



**Thriving Amid Transitions:
Resilience in Kerala's
Migrant Communities**

**KERALA
MIGRATION
SURVEY
2023
REPORT**

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Executive Summary

Since the first historic Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) conducted in 1998 by K C Zachariah and S Irudaya Rajan, there has been an increasing trend of Keralites moving abroad, from 1.4 million in 1998 to 1.8 million in 2003 and 2.2 million in 2008, reaching its peak in 2013 with 2.4 million emigrants. However, in 2018, Kerala observed a steady decline in labour migration with the number of emigrants estimated at 2.1 million. This is understood to have happened due to the changing demographics in Kerala, stringent nationalization policies in the Gulf after the global economic crisis, economic downturns, company closures, shifts in the labour market demands and competition from countries such as those in Africa, which offer emigrants willing to work for lower wages.

After the last round of KMS in 2018, Kerala experienced unprecedented floods causing severe destruction. This was followed by the global lockdown, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. This led to large-scale return migration, job losses, compulsory repatriations, expired visas, increasing fear of deportations, economic disruptions, and wage theft. In his budget speech on 11 March 2022, the Finance Minister of Kerala told the assembly that 1.4 million non-resident Keralites, comprising two-thirds of 2.1 emigrants estimated by the KMS 2018, returned to the state in the aftermath of the pandemic. The Department of Non-Resident Keralites Affairs (NORKA), the Government of Kerala, initiated the ninth round of KMS in 2023 in response to the recommendations of the 3rd Loka Kerala Sabha of 2022 to examine the recent trends in migration, return migration, and remittances. The KMS 2023 was conducted by the Gulati Institute of Finance Taxation (GIFT) with technical support from the International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD).

About KMS 2023

The Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) commenced in 1998 with an initial sample size of 10,000 households which was later expanded to 15,000 households in 2018. The sample size of the 2023 iteration of KMS saw a further increase, reaching 20,000 households (suggested by K C Zachariah, Founder President of IIMAD) across 14 districts and 77 Taluks of Kerala, selected through a stratified multistage random sampling method. In this approach, rural and urban areas within each of the 14 districts were considered distinct strata, resulting in 28 strata.

Consequently, 500 localities were selected statewide, and 40 households were identified within each of these localities using a systematic random sampling method at the time of the survey. This methodology ensured a truly representative sample, encompassing all taluks across the 14 districts. Covering 20,000 households, the KMS 2023 is one of the largest socio-economic surveys conducted in Kerala since the state's formation in 1956. To provide a comparison, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) was conducted among 12,330 households in Kerala. Additionally, the KMS 2023 found that about 28 per cent of households surveyed were female-headed, which is 2.7 per cent more than the 2011 census figure of 25.3 per cent. Notably, the 9th

round of KMS marked the transition from traditional pen and paper surveys to a digital format, utilizing the Kobo Toolbox for data collection with the help of more than 300 trained investigators throughout Kerala.

Emigration from Kerala

According to the KMS 2023, the number of emigrants from Kerala is estimated to be 2.2 million, closely aligning with the 2.1 million recorded in the KMS 2018. This stability in international migration over the last five years is interesting, given the overall declining trend observed over the past decade in the previous rounds of KMS. Although there is a slight increase of 32,388 emigrants in 2023, 9 out of the 14 districts in Kerala observed a considerable decline in the number of emigrants when compared to 2018, indicating a saturation of international migration. Despite expectations of a further decline in this round of KMS, a significant rise in student emigration has substantially contributed to maintaining the emigration levels in 2023. From 129,763 student emigrants in 2018, the number has doubled to about 250,000 in 2023. This notable increase in student emigration underscores a significant shift in the demographics of emigrants from Kerala, wherein there has been an increase in the number of emigrants leaving at a very young age, as early as 17 years. The KMS 2023 has revealed that students constitute 11.3 per cent of total emigrants from Kerala, indicating that a growing number of younger individuals are choosing to emigrate, particularly for educational opportunities abroad.

In 2023, there has been a slight decrease in the number of emigrants per 100 households when compared to the previous years. However, despite this decrease, nearly half of the households surveyed have experienced migration in some form or the other, either through emigration or return emigration. Two out of five households in Kerala were found to have non-resident Keralites, indicating the significant presence of migration experiences within the economy and society. Of the 20,000 households surveyed, 16.2 per cent reported having at least one emigrant, which is a slight decrease from the 17.3 per cent reported in 2018. However, in 2023, the total number of Non-Resident Keralites, including both emigrants and return emigrants, is estimated to be 4 million, marking an increase from the figure of 3.41 million recorded in 2018. During the KMS 2023 data collection, many homes were found to be locked, because entire families had migrated. About 4.2 lakh (0.4 million) cases of family migration have been identified as part of KMS 2023. The global Malayali diaspora is estimated to be 5 million, whereas the Malayali diaspora outside Kerala, within India, is estimated at 3 million.

Tirur taluk in Malappuram district continues to lead in the number of emigrants. It has maintained its lead from the previous years, with slightly more than 100,000 emigrants in 2023. On the other hand, Devikulam taluk in Idukki district has recorded the lowest number of emigrants. The northern region of Kerala remains a focal point for migration, encompassing the majority of emigrants. Malappuram was the origin of nearly 377,647 emigrants in 2023. With regards to the religious distribution of the emigrants from Kerala, Muslims lead at 41.9 per cent, followed by Hindus at 35.2 per cent and Christians at 22.3 per cent. The destination countries have also seen changes over the years, with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries remaining the strongest corridor. There had been a shift from Saudi Arabia as the most preferred destination, to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) according to the data from the last few rounds of KMS. UAE

retains the same position in 2023 as well. However, there has been a decline in the number of emigrants choosing GCC countries from 89.2 per cent in 2018 to 80.5 per cent in 2023. Simultaneously there has been a rise in the number of emigrants preferring non-GCC destination countries, from 10.8 per cent in 2018 to 19.5 per cent in 2023. The rising student migration and their preference for non-GCC countries could be responsible for this shift.

The proportion of female emigrants has increased from 15.8 per cent in 2018 to 19.1 per cent in 2023. Female migration has further seen a shift from GCC countries to Europe and other Western nations as destination countries, accounting for 40.5 per cent. However, for males, this figure stands at 14.6 per cent. In terms of education, 71.5 per cent of female migrants were found to have completed degree-level education as opposed to only 34.7 per cent of male emigrants. Male migrants continue to dominate emigration from Kerala, with the gap between male and female migrants being narrowest in Kottayam and widest in Malappuram.

Return migrants

The number of emigrants who have returned home is estimated to be 1.8 million, a significant increase from 1.2 million in 2018. This increase over the last few years had been expected due to the global health crisis-induced economic disruptions, stricter immigration policies, and a significant reduction in available job opportunities. Many migrants found themselves in an untenable position, unable to find new employment while also facing mounting pressures. A substantial number of them were thus compelled to return to their home countries, driven by the loss of jobs, compulsory resignations, and other pandemic-related challenges. The major reason for return was found to be job losses/layoffs, as reported by 18.4 per cent of return migrants. Only 4.4 per cent of the returnees had come back after accomplishing their goals for migration. UAE, the most preferred destination for emigrants, is also the country from which Kerala has the highest returnees, amounting to 36 per cent of the total returnees.

Remittances

According to KMS 2023, the total remittances to Kerala saw a significant surge after the pandemic. Total remittances reached Rs 216,893 crores in 2023 from Rs 85,092 crores in 2018, marking a 154.9 per cent increase. The total remittances of Rs 216,893 crores imply a remittance of Rs 61,118 per capita for a population of 3,549 crores. A similar trend of increased remittances to households is also captured by KMS 2023, wherein the remittances sent by the emigrants to Kerala households amounted to Rs 37,058 crores, reflecting a 20.6 per cent increase from the 2018 figures. A considerable increase is also seen in the average remittance per emigrant household, rising to Rs 2,23,729 in 2023 compared to Rs 96,185 in 2018. While remittances to Kerala have been increasing over the years, the number of households receiving these remittances has declined from 16 per cent of households in 2018, to 12 per cent in 2023. Kerala holds a steady 21 per cent share of India's NRI deposits, a figure that has remained consistent since 2019. Needless to say, these inward remittances play a significant part in strengthening the economy of the state. Remittances constituted 1.7 times the revenue receipt of the state. The share of remittances, as a per cent of Net State Domestic Product (NSDP), has seen an increase to 23.2 per cent in 2023 from 13.5 per cent in 2018. For the first time, we have estimated an outward

remittance of Rs 43,378 crores which is about 20 per cent of the inward remittance, using the KMS 2023 data.

Interestingly, Kollam district surpassed Malappuram this year in terms of household remittances. Kollam received 17.8 per cent of the remittances, compared to Malappuram's 16.2 per cent of the total household remittances. Similar to the previous years, Muslim households continued to receive the highest share of remittances, accounting for 40.1 per cent, followed by Hindu households at 39.1 per cent, and Christian households at 20.8 per cent. About 73.3 per cent of the emigrant households receiving remittances were observed to have received remittances every month. With regards to the use of remittances, it is found that 15.8 per cent of remittances were allocated for renovating houses or shops. While 14.0 per cent of remittances were used to pay off bank loans and 10.0 per cent was used for education purposes.

Internal migration

KMS 2023 estimates a total of 0.5 million out-migrants from Kerala. Like previous years, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra remain the top three states for out-migration, return-out-migration, and student migration. Palakkad records the highest number of out-migrants estimated at 55,601, followed by Ernakulam at 53,756 and Kollam with 48,330 migrants. Notably, there is a significant decline in unemployment for out-migrants; the unemployment rate declined from 15.1 per cent before migration to 2.4 per cent after migration. The majority of both out migrants and return out migrants are male, accounting for 64.4 per cent and 75.2 per cent respectively. However, student out-migration is more prevalent among females at 57.8 per cent, whereas the rate of female student return out-migration is lower at 35.8 per cent. This suggests a pattern wherein female students prefer to migrate and remain in the destination states.

Policy prescriptions

The migration trends highlighted by KMS 2023 have significant implications for Kerala's demographic composition and economy, requiring myriad policy interventions. One notable trend is the dramatic increase in student migration, with the number of student emigrants nearly doubling in the past five years. There is an urgent need to enhance the state's educational infrastructure and provide resources that ensure safe migration pathways for future student emigrants. Ensuring the regular monitoring and regulation of language training centres and recruitment agencies is crucial for reducing instances of deceit and fraud by migration agents. It is also important to develop new policies that will encourage Malayalee international students to return home after acquiring valuable skills abroad, fostering a wave of brain gain.

Given that 76.9 per cent of Kerala's emigrants are labour emigrants, it is essential to improve and strengthen their skills to help them secure better employment opportunities and pay abroad. Programs like the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP), focusing on imparting job-ready skills, should be expanded to include skill development for emigrants. This approach could increase the likelihood of emigrants choosing non-GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries as their destinations. The prioritization of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with new and emerging destination countries will also facilitate smoother migration governance. Additionally, the growing number of return migrants necessitates comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration measures. The dynamic nature of migration flows can only be understood by studying them at regular and frequent intervals. A smaller version of the Kerala Migration Survey (KMS), with a sample size of approximately 5,000 households, could be conducted annually to accurately track key indicators.

KMS 2023 estimates a Loka Kerala Sabha (LKS) of about 13.3 million migrants. Despite migrants constituting almost one-third of Kerala's population (38 per cent), we have not been fully successful in unleashing their true potential. With a diaspora of 5 million Malayalees, the time is ripe to think about a Migration Development bank, following the example set by the Asian Development Bank. Enhancing migration infrastructure while ensuring access to redressal mechanisms and supporting diaspora organizations, will greatly maximize the potential of Kerala's migrants and their role in Kerala's development.

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SECTION -1

INTRODUCTION

The Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) is in its ninth round of a long-standing series of migration monitoring studies running globally. Since 1998, K.C. Zachariah and S. Irudaya Rajan have pioneered a unique approach to study all aspects of migration from Kerala. Originally undertaken by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) in Thiruvananthapuram, the 2023 edition of KMS was conducted by the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT), with funding from the Department of Non-Resident Keralites' Affairs (NORKA), Government of Kerala as well as technical support from the International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD).

Following the last round of the Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) in 2018, Kerala faced substantial challenges, including two major floods in 2018 and 2019 and three waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. These events had significant impacts on the state's demographic and migration patterns.

The KMS 2023 project has been implemented in three sequential phases, each contributing to its overall goals and objectives. This report provides a detailed analysis of the Phase 2 survey results, shedding light on the key indicators gathered during this stage.

Objectives of the KMS 2023

The study presents estimates of international migrants, out migrants and remittances as well as the socio-economic and health status of the sample households. It also details the characteristics of current migrants and return migrants. By comparing these with data gathered from the earlier rounds of KMS spanning three decades, the study offers insights into the impact of migration on development in Kerala.

Why is the sample size fixed to 20000?

The first KMS in 1998 included 10,000 sample households, which was considered a large enough sample to estimate the total number of migrants. By 2008, the sample size increased to 15,000 households to ensure a more comprehensive distribution across the 14 districts and 77 taluks of Kerala. In the 2023 KMS, the sample size was further increased to 20000 households (Table 1.1), following the advice given by K C Zachariah (Founder President, IIMAD) at the time of developing the proposal in 2022. This increase was necessary to capture the evolving patterns of migration, which had become more complex over the years. Initially, migrants often moved for menial jobs and left their families behind, making it easier to capture migration data by interviewing the remaining family members. Over time, however, migration patterns shifted due to higher education levels, resulting in many

migrants obtaining skilled jobs and moving with their families. In such instances, there were fewer family members left behind, sometimes only elderly individuals. Anticipating this change, the sample size was increased to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the migration data. It has to be noted that the team had to visit an additional 5000 households due to locked houses (because all members of the families had moved outside India) and rejection by household members who did not wish to be part of the survey. Over the last 25 years, KMS has covered more than 100,000 households, resulting in the longest and most continuous data that exists for any state in India since independence.

Table 1.1: Sample Size by Districts of Kerala, KMS, 2023

| Districts | No. of Households 2011 | | | Number of Sample Households | | | Number of Sample Localities | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Total | Rural | Urban | Total | Rural | Urban | Total | Rural | Urban |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 837877 | 390963 | 446914 | 2080 | 960 | 1120 | 52 | 24 | 28 |
| Kollam | 669375 | 376679 | 292696 | 1640 | 920 | 720 | 41 | 23 | 18 |
| Pathanamthitta | 322684 | 287615 | 35069 | 1040 | 720 | 320 | 26 | 18 | 8 |
| Alappuzha | 535958 | 248616 | 287342 | 1360 | 640 | 720 | 34 | 16 | 18 |
| Kottayam | 487296 | 346899 | 140397 | 1200 | 840 | 360 | 30 | 21 | 9 |
| Idukki | 279812 | 267208 | 12604 | 680 | 640 | 40 | 17 | 16 | 1 |
| Ernakulam | 814011 | 259915 | 554096 | 2000 | 640 | 1360 | 50 | 16 | 34 |
| Thrissur | 759210 | 250877 | 508333 | 1960 | 640 | 1320 | 49 | 16 | 33 |
| Palakkad | 637220 | 482285 | 154935 | 1600 | 1200 | 400 | 40 | 30 | 10 |
| Malappuram | 793999 | 448037 | 345962 | 2120 | 1160 | 960 | 53 | 29 | 24 |
| Kozhikode | 697710 | 235703 | 462007 | 1800 | 600 | 1200 | 45 | 15 | 30 |
| Wayanad | 190894 | 183375 | 7519 | 440 | 400 | 40 | 11 | 10 | 1 |
| Kannur | 554298 | 202229 | 352069 | 1400 | 520 | 880 | 35 | 13 | 22 |
| Kasaragod | 273410 | 169240 | 104170 | 680 | 440 | 240 | 17 | 11 | 6 |
| Kerala | 7853754 | 4149641 | 3704113 | 20000 | 10320 | 9680 | 500 | 258 | 242 |

Sample Selection

The primary sample unit was a household, with 20,000 households selected using a stratified multistage random sampling method. The districts in Kerala were categorized into two main strata: rural and urban. This resulted in a total of 28 strata, with 14 rural strata and 14 urban strata. This stratification ensured that both rural and urban areas were adequately represented in the sample. Within each stratum, the selection of localities (Grama Panchayats or Municipal Wards) was based on the number of households in that particular stratum. Proportional sampling was employed using the 2011 census data, in order to determine the number of localities to be selected from each stratum. This approach ensured that the sample represented the population distribution across districts and strata.

The localities were chosen proportionally to reflect the household distribution. The number of localities selected from each stratum was determined based on the size of the stratum relative to the total households. This ensured that areas with larger numbers of households had higher representation in the sample.

Within each selected locality, 40 households were chosen using systematic random sampling. This involved creating a sampling frame of households in the selected locality and then systematically selecting every "kth" household from the list. The value of "k" was calculated based on the total number of households in the locality and the desired sample size. Systematic random sampling ensured that each household in the locality had an equal chance of being selected.

The total sample size for the survey was specified as 20,000 households. To achieve this, a total of 500 localities were selected from all the 28 strata. This distribution ensured an adequate representation of households from different areas in Kerala.

The survey was carried out by nearly 300 trained field investigators throughout Kerala using Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) technology with the Kobo Toolbox software. This was the first time that the KMS was conducted without the use of pen and paper.

By implementing this stratified multistage random sampling methodology, the Kerala Migration Surveys aimed to gather data that accurately reflected the characteristics and experiences of households in both rural and urban areas of each district in Kerala. The resulting dataset could then be used for policy analysis and research purposes.

Kerala Migration Panel Survey 2023

The phase 1 panel survey of 2023 covered 10000 households with 11 types of panel sets. The panel study initiated in 2003 originally included 5000 households, selected from a baseline established in 1998. This longitudinal study aims to track and analyze various socio-

economic indicators over time. Since its inception, the panel study has been conducted at five-year intervals, revisiting a significant proportion of the original households to ensure continuity and robustness in the data collected.

As of 2023, the study encompasses 11 distinct panels, each representing a five-year snapshot of the ongoing research (Table 1.2). This results in a coverage duration ranging from 25 years for the original households surveyed in 1998 to 5 years for the most recent additions. Through these repeated measures, the study provides invaluable insights into long-term trends and patterns within the population. This enables researchers to observe changes and developments over a substantial period. This longitudinal approach offers a rich dataset that can be used to understand complex dynamics and causal relationships in the socio-economic landscape.

Table 1.2: Samples Selected for the Panel, Phase 1, 2023

| Panel No | Years | Number of Households |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 1998-2003-2008-2013-2018-2023 | 405 |
| 2 | 2003-2008-2013-2018-2023 | 1010 |
| 3 | 1998-2008-2013-2018-2023 | 176 |
| 4 | 2008-2013-2018-2023 | 1278 |
| 5 | 2003-2013-2018-2023 | 634 |
| 6 | 1998-2013-2018-2023 | 297 |
| 7 | 1998-2018-2023 | 283 |
| 8 | 2003-2018-2023 | 449 |
| 9 | 2008-2018-2023 | 503 |
| 10 | 2013-2018-2023 | 1247 |
| 11 | 2018 - 2023 | 3900 |
| | Total | 10,182 |

Sampling and non-sampling Errors

As in previous surveys, in KMS 2023, sampling errors were controlled by considering the proportion of the number of households in Kerala. The selection of the number of sample households and sample localities adhered to this proportionality condition to ensure representativeness. However, non-sampling errors, which can occur during both the survey period and the tabulation period, were also addressed.

Pre-Survey Measures

Before the survey began, district coordinators collected and verified household details for the selected wards in the selected localities. This verification process aimed to minimize coverage errors. Coverage errors arise due to the use of outdated lists prepared by local authorities. This result in the non-inclusion of some newly built households in the sampling frame. Further, some households which had already migrated could also remain in the sampling frame.

Post-Survey Checks

To further mitigate errors, a post-survey check was conducted immediately after the completion of data collection in each locality. This check aimed to identify and correct any enumeration errors. Enumeration errors occur if the data collectors make mistakes in recording household details or if the households are incorrectly included or excluded.

Response Errors

Another significant type of error that was addressed is the response error. Response errors occur when respondents do not provide accurate information, either intentionally or unintentionally. Some respondents might withhold details or provide incorrect information due to fear or privacy concerns. To minimize these errors, survey administrators took steps to ensure that the respondents felt comfortable and understood the importance of providing accurate information. This involved training enumerators to build rapport with respondents and assure them of the confidentiality and purpose of the survey.

The survey faced several challenges that necessitated the replacement of households. These challenges included households being locked, refusal to participate in the survey, houses being devastated by floods, and instances where all members had migrated, leaving no one to respond.

By implementing these measures, KMS 2023 aimed to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data collected. Controlling sampling errors through proportional selection and addressing non-sampling errors through pre-survey verifications, post-survey checks, and careful management of response errors were crucial steps in this process. These efforts contributed to the overall goal of producing a dataset that accurately reflects the characteristics and experiences of households in Kerala.

Raising Factor as Sampling Weight

In large-scale household surveys, the raising factor, used as sampling weights, adjusts sample data to match the population it represents, ensuring accurate estimation of population parameters (Table 1.3). Since the probability of selecting a household in every locality is uniformly $1/40$, the raising factor for all localities is identical. Therefore, the focus is on obtaining weights at the district level where these raising factors may vary between districts. This ensures that the sample weights are accurate for district-level analysis.

The raising factors are calculated based on the number of households in a district in 2023, which was estimated from Census 2001 and 2011 data, divided by the number of households from the district in the sample. These district-level raising factors are vital for our estimations. Similarly, raising factors for the population can also be calculated.

$$\text{The raising factor of Households} = \frac{\text{Total number of HH 2023 (Projected) for Kerala}}{\text{Number of sample HH}}$$

Where,

HH 2023 (Projected): It represents the projected number of households in each district for the year 2023.

Sample HH: It is the number of households sampled in each district.

$$\text{The raising factor of population} = \frac{\text{Total number of Population 2023 (Projected) for Kerala}}{\text{Total sample population}}$$

Where,

Population 2023 (Projected): This column provides the projected population for each district in 2023.

Sample Population: It represents the sampled population in each district.

The raising factors vary from district to district. Pathanamthitta district has the lowest population raising factor, while Palakkad has the highest. Similarly, the household raising factor is lowest for Pathanamthitta and highest for Malappuram. To compare the sample with the census totals, we need to estimate the sample at the state level, which is obtained as the weighted sum of the district totals.

Table 1.3: Population, Households and Raising Factor, 2023

| Districts | Population | | | | Households | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|--------|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------|----------------|
| | Census 2011 | 2023 (Esti.) | Sample | Raising Factor | Census 2011 | 2023 (Esti.) | Sample | Raising Factor |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 3307284 | 3354534 | 6920 | 484.759 | 842708 | 951601 | 2080 | 457.501 |
| Kollam | 2629703 | 2680670 | 5320 | 503.885 | 673157 | 786180 | 1640 | 479.378 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1195537 | 1145915 | 3031 | 378.065 | 321437 | 363314 | 1040 | 349.340 |
| Alappuzha | 2121943 | 2134366 | 4423 | 482.561 | 537992 | 614443 | 1360 | 451.796 |
| Kottayam | 1979384 | 1986633 | 4202 | 472.783 | 489563 | 568405 | 1200 | 473.671 |
| Idukki | 1107453 | 1078971 | 2498 | 431.934 | 279337 | 301395 | 680 | 442.577 |
| Ernakulam | 3279860 | 3465443 | 7079 | 489.539 | 868934 | 1004390 | 2000 | 502.195 |
| Thrissur | 3110327 | 3292679 | 7073 | 465.528 | 679734 | 954460 | 1960 | 486.969 |
| Palakkad | 2810892 | 3052082 | 5637 | 541.437 | 630258 | 811392 | 1600 | 507.120 |
| Malappuram | 4110956 | 5006415 | 9340 | 536.019 | 790811 | 1115915 | 2120 | 526.375 |
| Kozhikode | 3089543 | 3338518 | 6972 | 478.846 | 704285 | 920889 | 1800 | 511.605 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| Wayanad | 816558 | 853368.8 | 1726 | 494.420 | 189500 | 227266 | 440 | 517.691 |
| Kannur | 2525637 | 2660274 | 5174 | 514.162 | 551200 | 723012 | 1400 | 516.437 |
| Kasaragod | 1302600 | 1437742 | 2702 | 532.103 | 289969 | 351778 | 680 | 517.321 |
| Total | 33387677 | 35487611 | 72097 | | 7848885 | 9694440 | 20000 | |

For example, in the sample (Table 1.4), the total number of Hindus in Kerala is first estimated by calculating the number of Hindus in each district. The total for Kerala is then obtained as a weighted sum of the district totals, with the weights being the reciprocal of the sampling fraction. In the case of Thiruvananthapuram District, this reciprocal is 484.759.

Table 1.4: Population of Kerala by Religion and Districts, 2023

| District | Hindu | Christian | Muslim | Total | Raising Factor | Hindu | Christian | Muslim | Total |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|----------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Thiruvananthapuram | 4377 | 1185 | 1358 | 6920 | 484.759 | 2121791 | 574440 | 658303 | 3354534 |
| Kollam | 3577 | 762 | 981 | 5320 | 503.885 | 1802398 | 383961 | 494312 | 2680670 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1713 | 1180 | 138 | 3031 | 378.065 | 647626 | 446117 | 52173 | 1145915 |
| Alappuzha | 3137 | 782 | 504 | 4423 | 482.561 | 1513793 | 377362 | 243211 | 2134366 |
| Kottayam | 1904 | 1715 | 583 | 4202 | 472.783 | 900178 | 810822 | 275632 | 1986633 |
| Idukki | 1286 | 1017 | 195 | 2498 | 431.934 | 555467 | 439277 | 84227 | 1078971 |
| Ernakulam | 3419 | 2258 | 1402 | 7079 | 489.539 | 1673732 | 1105378 | 686333 | 3465443 |
| Thrissur | 3907 | 1927 | 1239 | 7073 | 465.528 | 1818817 | 897072 | 576789 | 3292679 |
| Palakkad | 3772 | 262 | 1603 | 5637 | 541.437 | 2042302 | 141857 | 867924 | 3052082 |
| Malappuram | 2747 | 43 | 6550 | 9340 | 536.019 | 1472444 | 23049 | 3510923 | 5006415 |
| Kozhikode | 3811 | 212 | 2949 | 6972 | 478.846 | 1824884 | 101515 | 1412118 | 3338518 |
| Wayanad | 842 | 450 | 434 | 1726 | 494.420 | 416302 | 222489 | 214578 | 853369 |
| Kannur | 3403 | 381 | 1390 | 5174 | 514.162 | 1749693 | 195896 | 714685 | 2660274 |
| Kasargod | 1485 | 268 | 949 | 2702 | 532.103 | 790173 | 142604 | 504966 | 1437742 |
| Total | 39380 | 12442 | 20275 | 72097 | | 19329599 | 5861838 | 10296174 | 35487611 |

Number of Households and Population

The number of households and population was estimated using the average growth rates of two decades' household and population figures from 1991-2001 and 2001-2011, due to the absence of the Census in 2021. In 2011, the total number of households in Kerala was 7.85 million. During the period from 2011 to 2023, while the population increased by 6.3 percent, the number of households increased by 23.5 percent. This trend is likely to continue in the future, leading to a potential increase in the demand for housing in urban areas and other essential services.

Schedule Type Used for the Survey

The survey comprises three phases: Phase 1 involved 10,000 panel households, Phase 2 encompassed 20,000 households, and Phase 3 incorporated specialized surveys targeting migration to gather comprehensive data on various facets of migration and its repercussions. The modules included in the survey are as follows:

Phase 1 Panel Survey

The panel survey included a module at both the household and individual levels, encompassing blocks with both current and return migrants.

Phase 2 Survey

This report is based on the phase 2 survey with 20000 households. The main module at the household and individual levels is used for phase 2. This module has collected information on migration patterns, demographic details of household members, socio-economic characteristics, reasons for migration, and other relevant factors at both the household and individual levels.

Phase 3 Surveys – Special Studies

The third phase included the special modules to capture the impact of migration on various sectors.

- 1. Return Migrant and Recruitment Cost Module:** This module focused on individuals who returned to their place of origin after migrating. It gathers data on their experiences, reasons for returning, reintegration challenges, and economic aspects such as the costs involved in migration.
- 2. Women Left Behind:** This module aimed to capture information about the women who have been left behind by migrant family members. It examined the socio-economic conditions, well-being, access to resources, and coping mechanisms of these women in the absence of male family members.
- 3. Children Left Behind:** This module focused on children left behind by migrating parents. It assessed their well-being, education, emotional support and any challenges they may face due to parental migration.
- 4. Migration and Elderly:** This module examined the conditions of elderly individuals left behind when younger family members migrated. It looked into their health, social support, access to services, and overall well-being in the absence of their family members.
- 5. Floods and Migration:** This module investigated the impact of floods on migration patterns, decision-making processes as well as the experiences of those individuals and households affected by the floods.
- 6. Student Migration:** This module focused on the migration of students for educational purposes. It gathered data on the students' motivations, educational outcomes, challenges as well as the support systems available to them.

By incorporating these modules, the survey provides a comprehensive understanding of the various dimensions of migration and its effects on different segments of the population (Table 1.5). This allows for targeted policies and interventions to address the needs and challenges faced by migrants and their families.

Table 1.5: Sample Size selected for special studies, Phase 3, 2023

| No | Modules | Sample Individuals |
|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Return Migrants | 2000 |
| 2. | Women Left Behind | 3000 |
| 3. | Children Left Behind | 2000 |
| 4. | Migration and Elderly | 10318 |
| 5. | Flood and Migration | 1000 |
| 6. | Student Migration | 750 |
| 7 | Recruitment Cost Module | 2000 |
| 8 | Migrants and Food Insecurity | 2000 |
| 9 | Migrants and Health | 2500 |

SECTION - 2

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Demographic Background

The ultimate sample unit in KMS 2023 was a household, with data collected from all household members summarized as the sample population. Current emigrants and out migrants were excluded from the sample. The sample population consisted of 72,097 persons 20000 households. The proportion of males in the total sample population was 48 percent, while the corresponding female population was 52 percent, reflecting similar percentages as observed in the Census 2011. Thus, the KMS sample did not demonstrate any major bias with respect to the sex composition of the population.

Table 2.1 presents the distribution of the sample population across the districts of Kerala alongside the population estimates, projected using the ratio method. Table 2.1 also contains the sex ratio of all districts of Kerala. Malappuram has the highest estimated population in Kerala at 5 million, followed by Ernakulam at 3.4 million and Thiruvananthapuram at 3.3 million. Wayanad is the least populated district, with 0.8 million people. This closely aligns with the data from Census 2011 that puts Malappuram, Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam as the top three, and Wayanad as the least populated district of Kerala. Malappuram is the district of residence for one out of every seven persons in the state.

Table 2.1: Estimated Population by Sex, 2023

| District | Sample | | | Estimated | | | Sex Ratio |
|--------------------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 3272 | 3648 | 6920 | 1586132 | 1768402 | 3354534 | 1115 |
| Kollam | 2524 | 2796 | 5320 | 1271807 | 1408863 | 2680670 | 1108 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1450 | 1581 | 3031 | 548194 | 597721 | 1145915 | 1090 |
| Alappuzha | 2089 | 2334 | 4423 | 1008069 | 1126297 | 2134366 | 1117 |
| Kottayam | 2075 | 2127 | 4202 | 981024 | 1005609 | 1986633 | 1025 |
| Idukki | 1261 | 1237 | 2498 | 544669 | 534302 | 1078971 | 981 |
| Ernakulam | 3424 | 3655 | 7079 | 1676180 | 1789263 | 3465443 | 1067 |
| Thrissur | 3350 | 3723 | 7073 | 1559518 | 1733160 | 3292679 | 1111 |
| Palakkad | 2676 | 2961 | 5637 | 1448886 | 1603196 | 3052082 | 1107 |
| Malappuram | 4418 | 4922 | 9340 | 2368131 | 2638284 | 5006415 | 1114 |
| Kozhikode | 3238 | 3734 | 6972 | 1550505 | 1788013 | 3338518 | 1153 |
| Wayanad | 837 | 889 | 1726 | 413829 | 439539 | 853369 | 1062 |
| Kannur | 2389 | 2785 | 5174 | 1228333 | 1431941 | 2660274 | 1166 |
| Kasargod | 1287 | 1415 | 2702 | 684816 | 752926 | 1437742 | 1099 |
| Total | 34290 | 37807 | 72097 | 16870094 | 18617516 | 35487611 | 1104 |

Kannur has the highest sex ratio of 1166, closely followed by Kozhikode at 1153 and Alappuzha at 1117 females per 1000 males. Idukki has the lowest sex ratio at 981 females per 1000 males. Table 2.2 compares the sex ratio of Kerala obtained from KMS 2023 with the sex ratio from KMS 2018 and Census 2011. KMS 2023 and 2018 return a similar sex ratio of 1104 (slightly higher than the Census 2011 figure of 1084), maintaining the higher representation of females compared to males.

Table 2.2: Sex Ratio (Females per 1000 Males), 2023

| Source | Sex Ratio |
|-------------|-----------|
| KMS 2023 | 1104 |
| KMS 2018 | 1104 |
| Census 2011 | 1084 |

Table 2.3 compares the broad age structure of the estimated population from KMS 2023 with the data from Census 2011 and the 2021 population projections. KMS 2023 suggests a noticeable reduction of the 0-14 age group from 24.6 per cent in 2011 to 16.0 per cent, for both males and females as a proportion of the total population. Meanwhile, the proportion of 60+ in the population shows a sharp increase to 21.8 per cent in 2023 from 12.5 per cent in the 2011 census. The share of the 15-59 age groups has remained unchanged.

Table 2.3: Broad Age Structure of Population, 2023

| Sex | 0-14 | 15-59 | 60+ | Total |
|--------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Male | 17.0 | 61.3 | 21.7 | 100.0 |
| Female | 15.0 | 63.1 | 21.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 16.0 | 62.2 | 21.8 | 100.0 |
| 2021 | | | | |
| Male | 22.8 | 62.1 | 15.1 | 100.0 |
| Female | 20.2 | 62.4 | 17.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 21.4 | 62.3 | 16.3 | 100.0 |
| 2011 | | | | |
| Male | 26.1 | 62.2 | 11.7 | 100.0 |
| Female | 23.2 | 63.6 | 13.2 | 100.0 |
| Total | 24.6 | 62.9 | 12.5 | 100.0 |

The aging of the Kerala population is visible with an increase in the older population and a decrease in the younger age group. The median age of the estimated population is 39 years

with a standard deviation of ± 21.34 . This is similar to China's median age in 2023 at 39.8 percent. The median age of Kerala in 2011 was 31 years (Figure 2.1).

Table 2.4 shows an overall positive population growth rate (exponential) of 0.504 for Kerala. The total population has increased from 33.4 million in 2011 to 35.5 million in 2023. Districts like Malappuram, Palakkad, and Kasargod have shown significant growth rates above 0.5, indicating a notable increase in population. Only the districts of Pathanamthitta and Idukki have experienced a negative growth rate of 0.366 and 0.229 respectively.

Figure 2.1: Age-Sex Pyramid of the Sample Population, Kerala, 2023

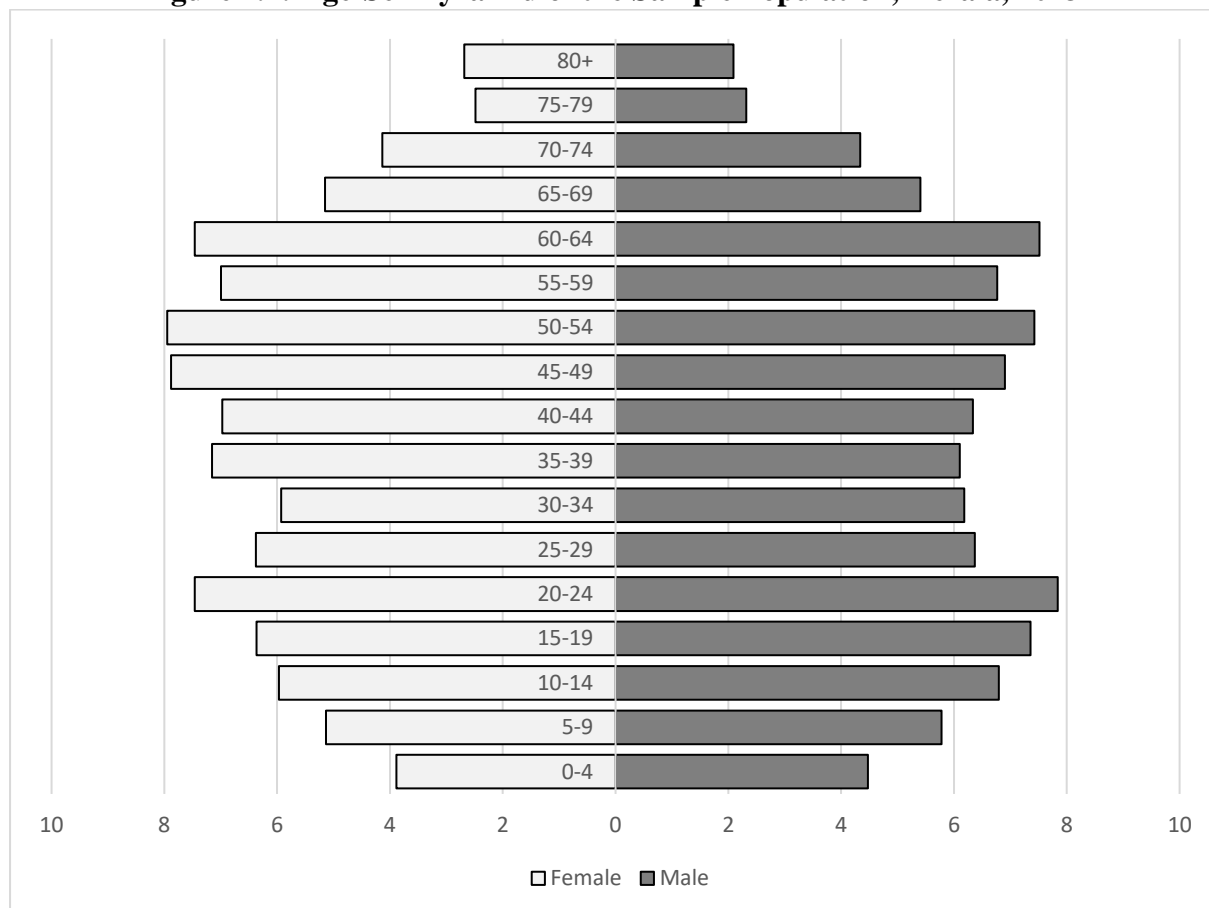


Table 2.4: Population and Growth Rates by Districts, 2023

| Districts | Census 2011 | KMS 2023 | Growth Rate |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Thiruvananthapuram | 3301427 | 3354534 | 0.133 |
| Kollam | 2635375 | 2680670 | 0.142 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1197412 | 1145915 | -0.366 |
| Alappuzha | 2127789 | 2134366 | 0.026 |

| | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|--------|
| Kottayam | 1974551 | 1986633 | 0.051 |
| Idukki | 1108974 | 1078971 | -0.229 |
| Ernakulam | 3282388 | 3465443 | 0.452 |
| Thrissur | 3121200 | 3292679 | 0.446 |
| Palakkad | 2809934 | 3052082 | 0.689 |
| Malappuram | 4112920 | 5006415 | 1.638 |
| Kozhikode | 3086293 | 3338518 | 0.655 |
| Wayanad | 817420 | 853368.8 | 0.359 |
| Kannur | 2523003 | 2660274 | 0.441 |
| Kasargod | 1307375 | 1437742 | 0.792 |
| Total | 33406061 | 35487611 | 0.504 |

The survey reveals a negative growth rate for the age groups under 20 years and those aged 25-44 years (Table 2.5). This indicates a decline in the number of individuals within these age brackets as compared to previous periods. The age-specific growth rate is highest for the 70-74 age group, and lowest for the 0-4 age group. For the age group under 20 years, the negative growth rate may be attributed to declining birth rates and changing family structures, observed as impacts of demographic transition. The negative growth rate in the 25-44 years age group could be influenced by increased migration for educational and employment opportunities, both within and outside the country. As young adults in this age group seek better prospects abroad or in other regions, the local population in this bracket diminishes. Kerala's reception of a large number of migrants from other states in the working age groups helps the state maintain the growth rates among adults. This however requires further investigation.

Table 2.5: Age Specific Growth Rate of Kerala, 2001-2023

| Age | 2001 | 2011 | 2023 | Gr (2011-2001) | Gr (2023-2011) |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|----------------|
| 0-4 | 2765164 | 2455632 | 1491238 | -0.012 | -0.042 |
| 5-9 | 2544181 | 2557760 | 1950106 | 0.001 | -0.023 |
| 10-14 | 2987200 | 2825695 | 2272513 | -0.006 | -0.018 |
| 15-19 | 2984506 | 2613256 | 2438155 | -0.013 | -0.006 |
| 20-24 | 2983990 | 2668566 | 2725488 | -0.011 | 0.002 |
| 25-29 | 2786195 | 2606779 | 2270673 | -0.007 | -0.012 |
| 30-34 | 2516463 | 2458034 | 2160241 | -0.002 | -0.011 |

| | | | | | |
|-------|----------|----------|----------|-------|--------|
| 35-39 | 2466354 | 2582332 | 2372480 | 0.005 | -0.007 |
| 40-44 | 1951284 | 2414987 | 2370399 | 0.021 | -0.002 |
| 45-49 | 1926144 | 2350955 | 2625041 | 0.020 | 0.009 |
| 50-54 | 1437520 | 1930139 | 2715059 | 0.029 | 0.028 |
| 55-59 | 1130244 | 1744211 | 2432399 | 0.043 | 0.028 |
| 60-64 | 1032136 | 1416133 | 2638377 | 0.032 | 0.052 |
| 65-69 | 902015 | 1003167 | 1855236 | 0.011 | 0.051 |
| 70-74 | 613422 | 734128 | 1485767 | 0.018 | 0.059 |
| 75-79 | 399089 | 501882 | 841140 | 0.023 | 0.043 |
| 80+ | 415465 | 542405 | 842816 | 0.027 | 0.037 |
| Total | 31841372 | 33406061 | 35487128 | 0.005 | 0.005 |

Table 2.6: Average Household Size in Kerala, 2023

| Households size | Percent |
|-----------------|---------|
| 1 | 7.5 |
| 2 | 18.9 |
| 3 | 19.0 |
| 4 | 25.3 |
| 5+ | 29.3 |
| Total | 100.0 |
| Average HH Size | 3.7 |
| KMS 2018 | 4.0 |
| Census 2011 | 4.3 |

The average household sizes have shown a decrease from 4.0 persons in 2018 to 3.7 persons in 2023. While the number of four and five plus member households is more, the number of single and two member households have increased in 2023 (Table 2.6)

Table 2.7: Marital Status of Keralites (All Ages) by Sex, Kerala, 2023

| Marital status | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Never married | 42.6 | 29.7 | 35.8 |
| Married | 55.1 | 56.5 | 55.8 |
| Widow / Widower | 1.6 | 12.8 | 7.5 |
| Divorced | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Separated | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 2.7 suggests that 55.8 percent of the total estimated population is married. While 35.8 percent have never married, 7.5 percent are widows/widowers. A significant gender difference is observed in the percentage of widows/ widowers. About 12.8 percent of females fall into this category, compared to only 1.6 percent of males. This is expected, as women tend to have longer life expectancies compared to men, in addition to marrying older men.

Table 2.8: Marital status of 18+ age group, 2023

| Marital Status | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------|------|--------|-------|
| Never married | 27.3 | 14.1 | 20.6 |
| Married | 70.1 | 69.3 | 69.7 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Widow / Widower | 1.9 | 15.3 | 8.6 |
| Divorced | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| Separated | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Among the 18+ age group, 69.7 percent are married, 20.6 percent have never married, and 8.6 are widowed. 27.3 percent of adult males have never married compared to 14.14 percent of adult females. This suggests that a larger proportion of adult males are unmarried compared to adult females (Table 2.8)

Table 2.9: Religious Distribution of the Population, 2023

| Religion | KMS 2023 (Percent) | Census 2011 (Percent) |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Hindu | 53.2 | 54.7 |
| Christian | 16.9 | 18.4 |
| Muslim | 29.3 | 26.6 |
| Other religion | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Hindus are the major religious group in Kerala with 53.2 percent followed by Muslims at 29.3 percent and Christians at 16.9 percent (Table 2.9). Compared with data from the 2011 Census, the proportion of Hindus has decreased slightly, from 54.7 percent to 53.2 percent. The Christian population has seen a more significant decrease, from 18.4 percent in 2011 to 16.9 percent in 2023. Meanwhile, the proportion of Muslims has increased from 26.6 percent in 2011 to 29.3 percent in 2023.

Table 2.10 estimates the distribution of social groups in Kerala. Ezhavas form the largest group at 20.6 percent of the total population, followed by Nairs at 11.5 percent. Among Christians, the Syrian Malabar Roman Catholics form the largest group constituting 8 percent of the total population followed by Latin Catholics at 2.7 percent.

Table 2.10: Social groups across Kerala, 2023

| Social group | Proportion to total population |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nair | 11.5 |
| Ezhava | 20.6 |
| Brahmin | 0.8 |
| Nadar | 0.6 |
| Viswakarma | 2.7 |
| Barber/Washerman | 0.1 |
| Scheduled Caste/ Tribe | 9.1 |
| Others | 7.9 |
| Hindu | 53.2 |
| Syrian Malabar Catholic (RC) | 8.0 |
| Latin Catholic | 2.7 |
| Jacobite Syrian | 1.3 |
| Orthodox Syrian | 1.3 |
| Marthoma Syrian | 0.9 |
| C.S. I | 0.6 |
| S C (Dalit) | 0.2 |
| Pentecost Brethern | 0.9 |
| Others | 1.0 |
| Christian | 16.9 |
| Muslim | 29.3 |
| Other religions | 0.6 |
| Total | 100.0 |

Table 2.11: Health Profile of the Population, 2023

| Health profile | Proportion to total population |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Member on KASP or Ayushman Bharat | 18.6 |
| Other Health insurance card | 27.1 |
| Vaccinated from COVID-19 | 83.6 |
| Infected by COVID-19 | 15.8 |
| Post Covid side effects | 3.7 |
| Have any chronic disease | 16.3 |
| Own Health Perception | |
| Very Bad or Bad | 0.8 |
| Bad | 4.0 |
| Moderate | 16.7 |
| Good | 40.6 |

Table 2.11 captures the health profile of the estimated population. There is a higher propensity of other health insurance schemes (27.1 percent), compared to KASP/ Ayushman Bharat insurance cards (18.6 percent). 83.6 percent of the population reported being vaccinated against COVID-19. While 15.8 percent were infected by COVID-19, 3.7 percent of the population developed post-Covid side effects. 16.3 percent also reported having one or more chronic diseases. When it came to their own health perception, the majority (40.6 percent) reported having good health.

SECTION - 3

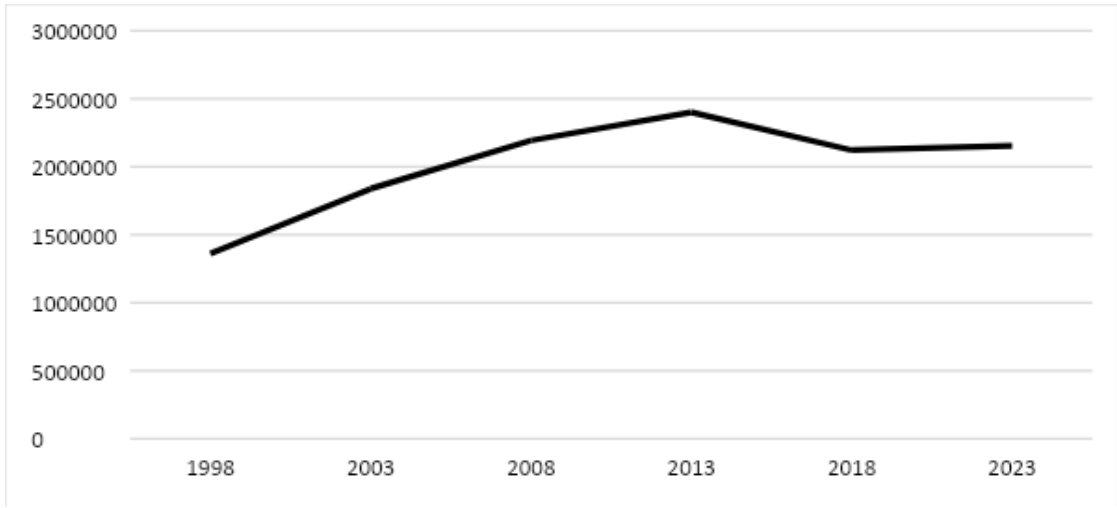
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

In 1998, there were 1.4 million emigrants from Kerala. By 2003, the number of emigrants had increased by 4.8 lakhs representing a 35 percent increase from 1998. In 2008, there was a further increase to 2.2 lakhs emigrants marking a 19.3 percent growth. A similar trend was observed in 2013, with a smaller growth of 2 lakhs, amounting to only a 9.4 per cent increase. However, by 2018, there was a notable decrease in emigrants to 2.1 million, reflecting a decline of 2.8 lakhs or a 11.6 percent decrease from 2013. The KMS 2023 estimated the number of emigrants as 2.2 million, an increase of 32,388 migrants as compared to 2018 (see Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1). The declining trend of emigration was arrested due to an increase in student migration from Kerala to other parts of the world.

Table 3.1: Emigrants from Kerala, 1998-2023

| Year | Emigrants | Inter-survey difference | Percent Increase/Decrease |
|------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1998 | 1361919 | - | |
| 2003 | 1838478 | 476559 | 35.0 |
| 2008 | 2193412 | 354934 | 19.3 |
| 2013 | 2400375 | 206963 | 9.4 |
| 2018 | 2121887 | -278488 | -11.6 |
| 2023 | 2154275 | 32388 | 1.5 |

Figure 3.1 Trends in Emigration, 1998-2023



The data on emigrants by district from 1998 to 2023 highlights diverse trends and changes across various regions (Table 3.2). Kollam and Kannur saw a significant decrease in emigrants by 44,000 and 37,000 respectively in 2023, when compared to 2018. Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam and Malappuram also observed a decline in emigrants. Nine out of the total 14 districts saw a decline in number of emigrants in 2023, as compared to 2018 levels. However, Ernakulam, Palakkad and Kozhikode saw a significant growth in the number of emigrants in 2023.

Table 3.2: Emigrants by District, 1998-2023

| Districts | Emigrants | | | | | | Increase/decrease in migration | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| | 1998 | 2003 | 2008 | 2013 | 2018 | 2023 | 2023-2013 | 2023-2018 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 130705 | 168046 | 308481 | 241727 | 137007 | 107917 | -133810 | -29090 |
| Kollam | 102977 | 148457 | 207516 | 199933 | 240527 | 195815 | -4118 | -44712 |
| Pathanamthitta | 97505 | 133720 | 120990 | 141343 | 109836 | 101624 | -39719 | -8212 |
| Alappuzha | 62870 | 75036 | 131719 | 93096 | 136857 | 134116 | 41020 | -2741 |
| Kottayam | 35494 | 106569 | 89351 | 107931 | 166625 | 143824 | 35893 | -22801 |
| Idukki | 7390 | 7880 | 5792 | 23967 | 32893 | 25304 | 1337 | -7589 |
| Ernakulam | 103750 | 121237 | 120979 | 191373 | 53418 | 186956 | -4417 | 133538 |
| Thrissur | 161102 | 178867 | 284068 | 230081 | 241150 | 233177 | 3096 | -7973 |
| Palakkad | 116026 | 177876 | 189815 | 70506 | 89065 | 124277 | 53771 | 35212 |
| Malappuram | 296710 | 271787 | 334572 | 455696 | 406054 | 377647 | -78049 | -28407 |
| Kozhikode | 116026 | 167436 | 199163 | 226499 | 160691 | 193697 | -32802 | 33006 |
| Wayanad | 4552 | 7704 | 13996 | 22568 | 30650 | 32341 | 9773 | 1691 |
| Kannur | 88065 | 202414 | 119119 | 291321 | 249834 | 212208 | -79113 | -37626 |
| Kasaragod | 38747 | 71449 | 67851 | 104334 | 67281 | 85372 | -18962 | 18091 |
| Total | 1361919 | 1838478 | 2193412 | 2400375 | 2121887 | 2154275 | -246100 | 32388 |

In 2023, the regional distribution of emigrants revealed that the North region had the largest share of emigrants, constituting 41.8 percent of the total emigrants. This was followed by the Central region contributing 33.1 percent, and the South region making up 25 percent (Table 3.3). The 2023 KMS findings reinstate the North region (Kannur and Calicut airports) as the primary hub for emigration, followed by the Central (Kochi airport) and South region (Thiruvananthapuram airport) providing valuable insights into migration trends within Kerala.

Table 3.3: Regional Distribution of Emigrants, 2023

| Region | No of Emigrants | Percent |
|---------|-----------------|---------|
| South | 539472 | 25.0 |
| Central | 713537 | 33.1 |
| North | 901266 | 41.8 |
| Total | 2154275 | 100.0 |

Note:

South regions: Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha

Central regions: Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Idukki, Kottayam

North regions: Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram

Table 3.4 reveals that Kollam, Kannur and Malappuram had a sharp fall in the number of emigrants per 100 households in 2023 with 24.9, 29.4 and 33.8 emigrants respectively as compared to 32.8, 38.8 and 42.1 emigrants per 100 households in 2018. Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki and Thrissur also experienced a significant decrease from the levels seen in 2018.

Table 3.4: Emigrants per Household, 1998-2023

| Districts | EMI per 100 Household | | | | | | Percent | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2023 | 2018 | 2013 | 2008 | 2003 | 1998 | 2023 | 2018 | 2013 | 2008 | 2003 | 1998 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 11.3 | 15.2 | 28.1 | 35.6 | 21.5 | 19.9 | 5.0 | 6.5 | 10.1 | 14.1 | 9.1 | 9.6 |
| Kollam | 24.9 | 32.8 | 28.9 | 30.8 | 24.4 | 18.4 | 9.1 | 11.3 | 8.3 | 9.5 | 8.1 | 7.6 |
| Pathanamthitta | 28.0 | 31.9 | 42.8 | 37.4 | 44.3 | 33.1 | 4.7 | 5.2 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 7.3 | 7.2 |
| Alappuzha | 21.8 | 23.6 | 16.9 | 24.2 | 15.2 | 13.2 | 6.2 | 6.4 | 3.9 | 6.0 | 4.1 | 4.6 |
| Kottayam | 25.3 | 31.3 | 21.5 | 18.2 | 24.0 | 9.1 | 6.7 | 7.9 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 5.8 | 2.6 |
| Idukki | 8.4 | 11.3 | 8.4 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Ernakulam | 18.6 | 5.8 | 22.5 | 15.1 | 16.9 | 17.0 | 8.7 | 2.5 | 8.0 | 5.5 | 6.6 | 7.6 |
| Thrissur | 24.4 | 27.9 | 28.9 | 38.9 | 27.2 | 30.4 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 9.6 | 13.0 | 9.7 | 11.8 |
| Palakkad | 15.3 | 12.2 | 10.5 | 32.1 | 32.6 | 18.3 | 5.8 | 4.2 | 2.9 | 8.7 | 9.7 | 8.5 |
| Malappuram | 33.8 | 42.1 | 53.7 | 53.4 | 45.0 | 49.2 | 17.5 | 19.1 | 19.0 | 15.3 | 14.8 | 21.8 |
| Kozhikode | 21.0 | 19.7 | 30.7 | 30.4 | 28.6 | 22.0 | 9.0 | 7.6 | 9.4 | 9.1 | 9.1 | 8.5 |
| Wayanad | 14.2 | 14.5 | 11.4 | 7.4 | 4.4 | 2.9 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Kannur | 29.4 | 38.8 | 49.9 | 22.6 | 43.2 | 19.0 | 9.9 | 11.8 | 12.1 | 5.4 | 11.0 | 6.5 |
| Kasaragod | 24.3 | 21.3 | 36.2 | 26.3 | 30.6 | 19.1 | 4.0 | 3.2 | 4.3 | 3.1 | 3.9 | 2.8 |
| Kerala | 22.2 | 24.0 | 29.3 | 29.0 | 26.7 | 21.4 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Tirur (Malappuram) remains at the top with the highest number of emigrants at 109,133 emigrants, followed by Thalassery (Kannur) with 93,326 emigrants, and Tirurangadi (Malappuram) closely behind with 80,379 emigrants. Tirur taluk has demonstrated the highest number of emigrants in all the Kerala Migration Surveys conducted so far. . Ottappalam (Palakkad), Vadakara (Kozhikode), Kozhikode, Mukundapuram (Thrissur),

Taliparamba (Kannur), Quilandy (Kozhikode), and Kannur also featured prominently on the list. Eight out of the 10 highest emigrant-sending taluks in Kerala belong to the Northern region of Kerala (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: Ten Taluks with the Highest Number of Emigrants, 2023

| Taluk | Emigrants | Taluk | Emigrants |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Tirur | 109133 | Thalassery | 93326 |
| Tirurangadi | 80379 | Ottappalam | 73286 |
| Vadakara | 69148 | Kozhikode | 64667 |
| Mukundapuram | 62552 | Taliparamba | 60164 |
| Quilandy | 59882 | Kannur | 58717 |

Table 3.6 highlights the taluks with the lowest number of emigrants. Devikulam (Idukki) had the smallest emigrant count with 860 individuals, followed by Vythiri (Wayanad) with 7087 emigrants, and Thodupuzha (Idukki) with 7875 emigrants. Mallappally (Pathanamthitta), Nedumangad (Thiruvananthapuram), Peerumade (Idukki), Chittur (Palakkad), Mananthavady (Wayanad), Mannarkad (Palakkad) and Kuttanad (Alappuzha) also featured on the list with low levels of emigrants. While three out of the ten lowest emigrant-sending taluks belong to Idukki, other taluks in the above table also belong to central and southern districts of Kerala.

Table 3.6: Ten Taluks with the Lowest Number of Emigrants, 2023

| Taluk | Emigrants | Taluk | Emigrants |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Devikulam | 860 | Peerumade | 3177 |
| Vythiri | 7087 | Chittur | 7474 |
| Thodupuzha | 7875 | Mananthavady | 9288 |
| Mallappally | 9706 | Mannarkad | 10250 |
| Nedumangad | 10585 | Kuttanad | 12364 |

The KMS 2023 reveals the distribution of emigrants from Kerala across different countries of residence categorized by gender. Among the GCC countries, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood out with the highest percentage of emigrants among both males (40.2 percent) and females (31.6 percent), totalling 38.6 percent (Table 3.7 and 3.8).

Table 3.7: Country of Residence of Emigrants (Percent), 2023

| Country | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| United Arab Emirates (UAE) | 40.2 | 31.6 | 38.6 |
| Saudi Arabia | 18.8 | 8.8 | 16.9 |
| Oman | 6.7 | 4.9 | 6.4 |
| Qatar | 9.9 | 5.2 | 9.1 |
| Kuwait | 5.8 | 5.9 | 5.8 |
| Bahrain | 3.9 | 3.1 | 3.7 |
| GCC Countries | 85.4 | 59.5 | 80.5 |
| Europe (excluding United Kingdom) | 2.4 | 5.3 | 3.1 |
| United Kingdom | 4.0 | 14.7 | 6.0 |
| United States of America | 1.6 | 4.6 | 2.2 |
| Canada | 2.0 | 4.6 | 2.5 |
| Australia | 1.2 | 3.0 | 1.5 |
| New Zealand | 0.5 | 1.9 | 0.8 |
| Russia | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| Malaysia | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| South Africa | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| Singapore | 0.3 | 1.2 | 0.5 |
| Israel | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.2 |
| China | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Maldives | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Other Countries | 1.3 | 2.4 | 1.5 |
| Non-GCC Countries | 14.6 | 40.5 | 19.5 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Saudi Arabia followed with 18.8 percent of male emigrants and 8.8 percent of female emigrants, contributing to a total of 16.9 percent. Among the non-GCC countries, the United Kingdom attracted 4.0 percent of male emigrants and 14.7 percent of female emigrants, constituting about 6.0 percent of the emigrants from Kerala. The United States of America, Canada, and Australia closely followed, hosting 2.2 percent, 2.5 percent and 1.5 percent of the emigrants from Kerala respectively. Overall, GCC countries accounted for 80.5 percent of emigrants and non-GCC countries accommodated 19.5 percent of emigrants in 2023.

Table 3.8: Country of Residence of Emigrants, 1998-2023

| Year | GCC Countries (percent) | Non-GCC Countries (percent) |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1998 | 93.8 | 6.2 |

| | | |
|------|------|------|
| 2003 | 89.0 | 11.0 |
| 2008 | 88.6 | 11.4 |
| 2011 | 89.3 | 10.7 |
| 2013 | 86.3 | 13.7 |
| 2016 | 89.6 | 10.4 |
| 2018 | 89.2 | 10.8 |
| 2023 | 80.5 | 19.5 |

The KMS 2023 illustrates the evolving trends in emigrants' choice of residence countries, specifically regarding GCC and non-GCC countries over the last two decades. Table 3.8 reveals a gradual decline in the percentage of emigrants residing in GCC Countries, dropping from 93.8 percent in 1998 to 80.5 percent in 2023. In contrast, the percentage of emigrants opting for non-GCC countries has shown a corresponding increase, climbing from 6.2 percent in 1998 to 19.5 percent in 2023. This data emphasizes a notable shift in emigrants' preferences towards non-GCC countries due to the large-scale migration of students.

Figure 3.2: Percentage Distribution of Emigrants by Year of Emigration, 1980-2023

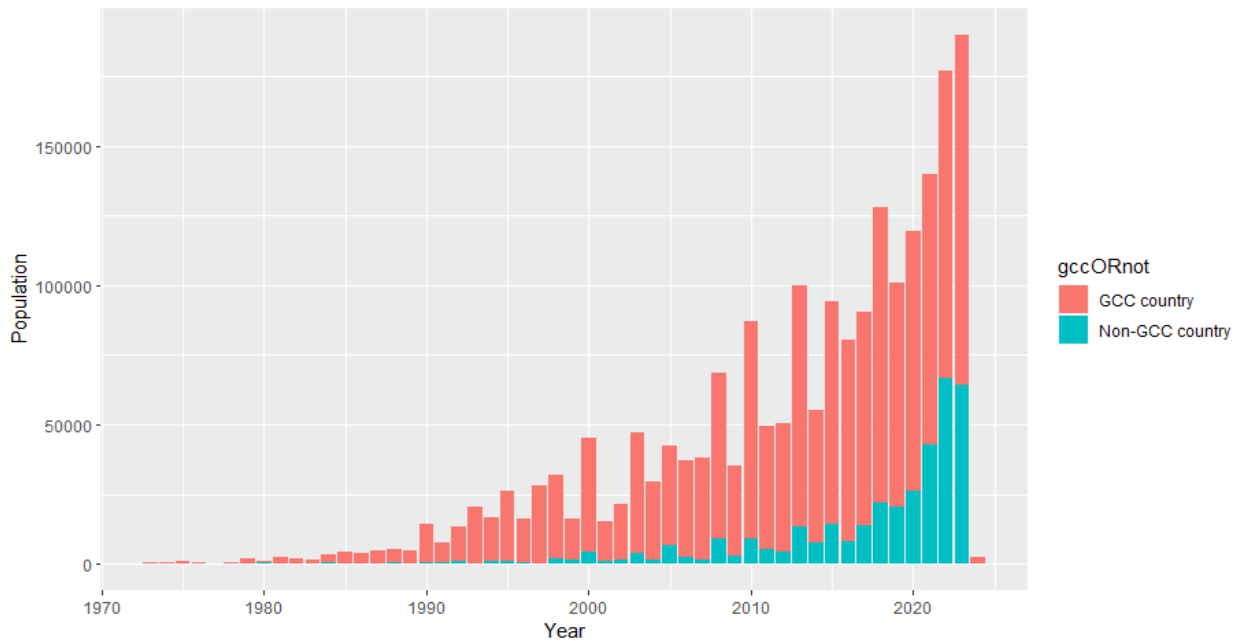


Figure 3.2 captures the trends of emigration depending on the year of migration. The number of emigrants shows a clear upward trend from 1980 to 2023. Of even greater significance is the distribution of Kerala emigrants between GCC and non-GCC countries over the years." Migration to non-GCC countries has increased considerably since 2010, along with the overall migration rates. The increasing migration rates to non-GCC countries have not translated into a significant decrease in migration to GCC countries.

Table 3.9: Percentage of Households with One or More Emigrants, 2023

| No of Migrants | No of Households | Percent |
|----------------|------------------|---------|
| 0 | 16757 | 83.8 |
| 1 | 2585 | 12.9 |
| 2 | 400 | 2.0 |
| 3 | 134 | 0.7 |
| 4 | 75 | 0.4 |
| 5 | 34 | 0.2 |
| 6 | 7 | 0.0 |
| 7 | 3 | 0.0 |
| 8 | 5 | 0.0 |
| Total | 20000 | 100.0 |

The KMS 2023 data on households indicates that the majority of households (83.8 percent) had no emigrants. 12.9 percent of the households had at least one emigrant and 2.0 percent had two emigrants. Only 1.3 percent of the 20,000 households surveyed had more than three emigrants (Table 3.9).

Table 3.10 shows that among the total households with emigrants, 79.7 percent of the households had only emigrant and 20.3 percent had more than one emigrant. About 93.0 percent of households with emigrants in Thiruvananthapuram had only one emigrant whereas Kottayam had the lowest number of emigrant households wherein 67.1 percent of the households had only one emigrant. Conversely, Kottayam had the highest percentage of households with more than one emigrant at 32.9 percent, while Thiruvananthapuram had the lowest at 7.0 percent. More than 80 percent of the migrant households in Kollam, Alappuzha, Idukki, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad had one emigrant. Consequently, all these districts had less than 20 percent of migrant households having more than one emigrant.

Table 3.10: Percentage of Households with One or More Emigrants by District, 2023

| District | One Emigrant HH | More than One Emigrant HH |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Thiruvananthapuram | 93.0 | 7.0 |
| Kollam | 80.6 | 19.4 |
| Pathanamthitta | 77.0 | 23.0 |
| Alappuzha | 86.2 | 13.8 |

| | | |
|------------|------|------|
| Kottayam | 67.1 | 32.9 |
| Idukki | 82.5 | 17.5 |
| Ernakulam | 73.4 | 26.6 |
| Thrissur | 78.5 | 21.5 |
| Palakkad | 74.1 | 25.9 |
| Malappuram | 82.2 | 17.8 |
| Kozhikode | 80.1 | 19.9 |
| Wayanad | 85.5 | 14.5 |
| Kannur | 75.4 | 24.6 |
| Kasaragod | 75.2 | 24.8 |
| Total | 79.7 | 20.3 |

Table 3.11: Emigrants by religious groups, 2023

| Religion | Percent of emigrant population | Percent of total population |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Hindu | 35.2 | 53.2 |
| Christian | 22.3 | 16.9 |
| Muslim | 41.9 | 29.3 |
| Others | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 3.11 shows the distribution of emigrants across different religious groups. The majority of the emigrants from Kerala are Muslims at 41.9 percent, followed by Hindus at 35.2 percent. Christians make up 22.3 percent of the emigrants. The substantial migration rate among Muslims is highlighted by the fact that they constitute 41.9 percent of the emigrant population, despite comprising only 29.3 percent of Kerala's overall population. Similarly, Christians constitute 22.3 percent of the emigrant population, despite accounting for only 16.9 percent of Kerala's total population.

Figure 3.3: Emigrants by Sex, District-wise, 2023

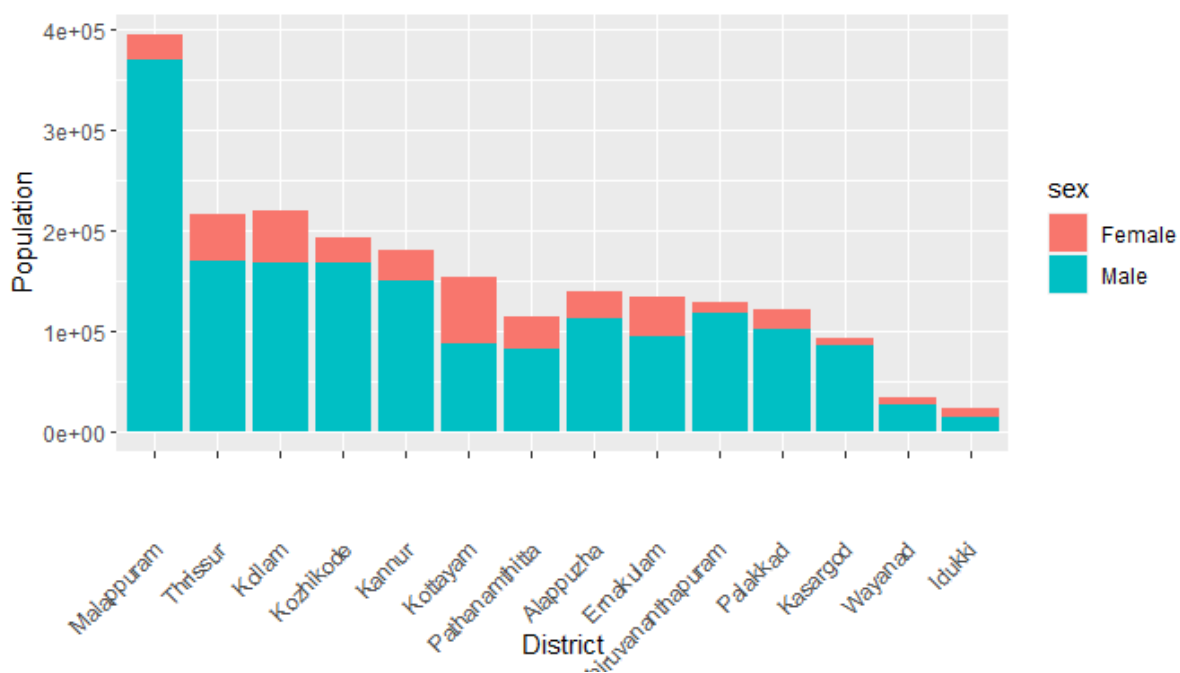


Figure 3.3 breaks down the number of emigrants by sex in all the districts of Kerala. For Kerala as a whole, only 19.1 percent of emigrants are females compared to 80.9 percent of male emigrants. The gap between male and female migrants is narrowest in Kottayam districts and widest in Malappuram. International migration is dominated by males in all the districts of Kerala.

Table 3.12: Marital Status of Emigrants by Sex, 2023

| Marital Status | Male | Female | Total Emigrants |
|-----------------|------|--------|-----------------|
| Never married | 28.7 | 36.8 | 30.3 |
| Married | 70.6 | 61.5 | 68.9 |
| Widow / Widower | 0.3 | 1.4 | 0.5 |

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| Divorced | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Separated | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 3.12 shows that 30.3 percent of the emigrants have never married and 68.9 percent are married. Less than 1 percent of emigrants were classified as widow/widower, divorced or separated. About 28.7 percent of male emigrants and 36.8 percent of female emigrants had never married. The majority of male emigrants (70.6 percent) and female emigrants (61.5 percent) were married. It is evident from that data that there are more unmarried female migrants when compared to their male counterparts. However, with regard to married individuals, there are more married males than married female emigrants.

Table 3.13 shows that 41.4 percent emigrants had completed their degree, whereas 26.7 percent and 17.7 percent of emigrants had only completed their primary and secondary education respectively. Among female emigrants, 71.5 percent of them had completed their degrees and 12.3 percent had completed their primary education. Similarly, 34.7 percent of male emigrants had completed their degrees and 29.8 percent had completed their primary education. Among degree holders who are migrants, females account for 71.5 percent compared to 24.7 percent among males – almost double than males.

Table 3.13: Education Status of Emigrants by Sex, 2023

| Education Status | Male | Female | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Illiterate | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Less than Primary | 1.2 | 3.5 | 1.6 |
| Primary to Secondary | 29.8 | 12.3 | 26.7 |
| Higher Secondary | 19.9 | 7.4 | 17.7 |
| Diploma | 14.3 | 5.2 | 12.7 |
| Degree and above | 34.7 | 71.5 | 41.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 3.14 highlights the economic activity of emigrants by sex in 2023. It indicates that out of the total male emigrants, the majority of them (84.1 percent) were labour emigrants while

7.7 percent of them were students and only 3 percent were unemployed. In the case of females, 46.7 percent of female emigrants were employed in the labour force and 26.6 percent of them were student emigrants. A higher proportion of female emigrants were students (26.6 percent) compared to male emigrants (7.7 percent). Further, 21.5 percent of females reported not being in the labour force. Although student emigrants covered 11.3 percent of total emigrants, the labour migrants constituted the majority with 76.9 percent.

Table 3.14: Economic Activity of Emigrants by Sex, 2023

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Labour Force | 84.1 | 46.7 | 76.9 |
| Student | 7.7 | 26.6 | 11.3 |
| Unemployed | 3.0 | 5.2 | 3.4 |
| Not in Labour Force | 5.2 | 21.5 | 8.3 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 3.15: Occupation of Emigrants by Sex, 2023

| Occupation | Male | Occupation | Female |
|--|------|---|--------|
| Salesperson | 12.9 | Nurse and Nursing assistant | 51.6 |
| Car/Taxi driver | 11.0 | Engineer | 4.3 |
| Engineer | 7.2 | Teacher | 3.6 |
| Cashier, ticket clerks, clerks, accountant | 4.8 | Cashier, ticket clerks, clerks, accountant | 2.9 |
| Electrician | 3.8 | Household worker / Maid / Servant (full-time) | 2.8 |
| Mechanic | 3.6 | Chartered Accountant / Cost Accountant | 2.7 |
| Manager | 2.8 | Doctor | 2.2 |
| Construction worker | 2.7 | Salesperson | 1.9 |
| Hotel administration related staff | 2.2 | Pharmacist | 1.4 |
| Storekeeper | 2.1 | Child care worker | 1.2 |
| Machinery repair worker / Welder | 1.8 | Cook | 1.1 |
| Cook | 1.7 | Data entry operator | 1.1 |
| Chartered Accountant / Cost | 1.7 | Laboratory / X-ray Technician | 1.0 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Accountant | | | |
| Computer Programmer | 1.6 | Computer Programmer | 1.0 |
| Others | 40.1 | Others | 21.2 |
| Total | 100.0 | Total | 100.0 |

Table 3.15 captures the major occupations of emigrants by Sex. The majority of males were engaged as salespersons at 12.9 percent, followed by car/ taxi drivers at 11 percent. Regarding female emigrants, an overwhelming 51.6 percent of them were working as a nurse or nursing assistant. Occupations among men are more evenly distributed compared to female emigrants.

International student migration from India is a growing trend and Kerala is poised to become one of the top states in terms of students pursuing education abroad, this reflects the desire for high-quality education and better career opportunities among the students of Kerala. The KMS 2023 estimates 2.5 lakh student emigrants from Kerala with Ernakulam having the highest number of emigrant students at 43,990, followed by Thrissur and Kottayam with 35,873 and 35,382 students respectively. Wayanad had the lowest number of student emigrants from Kerala at 3750. (See table 3.16)

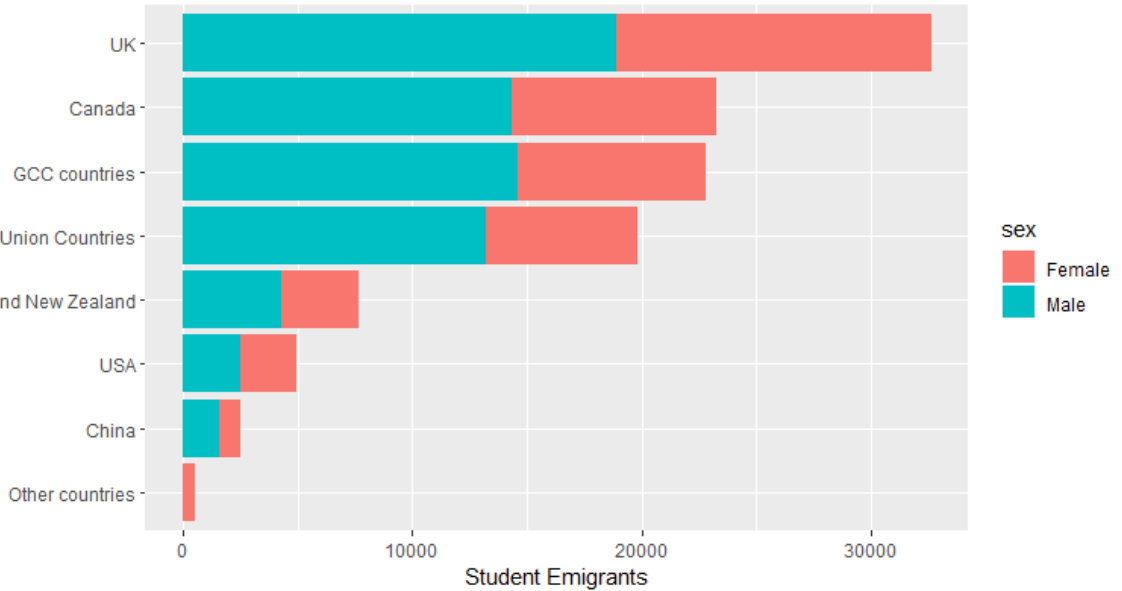
Table 3.16: International Student Migration by District, 2023

| District | Emigrant Students | Percent |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Thiruvananthapuram | 4887 | 2.0 |
| Kollam | 21607 | 8.9 |
| Pathanamthitta | 10466 | 4.3 |
| Alappuzha | 14217 | 5.8 |
| Kottayam | 35382 | 14.5 |
| Idukki | 6946 | 2.9 |
| Ernakulam | 43990 | 18.1 |
| Thrissur | 35873 | 14.7 |
| Palakkad | 13692 | 5.6 |
| Malappuram | 15310 | 6.3 |
| Kozhikode | 15980 | 6.6 |
| Wayanad | 3750 | 1.5 |
| Kannur | 23512 | 9.7 |
| Kasaragod | 4391 | 1.8 |
| Total | 250002 | 100.0 |

Table 3.17: International Student Migration by Sex, 2023

| Sex | Emigrant Students |
|--------|-------------------|
| Male | 54.4 |
| Female | 45.6 |
| Total | 100.0 |

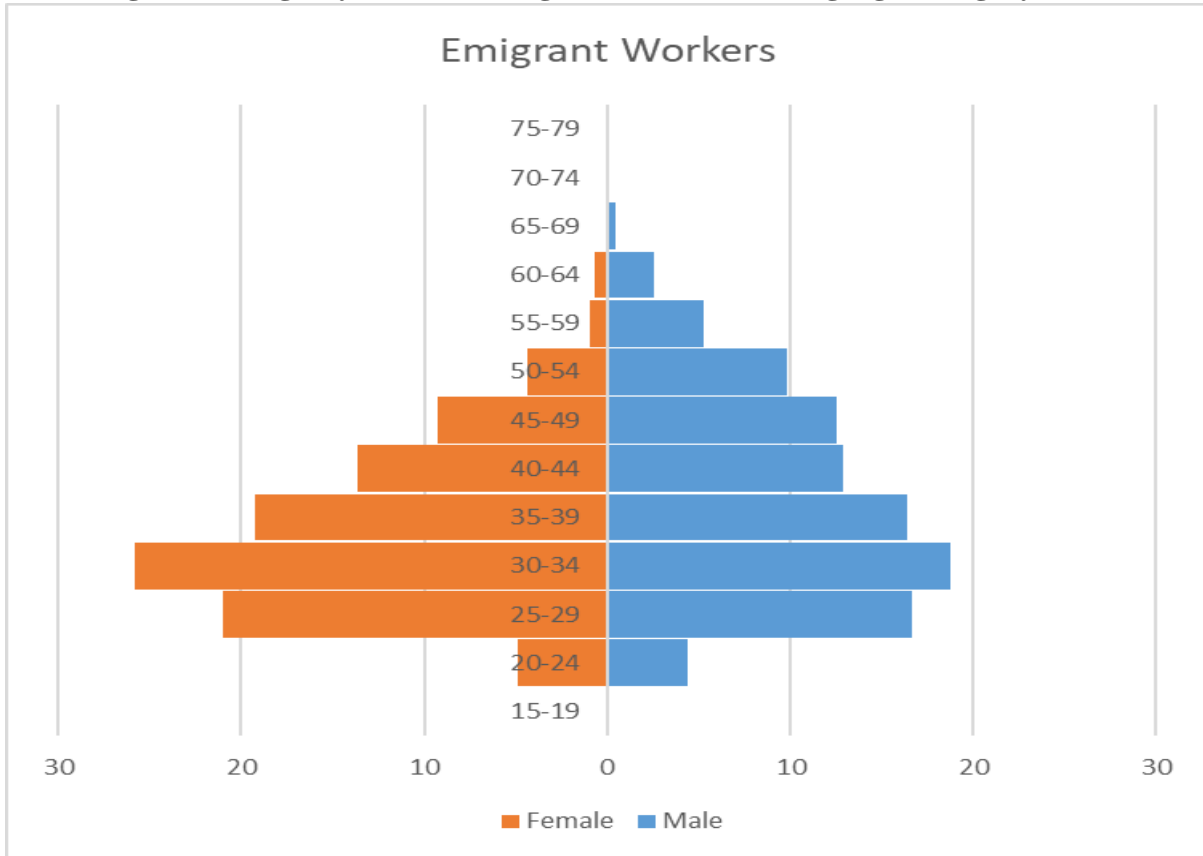
Figure 3.4: International Student Migration by Destination and Sex, 2023



Considering the total number of international students aged above 16 years, over 80 percent have gone abroad for higher studies after completing their graduation in Kerala. Among the destinations in this regard, the United Kingdom was ranked the first, followed by Canada and other European Union countries (Figure 3.4). One out of four students from Kerala went to the United Kingdom for their higher studies, while one out of five students from Kerala opted for Canada.

54.4 percent of student emigrants from Kerala are males and 45.6 percent are females (Table 3.17). The gender disparity is hence narrower in the case of student emigrants when compared to the total emigrant population from Kerala, where over 80 per cent are males. The age pyramid of emigrants in the working age category shows a trend where more females are in the age categories between 25 and 44, while males are more evenly distributed between the various age groups from 25 to 60 years (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: Age-Pyramid of Emigrants in the Working Age Category, 2023



SECTION - 4

International Return Migration

The number of Return Emigrants (REM) has displayed a steady year-on-year increase from 1998 to 2023. The number increased by 20.9 percent in 2003 and 29.4 percent in 2008, followed by a decline in percentage increase in the number of REM in 2013 and 2018. However, the largest increase in REM was observed between 2018 and 2023, with an increase of 495,962 individuals, representing a 38.3 percent increase – the highest in the history of Kerala migration surveys (Table 4.1). This could be due to the COVID-19 pandemic, where people lost their jobs and were forced to return to Kerala

Table 4.1: Trends in Return Emigration, 1998- 2023

| Year | Estimate | Increase | Percent Increase |
|------|----------|----------|------------------|
| 1998 | 739245 | -- | -- |
| 2003 | 893942 | 154697 | 20.9 |
| 2008 | 1157127 | 263185 | 29.4 |
| 2013 | 1252471 | 95344 | 8.2 |
| 2018 | 1294796 | 42325 | 3.4 |
| 2023 | 1790758 | 495962 | 38.3 |

Table 4.2: Return Emigrants by Districts, 1998-2023

| Districts | Number | | | | | | Increase/decrease in Return migration | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 1998 | 2003 | 2008 | 2013 | 2018 | 2023 | 2023-2013 | 2023-2018 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 118878 | 103059 | 215280 | 218945 | 93662 | 185695 | -33250 | 92033 |
| Kollam | 74106 | 69314 | 124066 | 127978 | 165504 | 158481 | 30503 | -7023 |
| Pathanamthitta | 54537 | 83502 | 60554 | 36285 | 54506 | 40921 | 4636 | -13585 |
| Alappuzha | 34572 | 43109 | 51024 | 70104 | 99929 | 99494 | 29390 | -435 |
| Kottayam | 18164 | 28368 | 26448 | 33898 | 41775 | 74277 | 40379 | 32502 |
| Idukki | 5017 | 3766 | 3213 | 3242 | 6137 | 13472 | 10230 | 7335 |
| Ernakulam | 45028 | 74435 | 68860 | 69545 | 23929 | 151849 | 82304 | 127920 |
| Thrissur | 116788 | 86029 | 174655 | 103803 | 94279 | 239439 | 135636 | 145160 |
| Palakkad | 39238 | 55008 | 85318 | 12383 | 57664 | 92689 | 80306 | 35025 |
| Malappuram | 123750 | 141537 | 219736 | 299857 | 309881 | 351176 | 51319 | 41295 |
| Kozhikode | 60910 | 109101 | 72405 | 107491 | 151417 | 210288 | 102797 | 58871 |
| Wayanad | 3327 | 3852 | 1930 | 12581 | 12046 | 16509 | 3928 | 4463 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| Kannur | 28263 | 45394 | 26416 | 109145 | 94457 | 106408 | -2737 | 11951 |
| Kasaragod | 16667 | 47468 | 27222 | 47212 | 89610 | 50062 | 2850 | -39548 |
| KERALA | 739245 | 893942 | 1157127 | 1252471 | 1294796 | 1790758 | 538287 | 495962 |

Table 4.2 provides data on the number of REM in various districts of Kerala from 1998 to 2023. The overall trend indicates an increase in REM in Kerala, rising from 739,245 in 1998 to 1,790,758 in 2023. Districts like Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, and Malappuram showed consistent growth in the number of REM over the years. The number of return migrants in 2023 has increased from 2018 in all the districts except in Kollam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta and Kasargode.

Thrissur district had a significant increase in REM from 2008 to 2013, followed by a slight decrease by 2018, and then a substantial increase by 2023. Similarly, Ernakulam too saw a declining trend in number of REM from 2003, but there was a substantial rise in number of REM by 2023. However, Kasaragod district saw a notable increase in REM from 2003 to 2008, followed by a decrease in 2013 and a further decrease by 2018 and 2023.

Table 4.3: Return Emigrants per 100 Households, 1998-2023

| Districts | REM per 100 HH | | | | | | Per cent | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2023 | 2018 | 2013 | 2008 | 2003 | 1998 | 2023 | 2018 | 2013 | 2008 | 2003 | 1998 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 19.5 | 10.4 | 25.4 | 24.9 | 13.2 | 18.1 | 10.4 | 7.2 | 17.5 | 18.6 | 11.5 | 16.1 |
| Kollam | 20.2 | 22.6 | 18.5 | 18.4 | 11.4 | 13.2 | 8.8 | 12.8 | 10.2 | 10.7 | 7.8 | 10.0 |
| Pathanamthitta | 11.3 | 15.8 | 11.0 | 18.7 | 27.7 | 18.5 | 2.3 | 4.2 | 2.9 | 5.2 | 9.3 | 7.4 |
| Alappuzha | 16.2 | 17.3 | 12.7 | 9.4 | 8.7 | 7.2 | 5.6 | 7.7 | 5.6 | 4.4 | 4.8 | 4.7 |
| Kottayam | 13.1 | 7.9 | 6.7 | 5.4 | 6.4 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 3.2 | 2.5 |
| Idukki | 4.5 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| Ernakulam | 15.1 | 2.6 | 8.2 | 8.6 | 10.4 | 7.4 | 8.5 | 1.8 | 5.6 | 6.0 | 8.3 | 6.1 |
| Thrissur | 25.1 | 10.9 | 13.1 | 23.9 | 13.1 | 22.1 | 13.4 | 7.3 | 8.3 | 15.1 | 9.6 | 15.8 |
| Palakkad | 11.4 | 7.9 | 1.9 | 14.4 | 10.1 | 6.2 | 5.2 | 4.5 | 1.0 | 7.4 | 6.2 | 5.3 |
| Malappuram | 31.5 | 32.1 | 35.3 | 35.1 | 23.5 | 20.5 | 19.6 | 23.9 | 23.9 | 19.0 | 15.8 | 16.7 |
| Kozhikode | 22.8 | 18.5 | 14.6 | 11.0 | 18.6 | 11.5 | 11.7 | 11.7 | 8.6 | 6.3 | 12.2 | 8.2 |
| Wayanad | 7.3 | 5.7 | 6.3 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Kannur | 14.7 | 14.7 | 18.7 | 5.0 | 9.7 | 6.1 | 5.9 | 7.3 | 8.7 | 2.3 | 5.1 | 3.8 |
| Kasaragod | 14.2 | 28.4 | 16.4 | 10.5 | 20.3 | 8.2 | 2.8 | 6.9 | 3.8 | 2.4 | 5.3 | 2.3 |
| KERALA | 18.5 | 14.6 | 15.3 | 15.3 | 13.0 | 11.6 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 4.3 provides an overview of the trends in REM per 100 households across districts in Kerala from 1998 to 2023. The number of REM per 100 Households varies across different districts, ranging from as low as 0.8 in Idukki to as high as 19.6 in Malappuram. Although the return migrants per household is comparatively lower for Malappuram as compared to 2018, it is still the highest among other districts in 2023. Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Palakkad have shown an increase in the proportion of REM per 100 households, when compared to the 2018 KMS. Different districts have different patterns in terms of REM, with some districts showing an increasing trend over the years while others have fluctuated.

Table 4.4: Ten Taluks with the Highest Number of Return Emigration, 2023

| Taluks | REM |
|----------------|--------|
| Tirurangadi | 122933 |
| Kozhikode | 80509 |
| Tirur | 70058 |
| Chirayinkeezhu | 66781 |
| Vadakara | 64949 |
| Quilandy | 64830 |
| Nilambur | 63696 |
| Mukundapuram | 60541 |
| Thalassery | 53927 |
| Kollam | 53610 |

Table 4.4 highlights the ten taluks with the highest number of REM in Kerala in 2023, with Tirurangadi leading the list, followed by Kozhikode and Tirur. The data reveals significant regional disparities in return emigration, with taluks from northern regions like Malappuram and Kozhikode prominently featured. The varying numbers of REM suggest diverse patterns of migration, potentially driven by economic factors or employment opportunities.

Figure 4.1: Return emigrants, by year of return

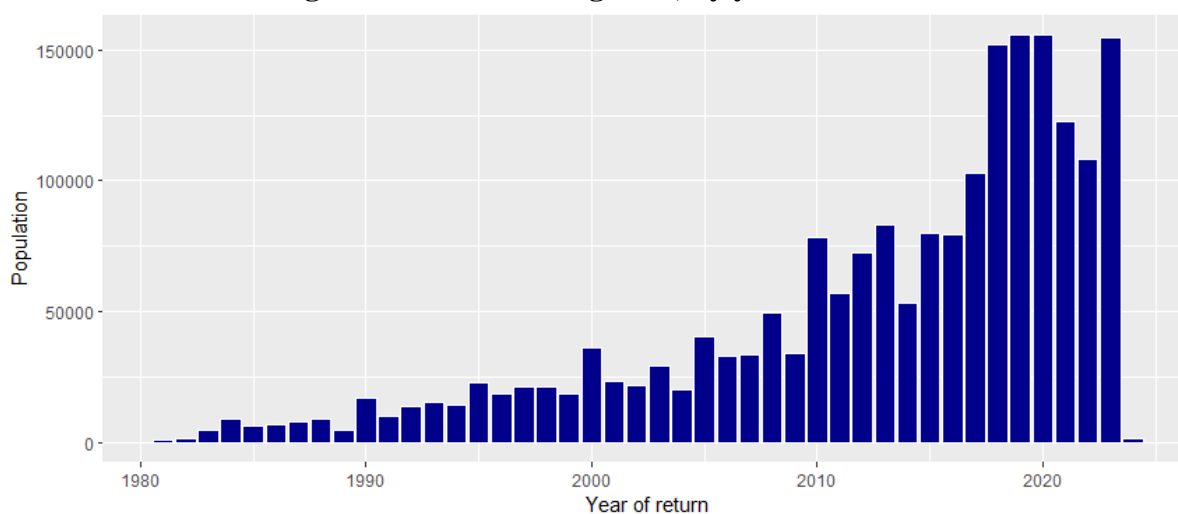


Table 4.5 Return emigrants, by year of return, 2023

| Year | Percent |
|-------------|---------|
| Before 1980 | 0.2 |
| 1981-1989 | 1.8 |

| | |
|-----------|------|
| 1990-1999 | 7.2 |
| 2000-2004 | 5.2 |
| 2005-2009 | 9.1 |
| 2010-2014 | 18.1 |
| 2015-2019 | 30.9 |
| 2020-2024 | 27.5 |
| Total | 100 |

Table 4.5 provides an overview of REM by year of return from before 1980 to 2024. The frequency of REM varies across the years. From the years before 1980 to 2010, the trend of return was moderate, however, in 2019 and the years following the Covid-19 pandemic, the frequency shows a high rate. (See Figure 4.1)

Table 4.6 Marital Status during First Migration vs Current Marital Status of Return Emigrants, 2023

| Marital Status | Before First Migration | Current Status |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Never married | 54.9 | 9.6 |
| Married | 44.7 | 87.5 |
| Widow / Widower | 0.3 | 2 |
| Divorced | 0.1 | 0.6 |
| Separated | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Total | 100 | 100 |

Table 4.6 suggests that 54.9 percent of REM were never married during their first migration. However, this has significantly decreased to 9.6 percent currently. Additionally, the number of married individuals has increased substantially from 44.7 percent (before their first migration) to 87.5% at present. The data shows a significant change in the marital status of the individuals over time, indicating a trend towards higher rates of marriage among REM. The data highlights a notable decrease in the number of individuals who have never married, compared to their status before their first migration.

Table 4.7 Return Emigrants by Sex, 2023

| Sex | Percent |
|--------|---------|
| Male | 88.5 |
| Female | 11.5 |
| Total | 100 |

Table 4.7 highlights the distribution of REM by gender, showing that males constituted a larger proportion compared to females, with 88.5 percent for males and 11.5 percent for females. It indicates prevailing gender norms among REM in the context of Kerala where migration continues to be more accessible to men.

Table 4.8 shows the education status of REM, comparing their education at the time of first migration with their current education status. The data suggests that 31.9 percent of REM had completed education up to Class 10 during their first migration, and this trend persists, with 31.7 percent having attained education up to class 10. Additionally, the number of REM who completed education up to Class 12 during their first migration was 13.9 percent, which has increased slightly to 14.1 percent in their current educational status. It indicates that there is significant change in the educational status of REM over time.

Table 4.8 Education of Return Migrants, 2023

| Education Status | Education at the time of First Migration | Current Education Status |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Pre primary - Class 9 | 25.4 | 26.1 |
| Class 10 | 31.9 | 31.7 |
| Class 11 | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| Class 12 | 13.9 | 14.1 |
| ITI, Certificate course | 5.2 | 4.9 |
| Diploma | 4.2 | 4.2 |
| Degree | 8.8 | 9.5 |
| PG Diploma | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Professional Degree | 3.3 | 3.9 |
| PG | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| Professional PG | 1.4 | 1.9 |
| Others | 3.8 | 0.8 |
| Total | 100 | 100 |

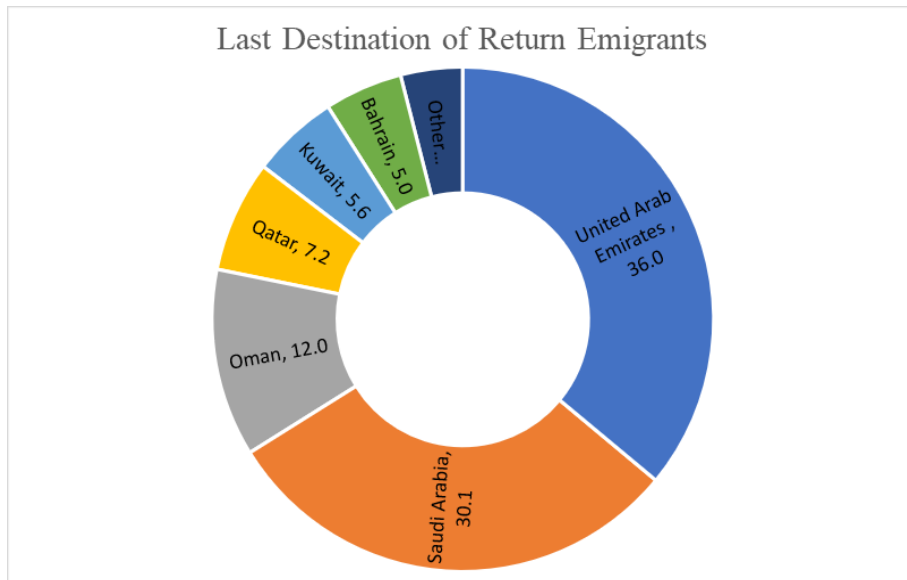
Table 4.9 Economic Activity of Return Emigrants, 2023

| Economic activity | During First Migration | During Last Migration | Economic Activity After Return |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Own account worker (Employer) | 1.9 | 2.5 | 3.9 |
| Own account worker (self-employed) | 5.8 | 5.0 | 15 |
| Regular wage (salaried) in public sector | 3.1 | 4.2 | 2.1 |
| Regular wage (salaried) in private sector | 32.5 | 43.4 | 13.6 |
| Casual wage labour | 29.9 | 26.2 | 26.6 |
| Unpaid family labour | 0.7 | 0.4 | 1.8 |
| Household Chores/ House wife/ House husband | 3.7 | 3.6 | 6 |
| Student | 4.4 | 2.8 | 2.7 |
| Retired | 0.1 | 0.4 | 4.3 |
| Pensioner | 0.1 | 0.3 | 2.6 |
| Too old to work | 0.2 | 0.4 | 7.9 |
| Unemployed | 13.6 | 6.7 | 10.2 |
| Unable to work due to physical or mental disability | 0 | 0.2 | 1.7 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Too young to work | 2.3 | 1.6 | 0.3 |
| Others | 1.7 | 2.3 | 1.6 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 4.9 provides an overview of the economic activity of REM based on three phases of the migration journey- first migration, last migration and after their return. Following their first migration, there is a substantial decline in the proportion of students (4.4 percent) and unemployed individuals (13.6 percent), indicating a shift towards employment. This trend persisted during their last migration as well as after their return, suggesting a transition towards work. This transition is underscored by the significant increase in employment rate in both public sector (4.2 percent) and private sector (43.4 percent). Upon their return, there was a notable shift, with a rise in self-employment (15 percent) as well as an increase in the number of retirees (4.3 percent) and pensioners (2.6 percent) , reflecting a move towards retirement and self-sufficiency.

Figure 4.2: Return emigrants by last destination, 2023



Majority of the REM are from the GCC countries, accounting for 86.4 percent of returnees. This is expected, as the majority of emigrants still migrate to GCC countries. The nature of migration to GCC countries is often temporary due to the strict restrictions on gaining citizenship and asset accumulation. Only 13.4 percent of REM is from non-GCC countries. Among GCC countries, the majority have returned from UAE (36 percent) followed by Saudi Arabia at 30.1 percent. Nationalization policies in Saudi Arabia could explain the high

proportion of REM (30.1 percent) while the total share of emigrants in Saudi Arabia is only 16.9 percent. (See Figure 4.2)

Table 4.10: International Return Student Migrants by GCC and non GCC countries, 2023

| Country of destination Before Return | International Student Migrants | Percentage |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| GCC Countries | 40518 | 86.4 |
| NON GCC Countries | 6343 | 13.4 |
| Total | 46859 | 100.0 |

Table 4.11: International Return Student Migrants by Sex

| Sex | Percentage |
|------------|-------------------|
| Male | 60.4 |
| Female | 39.6 |
| Total | 100.0 |

Table 4.12: International Return Student Migrants by Economic Activity after Return

| Economic Activity | Percent |
|---|----------------|
| Student | 49.1 |
| Regular wage (salaried) in private sector | 13.4 |
| Unemployed | 8.1 |
| Own account worker (self-employed) | 8 |
| Casual wage labour | 6.4 |
| Household Chores/ House wife/ House husband | 5.2 |
| Others | 4.6 |
| Own account worker (Employer) | 2.1 |
| Unpaid family labour | 2.1 |
| Regular wage (salaried) in public sector | 1 |
| Total | 100 |

Table 4.10 highlights the distribution of international return student migrants by country of destination, before returning to Kerala. The data reveals that 86.4 percent of the return student migrants were from GCC countries and 13.4 percent were from non GCC countries. This indicates the predominant trend of students returning to Kerala either with their NRI families or alone. Table 4.11 shows that 60.4 percent of international return student migrants were males and 39.6 percent were females, suggesting that a larger proportion of males return to Kerala. Table 4.12 shows that 49.1 percent aspired to pursue further education or academic endeavours in Kerala. However, the data also reveals employment challenges faced by returning student migrants, with 8.1 percent unemployed in the state. Furthermore, only 1 percent of students secured jobs in the public sector, highlighting the limited opportunities in this domain.

Table 4.13: Reasons for return, 2023

| Reason for return | Percent |
|---|----------------|
| To retire | 12.1 |
| Home sickness | 10.2 |
| to care for elderly | 7.9 |
| To care for children | 9.8 |
| Accomplished goals for migration | 4.4 |
| Prefer to working in Kerala | 16.1 |
| Lost job/laid off | 18.4 |
| Illness/accident | 11.2 |
| Expiry of contract | 5.3 |
| Due to Covid -19 | 6.4 |
| Compulsory expatriation | 0.7 |
| Low wages | 13.8 |
| Poor working conditions | 7.5 |
| Nationalization Issue | 0.9 |
| Visiting visa expired | 2.8 |
| Cancellation of employment visa | 2.8 |
| Political instability/ Economic Instability/ War | 0.8 |
| To migrate to another destination or same destination for different job | 1.1 |
| Others (Specify) | 5.4 |
| Total | 100 |

The majority of the respondents reported the loss of jobs as a reason for return (18.4 percent). In fact, job-related reasons including low wages (13.8 percent), poor working conditions (7.5 percent), illness or accident (11.2 percent) at the workplace emerged as key reasons for emigrants returning to Kerala. The desire to work in Kerala (16.1 percent), homesickness (10.2 percent) and retirement (12.1 percent) also featured among the main reasons why emigrants chose to return. (Table 4.13)

Section - 5

REMITTANCES

Table 5.1, captures the significant contributions made by emigrants on remittances and Non-Resident Indian (NRI) deposits to Kerala's economy and society from 2000 to 2024. As expected, NRI deposits and remittances in absolute numbers have shown a steady increase on a yearly basis. The two largest spikes in remittance inflows to Kerala were observed during 2018-2019 (massive floods in Kerala) and 2022-2023 (post-covid period). Remittance inflows increased from ₹85,092 crores in 2017-2018 to ₹114,506 crores in 2018-2019. Similarly, remittance inflows displayed a sharp increase from ₹144,640 crores in 2021-2022 to ₹190,734 crores in 2022-2023. The KMS 2023 estimates the remittances at ₹ 216893 crores in 2023.

While rise in remittance inflows in 2018-2019 could be attributed to the 2018 Kerala floods that led to emigrants sending more money than usual to help with relief and reconstruction, the spike in 2022-2023 could be attributed to post-pandemic recovery and a general rise in migration numbers. Few other factors like migrants liquidating their savings and returning back to Kerala during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, a switch to more formal channels of money transfer in the face of uncertainties caused by the pandemic in the informal channels and attractive policy tweaks like free competition between banks on fixing interest rates and removal of caps on NRI deposits could have also played a major role in the spike in remittances received by Kerala in 2022-2023.

Kerala's share in the NRI deposits and remittances received by India as a whole has remained relatively stable throughout the years with minimal fluctuations. Barring the period from 2008 to 2016 when Kerala's share dropped below 20 percent. Despite this, Kerala's contribution to national income in the form of remittances has remained substantial. Given that remittances constitute 3.3 percent of India's GDP, it further underscores Kerala's significant contribution to the country's economic growth through remittances.

Table 5.1: Total Remittances to Kerala, 2000-2023

| | Non-Resident Indian Deposits | | | Rs (Crores) | |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Year | India | Kerala | Ratio | | |
| | Crores Rs | Crores Rs | Kerala/ India | Remittance to India | Remittance to Kerala |
| 2000-2001 | 94544 | 18724 | 0.1980 | 58855 | 11712 |
| 2001-2002 | 107686 | 21431 | 0.1990 | 68071 | 13601 |
| 2002-2003 | 122772 | 24534 | 0.1998 | 76155 | 16053 |
| 2003-2004 | 136088 | 28696 | 0.2109 | 96494 | 19299 |
| 2004-2005 | 150444 | 30100 | 0.2001 | 84247 | 17001 |
| 2005-2006 | 144282 | 29121 | 0.2018 | 97955 | 18562 |
| 2006-2007 | 161834 | 30671 | 0.1895 | 128310 | 23763 |
| 2007-2008 | 179788 | 33304 | 0.1852 | 149403 | 25578 |
| 2008-2009 | 174623 | 29889 | 0.1712 | 229479 | 40411 |
| 2009-2010 | 210118 | 37019 | 0.1762 | 234560 | 38093 |
| 2010-2011 | 227078 | 36886 | 0.1624 | 246274 | 40217 |
| 2011-2012 | 230812 | 37690 | 0.1633 | 301967 | 48798 |
| 2012-2013 | 299840 | 48454 | 0.1616 | 396600 | 64090 |
| 2013-2014 | 385202 | 66190 | 0.1718 | 412360 | 70857 |
| 2014-2015 | 624101 | 93883 | 0.1504 | 436418 | 65650 |
| 2015-2016 | 720997 | 109603 | 0.1520 | 440950 | 67031 |
| 2016-2017 | 841956 | 135609 | 0.1611 | 429453 | 69170 |
| 2017-2018 | 757751 | 152349 | 0.1900 | 447850 | 85092 |
| 2018-2019 | 820737 | 169944 | 0.2071 | 553000 | 114506 |
| 2019-2020 | 941002 | 190055 | 0.2020 | 601241 | 121433 |
| 2020-2021 | 970347 | 208698 | 0.2151 | 617882 | 132891 |
| 2021-2022 | 1070598 | 229636 | 0.2145 | 674336 | 144640 |
| 2022-2023 | 1134698 | 238409 | 0.2101 | 907792 | 190734 |
| 2023-2024 | 1154084 | 240975 | 0.2088 | 1038750 | 216893 |

Source: India: Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy, RBI, 2023-24 Non-Resident Deposits; State Level Banker's Committee, 2023 (RBI survey of inward remittances for 2023-2024)

Table 5.2: Macroeconomic Impact of Remittances on Kerala's Economy, 1998-2023

| | 1998 | 2003 | 2008 | 2013 | 2018 | 2023 |
|---|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Remittances to Kerala (in crores) | 13652 | 18465 | 43288 | 71142 | 85092 | 216893 |
| NSDP (in crores) | 53552 | 83783 | 140889 | 371384 | 632093 | 933564 |
| Per Capita Income (in Rs.) | 16062 | 25764 | 41814 | 110314 | 179523 | 263945 |
| Revenue Receipt of Government (in Crores) | 7198 | 10634 | 24936 | 49,177 | 83020 | 132724 |
| Remittances as per cent of NSDP | 25.5 | 22 | 30.7 | 19.2 | 13.5 | 23.2 |
| Remittances as ratio of Revenue Receipt | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1 | 1.6 |

Note: Calculated by using the figures from various Kerala Economic Reviews

From 1998 to 2023, Kerala's remittances and their steady increase have both contributed to and coincided with the state's substantial economic growth, as indicated by the continued rise in the Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) (Table 5.2). Kerala's per capita income has also grown substantially over the years, reaching ₹2,63,945 in 2023. Government revenue receipts have steadily increased from ₹7,198 crores to ₹1,32,724 crores.

Remittances contributed to approximately a fourth of the state's NSDP until 2008, after which there was a slight decline to 19.2% in 2013 and 13.5% in 2018. In recent years, remittances have returned to being a significant contributor to the state's NSDP at 23.2%. Remittances as a ratio of revenue receipts have consistently hovered above the one-point mark, reflecting a steady relationship between these variables. Overall, the data highlights Kerala's increasing reliance on remittances and significant economic advancements over the past 25 years.

The data on total remittances, calculated from the RBI on NRI deposits, from 1998 to 2023 reveals a consistent upward trend, with remittances increasing significantly from ₹13,652 crores in 1998 to ₹216,893 crores in 2023 (Table 5.3). While the growth rates have varied over the years, the highest percentage increase was seen between 2018 and 2023 due to the resilience of migrants. This growth is mirrored in the rise of remittances per household from ₹96,185 in 2018 to ₹223,729 in 2023, indicating a substantial increase in the average remittance amount received per household.

Table 5.3 Trends in Total Remittances, 1998-2023

| Year | Remittances (crores) | Percent Increase | Remittances Per Household (Rupees) |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1998 | 13652 | -- | 21,469 |
| 2003 | 18465 | 35.3 | 24,444 |
| 2008 | 43288 | 134.4 | 57,215 |
| 2011 | 49695 | 14.8 | 63,315 |
| 2013 | 71142 | 43.2 | 86,843 |
| 2018 | 85092 | 19.6 | 96,185 |
| 2023 | 216893 | 154.9 | 223,729 |

Table 5.4 provides a comparative analysis of remittances across various districts in Kerala during the years 2018 and 2023. In 2023, the total remittances to Kerala amounted to ₹216,893 crores, a significant increase from ₹85,092 crores in 2018. Kollam had the highest share, receiving ₹38,530 crores (17.8 percent of the total) in 2023, up from ₹12,748 crores (15.0 percent) in 2018, with per household remittances rising from ₹173,816 to ₹490,091. Thiruvananthapuram also saw a substantial increase in both total remittances (from ₹8,045 crores to ₹23,016 crores) and per household remittances (from ₹89,263 to ₹241,870).

Table 5.4 Total Remittances by Districts, 2023

| Districts | Remittances (in Crores) | | Percent to Total | | Per HH (Rs) | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------|------------------|-------|-------------|--------|
| | 2023 | 2018 | 2023 | 2018 | 2023 | 2018 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 23016 | 8045 | 10.6 | 9.5 | 241870 | 89263 |
| Kollam | 38530 | 12748 | 17.8 | 15.0 | 490091 | 173816 |
| Pathanamthitta | 9367 | 6150 | 4.3 | 7.2 | 257818 | 178375 |
| Alappuzha | 12189 | 4972 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 198380 | 85848 |
| Kottayam | 11283 | 2942 | 5.2 | 3.5 | 198497 | 55323 |
| Idukki | 1521 | 767 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 50475 | 26300 |
| Ernakulam | 17803 | 1205 | 8.2 | 1.4 | 177255 | 13130 |
| Thrissur | 19650 | 9280 | 9.1 | 10.9 | 205871 | 107350 |
| Palakkad | 6593 | 3518 | 3.0 | 4.1 | 81261 | 48105 |
| Malappuram | 35203 | 17524 | 16.2 | 20.6 | 315460 | 181781 |
| Kozhikode | 17752 | 7374 | 8.2 | 8.7 | 192769 | 90317 |
| Wayanad | 6363 | 1197 | 2.9 | 1.4 | 279983 | 56729 |
| Kannur | 14055 | 6427 | 6.5 | 7.6 | 194399 | 99857 |
| Kasaragod | 3567 | 2939 | 1.6 | 3.5 | 101411 | 93078 |
| Kerala | 216893 | 85092 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 223729 | 96185 |

Conversely, Pathanamthitta's share of total remittances decreased from 7.2 percent to 4.3 percent, despite an increase in absolute remittances. Other districts such as Ernakulam, Wayanad, and Kottayam experienced a notable increase in remittances and per household figures. Overall, the data indicates a significant rise in remittances and per household remittance amounts across Kerala.

From 1998 to 2023, household remittances to Kerala showed a consistent and substantial increase (Table 5.5). Starting at ₹3,530 crores in 1998, remittances more than doubled to ₹7,965 crores by 2003 (an increase in 125.6 percent). The upward trend continued, with remittances reaching ₹12,511 crores in 2008 (57.1 percent), ₹24,374 crores in 2013 (61.1 percent), ₹30,717 crores in 2018 (26.0 percent) and ₹37,058 crores in 2023 (20.6 percent).

Overall, the total household remittances amounted to ₹37,058 crores in 2023, underscoring the crucial role of remittances in the state's economy and its overall development.

Table 5.5: Trend in Household Remittances to Kerala, 1998-2003

| Years | Remittances (crores) | Percent Increase |
|-------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1998 | 3,530 | -- |
| 2003 | 7,965 | 125.6 |
| 2008 | 12,511 | 57.1 |
| 2011 | 15,129 | 20.9 |
| 2013 | 24,374 | 61.1 |
| 2018 | 30,717 | 26.0 |
| 2023 | 37,058 | 20.6 |

The data on household remittances across various districts of Kerala reveals significant economic contributions from migrants (Table 5.6). Kollam recorded the highest remittances with ₹6,583 crores, followed by Malappuram with ₹6,015 crores. Thiruvananthapuram (₹3,933 crores), Thrissur (₹3,357 crores), and Ernakulam (₹3,042 crores) also show high remittance levels, highlighting their sizable migrant communities. In contrast, Idukki (₹260 crores) and Kasargod (₹610 crores) reported the lowest figures, possibly due to fewer migrants.

Table 5.6: Household Remittances by Districts, 2023

| Districts | HH Remittances in Crores |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Thiruvananthapuram | 3933 |
| Kollam | 6583 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1600 |
| Alappuzha | 2083 |
| Kottayam | 1928 |
| Idukki | 260 |
| Ernakulam | 3042 |
| Thrissur | 3357 |
| Palakkad | 1127 |
| Malappuram | 6015 |
| Kozhikode | 3033 |
| Wayanad | 1087 |
| Kannur | 2401 |

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Kasaragod | 610 |
| Total | 37058 |

As seen from Figure 5.1, average household remittances in 2023 have increased from 2018 in all the districts except Pathanamthitta, Palakkad, Kasargod and Malappuram.

Figure 5.1: Distribution of Household Remittances by District, 2018 and 2023

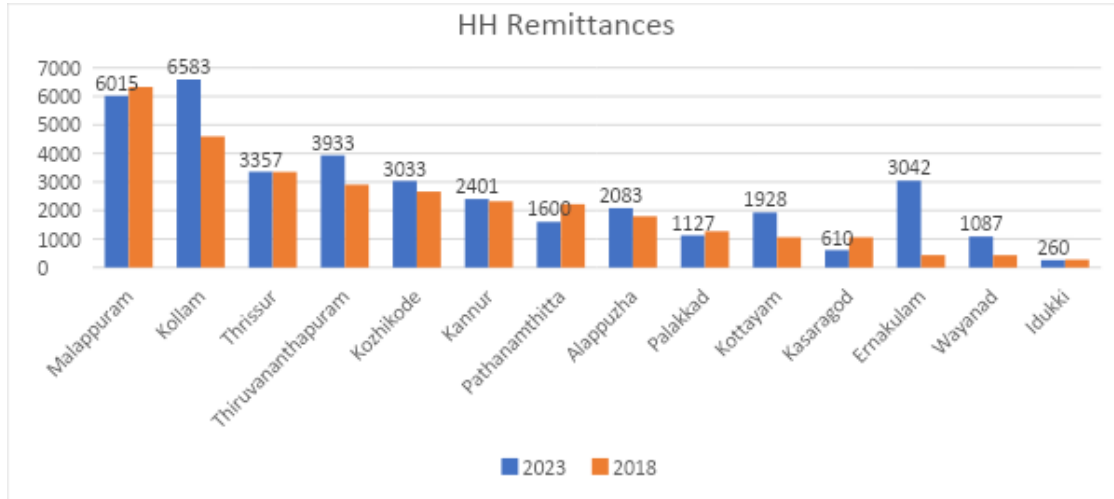


Table 5.7 shows that the Muslim community continues to be the highest recipient of remittances, followed closely by the Hindu and then the Christian communities. The gap in remittances between Hindu and Muslim communities has reduced over the last decade. However, the Christian community has shown an increase in the proportion of remittances received, from 7.7 percent in 2018-2013 to 23.1 percent in 2023-2018. Both Muslim and Hindu communities have experienced a decline in growth of the proportion of remittances received in recent years with 30.7 percent in 2018-2013 to 26.7 percent in 2023-2018 in the case of Hindu communities, and 32.17 percent in 2018-2013 to 14.1 percent in 2023-2018 in the case of Muslim communities.

Table 5.7: Household Remittances by Religion, 2023

| | HH Remittances | | | Per cent Increase | | Per cent | | |
|------------|----------------|-------|------|-------------------|-----------|----------|------|------|
| | 2023 | 2018 | 2013 | 2023-2018 | 2018-2013 | 2023 | 2018 | 2013 |
| Hindus | 14490 | 11431 | 8745 | 26.8 | 30.7 | 39.1 | 37.2 | 35.9 |
| Christians | 7698 | 6252 | 5806 | 23.1 | 7.7 | 20.8 | 20.4 | 23.8 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Muslims | 14870 | 13034 | 9823 | 14.1 | 32.7 | 40.1 | 42.4 | 40.3 |
| Total | 37058 | 30717 | 24374 | 20.6 | 26.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 5.8 highlights the modes used by migrants to send remittances. The predominant method includes bank account transfers, accounting for a significant 81.0 percent of all remittances. This is followed by UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transfers, which constituted 13.5 percent. A smaller fraction, 3.6 percent, relied on cash being sent through family friends or relatives. Only 1.7 percent of remittances were made in cash when the migrant worker returned home. Overall, the data underscored an overwhelming preference for digital and formal channels to send remittances.

Table 5.8: Mode of Remittances by Kerala's Emigrants, 2023

| Mode | Percent |
|---|---------|
| Bank account transfer | 81.0 |
| UPI Transfer | 13.5 |
| Cash via family friend / relative | 3.6 |
| Cash when the migrant worker comes back | 1.7 |
| Others | 0.2 |
| Total | 100.0 |

Table 5.9 illustrates the periodicity of remittances sent by migrant workers. The most common frequency is monthly, with 73.3 percent of workers remitting funds once a month. This is followed by a quarterly frequency, where 19.3 percent of workers send remittances every three months. A smaller proportion, 4.6 percent, remits funds semi-annually, or once every six months. The remaining 2.7 percent of workers remit at other intervals. This data indicates a strong preference for regular and frequent remittance schedules, predominantly on a monthly basis.

Table 5.9: Periodicity of Remittances by Migrants in Kerala, 2023

| Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|---------|
| Once in a month | 73.3 |
| Once in three months | 19.3 |
| Once in six months | 4.6 |
| Other intervals | 2.7 |
| Total | 100.0 |

Table 5.10 and 5.11 analyses the usage pattern of remittances among migrant households. The key areas of the investment of migrant households include the renovation of houses/shops (15.8 percent), paying off loans from banks (14 percent), educational expenses (10 percent) and saving as cash in hand (9.9 percent). The largest median amount was spent for paying off debts (₹ 60,000 in the last fifteen years) followed by a median amount of ₹ 50,000 (spent in the last five years) for savings and investment in immovable properties like land. Other than expenditure (median of ₹ 25,000 per month), the largest investment appeared to be in education with a median spend of ₹10,000 per month. This highlights the importance accorded to human development by Kerala's migrants

Table 5.10: Median Amount to Use of Remittances, 2023

| Particulars | Median (Amount in Rs) |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Day to day expenses (Food/Clothing/drinks/tobacco) | 7000 |
| Education (Monthly) | 10000 |
| Health & medical (Monthly) | 5000 |
| Investment (Immovable) | 50000 |
| Expenditure (Monthly) | 25000 |
| Debt | 60000 |
| Savings | 50000 |
| Total Money value of goods received as gifts (in Rs.) | 20000 |

Table 5.11: Percentage Distribution of Use of Remittances

| Particulars | Percent |
|--|----------------|
| Day to day expenses (Food/Clothing/drinks/tobacco) | 6.9 |
| Education | 10.0 |
| Health & medical | 7.7 |
| Purchase/ Improve land | 5.6 |
| Renovation of house/shop | 15.8 |
| Pay off loans from bank | 14.0 |
| Savings as cash in hand | 9.9 |
| Purchase of apartment/shop/House | 5.3 |
| Purchase of Car/Bike etc | 4.7 |
| Savings and fixed deposits in banks/post office/chit funds | 4.3 |
| Special Occasions (Eg: Weddings/Funerals) | 3.6 |
| Pay others/loans from informal credit sources | 2.8 |
| Purchase of jewellery/gold | 2.4 |
| Purchase of Households Goods (TV, sofa, etc) | 2.2 |
| Life Insurance | 1.9 |
| Donations | 0.7 |
| Insurance (Systematic Investment Plan/ any other) | 0.2 |
| Financing migration of other family members | 0.6 |
| Total Money value of goods received as gifts (in Rs.) | 1.3 |
| Total | 100.0 |

Section - 6

Internal Migration

Table 6.1 provides the distribution of out migrants and return out migrants across the districts of Kerala. On the whole, Kerala has almost 3.5 Lakhs return out migrants and 4.7 lakh out migrants. The highest number of out migrants is in Palakkad (55,601), possibly due to the close proximity of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The lowest number of out migrants is in Idukki (10,550).

Table 6.1: Out migrants and Return Out migrants by District, 2023

| District | Return Out migrants | Out migrants |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Palakkad | 25094 | 55601 |
| Ernakulam | 54695 | 53756 |
| Kollam | 36569 | 48330 |
| Kozhikode | 19045 | 44496 |
| Kottayam | 37261 | 44084 |
| Kannur | 19107 | 43544 |
| Alappuzha | 42932 | 42301 |
| Thrissur | 67026 | 39874 |
| Pathanamthitta | 13762 | 24546 |
| Wayanad | 6420 | 19178 |
| Malappuram | 15533 | 16300 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 13582 | 14948 |
| Kasaragod | 1788 | 14918 |
| Idukki | 4475 | 10550 |
| Total | 357289 | 472426 |

Thrissur has the highest percentage of return out migrants at 17.4 percent (58,191 individuals), followed by Kollam with 13.1 percent (43,838) and Alappuzha with 12.8 percent (42,948). Ernakulam and Kottayam also have significant shares at 9.9 percent (33,289) and 8.9 percent (29,785), respectively. In contrast, districts like Idukki, Kasaragod, and Malappuram reported the lowest percentages, with Idukki and Kasaragod having 1.3 percent (4,319) and 0.8 percent (2,661) respectively.

Table 6.2: Out Migrants by Destination State, 2023

| State | Out Migrants | Percentage |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Karnataka | 218386 | 45.2 |
| Tamil Nadu | 79697 | 16.5 |
| Maharashtra | 48868 | 10.1 |
| New Delhi | 25584 | 5.3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 21466 | 4.4 |
| Gujarat | 20219 | 4.2 |
| Punjab | 8901 | 1.8 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 7788 | 1.6 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 7226 | 1.5 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 6740 | 1.4 |
| Goa | 4656 | 1 |
| Haryana | 3347 | 0.7 |
| West Bengal | 3453 | 0.7 |
| Assam | 2391 | 0.5 |
| Bihar | 2333 | 0.5 |
| Chattisgarh | 2473 | 0.5 |
| Orissa | 2431 | 0.5 |
| Rajasthan | 2512 | 0.5 |
| Andaman Nicobar | 1891 | 0.4 |
| Pondicherry | 2052 | 0.4 |
| Uttaranchal | 2014 | 0.4 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 1469 | 0.3 |
| Jharkhand | 1472 | 0.3 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 983 | 0.2 |
| Chandigarh | 989 | 0.2 |
| Nagaland | 920 | 0.2 |
| Sikkim | 986 | 0.2 |
| Lakshadweep | 483 | 0.1 |
| Manipur | 490 | 0.1 |
| Meghalaya | 466 | 0.1 |
| Total | 482683 | 100.0 |

Table 6.2 represents the destinations of out migrants from Kerala. Karnataka emerges as the state with the most number of out migrants from Kerala accounting for 45.2 percent. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra were among the top 3 destination states for Kerala's out migrants. Karnataka topped the list with a total estimation of 218,386 out

migrants, i.e., 45.2 per cent of the total internal out migrants, followed by Tamil Nadu, 79,697 (16.6 per cent), and Maharashtra, 48,868 (10.5 per cent). The destinations with the least proportion of out migrants include north eastern states like Nagaland (0.2 per cent), Sikkim (0.2 per cent), Manipur (0.1 per cent) and Meghalaya (0.1 per cent). The National capital, Delhi was also among the top destinations, attracting an estimated 25,584 (5.3 per cent) out migrants.

Table 6.3: Out Migrants by Sex, 2023

| Sex | Percentage |
|------------|-------------------|
| Male | 64.4 |
| Female | 35.6 |
| Total | 100 |

Out of total out migrants, 64.4 per cent were males and 35.6 per cent were females (Table 6.3). More than half of the total out migrants, i.e., 53.8 per cent was never married, while 45.4 per cent are married individuals. About 0.3 per cent of them are widowed, and 0.3 per cent and 0.2 per cent were separated or divorced, respectively (Table 6.4).

Table 6.4: Out Migrants by Marital Status, 2023

| Marital Status | Percent |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Never married | 53.8 |
| Married | 45.4 |
| Widow / Widower | 0.3 |
| Divorced | 0.3 |
| Separated | 0.2 |
| Total | 100 |

25 per cent of total out migrants completed their 12th grade before their first migration. The decrease in the same class category after migration indicates that many migrated for higher studies after Class 12. The highest proportion of out migrants' current educational status is a professional degree (24.6 per cent). This was 16.3 per cent prior to the first migration, followed by degree, which is 20.6 per cent, and a professional PG with 10.2 per cent current educational status (Table 6.5).

Table 6.5: Out Migrants by Education, 2023

| Educational Status | Before First Migration | Current Educational Status |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pre-primary to Class 9 | 6.8 | 7.4 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Class 10 | 7.2 | 7.2 |
| Class 11 | 0.5 | 0.7 |
| Class 12 | 25 | 12.1 |
| ITI, Certificate course | 2.6 | 2.8 |
| Diploma | 5 | 6 |
| Degree | 18.7 | 20.6 |
| PG Diploma | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Professional Degree | 16.3 | 24.6 |
| PG | 4.5 | 5.8 |
| Professional PG | 7.1 | 10.2 |
| M.Phil, Ph.D etc. | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Others | 5.5 | 1.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 6.6: Out Migrants by Economic Activity, 2023

| Economic Activity | Before Migration | First | Current Status | Activity |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Student | 45.6 | | 27.4 | |
| Regular wage (salaried) in private sector | 16.5 | | 36.4 | |
| Unemployed | 15.1 | | 2.4 | |
| Casual wage labour | 4.6 | | 4.7 | |
| Regular wage (salaried) in public sector | 4.3 | | 13.6 | |
| Too young to work | 4.2 | | 1.9 | |
| Household Work | 3.2 | | 4.6 | |
| Own account worker (self-employed) | 2.3 | | 3.5 | |
| Own account worker (Employer) | 2.0 | | 2.5 | |
| Retired | 0.2 | | 0.9 | |
| Too old to work | 0.2 | | 0.1 | |
| Others | 1.8 | | 2 | |
| Total | 100.0 | | 100.0 | |

Table 6.7: Student Out Migrants by Destination State, 2023

| State | Student Out Migrants | Percentage |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Karnataka | 67195 | 50.8 |
| Tamil Nadu | 27696 | 20.9 |
| Maharashtra | 7429 | 5.6 |

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|-------|
| New Delhi | 6983 | 5.3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 5767 | 4.4 |
| Gujarat | 3392 | 2.6 |
| Goa | 1822 | 1.4 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1919 | 1.4 |
| Punjab | 1540 | 1.2 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1288 | 1 |
| Chattisgarh | 1009 | 0.8 |
| Rajasthan | 1002 | 0.8 |
| Andaman Nicobar | 946 | 0.7 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 986 | 0.7 |
| Uttaranchal | 968 | 0.7 |
| West Bengal | 948 | 0.7 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 479 | 0.4 |
| Jharkhand | 473 | 0.4 |
| Pondicherry | 514 | 0.4 |
| Total | 132354 | 100.0 |

While 45.6 percent of the out migrants (before the first migration) were students only 27.4 percent were students after migration. This indicates a transition to employment after the completion of education. This is further supported by the increase in the proportion of regular wage (salaried) individuals in the private sector. This proportion was 16.5 percent during the first migration and doubled to 36.5 percent after the out migration to the destination state (Table 6.6). It was found that out migration reduced the unemployment rate from 15.1 per cent to 2.4 per cent, and increased the number of individuals working in the public sector from 4.3 per cent in the home state to 13.6 per cent in the destination states.

Table 6.8: Student Out Migrants by Sex, 2023

| Sex | Percentage |
|--------|------------|
| Male | 42.2 |
| Female | 57.8 |
| Total | 100 |

Out of the estimated 132,352 student out migrants, 67,195 (50.8 per cent) went to Karnataka, followed by Tamil Nadu (27,696 constituting 20.9 per cent) and Maharashtra (7,429 constituting 5.6 per cent). Delhi, with 6,983 out migrants (5.3 percent), and Andhra Pradesh, with 5,767 migrants (4.4 per cent), occupied the 4th and 5th positions respectively (Table 6.7).

The largest proportion of student out migrants were females with 57.8 per cent as opposed to males who comprised 42.2 per cent of total student out migrants (Table 6.8)

Table 6.9: Return Out Migrant by Sex, 2023

| Sex | ROM |
|------------|------------|
| Male | 75.2 |
| Female | 24.8 |
| Total | 100 |

Return out migration by sex shows that the majority of return out migrants are male, comprising 75.2 percent, while female return out migrants make up 24.8 percent. This trend can be attributed to various socio-economic factors, such as employment patterns where men are more likely to migrate for job opportunities to support their families back home. Further, family responsibilities and cultural expectations may influence the decision to migrate or return. Men are more inclined to move for work and later return. Overall, the data indicates a significant gender disparity in return out migration. (Table 6.9)

Table 6.10: Return out Migration by Education, 2023

| Education | Education at the time of First Migration | Current Education Status |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Pre-primary to Class 9 | 12.2 | 12.9 |
| Class 10 | 27.8 | 26.3 |
| Class 12 | 20.9 | 0.4 |
| ITI, Certificate course | 3.2 | 12.5 |
| Diploma | 5.5 | 3.2 |
| Degree (BA, BSc, Bcom, BLIScetc) | 16.5 | 5.6 |
| PG Diploma (PGDCA etc.) | 0.2 | 19.6 |
| Professional Degree | 4 | 0.4 |
| PG (MA, MSc, MCometc) | 2.8 | 8.5 |
| Professional PG | 2.3 | 5.5 |
| M.Phil, Ph.D etc. | 0.2 | 4.7 |
| Illiterate | 2.7 | 0.2 |
| Others (Specify) | 1.6 | 0.3 |
| Total | 100 | 100 |

Table 6.10 provides the educational qualifications of return out migrants during their first migration and their current educational status. It indicates that a significant proportion of return out migrants had completed their education up to Class 10 before their first migration (27.8 percent), and this percentage remains high in their current education status (26.3 percent) as well. A substantial number had completed Class 12 (20.9 percent) during their first migration, but their current education level is only 0.4 percent, indicating that many migrate after Class 12 for higher studies. This trend is further supported by similar observations for degree, postgraduate (PG), and professional PG qualifications.

In the case of vocational courses like ITI, the disparity between the level of education at first migration (3.2 percent) and current migration (12.5 percent) suggests that many individuals migrate and return with newly acquired skills. This pattern is also evident in postgraduate diploma courses, where the difference indicates that many return with advanced skills after the completion of their courses—education at first migration being 0.2 percent and current education status being 19.6 percent. Overall, the data reflects a trend of return out migrants enhancing their educational qualifications, particularly through vocational and advanced studies.

Table 6.11: Return Out Migration by Economic Activity, 2023

| Economic activity | During First Migration | During Last Migration | Economic Activity After Return |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Own account worker (Employer) | 2.1 | 3.1 | 3.9 |
| Own account worker (self-employed) | 2 | 2.6 | 7.4 |
| Regular wage (salaried) in public sector | 11.9 | 21.6 | 4.9 |
| Regular wage (salaried) in private sector | 17.9 | 27.9 | 14.9 |
| Casual wage labour | 8.6 | 9 | 10.1 |
| Unpaid family labour | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.9 |
| Household work | 5.5 | 4.9 | 9.3 |
| Student | 24.7 | 15.7 | 4.1 |
| Retired | 0.6 | 2.3 | 17.3 |
| Pensioner | 0.4 | 1.0 | 10.9 |
| Too old to work | 0.4 | 0.4 | 6.4 |
| Unemployed | 19.4 | 6.9 | 8.6 |
| Too young to work | 4.0 | 1.7 | 0.3 |
| Others | 1.7 | 2.2 | 1.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 6.11 provides an overview of the economic activity of return out migrants at three stages: during their first migration, their last migration, and after their return. A significant proportion of students (24.7 percent) and unemployed (19.4 percent) declined after the first migration. The further declines during the last migration and the post-return phase indicate their transition to employment. This is further supported by the increase in employment in public (21.6 percent) and private sectors (27.9 percent), during their last migration. After returning, there's a notable shift with increased self-employment (7.4 percent) and higher numbers of retirees (17.3 percent) and pensioners (10.9 percent), reflecting a transition towards retirement and self-sustenance. The data highlights the dynamic changes in the economic roles of return migrants, from initial education and job-seeking phases to employment, and eventually retirement or self-employment upon return.

Table 6.12: Return Out Migrants by Last Destination State

| States | ROM | Percentage |
|-------------------|-------|------------|
| Karnataka | 17407 | 33.1 |
| Tamil Nadu | 16925 | 32.2 |
| Maharashtra | 4798 | 9.1 |
| New Delhi | 3350 | 6.4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2759 | 5.2 |
| Gujarat | 1942 | 3.7 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1487 | 2.8 |
| Andaman Nicobar | 536 | 1.0 |
| Goa | 514 | 1.0 |
| Pondicherry | 504 | 1.0 |
| Punjab | 504 | 1.0 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 473 | 0.9 |
| Assam | 466 | 0.9 |
| Rajasthan | 466 | 0.9 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 490 | 0.9 |
| Total | 52620 | 100.0 |

Table 6.12 provides data on return out migrants in Kerala categorized by their last destination state. The highest percentages of return out migrants are from Karnataka (33.1 percent) and Tamil Nadu (32.2 percent), together accounting for nearly two-thirds of the total. This indicates strong migration links with these neighbouring states. There were also moderately high numbers of return out migrants from Maharashtra (9.1 percent) and New Delhi (6.4 percent), reflecting migration vis-a-vis major economic hubs.. Other states such as Andhra Pradesh (5.2 percent), Gujarat (3.7 percent), and Madhya Pradesh (2.8 percent) have smaller but notable percentages. The remaining states, including Andaman Nicobar, Goa, Pondicherry, and others, each account for around 1 percent (or less) of return migrants.

Table 6.13: Return Out Migrant Students by State of Last Educational Institution

| States | Student Return Out migrants | Percentage |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Karnataka | 17407 | 33.1 |
| Tamil Nadu | 16925 | 32.2 |
| Maharashtra | 4798 | 9.1 |
| New Delhi | 3350 | 6.4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2759 | 5.2 |
| Gujarat | 1942 | 3.7 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1487 | 2.8 |
| Andaman Nicobar | 536 | 1 |
| Goa | 514 | 1 |
| Pondicherry | 504 | 1 |
| Punjab | 504 | 1 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 490 | 0.9 |
| Arunanchal Pradesh | 473 | 0.9 |
| Assam | 466 | 0.9 |
| Rajasthan | 466 | 0.9 |
| Total | 52620 | 100 |

From Table 6.13 we know the highest percentages of student return out migrants are from Karnataka (33.1 percent), Tamil Nadu (32.2 percent), Maharashtra (9.1 percent), and New Delhi (6.4 percent). These findings align with Table 6.7, which indicates that students prefer to migrate to major economic and educational hubs for higher education. Smaller but notable percentages from states such as Andhra Pradesh (5.2 percent), Gujarat (3.7 percent), and Madhya Pradesh (2.8 percent) further emphasize the diverse geographic preferences of students. Overall, the data underscores the trend of Kerala students seeking educational opportunities in key states known for their academic and economic environments.

Table 6.14: Student Return Out migrants by Sex

| Sex | Percentage |
|--------|------------|
| Male | 64.2 |
| Female | 35.8 |
| Total | 100 |

Among the student return out migrants, 64.2 percent are males while 35.8 percent are females. The majority of student out migrants are female. They also display a preference to stay at their migration destinations, as evidenced by the lower rate of student return out migration among females. (Table 6.14)

Section - 7

Migration and Development

Migration is a major driver of development in Kerala and has played a central role in the state's achievements in human development, especially in the fields of education, health and quality of life. Table 7.1 gives an indication of the asset-holding capacity of households depending on their migration status. Those households, which have been influenced by migration in one form or the other (having inter-state or international, current or return migrants), possess more assets than households with non-migrants. The difference is particularly sharper in the case of luxury goods like motor cars, microwave ovens, air-conditioners and inverters. While only 7.5 percent of non-migrant households owns air conditioner, 21 percent of households with emigrants own air conditioners. Similarly, only 23.7 percent of non-migrant households own a motor car, when compared to 39.7 percent for emigrant households and 42.6 percent for out migrant households. The ownership of consumer durables and other assets signal the increasing purchasing power of migrant households compared to non-migrant households.

Table 7.1: Household Assets by Household Type, 2023

| Assets | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Motor Car | 23.7 | 39.7 | 33.4 | 42.6 | 43.8 | 28.5 |
| Taxi/Auto | 5.0 | 3.0 | 7.0 | 3.0 | 3.8 | 4.8 |
| Truck/Lorry | 0.4 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Two wheelers | 53.0 | 61.5 | 66.1 | 60.8 | 64.6 | 56.4 |
| Bicycle | 9.2 | 10.4 | 11.0 | 7.1 | 10.6 | 9.6 |
| Mobile Basic | 31.5 | 22.5 | 24.1 | 22.1 | 22.1 | 28.7 |
| Mobile Smart | 72.6 | 85.4 | 83.4 | 84.3 | 82.8 | 76.5 |
| Television – Old | 26.3 | 13.8 | 17.6 | 21.7 | 17.8 | 22.9 |
| Television- New | 53.7 | 70.8 | 64.3 | 70.5 | 68.2 | 58.6 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Refrigerator | 67.1 | 85.2 | 82.5 | 85.7 | 83.7 | 72.8 |
| Washing Machine | 34.6 | 60.8 | 49.1 | 54.2 | 60.5 | 41.8 |
| Microwave Oven | 4.3 | 11.1 | 6.9 | 9.7 | 12.9 | 6.1 |
| Computer/Laptop | 11.0 | 18.5 | 15.0 | 23.5 | 22.3 | 13.4 |
| Internet | 7.1 | 14.4 | 10.7 | 15.0 | 18.1 | 9.2 |
| AC | 7.5 | 21.0 | 13.4 | 15.7 | 19.4 | 10.9 |
| Inverter | 7.4 | 18.1 | 13.2 | 15.0 | 18.3 | 10.3 |

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

Constructing a luxurious house and investing in real estate has become the hallmark of an international migrant from Kerala. These practices often constitute an avenue to flaunt one's prosperity. Data from Table 7.2 clearly indicates this trend. While 37.4 percent of migrant households live in a luxurious house, the same figure is only 17.1 percent for non-migrant household. On the other end of the spectrum, only 0.2 percent of emigrant households live in a Kutcha house, compared to 2.3 percent for non-migrant households.

Table 7.2: Type of House by Household Type, 2023

| Household Type | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Luxurious | 17.1 | 37.4 | 27.0 | 35.0 | 33.2 | 22.5 |
| Very Good | 36.4 | 41.1 | 42.3 | 38.9 | 39.3 | 38.0 |
| Good | 31.4 | 18.1 | 24.4 | 18.9 | 20.1 | 27.8 |
| Poor | 12.8 | 3.3 | 5.7 | 6.2 | 7.2 | 10.1 |
| Kutcha | 2.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 1.7 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

The majority of the emigrant households hold a blue (39.4 percent) or a white (38.3 percent) ration card (Table 7.3). The percentage of white ratio card is high for return emigrant (30.5 percent), out migrant (46.1 percent) and return out migrant (51.3 percent) households as well. The possession of pink ration cards is highest among non-migrant households at 40.5 percent. Essentially, 48.3 percent of non-migrant households hold a Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration card as compared to 22.2 percent for emigrant households, 33.6 percent for return emigrant households, 27 percent for out migrant households and 23.8 percent for return out migrant households.

Table 7.3: Colour of Ration Card by Household Type, 2023

| Ration card colour | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Yellow | 7.8 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 4.4 | 2.6 | 6.1 |
| Pink | 40.5 | 19.8 | 31.0 | 22.6 | 21.2 | 35.1 |
| Blue | 24.9 | 39.4 | 35.9 | 27.0 | 24.9 | 28.7 |
| White | 26.7 | 38.3 | 30.5 | 46.1 | 51.3 | 30.1 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

The type of cooking fuel used is an indicator for the health of the household members, especially women and children. This is because solid fuels in households are associated with pneumonia and other acute lower respiratory diseases. LPG (93.1 percent) and wood (71.8 percent) are the predominant sources of cooking fuel in Kerala followed by electricity (14.5 percent) and kerosene (2.6 percent). Across the different types of households given in Table 7.4, a large percentage relies on wood for cooking fuel possibly due to the abundance of wood in Kerala. Wood also serves as cheap supplement to LPG, especially in view of the rising prices of the latter. However, LPG continues to be the predominant cooking fuel used by all types of households, although the proportion is the lowest for non-migrant households at 91.4 percent.

Table 7.4: Type of Cooking Fuel used by Migration Type, 2023

| Cooking fuel | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Wood | 71.5 | 72.6 | 74.9 | 66.4 | 62.3 | 71.8 |
| Electricity | 13.0 | 20.7 | 13.4 | 19.3 | 15.1 | 14.5 |
| Kerosene | 3.0 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 2.6 |
| LPG | 91.4 | 96.3 | 96.5 | 95.8 | 96.6 | 93.1 |
| Others | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.2 |

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

Table 7.5 captures the distribution of various lighting sources across households with various migration statuses. The data suggests that electrification has reached all the households without a significant variation across household type. 99.2 percent of the households in Kerala are electrified. Only 2.3 percent of households use kerosene for lighting and 1.7 percent use solar.

Table 7.5: Source of Lighting by HH Type, 2023

| Lighting source | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Electricity | 99.1 | 99.4 | 99.5 | 99.1 | 99.8 | 99.2 |
| Kerosene | 2.9 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 0.5 | 2.3 |
| Solar | 1.5 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 1.7 |
| Other oils | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 |

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

Table 7.6: Primary Source of Drinking Water, 2023

| Primary source of drinking water | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|--|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Piped into dwelling | 26.4 | 26.6 | 25.0 | 27.7 | 29.1 | 26.4 |
| Piped into plot/yard | 9.8 | 6.4 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 7.9 | 8.9 |
| Own hand pump/own well | 48.1 | 59.1 | 59.2 | 53.4 | 51.9 | 51.5 |
| Community tap/community tank/ community hand pump/community well | 12.6 | 5.7 | 6.4 | 7.8 | 7.2 | 10.5 |
| Tanker truck | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.3 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Surface water (stream/river/dam/ lake/pond/irrigation channel/ canal) | 1.4 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 1.2 |
| Packaged drinking water | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Others | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 7.6 captures the primary source of drinking water across different types of households. There are no significant variations across migrant and non-migrant households, except for community tap /tank /hand pump /well which are relied on by 12.6 percent of non-migrants when compared to 5.7 percent for emigrant households.

Table 7.7: Number of Functional Toilets by HH Type, 2023

| Functional toilets | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| One | 43.9 | 16.6 | 23.7 | 24.7 | 23.7 | 36.0 |
| Two | 37.7 | 42.5 | 46.5 | 43.1 | 43.3 | 39.9 |
| Three | 13.3 | 27.8 | 21.9 | 20.5 | 22.3 | 17.1 |
| More than three | 4.7 | 13.1 | 7.9 | 11.7 | 9.9 | 6.8 |
| Zero | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 7.7 provides indicators of functional toilet facilities across various migrant and non-migrant households. It can be seen that the majority of non-migrant households have only one (43.9 percent) or two (37.7 percent) toilets. The general picture across all the different types of migrant households seems to be similar with most of them having two toilets. It should also be noted that migrant households demonstrate a higher percentage, having three and more than three toilets.

Table 7.8: Type of House Ownership by HH Type, 2023

| House ownership status | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Own | 94.4 | 98.0 | 96.3 | 98.2 | 95.7 | 95.3 |
| Rented | 4.0 | 1.7 | 3.1 | 1.6 | 3.6 | 3.5 |
| Leased | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Quarters | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Others | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

The own house ownership is high across all households, with migrant households being slightly higher than non-migrant households. It should be noted that emigrant and out migrant houses have the highest percentage of own house ownership. Inversely, rented houses are higher among return migrants, return out migrants and non-migrants and lower among emigrants and out migrants, indicating the role that active remittances can have on house ownership. (Table 7.8)

Table 7.9: Total Land in Cents by HH Type, 2023

| Total land owned in Cents | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| <10 | 61.8 | 43.6 | 51.5 | 41.7 | 46.3 | 56.7 |
| 10-50 | 28.7 | 44.3 | 38.9 | 42.0 | 40.2 | 33.1 |
| 50-100 | 4.8 | 5.9 | 5.4 | 7.8 | 7.0 | 5.2 |
| 100-500 | 3.6 | 4.5 | 2.8 | 7.1 | 5.4 | 3.8 |
| >500 | 0.6 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 0.8 |
| Not Reported | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 7.9 illustrates land ownership across different household types, showing that non-migrant households predominantly own less than 10 cents of land (61.8 percent). In contrast, emigrant and out migrant households have a more balanced distribution, with significant portions owning 10-50 cents (44.3 percent and 42.0 percent respectively). Return emigrant and return out migrant households also exhibit notable ownership in the 10-50 cent range (38.9 percent and 40.2 percent respectively). Ownership of more than 500 cents is minimal across all groups.

Table 7.10: Awareness of NORKA Programs and Schemes by HH Type, 2023

| NORKA Programs | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|--|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Certificate Attestation | 7.4 | 26.3 | 23.1 | 16.1 | 16.9 | 12.9 |
| Pre-Departure Orientation Programme | 4.4 | 18.5 | 13.6 | 9.5 | 12.9 | 8.1 |
| "Skill Up-gradation Programmes" | 4.9 | 19.1 | 13.8 | 9.5 | 11.7 | 8.6 |
| Job Portal for facilitating overseas recruitment | 5.6 | 21.0 | 14.9 | 12.0 | 11.5 | 9.5 |
| "Reintegration Schemes (eg: Pearl, Mega, Micro)" | 4.6 | 17.4 | 12.8 | 9.0 | 9.5 | 7.9 |
| "Distress relief Scheme (Santhwana, Karunyam etc)" | 5.1 | 19.1 | 15.0 | 10.2 | 11.1 | 8.9 |
| NRK ID Card (Pravasi ID Card) | 7.5 | 29.7 | 26.1 | 12.9 | 15.6 | 13.7 |
| NRK Insurance Card (Pravasi Raksha Insurance) | 6.2 | 25.8 | 19.5 | 10.2 | 16.3 | 11.4 |

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

Table 7.10 highlights varying levels of awareness of NORKA programs among different household types. Emigrant households have the highest awareness, particularly regarding the NRK ID Card (29.7 percent) and certificate Attestation programs (26.3 percent). Return emigrant households also show significant awareness of these programs. Non-migrant households have the lowest awareness, with the NRK ID Card being the most recognized at 7.5 percent. Out migrant and return out migrant households have moderate levels of awareness, mostly confined to job Portal and certificate attestation programs. Overall, awareness of programs like Reintegration Schemes and Distress Relief Schemes was relatively low across all household types.

Table 7.11: Comparisons of Current Levels of Household Income to pre-Covid 19 income, 2023

| Household Income | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Increased | 3.0 | 5.1 | 2.1 | 5.8 | 2.5 | 3.3 |
| Decreased | 41.9 | 37.9 | 52.8 | 32.2 | 41.3 | 42.3 |
| Same as before | 55.0 | 57.0 | 45.1 | 62.0 | 56.2 | 54.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 7.11 shows household income changes compared to pre-COVID-19 levels across different household types. Most households reported unchanged income, especially out migrant (62.0 percent) and emigrant households (57.0 percent). Decreased incomes were high among return emigrant (52.8 percent) and non-migrant households (41.9 percent). Increased income was rare, with out migrant (5.8 percent) and emigrant households (5.1 percent) seeing the highest increases. These patterns highlight significant income stability for many, but notable declines for others, particularly return emigrant households.

Table 7.12: Reasons for the drop in the Income by HH Type, 2023

| Reasons | Non-Migrant HH | Emigrant HH | Return Emigrant HH | Out migrant HH | Return Out migrant HH | Total |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Loss of Employment | 32.3 | 25.7 | 42.1 | 22.8 | 30.0 | 32.1 |
| Salary Cut | 13.9 | 19.4 | 20.1 | 14.0 | 15.8 | 15.6 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|
| Health Issues | 12.9 | 8.8 | 14.8 | 11.1 | 12.9 | 12.4 |
| Other Issues | 1.6 | 1.2 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 1.7 |

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

Out of 20,000 households, 8,459 households (42.3 percent) experienced a drop in income. The major reasons reported were loss of employment at 32.1 percent followed by Salary cut (15.6 percent) and Health issues (12.4 percent). (Table 7.12)

Table 7.13: Median Levels of Income to the Household by HH Type, 2023

| Household type | Monthly Income in Median Figure | Monthly Expenditure in Median Figure |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Non-Migrant HH | 15000.00 | 10000.00 |
| Emigrant HH | 30000.00 | 15500.00 |
| Return Emigrant HH | 20000.00 | 13000.00 |
| Out migrant HH | 25000.00 | 14000.00 |
| Return Out migrant HH | 25000.00 | 14000.00 |
| Total | 18000.00 | 11000.00 |

Table 7.13 presents the median monthly income and expenditure for various households. Emigrant households had the highest median income at ₹30,000, with corresponding expenditures of ₹15,500. Return emigrant households had a median income of ₹20,000 and expenditures of ₹13,000. Both out migrant and return out migrant households reported a median income of ₹25,000, with expenditures of ₹14,000 each. Non-migrant households had the lowest median income at ₹15,000 and expenditures at ₹10,000. Overall, the total median income across all household types was ₹18,000, with median expenditures at ₹11,000. These figures illustrated significant income and expenditure differences among migrant and non-migrant household types.

Appendix

1. Migration Estimates by Districts and Taluks in Kerala, 2023

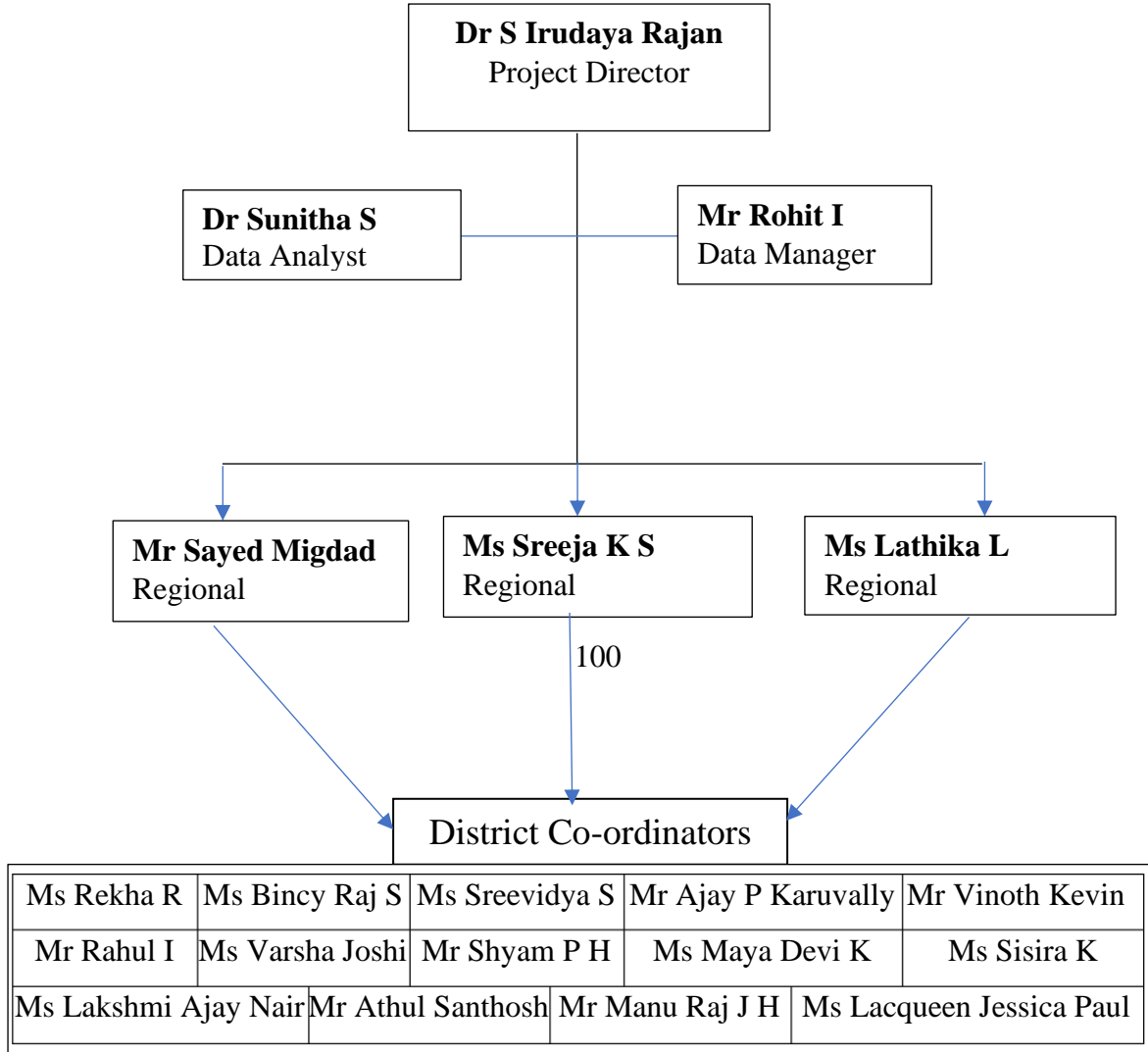
| | REM | EMI | ROM | OMI |
|--------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Chirayinkeezhu | 66781 | 43112 | 4043 | 2611 |
| Nedumangad | 33370 | 10585 | 2334 | 4749 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 48042 | 29478 | 639 | 1533 |
| Neyyattinkara | 37502 | 24741 | 6566 | 6055 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 185695 | 107917 | 13582 | 14948 |
| Karunagappally | 35022 | 32540 | 8527 | 12272 |
| Kunnathur | 12055 | 16583 | 5132 | 5783 |
| Pathanapuram | 19890 | 46447 | 3686 | 5826 |
| Kottarakkara | 37903 | 56979 | 10808 | 14488 |
| Kollam | 53610 | 43266 | 8416 | 9961 |
| Kollam | 158481 | 195815 | 36569 | 48330 |
| Thiruvalla | 11801 | 17698 | 6300 | 5257 |
| Mallappally | 6249 | 9706 | 1541 | 3251 |
| Ranni | 5804 | 17412 | 0 | 1451 |
| Kozhencherry | 10374 | 29287 | 4909 | 5584 |
| Adoor | 6693 | 27521 | 1012 | 9003 |
| Pathanamthitta | 40921 | 101624 | 13762 | 24546 |
| Cherthala | 13094 | 13118 | 10031 | 12617 |
| Ambalappuzha | 14029 | 24679 | 12558 | 6098 |
| Kuttanad | 7487 | 12364 | 1138 | 5796 |
| Karthikappally | 16217 | 33630 | 6638 | 5539 |
| Chengannur | 14962 | 12698 | 2370 | 3952 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Mavelikkara | 33705 | 37628 | 10198 | 8299 |
| Alappuzha | 99494 | 134116 | 42932 | 42301 |
| Meenachil | 14245 | 37065 | 6646 | 6694 |
| Vaikom | 11116 | 32193 | 7333 | 9033 |
| Kottayam | 28809 | 39964 | 17606 | 18061 |
| Changanassery | 12972 | 17667 | 2972 | 6737 |
| Kanjirappally | 7135 | 16935 | 2704 | 3559 |
| Kottayam | 74277 | 143824 | 37261 | 44084 |
| Devikulam | 0 | 860 | 0 | 1146 |
| Udumbanchola | 4268 | 13392 | 905 | 4520 |
| Thodupuzha | 8608 | 7875 | 2974 | 3096 |
| Peerumedu | 596 | 3177 | 596 | 1788 |
| Idukki | 13472 | 25304 | 4475 | 10550 |
| Kunnathunad | 18527 | 25176 | 4311 | 9649 |
| Aluva | 15447 | 27793 | 3198 | 4157 |
| Paravur | 13119 | 18023 | 7628 | 2101 |
| Kochi | 37019 | 30088 | 2599 | 5868 |
| Kanayannur | 50856 | 53572 | 32249 | 27523 |
| Muvattupuzha | 14118 | 18052 | 2210 | 1958 |
| Kothamangalam | 2763 | 14252 | 2499 | 2499 |
| Ernakulam | 151849 | 186956 | 54695 | 53756 |
| Talappilly | 43251 | 49767 | 17669 | 4739 |
| Chavakkad | 47007 | 54164 | 4992 | 7424 |
| Thrissur | 47810 | 35254 | 28376 | 15041 |
| Kodungallur | 40830 | 31440 | 3361 | 2475 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Mukundapuram | 60541 | 62552 | 12627 | 10193 |
| Thrissur | 239439 | 233177 | 67026 | 39874 |
| Ottappalam | 42791 | 73286 | 9312 | 18544 |
| Mannarkad | 12961 | 10250 | 1238 | 4102 |
| Palakkad | 17112 | 20314 | 14544 | 21943 |
| Chittur | 5230 | 7474 | 0 | 6611 |
| Alathur | 14595 | 12953 | 0 | 4401 |
| Palakkad | 92689 | 124277 | 25094 | 55601 |
| Ernad | 52589 | 57359 | 828 | 2210 |
| Nilambur | 63696 | 42470 | 2231 | 744 |
| Perinthalmanna | 22964 | 48747 | 0 | 2302 |
| Tirur | 70058 | 109133 | 11873 | 8418 |
| Tirurangadi | 122933 | 80379 | 0 | 0 |
| Ponnani | 18936 | 39559 | 601 | 2626 |
| Malappuram | 351176 | 377647 | 15533 | 16300 |
| Vadakara | 64949 | 69148 | 4082 | 12094 |
| Quilandy | 64830 | 59882 | 7412 | 9844 |
| Kozhikode | 80509 | 64667 | 7551 | 22557 |
| Kozhikode | 210288 | 193697 | 19045 | 44496 |
| Mananthavady | 6657 | 9288 | 2445 | 4084 |
| Sulthan Bathery | 8060 | 15966 | 1408 | 8515 |
| Vythiri | 1792 | 7087 | 2567 | 6578 |
| Wayanad | 16509 | 32341 | 6420 | 19178 |
| Taliparamba | 27232 | 60164 | 5287 | 9746 |
| Kannur | 25248 | 58717 | 5425 | 9932 |

| | | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| Thalassery | 53927 | 93326 | 8395 | 23866 |
| Kannur | 106408 | 212208 | 19107 | 43544 |
| Kasaragod | 22243 | 47492 | 1217 | 6161 |
| Hosdurg | 27819 | 37881 | 571 | 8757 |
| Kasaragod | 50062 | 85372 | 1788 | 14918 |
| Kerala | 1790758 | 2154275 | 357289 | 472426 |

Organizational structure of Kerala Migration Survey 2023



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| | | |
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