerable to the Kerala flood situations despite a few who were directly affected and lost their jobs during this crisis. Most of them do not exercise their political rights (they did not visit their home solely for voting purpose, rather those who were at their home during the election they voted in the *Lok Sabha* election).

Although employers in Kerala prefer to hire migrant labour to that of native counterparts because of two important reasons: (i) migrant workers normally do not have absenteeism problem like that of their native counterparts; (ii) migrant workers do not demand for the pay hikes or higher wage premiums unlike their native counterparts; they tend to pay less to these workers and do not provide any kind of social security measures to them etc. In this context, *Awaz Health Insurance Scheme (AHIS)* is very important.

Even though the *AHIS* is popular among the migrant workers in Kerala than that of the *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* of the Government of India, only about 13 percent of the migrant workers were found possessing this. Though *AHIS* is indeed an unprecedented and path breaking initiative by any state government of India to increase its coverage, awareness among migrants needs to created, particularly among temporary migrants (those who frequently visit home).

# Chapter VI

# Interstate Migration and Urbanization in Kerala

The inflow of large scale interstate migrants to Kerala has also positive implications on the growth of urban population and urbanization process. Large scale emigration and inflow of remittances might have caused an increased level of aggregate demand, which helped initiating the process of structural transformation in Kerala. It transformed from a traditionally agriculture based society to an urbanized industrial and service sector oriented economy during post 1990 periods. Moreover, with the increased level of human capital endowment, a new direction of emigration trend began towards Global North and Oceania regions during post 2000. As a result inflow of other state temporary or seasonal low skilled migrants increased massively to fill the labour demand-supply gap. The objective of this chapter is to enlighten how the influx of other state temporary or seasonal low skilled migrants affects the process of urbanization in Kerala. But before that we need to explain the process of growth of urban settlements and urban population in Kerala.

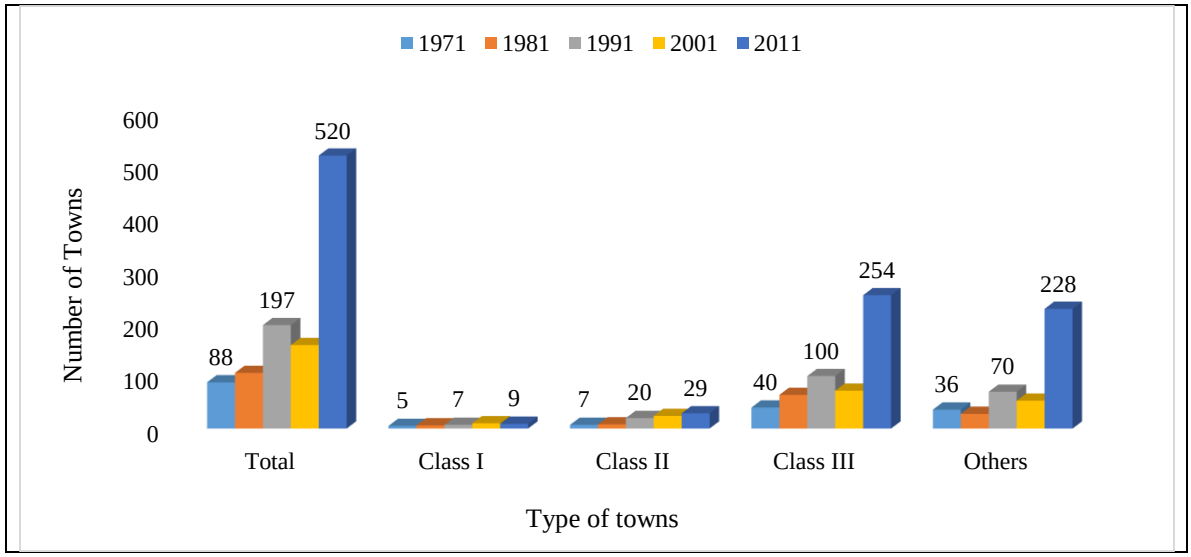
## 6.1 Growth of towns and urban population in Kerala

The process of urbanization in Kerala got momentum during 1971 and 1991 with a growth rate of 6.2 percent per annum. Total number of towns grew from about 88 to 197 during this period (See Figure 6.1). The growth rate of urban town/settlement[8] further increased to 8.2 percent per annum during post 1991 periods to reach 520 towns during 2011 Census. While the number of class-I town with a total population 1 lakh and above was just doubled (increased from 4 to 9), the number of class-II towns (with a total population 50 thousand and more but less than 1 lakh) increased more than four times (from 7 to 29) during 1971 and 2011 Census periods (Figure 6.1). On the other hand, number of class-III town (with a total population 20 thousand and more but less than 50 thousand) increased more than six times (from 40 to 254), and the number of other small

[8] According to Census of India (Census, 2011), towns are classified into six classes. Towns with the population of more than one lakh are called class-I town or a city. The cities of more than one million population are called the metropolitan cities and more than 10 million are called mega cities etc.

towns and sub-urban settlements were also increased by six times from 36 to 228 during 1971 and 2011 Census periods (See Figure 6.1).

**Figure 6.1: Growth of towns in Kerala, 1971-2011**



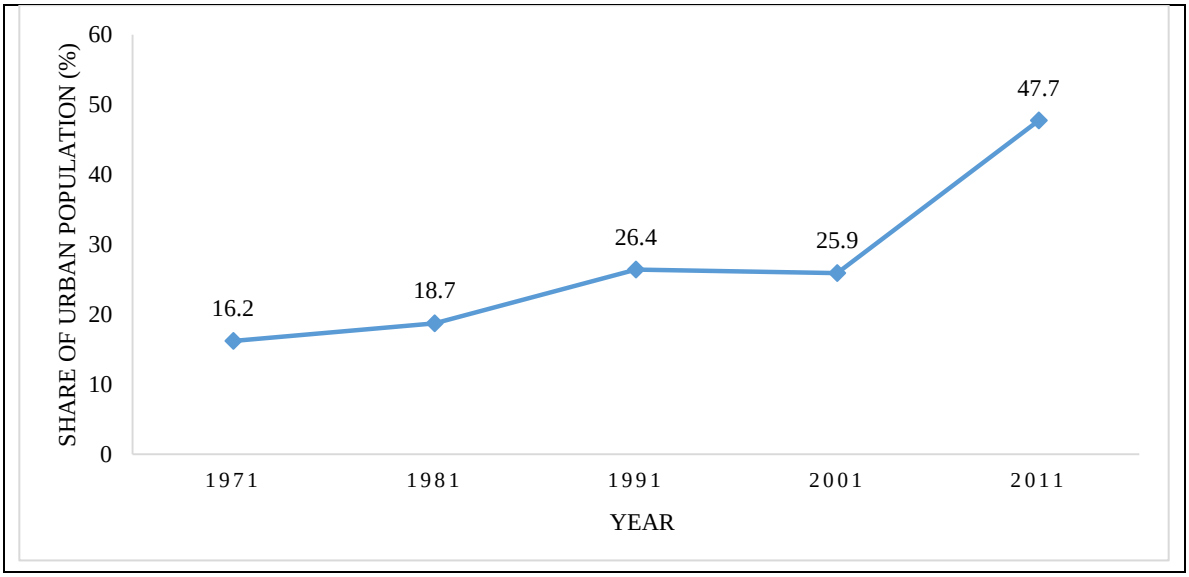

Source: Compiled and plot based on Census data
Note: Towns are classified based on population

In fact the process of urbanization in Kerala got its momentum during the period in which Kerala started receiving huge remittances. We will come back to this issue and explain it in the next paragraph, but first let's see how the share of urban population increased in Kerala. During 1971 the share of urban population in Kerala was only about 16 percent (see Figure 6.2). It increased marginally to about 19 percent during 1981, and further to about 26 percent during 1991, but remained almost constant around 26 percent until 2001 Census. However, during post 2001 periods it increased massively to reach 48 percent during 2011 Census (see Figure 6.2).

It is obvious to expect that the increasing inflows of remittances enabled the households of Kerala to save, and invest more on assets, land and buildings, and on human capital formation (See Sunny et al., 2020). Receipt of remittances not only helped in the process of poverty reduction and improving households' standard of living in Kerala (See Prakash, 1978; Prakash, 1998; Banerjee et al, 2002; Kannan and Hari, 2002; Harilal and Joseph, 2003; Kannan, 2005; Azeez & Begum, 2009), but it also helped in the process of overall socio-economic development through rising orientation towards

urbanization and new direction of emigration from Kerala (See Noushad et al., 2020). This has positive implications on the growth of cities and towns. As the number of cities and towns started growing, the share of urban population had also grown.

**Figure 6.2: Share of urban population to total population in Kerala, 1971-2011**




Source: Compiled and plot based on Census data, 1971-2011

Note: Towns are classified based on population

The district-wise share of urban population also reveals that the share of urban population increased across the districts of Kerala (See Table 6.1). Among the districts, *Kannur* (50.4 percent) and *Ernakulum* (47.6 percent) were ranked the top in terms of highest share of urban population during 2001. But during 2011, districts like *Kozhikode* (67.2 percent), *Thrissur* (67.1 percent), *Alappuzha* (54 percent), *Kollam* (45 percent), *Malappuram* (44 percent) and *Thiruvananthapuram* (about 54 percent) also joined in the group of most urbanized district of Kerala (See Table 6.1).

It is noted that the district *Malappuram* registered the highest growth of urban population (35 percent per annum) as well as growth of urban households (48 percent per annum) during 2001 and 2011. This district is not only known for sending large number of emigrants to the Gulf regions, but at the same time, it is also registered as one of the districts that received highest inflow of other state migrants during this period (already explained in previous chapters). A few other districts like *Kannur*, *Ernakulum*,

*Kozhikode*, *Thrissur*, *Alappuzha*, *Kollam*, and *Thiruvananthapuram* also registered growth of other state migrants along with growth of urban population and number of urban households (See Table 6.1).

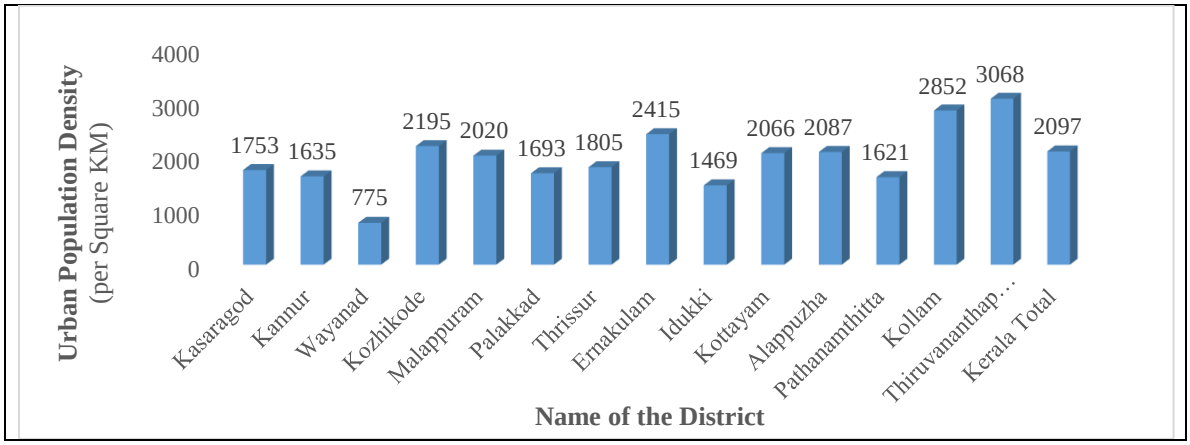
**Table 6.1: District wise share of urban population & households in Kerala, 2001-2011**

| District Name | Share of Urban Population (%) | | | Number of urban households (,000) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2001 | 2011 | Annual growth (%) | 2001 | 2011 | Annual growth (%) |
| Kasaragod | 19.4 | 38.9 | 10.1 | 43.7 | 104.2 | 13.8 |
| Kannur | 50.4 | 65.0 | 2.9 | 219.4 | 352.1 | 6.0 |
| Wayanad | 3.8 | 3.9 | 0.2 | 6.4 | 7.5 | 1.8 |
| Kozhikode | 38.3 | 67.2 | 7.6 | 203.1 | 462.0 | 12.7 |
| Malappuram | 9.8 | 44.2 | 35.0 | 59.7 | 346.0 | 48.0 |
| Palakkad | 13.6 | 24.1 | 7.7 | 74.3 | 154.9 | 10.9 |
| Thrissur | 28.2 | 67.2 | 13.8 | 180.3 | 508.3 | 18.2 |
| Ernakulum | 47.6 | 68.1 | 4.3 | 328.3 | 554.1 | 6.9 |
| Idukki | 5.1 | 4.7 | -0.8 | 13.1 | 12.6 | -0.4 |
| Kottayam | 15.4 | 28.6 | 8.7 | 65.8 | 140.4 | 11.3 |
| Alappuzha | 29.5 | 54.0 | 8.3 | 138.0 | 287.3 | 10.8 |
| Pathanamthitta | 10.0 | 11.0 | 1.0 | 28.6 | 35.1 | 2.2 |
| Kollam | 18.0 | 45.1 | 15.0 | 101.6 | 292.7 | 18.8 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 33.8 | 53.7 | 5.9 | 253.7 | 446.9 | 7.6 |
| **Kerala Total** | **26.0** | **47.7** | **8.4** | **1716.1** | **3704.1** | **11.6** |

Source: Compiled from Census population data, 2001 and 2011

But in terms of urban population density (see Figure 6.3) *Thiruvananthapuram* ranked the top (3068 per a square KM), which is followed by the districts like *Kollam* (2852 per a square KM), *Ernakulum* (2415 per a square KM) *and Kozhikode* (2195 per a square KM) etc. This is mainly because of the fact that a number of large cities and towns are located in these districts.

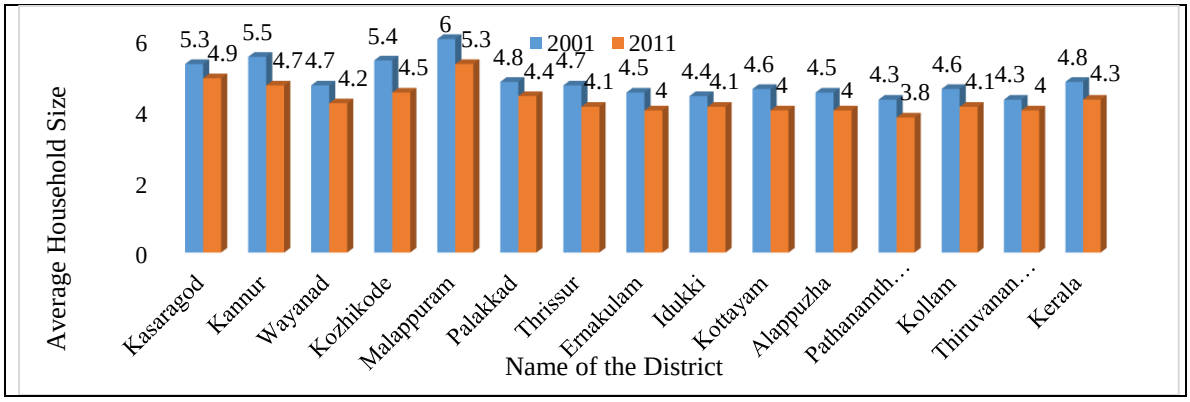
**Figure 6.3: Urban population density across the districts of Kerala, 2011**




Source: Compiled and plot based on Census data, 2011

Furthermore, we would like to highlight that the decreasing family size (average number of members in a household or family) was also partly reflected by the increased rural to urban migration of households (or families) within Kerala. At the state level, average household size decreased by about 11 per cent (from 4.8 to 4.3) in urban areas. Decreasing family size not only indicates the growth pattern of urbanization in Kerala, but it is also partly being caused by the process of urbanization itself. Because rural to urban migration has implications on the total fertility and mortality changes, and nuclearization (change from joint family to nuclear system) of families etc. This is noted across the districts of Kerala (Figure 6.4).

**Figure 6.4: Average family size in urban Kerala, 2001 and 2011**




Source: Compiled and plot based on Census data, 2011

Although the natural growth of urban population has its role in the urbanization process in Kerala, the share of rural to urban migration contributed significantly in this process. Particularly, population migration from rural areas of the same districts and from other districts of Kerala contributed hugely to the process of urbanization in Kerala. Although, migration from other states (based on Census 2011 data) of India has a relatively low share in total urban population across the districts, it still holds a key role. Because, a large proportion of the other state migration is under estimated due to definitional issues.

As we have already noted in the previous chapters that the share of temporary and seasonal migration from far off states like West Bengal, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha constitutes about 70 percent of the total domestic migrants in Kerala; these migrants are expected to play a key role in the urbanization process of Kerala.

### 6.2 Share of migrants in urban population and workforce

The role of migration in the urbanization process is very crucial, but its discussion is extremely limited due to the data constraints. We do not have any other options but to use Census data (which is an underestimation) to explain this phenomenon.

Even as per the Census data, about 2 percent of the total urban population are migrants from other states of India (the actual figure including temporary migrants will be quite more than this). Similarly, the share of migrants from other districts of Kerala is about 5.5 per cent in the total urban population in Kerala (See Table 6.2). Whereas the share of rural to urban migrants from within the district of enumeration is about 8 per cent in the total urban population in Kerala (See Figure 6.5). The share of rural to urban migrants from within the district of enumeration is about 97 per cent in the district *Waynard.* Moreover, it is about 68 per cent in the district *Idukki* and about 41 per cent in the district *Pathanamthitta* (See Figure 6.5).

This is really massive inflows, which could be partly due to the definitional[9] issues and reclassification of rural into sub-urban or urban towns. Other districts like *Kasaragod*, *Malappuram*, *Palakkad*, *Ernakulum*, *Kottayam*, and *Alappuzha* have also registered large (higher than then the state average) inflow of migrants from other districts of Kerala (See Figure 6.5). Hence, the role of rural to urban migration in the urbanization process could not be ignored.

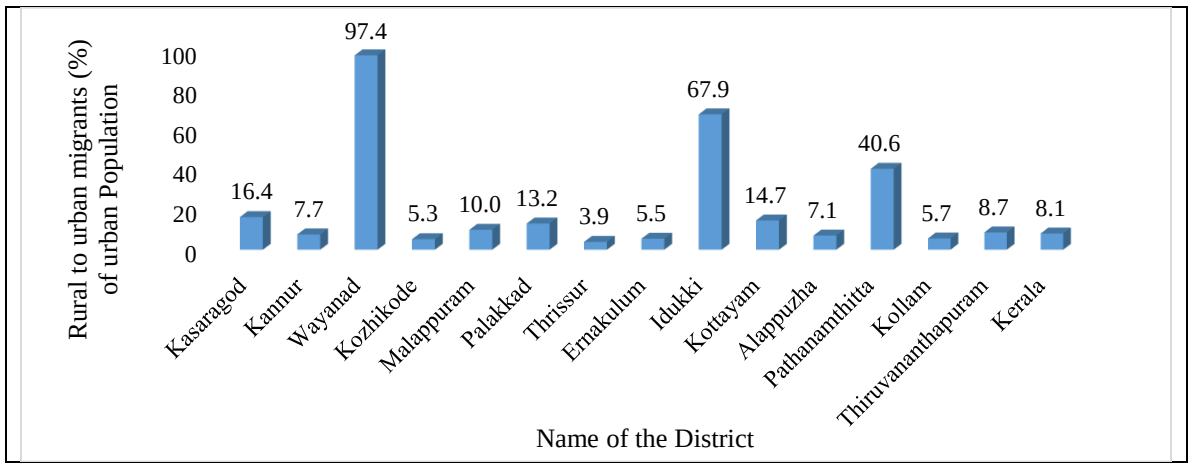
**Table 6.2: Share of domestic migrants in population and workforce in urban Kerala, 2011**

| Name of the District | Urban Population as per Census 2011 | | Migrants in Urban Kerala | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | From other states of India | | From other districts of Kerala | |
| | *Number (in lakh)* | *Percentage share* | *Number (in lakh)* | *Share in urban population (%)* | *Number (in lakh)* | *Share in urban population (%)* |
| Kasaragod | 5.1 | 38.8 | 0.21 | 4.2 | 0.37 | 7.4 |
| Kannur | 16.4 | 65.0 | 0.27 | 1.6 | 0.52 | 3.2 |
| Wayanad | 0.3 | 3.9 | 0.04 | 12.9 | 0.19 | 58.8 |
| Kozhikode | 20.7 | 67.2 | 0.31 | 1.5 | 0.69 | 3.3 |
| Malappuram | 18.2 | 44.2 | 0.12 | 0.7 | 0.72 | 4.0 |
| Palakkad | 6.8 | 24.1 | 0.39 | 5.8 | 0.68 | 10.1 |
| Thrissur | 20.9 | 67.2 | 0.30 | 1.5 | 0.71 | 3.4 |
| Ernakulum | 22.3 | 68.1 | 0.45 | 2.0 | 1.29 | 5.8 |
| Idukki | 0.5 | 4.7 | 0.07 | 14.0 | 0.34 | 65.1 |
| Kottayam | 5.7 | 28.6 | 0.15 | 2.7 | 0.66 | 11.8 |
| Alappuzha | 11.5 | 54.1 | 0.16 | 1.4 | 0.93 | 8.1 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1.3 | 11.0 | 0.14 | 10.9 | 0.40 | 30.1 |
| Kollam | 11.9 | 45.1 | 0.13 | 1.1 | 0.57 | 4.8 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 17.8 | 53.8 | 0.27 | 1.5 | 0.49 | 2.8 |
| Kerala | **159.3** | **47.7** | **3.03** | **1.9** | **8.57** | **5.4** |

Source: Authors calculation using Census population and migration data, 2011.

[9] According to Aravindan and Prasanth (2018) "the main reason for urban population growth is not by the concentration of population in to the existing urban areas, but the increase in the number of urban areas and also urbanization of the peripheral areas of the existing major urban centers."

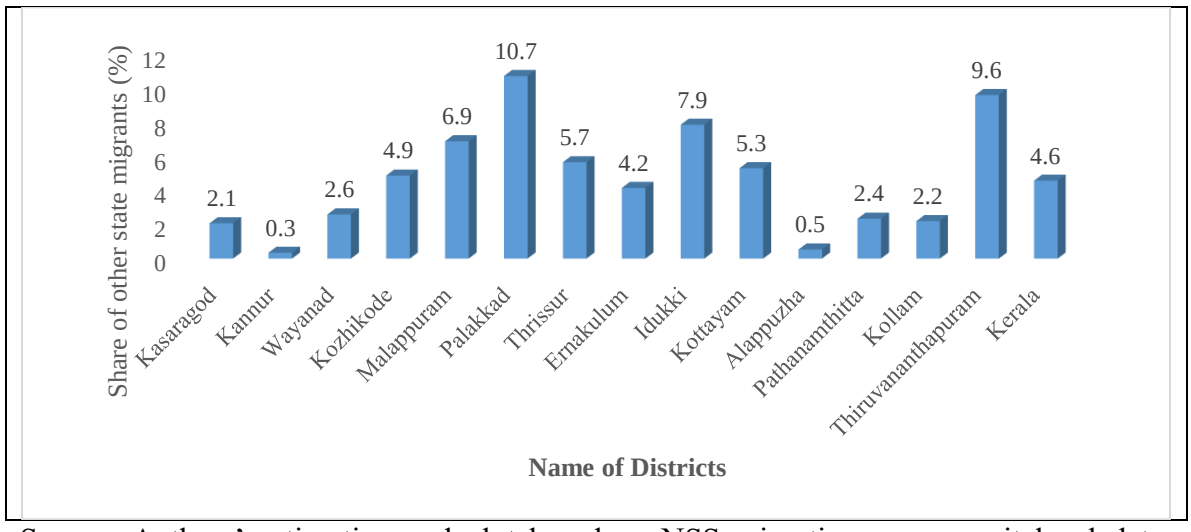
**Figure 6.5: Share of rural-urban migrants from within the district in Kerala, 2011**




Source: Authors' estimation and plot based on Census data, 2011

Furthermore, it was noted that the share of other state migrants in total urban work force was about 5 percent during 2007-08 (See Figure 6.6). The districts like *Palakkad*, *Thiruvananthapuram*, *Idukki*, *Malappuram*, *Thrissur*, and *Kottayam* etc. have also registered higher share (more than 5 per cent) of migrants in their total workforce during 2007-08. Moreover, with the massive increase in the number of other state domestic migrants in the most recent years (during the last 10 years) the share of migrants in the total workforce is also expected to be increased.

**Figure 6.6: Share of other state migrants in urban workforce of Kerala, 2007-08**

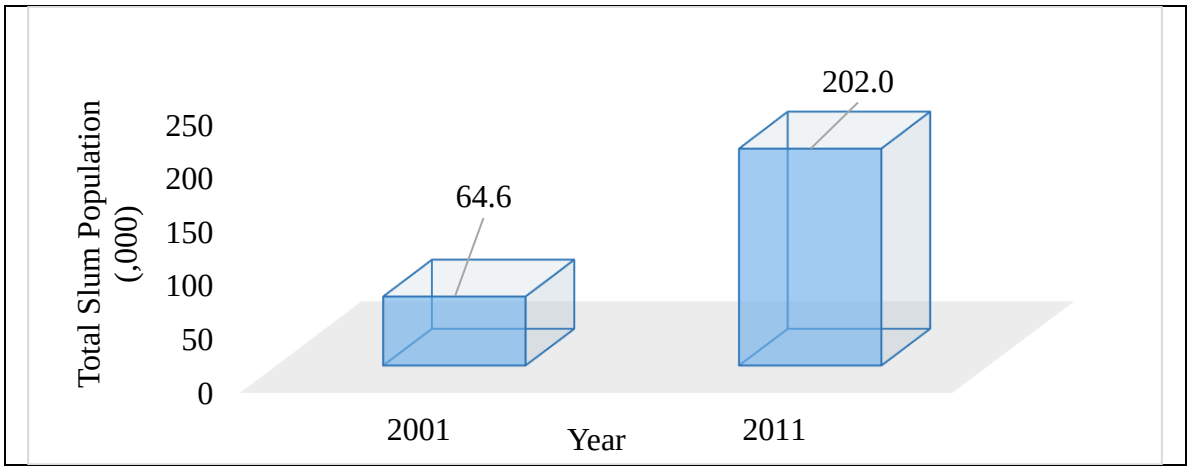



Source: Authors' estimation and plot based on NSS migration survey unit level data, 2007-08

### 6.3 Growth of slums and poor quality of urban life

Since migrants (from within Kerala and from other states of India) contribute significantly to the growth of urban population, they do also contribute to the growth of urban slums in Kerala. Slum population in Kerala increased from about 65 thousand to about 2 lakhs during 2001 and 2011, a rise of about 21 percent (See Figure 6.7).

**Figure 6.7: Growth of Slum population in Kerala, 2001-2011**




Source: Authors' estimation and plot based on Census data, 2001 & 2011

In terms of slum population *Thrissur* Municipal Corporation ranks the top with total of about 80 thousand slum population and with about 19.6 thousand slum dweller households. *Kozhikode* Municipal Corporation ranks the second, and it is followed by the cities like *Palakkad* municipality, *Kollam* Municipal Corporation, *Kayamkulam* municipality, Kasaragod municipality, *Kochi* Municipal Corporation, *Nedumangad* municipality, *Neyyattinkara* municipality and *Thiruvananthapuram* Municipal Corporation respectively. Large scale rural to urban migration from within Kerala and from far-off states (unskilled and low skilled migrants who stayed for a long duration) could both contribute to the growth of the slum settlements in Kerala. Because low skilled migrants are often found residing in sharing rented accommodation (without proper sanitary facilities) or in low quality slum settlements because of their income and other constraints (we have already discussed this issue in the previous chapter with the help of primary data). Moreover, in the following sections we are going to give a macro level picture of the quality of urban life in Kerala.

**Table 6.3: City-wise slum population in Kerala, 2011**

| Name of the Cities | Slum Households | Slum Population | Ranking of Cities based on slum population |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kasaragod (M) | 1101 | 6321 | 6 |
| Kannur (M) | 278 | 1501 | 14 |
| Vadakara (M) | 472 | 3105 | 11 |
| Kozhikode (M Corp. + OG) | 9039 | 50343 | 2 |
| Palakkad (M) | 3404 | 15238 | 3 |
| Kunnamkulam (M) | 362 | 1381 | 15 |
| Chavakkad (M) | 175 | 900 | 18 |
| Thrissur (M Corp.) | 19629 | 79801 | 1 |
| Kochi (M Corp. + OG) (Part) | 1594 | 5184 | 7 |
| Thrippunithura (M) | 738 | 2936 | 12 |
| Kayamkulam (M) | 1974 | 8410 | 5 |
| Chengannur (M) | 222 | 931 | 17 |
| Mavelikkara (M) | 184 | 763 | 19 |
| Kollam (M Corp. + OG) (Part) | 2761 | 11659 | 4 |
| Paravoor (M) | 230 | 981 | 16 |
| Attingal (M) | 579 | 2306 | 13 |
| Nedumangad (M) | 962 | 3593 | 8 |
| Thiruvananthapuram (M Corp. + OG) (Part) | 834 | 3320 | 10 |
| Neyyattinkara (M) | 879 | 3375 | 9 |
| **Kerala Total** | **45417** | **202048** | **---** |

Source: Authors compilation from Census data, 2011.

The quality of urban life could be assessed based on the availability of basic facilities in urban areas. For example, the availability good houses, safe drinking water, electricity, better latrine and drainage facilities etc., are usually availed by the citizen of urban areas as compared to their rural counterparts. However, the growth of slums and low quality settlements has negative implications on the overall quality of urban life.

As per Census (2011) provides information on whether the house where the respondent lives currently is “own” or “rented”. Normally it is expected that with urbanization, proportion of housed “rented” increases. It is clear from Table 6.4 that about 88 per cent of the urban population in Kerala live in their own houses and about 10 per cent depend on rented accommodation during 2011. But it is important to note that about 2 percent of the urban population neither own any house nor do they live in rented accommodations. These are the people who are mostly marginalized and vulnerable

groups of people who live below the poverty line. With increasing pace of urbanization the share of vulnerable poor is also likely to increase. Hence, these group of people (does not matter whether migrants or native of Kerala) should need special attention of the government.

**Table 6.4: District-wise house ownership in urban Kerala, 2011**

| District Name | Distribution of households by ownership of house (%) | | | *Households Living without Electricity (%)* | *Households Living without Latrine facility (%)* | *Households Living without drainage facility (%)* | *Households Living without any assets (%)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Living in owned houses* | *Living in rented houses* | *Living without houses* | | | | |
| Kasaragod | 85.1 | 13 | 1.9 | 4.1 | 3.4 | 60.6 | 4.6 |
| Kannur | 92.4 | 6.3 | 1.3 | 2.4 | 1.5 | 33.1 | 2.6 |
| Wayanad | 75.7 | 19.2 | 5.1 | 11.2 | 4.7 | 44.1 | 7.2 |
| Kozhikode | 91.9 | 6.6 | 1.5 | 4.4 | 1.8 | 39.1 | 3.4 |
| Malappuram | 91.5 | 7.6 | 0.9 | 4.1 | 1.5 | 50.5 | 3.2 |
| Palakkad | 84.9 | 13 | 2.1 | 3 | 5.1 | 47.5 | 4.6 |
| Thrissur | 91 | 7.5 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 1.7 | 40.8 | 3.1 |
| Ernakulum | 84.3 | 13.8 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 32.4 | 1.8 |
| Idukki | 81.5 | 17.7 | 0.8 | 1.7 | 0.7 | 30 | 1.8 |
| Kottayam | 85.7 | 12.2 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 35.7 | 2 |
| Alappuzha | 92.2 | 6.2 | 1.6 | 3.1 | 5.3 | 60.6 | 3.6 |
| Pathanamthitta | 88.2 | 10 | 1.8 | 3.7 | 4 | 38.2 | 3.1 |
| Kollam | 85.8 | 11.9 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 3.6 | 61.5 | 4.5 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 83 | 14.8 | 2.2 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 58.4 | 5.1 |
| **Kerala Total** | **88.3** | **10** | **1.7** | **3** | **2.6** | **45.5** | **3.4** |

Source: Compiled from Census population data, 2011

Furthermore it is noted that although the share of urban population living without electricity, latrine facilities and assets is quite low (about 3 percent), the share of population living (in settlements) without proper drainage is quite high (about 46 percent). Given the fact that Kerala has already became an ageing society with rising share of elderly population (See Sanitha et al., 2019), most of the elderly population in urban settlement will be vulnerable to chronic diseases unless proper sanitary and drainage facility is not developed.

Lack of proper drainage system could also be among the main reasons of recent floods which affected thousands of life and the economy of Kerala as a whole.

### 6.4 On migration policy for long run growth and human development

Since the economy of Kerala is increasingly depending on other state domestic migrants (particularly low skilled) due to the large scale emigration of its natives, for sustaining the growth of GSDP along with the structural transformation process retaining these migrants in Kerala is important. However, the question of attracting these migrants is much more important than retaining them. Because, it is noted that a large share of other state domestic low skilled migrants move on a temporary basis for better wage/earning levels as compared to their place of origin. And after a certain age limit these migrants stop migrating to Kerala for this reason. But their relatively younger counterparts join the migration stream. This seems to be a continuous process.

Hence, to sustain this migration flow to satisfy the domestic needs of low skilled labour in Kerala, wage rates should be fixed above the minimum wage level of other origin states and provision of social insurance should be given to these migrant workers along with proper and hygienic living arrangements.

### 6.5 Summary

The process of urbanization in Kerala got momentum during the period of large scale emigration (1971 and 1991) with a growth rate of 6.2 percent per annum urban towns. Total number of towns grew from about 88 to 197 during this period. The growth rate of urban town/settlement further increased to 8.2 percent per annum during post 1991 periods to reach 520 towns during 2011 Census. While the number of class-I towns was just doubled (increased from 4 to 9), the number of class-II towns increased more than four times (from 7 to 29), and number of class-III town and other small towns increased more than six times during 1971 and 2011 Census periods. The number of urban population also increased massively along with decline in the average size of family, increase in urban population density etc. As a by-product of this urbanization process, the number of slums and low quality urban settlements also increased with a trivial growth of slum population.

## Chapter VII

# Summary of Findings and Conclusion

### 7.1 Domestic migration: what do secondary data speak?

As per the secondary data the share of other state domestic migrants in Kerala is only about 5 percent of the total internal migration in Kerala. It increased from 4.5 lakh to about 6.5 (about 2 lakh increase) during the period 2001 and 2011 with an annual growth rate of 4.4 percent. It is noted that the neighboring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra were the major migrant sending states to Kerala during 2001. But during 2011, this trend has changed, as migrants from far off states like West Bengal, Assam, Odisha and Bihar increased massively with a growth rate of about 20 per cent. It is noted that the share of migrants reporting long duration migration has been declining with corresponding rise in the share of short duration migration in Kerala.

Although, the overall share of migrants in the total workforce declined during 1999-00 and 2007-08, the share of migrants in the total workforce is rising in those districts in which the share of migrants in the total population is bit higher. The share of migrant workers in total workforce declined from 6.5 percent to 3.2 percent during 1999-00 and 2007-08. The sectors in which other state migrants are normally employed shows increasing trends include: construction, labour intensive manufacturing sectors, and low paid service sectors like hotel and retail trade sectors etc. These sectors has been contributing largely to the total non-farm employment across the districts in Kerala. During 2017-18, about 23 lakh persons were engaged in construction sector alone. Most of them are expected to be other state migrant workers. Although service sector was the top most employment generating sectors in Kerala, because of its skill requirement quite a low share of migrants were found engaged in service sectors. The sub-sectors of service sector in which migrant workers were found engaged include low paid service sectors like hotel and retail trade sectors etc. On the other hand, a significant percentage of migrants were expected to be engaged in the manufacturing sector. This sector contributes about 14 lakh to total employment in Kerala during 2017-18.

### 7.2 On Estimating Migrants in Kerala:

It is estimated that total number of other state domestic migrants in Kerala is 31.4 lakhs during 2017-18. Among the sectors which provide jobs to these migrants, construction sector ranks the top with an estimated 17.5 lakhs migrants were engaged in this sector. Manufacturing sector is the second most dominant sector which is attracting large number of migrants from other states of India. It holds 6.3 lakhs migrants. About 3 lakh migrants are estimated to be engaged in agriculture and allied sector activities, whereas a few others are estimated to be engaged in the service sectors like hotel and restaurants services (about 1.7 lakh), wholesale and retail trade (about 1 lakhs) and other elementary services (1.6 lakh). The sector "mining and quarrying", "education", "health and social services" etc., also provide employment to a few. Each of these sectors are estimated to provide about 0.1 lakh jobs to the migrant workers during 2017-18.

Moreover, it is noted that about 80 per cent of the sample migrants, undertake seasonal move to Kerala for employment. However, both Census and NSS migration data, fail to capture these migrants (due to their definitional constraints) who stay for a period shorter (less than 3 to 4 months at a stretch) in Kerala. This number of very high (about 21 lakhs) in Kerala. The study of Gulati institute also provides an estimates of about 25 lakhs migrants. But this study, for the first time, has explored that about 10 lakhs migrants are long-term migrants, which is consistent with both Census and NSS migration figures. During the last seven years, inter-state long duration migration increased by only 3 lakhs. Out of 10 lakh total long term inter-state migrants in Kerala only about 5 per cent (about 52 thousand) are living in Kerala along with their family. The district *Ernakulum* tops the rank by accommodating about 14.5 thousand (28 per cent) migrant families, which is followed by the district *Thrissur* (about 7 thousand or 13.6 per cent) and *Alappuzha* (about 5 thousand) respectively.

It is also estimated that migrant families living in Kerala, on the average, have two (average value is 1.97) children living with them as dependent family members. Hence, it could be argued that about 98 thousand migrant children are also living in Kerala as dependent family members. Since about 81 percentage of total migrant children

are attending education, it is estimated that about 61 thousand migrant children are attending education in Kerala.

### 7.3 On remittances and migrants' working and living conditions in Kerala:

It is found that interstate migrants in Kerala, on the average, earn about 16 thousand rupees per month, out of which they are able to generate about 4 thousand rupees (on the average) per month as surplus income or savings. It is noted that most of the seasonal or temporary migrants send remittance regularly (either they take surplus home personally while they visit home (seasonally) or send it through bank, internet banking or UPI transfers). While about 8 percent of the remitter reported less than 20 thousand rupees per annum, about 59 percent of the migrants reported that they send about 20 to 30 thousand rupees per annum to their family. Moreover, about 32 per cent of the remitters has reported above 30 thousand and more per annum remittances. Based on the average remittance information, it is estimated that about 7.5 billion rupees is going out of Kerala annually as remittance to other states of India.

Moreover, it explored that working and living conditions of the other state migrants is very poor in Kerala. About 96 percent of the migrant workers are living on sharing basis while about 39 percent live in temporary and *kachha* houses. While about 93 percent of the total other state domestic migrant workers are using toilets on sharing basis (although conditions of most of the toilets are poor and unhygienic), about 3 percent of the migrant workers are still practicing open defecation (not desirable).

However, migrant workers reveals that they are not much vulnerable to the Kerala flood situations despite a few who were directly affected and lost their jobs during this crisis. Most of them do not exercise their political rights (they did not visit their home solely for voting purpose, rather those who were at their home during the election they voted in the *Lok Sabha* election).

Although employers in Kerala prefer to hire migrant labour to that of native counterparts because of two important reasons: (i) migrant workers normally do not have absenteeism problem like that of their native counterparts; (ii) migrant workers do not

demand for the pay hikes or higher wage premiums unlike their native counterparts; they tend to pay less to these workers and do not provide any kind of social security measures to them etc. In this context, *Awaz Health Insurance Scheme (AHIS)* is very important. Even though the *AHIS* is popular among the migrant workers in Kerala than that of the *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* of the Government of India, only about 13 percent of the migrant workers were found possessing this. Though *AHIS* is indeed an unprecedented and path breaking initiative by any state government of India to increase its coverage, awareness among migrants needs to created, particularly among temporary migrants (those who frequently visit home).

**7.4 On migration and urbanization in Kerala:**

The inflow of large scale interstate migrants to Kerala has also positive implications on the growth of urban population and urbanization process. Large scale emigration and inflow of remittances might have caused an increased level of aggregate demand, which helped initiating the process of structural transformation in Kerala. It transformed from a traditionally agriculture based society to an urbanized industrial and service sector oriented economy during post 1990 periods. Moreover, with the increased level of human capital endowment, a new direction of emigration trend began towards Global North and Oceania regions during post 2000. As a result inflow of other state temporary or seasonal low skilled migrants increased massively to fill the labour demand-supply gap.

The process of urbanization in Kerala got momentum during the period of large scale emigration (1971 and 1991) with a growth rate of 6.2 percent per annum urban towns. Total number of towns grew from about 88 to 197 during this period. The growth rate of urban town/settlement further increased to 8.2 percent per annum during post 1991 periods to reach 520 towns during 2011 Census. While the number of class-I towns was just doubled (increased from 4 to 9), the number of class-II towns increased more than four times (from 7 to 29), and number of class-III town and other small towns increased more than six times during 1971 and 2011 Census periods. The number of urban population also increased massively along with decline in the average size of family,

increase in urban population density etc. As a by-product of this urbanization process, the number of slums and low quality urban settlements also increased with a trivial growth of slum population.

### 7.5 On domestic migration policy:

Since the economy of Kerala is increasingly depending on other state domestic migrants (particularly low skilled) due to the large scale emigration of its natives, for sustaining the growth of GSDP along with the structural transformation process retaining these migrants in Kerala is important. However, the question of attracting these migrants is much more important than retaining them. Because, it is noted that a large share of other state domestic low skilled migrants move on a temporary basis for better wage/earning, and after a certain age limit they stop migrating to Kerala. Furthermore, relatively younger counterparts normally start join the migration stream to fill the labour demand gap in Kerala. This seems to be a continuous process.

Hence, to sustain this migration flow to satisfy the domestic needs of low skilled labour in Kerala, wage rates should be fixed above the minimum wage level of other origin states and provision of social insurance should be given to these migrant workers along with proper and hygienic living arrangements. In this context, modification of the *AHIS* is necessary. Particularly, to increase its coverage, awareness among temporary migrants (those who frequently visit home) needs to be created.

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**Annexure-I**

കേരള സർക്കാർ

# Employee Survey: Interview Schedule

Project Title: "A Study On Inmigration , Informal Employment And Urbanization In Kerala"
Commissioned by the Evaluation Division, State Planning Board, Government of Kerala
Research Team: Dr. J.K. Parida (PI), Dr. Ravi K. Raman (Co-PI), and Mr. Rajesh Kumar Das (RA)

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB

**Schedule No.:**

| **A. Personal, family and migration details** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **District Name** | | **Sector** *(Rural=1; urban=2)* | | **Sector of Employment***(Agriculture=1; Construction=2; Factories=3; Hotel & Restaurants=4; Others=5)* | | | |
| Name of the respondent (Optional) | | **Age** (in years) | | **Sex** *(male=1; female=2)* | | **Marital Status***(Unmarried=1, Married=2, Widow/Separated=3)* | |
| **Social Group***(ST=1, SC=2, OBC=3 and Others=4)* | | **Religion** *(Hindu=1, Muslim=2, Christian=3, Others=4)* | | **Level of education***(illiterate=1, primary=2, Secondary=3, Higher Second=4; Graduate & above=5)* | | | |
| **Family Size** (No. of family members) | | **Family Agricultural landownership***(in Acres)* | | **Total monthly spending of your family on food and other consumer goods** (in Rs) | | | |
| **Total spending of your family on Education of your children during last 365 days** (in Rs) | | **Total spending of your family on medical/healthcare during last 365 days** (in Rs) | | | | | |
| **Total spending of your family on durable consumer goods during last 365 days** (in Rs)For example: Car, Motor bike, TV, radio, Cycles, AC, refrigerator, Mobile Phones/palm tops, Computers/laptops, agricultural machineries/equipments etc.) | | | | | | | |
| **Total savings (in banks or post offices etc.) of the family during last 365 days** (in Rs) | | **Total investments in LIC, mutual funds, purchase of lands, opening a business etc.)** (in Rs) | | | | | |
| **Total family Income from Agriculture (in Rs)** | | **Total family income from other sources (**in Rs) | | | | | |
| **State of Domicile** *(Kerala=1; others=2)* | | If state of domicile is not Kerala then Specify | | In which year did you come to Kerala for the first time | | | |
| No. of times visited the home state since migrated | | **Migrated with?**(*Contractors=1, Friends=2, Relatives=3, On your own=4)* | | How did you finance your first time migration cost *(Own pocket=1; family sponsored=2; Friends sponsored=3; contractors sponsored=4; through Debt=5; others (Specify)=6* | | | |

**Annexure-I**

| **B. Details of employment and living arrangements** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| How many days did you spend for getting your **employment** in Kerala? | | How many days did you **w**ork in last 30 days? | | How much did you earn in last 30 days (in Rs.)? | |
| **Nature of employment** (*Permanent=1,Contract=2,Daily wage=3, Others=4)* | | Do you possess any **bank account**? (*Yes=1, No=2)* | | If yes, Type of **Account** *Current A/C=1, SB=2 & others=3* | |
| Do you posses any insurance document **account**? (*Yes=1, No=2)* | | If yes: Then type of insurance (*life insurance=1,health insurance=2.accidental income=3,maternity benefits=4,oldage pension=5,others specify=6)* | | | |
| **Who sponsored your insurance?**(*Self=1,Family=2.Contractors=3, Employer=4)* | | **Where do you stay?** *Own house=1; Rented house=2; any other (specify)=3* | | **Accommodation Type** *Single=1; Sharing=2; any other (specify)=3* | |
| **Type of house in which you live in Kerala?**( *Fully furnished Pucca=1, Only Pakka=2, Semi pakka/cemented=3, Kacha =4 & No house=5)* | | **Type of toilet use?** (*Private toilet within home=1, Public Toilet=2, No Toilet=3)* | | | |
| **Type water you drink/cook food?** (Bottled/packed=*1, tape water=2, bore well/tubewell=3; others specify=4))* | | **Living Location?** (*Unauthorized*slums=1; *RegisteredSlums=2, Other Unauthorized colonies/villages=3, Authorized colonies/villages=4; Others specify=5)* | | | |
| **What was your occupation before migration?** *(Agri. Lab=1; farmer=2; other labour=3; Unemployed=4; others specify=5)* | | **What was your monthly earning in the month preceding your migration** (in Rs.)? | | | |

| **What is your monthly Expenditure pattern in Kerala? (in Rs)** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| On **Food Items** | Expenses on Liquors, Soft drinks and other **beverages** | Expenses of **Cinemas** and other **entertainments** etc. | On **Health** care | House **rent** | **Drinking** water | Any **other** |
| | | | | | | |

| Do you manage to generate any **surplus income**? *Yes=1 No=2* | | If yes how much in the **last month** (in Rs) | | Did you send any r**emittance** to your family during the last year*(Yes=1 and No=2)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| If yes how much did you **remit during** the last year (in Rs) | | If yes how many times did you **remit during** the last year | | How do you send the **money to your family**? (*Banks=1, Post Office=2, Friends=3, Mobile Apps=4, Personally while you went home=5)* | |
| Do you think that you are relatively **better-off** after migration? *Yes=1 No=2* | | If YES Why? Reasons | | | |

**Annexure-I**

| C. Details of Family Members | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Srl. No | **Relation with the migrant** *(Father=1, Mother =2, Wife=3, Son=4; Daughter=5; Brother=6; Sister =7; Grandfather=8; Grandmother=9; others=10)* | **Age** (in years) | **Sex** *(male=1; female=2)* | **Education** *(illiterate=1, primary=2, Secondary=3, Higher Second=4; Graduate & above=5)* | **Employment Status** *(Employed in Govt jobs=1, Employed in pvt. jobs =2, Self employed in agriculture=3, Self employed in non-agriculture=4; Landless labour=5; Unemployed looking for jobs=6; Unemployed not looking for jobs =7; Doing household duties=8; Attending Education=9; others=10)* | **Monthly earning (Rs)** *(Applicable for employment status codes 1 through 5)* | **Migration Status** *(Migrant=1; Not migrant=2)* |
| 1 | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | |
| **Your Experience during last flood situation in Kerala** | | | | | | | |
| Where did you stay during last flood situation in Kerala? (Kerala=1; Gone to native state=2) | | | | | | | |
| Did you/your family is affected by the flood situation in Kerala? (Yes=1; No=2) | | | | | | | |
| Total days of unemployment during the flood situation in Kerala (in Days) | | | | | Total Loss of income during the flood (in Rs) | | |
| Total Loss of any other asset during the flood (in Rs) | | | | | | | |

## Annexure-II

കേരള സർക്കാർ

**Schedule No.:**

**Establishment/Employer Survey: Interview Schedule**

Project Title: "A Study On Inmigration , Informal Employment And Urbanization In Kerala"

Commissioned by the Evaluation Division, State Planning Board, Government of Kerala

Research Team: Dr. J.K. Parida (PI), Dr. Ravi K. Raman (Co-PI), and Mr. Rajesh Kumar Das (RA)

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| District Name | | | | | Name of the City/town/village | | | | |
| Registration No. (if any) | | | | Year of Existence | Sector *(Rural=1;Urban=2)* | | | | |
| Age (years) | | Sex *(Male=1; Female=2)* | | Social Group (ST=1, SC=2, OBC=3 and Others=4) | | **Religion***(Hindu=1,Muslim=2,Christian=3, Others=4)* | | **Level of education***(illiterate=1, primary=2, Secondary=3, Higher Second=4; Graduate & above=5)* | |

**Details of the workers hired**

| **Questions** | Migrants (from Other states of India) | | Natives (from Kerala) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* |
| Total No. of workers hired by your establishment/business current year (2018-19) | | | | |
| Total No. of workers hired by your establishment/business last year (2017-18) | | | | |
| Average wage/salary paid per months (in Rs) in the current year (2018-19) | | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| What are the major states from which you hire migrant workers (Just list out these states) | | | |
| Do you prefer migrant workers to Natives? *(Yes=1; No=2)* | | If yes then tell us why do you do so | |
| How do you come in contact with (or hire) a new migrant workers? (through Current migrant worker=1, Middle man=2, Pick up from the local daily labour market=3 and Others (Specify)=4) | | | |
| During the last f**lood** situation, did you face any trouble in hiring migrant workers? *(Yes=1; No=2)* | | What is your expected loss of output due to the Flood situation in Kerala? in Rs | |
| Do your business have any provision for social security benefit to your workers (including EPF, NPS, accidental, health, maternal or life insurance etc.) *(Yes=1; No=2)* | | | |
| Are you satisfied with the Governments flood/disaster management approach? *(highly satisfied=1, satisfied=2, neutral=3, Dis-satisfied=4; Highly dis-satisfied=5)* | | | |

Photo: Youtube


This study was conducted by a team consists of

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