CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

Migration is an international phenomenon and it has been so from time immemorial. It is a movement of people from one place of abode to another by crossing an administrative boundary may be for the improvement of their standard of living. People may migrate on grounds of employment or governments may encourage it as a means to solve the problem of unemployment. Migration may be classified as internal or international and as voluntary or forced. Voluntary migration is usually undertaken in search of a better life but forced migrations include expulsions of people during war and the transference of slaves or prisoners. Migration of people from one country to another is known as international migration. The international migration at the beginning was mostly motivated by non-economic reasons. However, the recent international labour migration especially at the end of Second World War, has been motivated by economic reasons mainly the prospect of earning higher wages and income abroad (Salvatore, 2005).

Although migration was almost unrestricted at the beginning, it has been restricted at the end of 17th century owing to the formation of nation states by the western countries. Even though migration was restricted due to the establishment of colonies by western countries, there was migration of people during the 19th and early 20th centuries. For example, about 52 million Europeans mainly from British Isles, Germany and Scandinavia migrated to America, Canada, Oceana, Australia, Latin America, New Zealand and South Africa during the period 1840-1930. There was large scale migration of Asians to different parts of South East Asia during the 19th and 20th centuries. During this period, lot of Japanese migrated to north eastern province of China and millions of Indians migrated to Burma as plantation labourers. There are evidences that there were large scale migration during 1960s and 70s as millions of people migrated from the less developed regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America to the industrialized countries of North and West Europe, North America and Oceana. The number of people migrated during the period has increased from about 3.2 million during 1960 to about 9.5 million
during the middle of 1974 (UN, 1976)\(^2\). The current trend of globalisation of world economies has also boosted international migration of workers (Stalker, 2000)\(^3\).

Migration has vast socio-economic and cultural implications both in the origin and in the destination countries (Bogue, 1959)\(^4\). The importance of international labour migration has increased especially due to the huge foreign remittances involved in these migrations. The foreign remittances is the largest source of external finance in the developing countries after foreign direct investment and it helps these countries to generate foreign exchange earnings which in turn increases the credit worthiness of these countries for external borrowing.

1.1. Migration from India

After the abolition of slavery from the British Empire in 1833, Indian labourers from almost all regions of India were recruited and exported to different parts of the world like Fiji, Trinidad, Tobago, Guyana, Sri Lanka, Burma, Malaysia, Mauritius, West Indies and South Africa as plantation workers. However, the movement of this type of unskilled indentured labour from India to the British Empire came to an end with the outbreak of the First World War. Although, there was persistent emigration even after the end of the war, it was very much limited in number during 1930s due to the Great Depression and it has completely stopped when India became independent.

The independent India has witnessed different streams of migration and during 1950s migration was of brain drain type mainly to the developed countries as India government failed to absorb the well-educated Indian professionals here. This has resulted in the outflow of thousands of trained professionals from India to the developed countries during the 1960s (The Committee on International Migration of Talent, 1970)\(^5\). However, this type of migration to the developed countries was very much limited due to the highly selective nature of the immigration rules in the host countries and the limited supply of eligible skilled manpower ready to move out of India (Tinker, 1974)\(^6\). According to an estimate, out of the 3.22 lakh Indians residing in Britain in 1971, 2.52 lakhs migrated after 1949 and the study also found that in 1974, there were 6 lakh Indians in USA and Canada (UN, 1976)\(^7\). However, there were lot of changes in the type of
migrants from India since 1990 and there were emigration of even information technology professionals to the developed and developing countries (Sasikumar, 2003). The accumulation of huge income following the increase in the price of petroleum products in the Gulf countries have resulted in a spurt in the development activities in these countries especially in the construction sector. Demand for workers also increased due to the development of trade, commerce, business, health and education in these countries. This has increased the demand for all kinds of workers in the Gulf countries since 1973. There was an all-round shortage of labourers in these countries due to the sub-optimal development of local human resources as indigenous labourers in these countries were directed towards unproductive activities, and the women nationals of these countries were not active in the organized economic activities outside home. Hence, due to the dearth of local labour, these countries relied on the import of labour from other developing countries.

India’s historical links with the Arab world has helped Indians to have a predominant place among the migrants to the Gulf Countries. For instance the Government of India controlled Bahrain and had connections with Oman when Great Britain controlled these countries. Moreover, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had trade links with India as UAE imported Indian goods and distributed these goods throughout the Arabian Peninsula. All these contacts with the Gulf countries made Indians settle in Bahrain, Oman and UAE to engage in trade and other economic activities. However, Indian migrants to the Gulf regions were very small in number as there were only 14000 migrants to these countries till the end of Second World War (Jain, 1982).

Thus, international migration from India received a great stimulus since mid-1970s as there was a sudden rise in the flow of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers to the Gulf countries mainly to the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain etc. This sudden increase in the migration of workers from India to the Gulf was due to the emergence of massive construction activities in these economies as a result of an unexpected increase in income consequent upon the hike in the petroleum price. In this migration process, India has been enjoying a prominent position and Indians the largest single expatriate community in all the GCC countries. Among the various
expatriate communities in these economies, Indian outnumbers all others (Tattola, 2004)\textsuperscript{10}. The share of Indians in the total expatriate community are 40.14 percent in UAE, 35.7 percent in Bahrain, 23.81 percent in Qatar, 20 percent each in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and 7.62 in Oman. The distribution of labour outflow from India to the Gulf region shows that, barring some fluctuations in the rate of growth, the actual numbers have been increasing since 1970s. The number of Indians in the Gulf region was 4.2 thousand in the year 1976 which has increased to 677 thousand in 2006.

1.2. State- Wise Distribution of Emigrants from India

There are wide differences among the states in India with regard to their share of migrants to the Gulf. A few states account for bulk of the migrants from India. For example in the early phase of the emigration process in 1977, Kerala occupied a special status as it accounted for 63 percent of the total emigrants from India to the Gulf (IMF Survey, 1978)\textsuperscript{11}. Although, Kerala maintained its predominant status among the Indian states in sending migrants to the Gulf region, the share of Kerala to the total emigrants from India to the Gulf region has gone down and states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have emerged into the scene. For example, in the year 2000, these three states account for more than sixty percent (67.3 percent) of the total migrants from India to this region. Further, in 2006, Tamil Nadu secured the predominant position (23.0 Percent) in sending migrants to the Gulf; making Kerala the second position (17.1 percent) and Andhra Pradesh (14.4 percent) to the third position. However, the contribution of these three states has decreased from 67.3 percent in 2000 to 54.5 percent in 2006. Other states which account for a sizeable number of emigrants to the Gulf countries are Uttar Pradesh (9.7 percent), Rajasthan (7.4 percent), Punjab (5.8 percent) and Bihar (5.4 percent).

1.3. Statement of the Problem

Kerala accounts for about two third of the Indian migrants (IMF Survey, 1978)\textsuperscript{12} to the Gulf countries in the year 1977 and even now vast majority of emigrants from India to the Gulf countries are from Kerala (Ministry of Labour, 2009)\textsuperscript{13}. As the effects of *migration and foreign remittances on the economy of Kerala in general and on the standard of living of the people in particular are very important, there were several
studies assessing the economic impact of migration on the economy of Kerala. These studies found that emigration from Kerala to the Gulf countries and consequent inward flow of income in the form of remittances has been making dynamic changes in the Kerala economy since 1970. These studies have found both positive and negative aspects of emigration on the economy of Kerala.

Among the beneficial effects of migration, the finding that foreign remittances has been the most important single factor that has resulted in an improvement in the standard of living of the people and in the significant reduction in the incidence of poverty and unemployment in the state since 1970s (The Kerala Migration Study, 1998-99) has been very significant. Moreover, the studies by Prakash (1978 and 1998), Radhakrishnan and Ibrahim (1981), Nair (1983), Issac (1997), Directorate of Economic and Statistics (2000) and Zachariah, et.al (2000 and 2004) found that the standard of living of the Keralites have improved a lot as a result of inflow of foreign remittances brought by emigrants into Kerala and this has helped to reduce the incidence of poverty and unemployment in the state. Thus, the studies mentioned above have established the fact that remittances sent by emigrant workers to their family are an important source of financial help to most of the families as majority of the migrants was from economically very poor families.

On the other hand, there are studies which found some negative effects of migration and foreign remittances on the economy of Kerala. The studies by Nair (1998), Harilal and Joseph (2003), Zachariah, et.al (2004), found that foreign remittances have resulted in widening of inequality in the distribution of income, a rise in the price of land, construction materials, consumer goods, food articles and charges on health, education and transport and a rise in the rate of wages. In addition, there emerged labour shortages and in-migration of labour from neighbouring states to Kerala and has made Kerala a state of high level of consumption with a weak production base. Thus, migration turned Kerala into an outlet for the neighbouring states.

*Migration and emigration are synonymously used in this thesis.

In addition to the economic changes, emigration has resulted in various effects on the economy of Kerala. The exposure that the emigrants had from the outside world has resulted in unprecedented and dynamic social changes in the Kerala society. The studies
by Gulathi (1993\textsuperscript{26} and 1998\textsuperscript{27}), Sekhar (1998)\textsuperscript{28}, Zachariah and Rajan (2001)\textsuperscript{29} and Shylaja (2010)\textsuperscript{30} have found various types of changes on Kerala’s social sector due to emigration.

Out of the total emigrants from Kerala to the Gulf, vast majority of them are Muslims and out of Muslim emigrants, majority of them were the poor Muslims of coastal areas (Mathew and Nair 1978\textsuperscript{31}, Zachariah, and Rajan 2004\textsuperscript{32}, Human Development Report 2009\textsuperscript{33} and Zachariah and Rajan 2010\textsuperscript{34}). It is well known that the literacy rate of Muslims in Kerala (89.4) is very much higher than that of the literacy rate (59 percent) of Indian Muslims as a whole (Census of India, 2001)\textsuperscript{35}. There are evidences that the standard of living of Muslims in Kerala is much better than the standard of living of Muslims in other states of the country. The higher literacy rate and better standard of living enjoyed by the Muslims in Kerala may be because of the emigration and consequent inflow of foreign remittances to Kerala. There are people who believe that one of the contributory factors behind this higher level of literacy found among the Muslims of Kerala is due to the impact of emigration from Kerala to the Gulf. Migration may have changed the attitude and the perception of the migrant Muslim households towards education, as it will significantly improve the economic status of the people. Thus, the improvement of the economic condition and attitude of the Muslims who have migrated may have contributed to the educational development of the Muslim community in Kerala. This belief is strengthened by the fact that there have emerged a large number of costlier private unaided English medium schools and the emergence of a large number of self-financing colleges particularly in the field of professional education especially in the district like Malappuram where the intensity of emigration is very high among Muslim community.

Although there are a number of studies about the impact of emigration on the economy of Kerala in general, we do not have a single study examining the impact of emigration on Muslim education in Kerala. The present study is an attempt to fill the research gap by focusing on the impact of emigration on the level of education of Muslims in Kerala.
1.4. Significance of the study

International labour migration from Kerala to the Gulf countries and consequent inflow of remittances has brought many changes in the economic and social life of the emigrant family and the society as well. These studies have noted that there was significant improvement in the educational level of the members of the emigrant family and in the society. We know that bulk of the emigrants from Kerala to the Gulf countries belong to the Muslim community who are backward socially, economically and educationally. As a result of changes in the socio-economic characteristics of the emigrant households and the knowledge about the changing nature of the demand for labour in the Gulf regions, the emigrants began to give more and better education to their children. The changes in the immigration policies of Gulf countries which restricts visa for unskilled workers have also persuaded the emigrants to provide better education to their children. The increased demand for higher and better education from among the children of emigrant families has resulted in the development of educational institutions in the emigration centred regions. This has enhanced the skill and educational standards of the children of emigrant families. As such, it seems that emigration has boosted the growth of educational institutions and the growth of educational institutions have resulted in the migration of skilled and better educated labourers to the Gulf. Hence, it is significant to verify the relationship between emigration and development of educational institutions and the effect of educational institutions on emigration.

1.5. Objectives of the study

The study tries to examine, on the basis of empirical evidence, the nature and extent of economic and educational changes including the intra community differences in the Muslim community in consequence of emigration in an emigration intensive area of Kerala. It also attempts to examine the influence of newly developed educational infrastructure on emigration. It is hypothesized that income in the form of remittances has played a vital role in the educational attainments of Muslim community in Kerala. Moreover it is also hypothesized that there is a positive correlation between the growth of educational infrastructure especially the infrastructure in self-financing institutions and
skill formation among Muslims in Kerala which in turn boost emigration. Hence, the specific objectives of the study are:

1. To examine the history of economic and educational status of Muslim community in Kerala.
2. To examine the impact of emigration on the economic condition and educational attainments of Muslim community.
3. To identify the determinants of higher education among the Muslim community.
4. To evaluate the impact of educational infrastructure on the educational achievements and skill formation of Muslim community and its impact on emigration.

1.6. Data Source and Sampling Methodology

The study is based on both the primary and secondary data although the major thrust of the study is on primary data. The necessary secondary data was collected from reports and publications of various departments of the Government of India and Kerala. Census Reports, Reports of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Economic Reviews, Economic Surveys, Human Development Reports etc. are also used. In addition, World Bank Review, Journal of Social and Economic Development, Working Papers of Centre for Development Studies, Economic and Political Weekly, International Migration Journals, Man Power Journal, etc. were also referred. For the empirical analysis, we have collected primary data from households in Malappuram district of Kerala.

1.7. Sample Frame Work

A multistage random sampling method was adopted for collecting the primary data. In the first stage, out of the 14 districts of Kerala, we have purposively selected one district- the district which has the largest concentration of Muslim emigrants from Kerala and the selected district is Malappuram. This is a district where the proportion of Muslim emigrants to total emigrants was 86.5 percent (Zachariah and Rajan, 2004)\(^{36}\). Moreover, this is a district where the proportion of Muslims to the total population is 70.9 percent (Census, 2011)\(^{37}\) and this district is the highest migration density district. Moreover, one-
third of the households of the district are direct beneficiaries of foreign remittances and remittances account for about 50 percent of the district domestic income.

Malappuram district has both the rural and urban areas and rural Malappuram comprises of 14 blocks whereas urban Malappuram consists of 5 municipalities. From rural Malappuram, out of 14 blocks one block was selected randomly and the selected block is Tanur and from 5 municipalities of urban Malappuram, Tirur municipality was selected. The selected Tanur block consists of 8 panchayats and the selected Tirur municipality comprises of 31 wards. From 8 panchayats of rural Malappuram 3 panchayaths were selected randomly from the panchayats which have dominance in the Gulf migration and the selected panchayats are Tanur, Valavannur and Thanalur. From the 3 selected panchayats, one ward each was selected randomly from the wards which have dominance in Gulf migration. From Tanur panchayath, ward 17 (Tanur Nagaram), from Valavannor panchayath, ward 07 (Nerala) and from Thanalur panchayath ward 05 (Parengath) were selected. Out of the 31 wards of urban Malappuram three wards- ward 5 (Alinchode), ward 8 (Chembra North) and ward 17 (Kallingal), which have dominance in the Gulf migration, were randomly selected. Of these six wards 50 Muslim households from each ward were taken with the help of ward members on the basis of Voters’ list.

The sample size for the study was limited to 300 and these households were distributed equally between rural and urban areas and made a random selection of 150 rural and 150 urban Muslim households. Then the households were categorized as emigrant households and Non- emigrant households and these 150 rural households and 150 urban households were distributed according to the proportion of emigrant and non-emigrant households. The data was collected with the help of a structured questionnaire.
Sampling Design

Study Area
Malappuram District

Tanur Block
(Rural)

Tirur Municipality
(Urban)

Three Panchayths

Three Wards

Tanur
Valavannur
Thanalur

Ward 17
Ward 07
Ward 05

Ward 05
Ward 08
Ward 17

50
50
50

50
50
50

150
150

300
1.8. Method of Analysis

For analyzing the data, detailed information regarding the socio-economic and educational characteristics of the members of the household was collected. General information of household members were collected in detail, particularly information regarding emigrants, like the year of emigration, number of emigrated persons in the family, age of emigrant at the time of emigration, relation of emigrant with the family members, educational status of the emigrant, activity status of emigrant, income through remittances etc. were collected.

Detailed information about the nature and extent of educational attainments and about the skills of household members were selected and for these purpose details of individuals in the age group of 5 and 25 years also were selected. The variables like the level of educational attainment, type of educational institution they attended both at the school and higher education level, choice of course at higher education level and expenses on education etc. were collected separately.

The t-test was applied to know whether there is any significant difference in the expenditure pattern between emigrant and non-emigrant households. Quality index of housing was constructed to compare the housing quality of emigrant and non-emigrant households. Moreover, Kuppuswamy scale was used to compare the socio-economic conditions of these households.

The analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to find out whether there is any significant difference in the educational spending on various items at different levels of education between emigrant and non-emigrant households on an inter-regional basis.

Binary logistic regression analysis was used to identify the variables determining the participation in higher education among the Muslim community. For this, the study considered information about youth in the age group between 16-25 years. Participation in higher education is taken as the dependent variable and socio-economic variables such as region, migration status, age, marital status, family size, and income of the family,
educational status of father and mother, occupational status of parents etc. were considered as explanatory variables.

To analyze the impact of newly developed educational institutions on emigration, information about the educational attainments of the emigrants and their skills, especially of those who have migrated after 1990 was collected and bivariate tables were also used for the analysis.

1.9. Concepts and Definitions

Migration: - Migration is a form of geographical mobility from one geographical unit to another and normally involves a change of residence from the place of origin to the place of destination permanently or semi- permanently.

International Migration: - The term international migration is used to refer the movement of people from one country to another.

Immigration and Emigration: - Immigration and emigration are related to international migration. However, immigration means movement of people into a particular country, while emigration is movement of people from a particular country. Thus migrants leaving India to settle down in London are immigrants to London whereas they are emigrants to India.

Emigrant household: - The household having at least one male member of the family (head of the family) working in a Gulf country for five years or more and continuing there at the time of the survey is considered as an emigrant household.

Non-Emigrant household: - A household from where no one had ever gone abroad for employment at the time of the survey is regarded as non-emigrant household.

Remittances: - Remittances are defined as the share of foreign based earnings sent by emigrants to their relatives in the home country in the form of cash.

NRK (Non-Resident Keralites): - Non-Resident Keralite is a person who is either an emigrant or a return emigrant.

GCC countries: - GCC countries mean Gulf Co-operation Council Countries which include countries like Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE.

Intensity of Migration: - The intensity of migration denotes the number of emigrants per 100 households.
Replacement Migration: - Labour shortages in Kerala due to the Gulf migration attract the labourers of neighbouring state who take up work and fill the shortage of labour in Kerala is known as replacement migration.

1.10. Scope of the study

As emigration has many dimensions and is a vast area of study, it is not confined to a particular discipline and hence its studies are in different disciplines. However, in the present study, we have not made an effort to cover all the aspects of emigration. The educational backwardness of Muslims is discussed only as a prologue to indicate that emigration from Kerala to the Gulf region has helped them to change their deplorable conditions in the state. Moreover, the present study is limited to a comprehensive analysis of economic and educational impact of Gulf migration on Muslims in Kerala and evaluates the effects of the development of educational infrastructure on education and skill formation among Muslims and its impact on emigration.

1.11. Limitation of the Study

Just as any other study, this work is also subjected to limitations. The study is based on both primary and secondary data and subjected to different types of data problems. There is lack of up-to-date reliable secondary data for the study and this has restricted our analysis. Moreover, in the case of the primary data, most of the respondents were reluctant to reveal the accurate information particularly about information regarding income and other asset holdings of the households all which are limitations of the study.

1.12. Chapter Scheme

Present study involves eight chapters. An introduction about the subject matter is included in the first chapter. The second chapter covers the migration theories and review of literature. Different dimensions of Gulf migration are included in the third chapter. A historical evaluation of the economic and educational status of the Muslim community in Kerala is examined in the fourth chapter. The fifth chapter analyses the impact of emigration on the economic and educational achievements of Muslim community. The determinants of Muslim higher education are examined in the sixth chapter. Seventh
chapter is about the impact of educational infrastructure on the educational achievements
and skill formation of Muslim community and its impact on emigration. The last chapter
is a summary of findings and conclusions.

**Notes and References**

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