

DECLARATION

I, LIJY DOMINIC, do hereby affirm that this written account entitled "INTERNATIONAL MALE MIGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON LEFT BEHIND WOMEN IN KERALA – A STUDY OF MALAPPURAM DISTRICT" is a bonafide record of research done by me under the guidance of Dr. K.M. FRANCIS, Associate Professor (Retd) and co-guidance of Dr.SABU P.J, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department, Research and Post graduate Department of Economics, St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur. I also declare that this thesis has not been submitted by me earlier for the award of any degree, diploma, fellowship or any other similar title.



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Place: Thrissur

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ABSTRACT

The research attempted in the present study is to assess at what extent international migration and resulting remittances has affected the empowerment of left behind women in Malappuram district. Thus present study is an attempt to link international migration with empowerment of left behind women at micro-household level. It is about the struggles and achievements of the women who are left behind due to international migration of their husbands. By the emigration of the husbands women get an opportunity to become externalized through physical mobility, awareness, decision making power, and a space for household financial management by the inflow of remittances. Thus international migration can be utilized as a potential for women empowerment. Since empowerment is a multidimensional concept it is impossible to include all the dimensions in a single study. This study focuses on the socio-economic and psychological factors affecting the empowerment of left behind women due to the international migration of their husbands and a resulting flow of remittances. The specific objectives of the study is to identify the extent and pattern of international male migration in Kerala; to examine the socio economic and psychological wellbeing of women in migrant and non-migrant households; to analyze the impact of international male migration on the left behind women and to determine the factors affecting women empowerment in the study area.

The present study has been verified and analyzed with the help of both primary and secondary data. The primary data for the study is collected from 300 women equally from migrant and non-migrant households in Malappuram district through a multi stage random sampling technique. A well- structured interview schedule along with suitable quantitative statistical techniques was used to reach the findings. An Empowerment index was prepared as a composite index of the decision making, mobility, financial management and spouse consultancy of the wives in the sample households. This Empowerment index is taken as dependent variable and migration status of the respondent, Family type, age of respondent, employment status of the respondent, education of respondent's husband, employment status of respondent's mother, along with respondent's psychological wellbeing and social participation are taken as independent variables.

The findings of the present study and the results of multiple regression analysis validate the hypothesis and confirms that there is a significant association between international male migration and resulting empowerment of left behind women in the study area. Result of regression analysis made it clear that migration status itself as one of the major factor in determining empowerment of women in the study area. The study concluded that whatever the impact of international migration, the left behind women are developing an innate capacity to tackle problems not only with in the family but also in the society in which they live. Migration status gives women an exposure to experience various opportunities which were once inaccessible for them and still not accessible to women in non-migrant households. Thus, migration status can be said as a window of opportunity which can be utilized for empowerment of respondents in the study area.

CONTENTS

Chapter No.	Chapter Name	Page No.
1	DESIGN OF THE STUDY	1-15
2	THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE	16-67
3	THE EXTENT AND PATTERN OF INTERNATIONAL MALE MIGRATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KERALA	68-109
4	PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING	110-164
5	IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL MALE MIGRATION ON THE LEFT BEHIND WOMEN	165-201
6	FACTORS AFFECTING EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN	202-225
7	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	226-253
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	
	APPENDIX	

List of tables

Table No.	Title	Page No.
2.1	Micro and macro theories of migration	17
2.2	Initiation and perpetuation theories of migration	18
2.3	Level based classification of migration theories	18
3.1	Key Facts and figures, a comparison between 2000 and 2020	70
3.2	Extend and Trend of International migrants, 1995-2019	70
3.3	Top 5 Remittances receiving countries (2018) and Remittances sending countries (2017) in the world.	72
3.4	State wise labour outflow from India, 2006 to 2014 (in 0000s)	73
3.5	Emigration clearances to various countries from India in 2019	74
3.6	India's remittances flow, 2011 - 2019	75
3.7	Country-wise distributions of Remittances to India, 2016-17	76
3.8	State wise share in total remittance, 2016-17	77
3.9	Emigration Extend and Trend, 1998 to 2018	79
3.10	Emigrants from different district of Kerala From 1998 to 2018	80
3.11	Number of emigrants from different districts and percent, 2018	81
3.12	District wise decadal growth rate of emigrants	82
3.13	District-wise of number emigrants and percentage share of emigrants per 100 households	84
3.14	Age Category of emigrants	85
3.15	Education qualification of emigrants	85
3.16	Destination countries of the emigrants, 1998-2018	86
3.17	The percentage share of male and female emigrants in various destinations	87
3.18	Male and female working migrants district wise	88
3.19	Job categories of migrants	89
3.20	Religious composition of population and emigrants	90
3.21	Trends in religious composition of emigrants from 1998 to 2018	91
3.22	Emigrants per households and more than one emigrant households	92
3.23	Extend and Trend in Household Remittance to Kerala	93
3.24	Household remittance by district 2013 and 2018	94
3.25	Household remittance by religion	95
3.26	District wise remittance received by households in 2018	96
3.27	Trends in total remittance 1998-2018	97
3.28	Total remittance by district wise 2013 to 2018	98
3.29	Remittances as Net State Domestic Product from 1998 to 2018	99
3.30	Per capita remittances for 2018, 2013, 2011, 2008	100
3.31	Trends of return emigration in Kerala, 1998 to 2018	101

Table No.	Title	Page No.
3.32	Return emigrants by district, 1998 to 2018	101
3.33	Return Emigrants per 100 households , 2018	102
3.34	Non-resident Keralites, 2013 and 2018	103
3.35	Extent, trend and percentage share of emigrants from Malappuram district, 1998 – 2018	105
3.36	District-wise Total emigrants who stay without family at their destinations	106
3.37	Working emigrants and their dependents living with them, district-wise	107
4.1	Socio-economic and geographical details of the district	113
4.2	Some basic demographic indicators of sample	114
4.3	Total number of NRK in the sample	115
4.4	Distribution of sample according to social variables like locality religion, social category, family type and family size	118
4.5	Distribution of sample according to economic variables like nature of ration card, number of earning members and monthly income	121
4.6	Distribution based on age, education and occupation of the respondents	123
4.7	Distribution based on age, education and occupation of the respondent's spouse	125
4.8	Distribution of respondents according to their marital duration	126
4.9	Education and Employment status of the parents of the respondents	127
4.10	Details regarding ownership of house	129
4.11	Details about the owner of house	130
4.12	Details about the type of house	130
4.13	Details about the size of house	131
4.14	Details about area of house plot	132
4.15	Type of fuel used for cooking	133
4.16	House construction and renovation among respondents	133
4.17	Years passed after building the house	134
4.18	Amount spent for land purchase, house construction and renovation	135
4.19	Source of amount for land purchase house construction and renovation	136
4.20	Ownership of land property by the respondent husband	137
4.21	Land area owned by Respondent's husband else where	137
4.22	Activity in the Land owned by husband	138
4.23	Respondent own house or land else where	139

Table No.	Title	Page No.
4.24	Land area owned by respondent else where	139
4.25	Details regarding the possession of household durables among the respondents	140
4.26	Source of money for purchasing household durables by migrants	141
4.27	Monthly consumption expenditure of the respondents	142
4.28	Place where treatment done by the respondents	143
4.29	Place where treatment done by the respondents	144
4.30	Place where education of children done by the respondents	145
4.31	Education expenditure of the respondents	145
4.32	Visiting big mall and supermarket for shopping	146
4.33	Frequency of purchase of cloth by the respondents	147
4.34	Money spent yearly for cloth purchase	148
4.35	Type of shops where cloths are purchased	148
4.36	Periodicity of visiting beauty parlour and health clubs	149
4.37	Money spent for a single visit to beauty parlour and health clubs	150
4.38	Expenditure priority of the respondents	151
4.39	Reasons for not ranking preference for certain items	152
4.40	Details about respondents saving, investment and debt	153
4.41	Details about the amount of savings	154
4.42	Details about type of savings	155
4.43	Details about amount of investments	155
4.44	Details about type of investment	156
4.45	Details about the amount of debt	157
4.46	Details about the Source of debt	158
4.47	Details about expected period for repayment of debt	158
4.48	Details about the purpose of debt	159
4.49	Distribution of respondents based on levels of different dimensions of psychological well being	160
4.50	Results of comparison of different dimensions and overall wellbeing between the respondents	161
5.1	Participation of respondents in areas outside households	166
5.2	Participation of respondents in outdoor social activities	167
5.3	Willingness in managing outdoor household activities	169
5.4	Benefits gained by respondent's social participation	170
5.5	Distribution of respondents according to continuation of studies after marriage	172
5.6	Reasons for continuing education after marriage	172
5.7	Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge and time of learning driving	173
5.8	Reasons to learn driving	174

Table No.	Title	Page No.
5.9	Respondent's knowledge about husband's income	175
5.10	Respondents accessibility to husband's income	176
5.11	Authority of money in the home	177
5.12	Respondent's dealings with money	178
5.13	Comparison of Problems faced by migrants and non-migrants	179
5.14	Nature of relationship with in-laws	182
5.15	Respondent's unwillingness to disagree with husband in household decision matters	183
5.16	Countries of destinations of emigrants	184
5.17	Periodicity, mode and amount last send by the emigrants to their family	185
5.18	Place of staying/living of the Left behind Women	186
5.19	Distribution of the duration of stay in abroad of husband	186
5.20	Emigration of husband - before or after marriage	187
5.21	Duration of stay at abroad by the respondent	187
5.22	Interest continue stay at abroad	188
5.23	Frequency of visit in early period, middle period and present period	189
5.24	Duration of husband's stay at home during the visits	189
5.25	Frequency of call in early period, middle period and nowadays	190
5.26	Communication technique used in early period, middle period and nowadays	191
5.27	Usage of new Communication Technique among the left behind women	192
5.28	Details regarding satisfaction in communication	192
5.29	Personal qualities acquired by the left behind women in the absences of husband	194
5.30	Good experiences of left behind women in the emigration of their husband	195
5.31	Bad experiences of left behind women due to the emigration of their husband	196
5.32	Gains achieved from emigration to left behind women	197
5.33	Problems faced by the absence of husbands.	198
5.34	Feeling after accomplishing household responsibilities alone	199
5.35	Response of the people around when they see you managing all errands successfully	199
6.1	Details regarding Decision making Index of the respondents	203-204
6.2	Levels of decision making among respondents	205
6.3	Details regarding Mobility Index of the respondents	206
6.4	Levels of mobility among the respondents	207

Table No.	Title	Page No.
6.5	Details of financial management index of the respondents	208
6.6	Level of freedom in financial matters	208
6.7	Details regarding inter-spouse consultation	209
6.8	Levels of Inter-spouse consultation	210
6.9	Level of overall empowerment	211
6.10	Interrelation between different dimensions and overall empowerment	212
6.11	Comparison of overall Empowerment among migrant and non-migrant	213
6.12	Comparison of overall Empowerment among rural and urban	213
6.13	Comparison of overall Empowerment among Joint and nuclear family	214
6.14	Comparison of overall Empowerment among Employed and unemployed	215
6.15	Comparison of overall empowerment among different religion	215
6.16	Results of pair wise Comparison of overall Empowerment among different religion using LSD test	216
6.17	Comparison of overall Empowerment among different age group	216
6.18	Comparison of overall Empowerment marital duration among migrants and non-migrants	217
6.19	Comparison of overall Empowerment among different income group	218
6.20	Results of pair wise Comparison of overall Empowerment among different income group using LSD test	218
6.21	Correlation of overall empowerment with selected variables	219
6.22	Correlation of overall empowerment with selected variables	220
6.23	Correlation of overall empowerment with psychological wellbeing	220
6.24	Results of regression for finding out the determinant factors of overall empowerment for the total sample	222

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page No.
3.1	Top 6 destination countries of international migrants- 2019	71
3.2	Top 6 origin countries of international migrants -2019	71
3.3	Top 5 remittances receiving countries	72
3.4	Top 5 remittances sending countries	72
3.5	Total emigration clearance given in 2019	74
3.6	Religious composition of emigrants in India	78
3.7	Religious composition of population in India	78
3.8	Number of emigrants	80
3.9	Inter survey difference in international migration	80
3.10	Number of emigrants district wise, 2018	82
3.11	District wise decadal growth rate of emigrants	83
3.12	Religious composition of population and emigrants	90
3.13	Trends in religious composition of emigrants	91
3.14	Percentage share of household remittances by religion 2013 and 2018	95
3.15	Percentage of remittances received by households – 2018	97
3.16	Remittances and NSDP	99
3.17	Remittances as percent of NSDP	100
3.18	Return emigrants per 100 households	102
3.19	District wise percentage share of Non Resident Keralites in Kerala - 2018	104
3.20	Number of emigrants from Malappuram district	105
3.21	Inter survey differences in emigrants	105
5.1	Respondents participation in social activities	168